



Only low income families permitted to sell fish 'outside'

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AS U17 Women's Beach Handball Team-Oceania Champs

Sports

Faaulu Fono pili si'i ai lafoga 7% mo oloa i faleoloa

Le Lali



ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato congratulates the College's Special Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Academic Affairs Ms. Cherylmoanamarie Ripley for reaching the milestone of 40 years of service to ASCC. Read story inside for full details.

[Photo: M. Ah Kau-Sagapolu]



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Admin identifies projects that'll benefit from proposed 7% sales tax

PUBLIC SCHOOL REPAIRS, ASG FINANCIAL AID, LBJ'S OFF ISLAND REFERRAL PROGRAM

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Renovations and upgrades to public schools, as well as funding for the off island medical referral program administered by LBJ Medical Center, are some of the handful of projects being identified to receive "special allocations" from all revenues ASG collects from the proposed 7% retail sales tax.

The Lolo Administration's proposed sales tax, which also includes a provision that repeals the 2% wage tax enacted about five years ago, was introduced this week in both the Senate and House. With the Fono going into a four-week mid session recess, at the close of business today, the measure will be taken up in committee hearings when lawmakers reconvene Aug. 21st.

According to the ASG Revenue Task Force data presented to lawmakers earlier this month, the sales tax (if enacted into law) is estimated to collect \$15.2 million for the remaining months of FY 2018 (which begins Oct. 1, 2017). Thereafter, it's estimated to bring in \$23.5 million annually.

In his letter to the Fono leaders that accompanied language of the proposed bill, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga claimed that it's in the "best interest of the territory to move towards a more fair and equitable way of funding government services."

He said taxing retail sales is more equitable as it taxes spending across all income levels, while the 2% wage tax impacts only wage earners and not those who earn by other means.

"Taxing retail sales is not a novel idea," he said, noting that all but five states and one territory levy a sales tax, and the total sales tax paid by citizens in these US jurisdictions range from 4.35% to 9.45%

According to the administration, the 2% wage tax, being repealed through the sales tax, is a "highly regressive tax having a disproportionate impact on lower income wage earners."

However, a sales tax — while also considered a regressive tax — is less than the wage tax, as it taxes expenditures on all retail sales generating

(Continued on page 3)

\$33K+ estimated for 'temporary dressing rooms' for faipule

HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT INCLUDE LABOR AND UTILITY HOOK-UPS

Translated by Samoa News staff

While the government is working on ways to reduce spending to ensure that ASG doesn't overspend at the end of the current fiscal year 2017, a report distributed to House members earlier this week shows an estimated cost of more than \$30,000 for the construction of "temporary dressing rooms" for the House of Representatives, which currently utilizes the North Wing of the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium (Fale Laumei).

The House has been using this temporary location, since the Fono convened its current Legislative session on July 10th because the main Fono building in Fagatogo will soon be demolished. For the Senate, sessions and committee hearings are being held inside the Samoan Guest Fale at the Fono compound.

It was Wednesday morning that the report was distributed to House members prior to the start of the regular session. Some law-

(Continued on page 2)



Twenty senior citizens from the Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA), along with director Evelyn Lili'o-Satele (far left), became the first class of TAOA seniors to be appointed 'Senior Rangers' of the National Park Service. The group's members have pledged to "explore, learn about, and help protect the National Park of American Samoa and all National Parks". See story for full details.

[photo: courtesy]



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RFP No: ASPA17.045.WTR
Issuance Date: July 18, 2017

Closing Date & Time:
August 17, 2017 at 2:00 pm AS Time

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

“Upper Amouli Tank Replacement Project”

Submission

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) invites you to submit a proposal for the provision and construction of a 320,000 gallon replacement tank at Upper Amouli in American Samoa. This project is part of ASPA’s effort to improve its service to the people of American Samoa. This project is fully funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The selected Offeror must provide a proposal that specifically and completely addresses a plan for the completion of the tasks which are detailed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Packet Attachment B, The Scope of Work (SOW).

A complete RFP package may be picked up from the ASPA Procurement Office located at the Tafuna ASPA compound. You may also view this RFP online at ASPA’s website, www.aspower.com. For more information about this RFP, please contact the following person(s):

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The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to:

1. Reject all proposals and reissue a new or amended RFP;
2. Request additional information from any Offeror
3. Select a firm for award based on other qualifications than “least cost” (e.g. capability to complete work in a timely fashion or proven technical capabilities);
4. Negotiate a contract with the Offeror that is selected for award;
5. Waive any non-material violations of rules set up in this RFP at its sole discretion.

Approved for Issuance:

Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director

\$33K estimated...

Continued from page 1

makers were overheard voicing concerns over the large amount of money to be allocated for the construction of temporary dressing rooms — which would also be used as offices for House members — at the Fale Laumei.

Some lawmakers are concerned, saying there are other urgent needs within government, such as road conditions, an issue that the public continues to bombard their faipule with, on a daily basis. Others questioned the reason for the temporary rooms, while some believe the issue should have been presented on the House floor for discussion.

However, not a single faipule raised or even questioned the report when the House session convened that day.

The nine-page report, which includes the July 18th cover letter from Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele to House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale, provides construction quotes from four local businesses for the services they will provide.

(Samoa News notes that DOC oversees the daily operations of the Fale Laumei.)

The letter followed discussions between Savali and Lafaele “regarding the construction of temporary dressing rooms while the House is utilizing” the Fale Laumei “and dressing rooms for the next two to three years,” according to the cover letter.

Lafaele also included “complete quotations listing all needed material for the tempo-

rary dressing rooms in order to maintain the auditorium’s full operations.” The quotes do not include labor, utility — water and sewer — hookups, and the relocation of the ASTCA line that would run above the temporary dressing rooms’ location.

It’s also unclear what area of the Lee Auditorium would the rooms be built on.

The cover letter shows an estimate total of \$33,814.38 for the project: \$540 for “mix & sand” to be provided by Vailu’u & Sons; \$400 for “amplimesh wire” to be provided by K & K Island Star Corporation; \$31,938.86 for building supplies for temporary dressing rooms from the Tool Shop; and \$935.52 for electrical supplies from Neil’s ACE Home Center.

Quote sheets from each of the four vendors, provided a breakdown of each purchase item and cost. It’s unclear at this point who the contractor would be, and when the work would commence. A copy of the cover letter has been sent to the Governor and Public Works.

DRESSING ROOM

Samoa News is not quite sure how exactly the term “dressing room” is being used by the DOC and House.

A dressing room is identified in wikipedia.org as a “changing room, locker room... area designated for changing one’s clothes” — usually in privacy. It sometimes includes showers and washrooms.

(Story also ran in Samoan language on Wednesday, July 19, 2017.)

Australia disappointed by delay in US refugee resettlement

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia was disappointed that hundreds of its rejected refugees would not begin resettling in the United States this month under a deal that predates President Donald Trump’s administration, an official said on Friday.

President Barack Obama’s administration agreed to accept up to 1,250 refugees among hundreds of asylum seekers — mostly from Iran, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka — who have been languishing for up to four years in immigration camps on the impoverished Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

Immigration and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton said Australia wanted the refugees to start moving in July, but the United States had already filled its 50,000 refugee quota for the current fiscal year.

“We’re disappointed that they haven’t been able to move this month, which was my hope, but their new program year starts on Oct. 1, and we’re working with both the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that we can get people off as

quickly as possible,” Dutton told reporters.

Trump berated Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull during their first telephone conversation as national leaders in January over the deal which Trump described in a tweet as “dumb.”

Trump said the refugees would be subjected to “extreme vetting” before they were accepted. There are few details on what that would entail.

Australia will not settle any refugees who try to arrive by boat — a policy that the government says dissuades asylum seekers from attempting the dangerous and occasionally deadly ocean crossing from Indonesia.

Australia instead pays Papua New Guinea and Nauru to house asylum seekers in camps that have been plagued by reports of abuse and draconian conditions.

Dutton said he was determined to close the men-only camp on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea by the end of October.

Asylum seekers on Manus who were rejected by the United States would be transferred to Nauru, who will remain open indefinitely.

Nearly two dozen seniors become 'Senior Rangers' for NPS

SENIOR CITIZENS GEARING UP FOR YEAR FULL OF ACTIVITIES

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

The Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA) has a calendar full of activities to keep the territory's elderly population active and to use them as tools in helping to preserve the Samoan culture by passing on their knowledge to future generations.

Earlier this week, a group of 20 seniors, including TAOA director Evelyn Lili'o-Satele, reached a milestone, when they became the first class of TAOA seniors appointed as 'Senior Rangers' of the National Park Service.

According to Lili'o-Satele, as a senior ranger, they pledge to "explore, learn about, and help protect the National Park of American Samoa and all National Parks.

Protecting the parks means I will share what I have learned with others and (leave no trace) by staying on trails and picking up trash by reducing and recycling."

They also pledge "to be a friend to the National Park and to our Planet Earth."

Becoming 'Senior Rangers' is just one of the many accomplishments Lili'o-Satele and the TAOA crew hope to celebrate with the more than 4,000 registered senior citizens who

currently make up the TAOA family.

"This is a new program," the TAOA director told Samoa News yesterday, adding that there are so many other partnerships they have established with various government departments and agencies to keep the senior citizens busy and occupied.

"Our main goal is to assist our seniors by helping the 'whole person' and not just the programs," she said.

"We find ways to help our elderly learn about healthy living habits, having fun together, healthy eating, healthy lifestyles," she continued.

"We try to expose them to community resources that can help them gain independent living skills by letting them make choices."

One of the programs Lili'o-Satele touched on is the congregated meals programs, which provides a setting for seniors to come together and enjoy each other's company.

"This helps rid them of loneliness and feelings of isolation which can contribute to health problems," she explained.

All of the 13 centers where meals can be picked up are church halls, with the exception of the Pago location which utilizes the TAOA center.

"Here, we have a big screen TV and activities that can keep them busy when they pick up their food," the TAOA director said, adding that seniors who are not able to pick up their meal can have their food delivered to their homes.

Lili'o-Satele shared that the programs set up for the elderly all have one purpose and that is, to provide means for them to learn something new, things that can lead to a better life and can be shared with their families.

She referred to their partnership with the ASCC Land Grant program which has helped TAOA develop a garden at their Pago Center.

"The purpose is to demonstrate how it is done so these seniors can go home, take what they learned, and create their own garden which can be used for financial and even health benefits," she said. "Again, these projects aim to help the individual as a 'whole'."

The Department of Health is also a TAOA partner, helping out with the Tai Chi and Hula program by monitoring vitals like blood pressure, weight, and sugar levels.

The Tai Chi program is to promote movement and balance which can, in turn, prevent falls, said the TAOA director.

For the National Park Ser-

(Continued on page 4)

Admin identifies projects...

Continued from page 1

revenue from spending across all income levels, the bill says.

According to the bill, the sales tax is applied on all retail goods sold or leased to the consumer, and retailers are responsible for the collection of sales tax.

Bona fide wholesalers are not responsible for collection of the tax when in fact wholesaling to a licensed retailer that holds a "Resale Certificate", which is issued by the Commerce Department for each place of business where such activity may take place.

The person desiring to conduct business as a retailer applies for the certificate from DOC.

The 13-page bill, which covers only the English version, details a wide range of information pertaining to the sales tax, which is imposed by all retailers on the gross receipts from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail in the territory.

It also outlines the method of collection of the sale by retailers, display of tax separately from the price, and revocation of the Resale Certification for violation of any provision of the sales tax law.

According to the bill, every retailer who has collected tax from a purchaser must maintain

sufficient records of each transaction so that accurate monthly returns can be filed with the Treasurer.

The forms of the returns, set by Treasury, must be filed with the Treasurer on the 10th day of each month for the period ending on the last day of the previous month.

If the taxes imposed by this chapter — the retail sales tax — are filed and paid to the Treasurer by the 7th day of each month, a taxpayer may deduct and withhold from the taxes otherwise due from him or her 0.50 percent of those taxes as reimbursement for the cost of collecting the sales tax.

The sales tax outlined exemptions:

- sales of prescription drugs for human consumption dispensed by a doctor or to medical services and related fees;
- sales in open air public markets, wayside stands or roadside stands by the original and local producer of: fresh, unprocessed fruits, vegetables and nuts; eggs; live poultry; live pigs; and unprocessed fish sold the day they are caught. This exemption, does not apply to the sale of imported food;
- gross receipts from occasional sales of tangible personal property;

- groups that are organized and operate for charitable, religious, or educational purposes or hold a federal tax-exempt status when selling tangible personal items as part of infrequent and occasional fundraising activities where the profits are used for religious, education, or charitable purposes; and

- petroleum productions which are already subject to excise tax in accordance with current law.

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, the bill says 6% of the total amount of sales tax collected is earmarked annually for repairs and renovations of all public school facilities and equipment.

The bill calls for an additional \$500,000 appropriated from the sales tax for the ASG student financial aid, which already has an allocation earmarked in the annual budget.

Also 6% of the total sales tax is earmarked, beginning Jan. 1, 2018, for LBJ Medical Center operations. The LBJ off-island medical referral program is also slated to get 6% of the total sales tax and Treasury Department is required to send to the referral fund account monies collected on a monthly basis.

Due to the urgency, the bill becomes effective Jan. 1, 2018



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“The Conversation”

IT WORKS

by Benjamin Hampton

Conversationalists in American Samoa, I am just blown away by the response that has rippled through the community in direct response to our first Conversation here. In less than 21 days, positive changes that should help all involved have already occurred. Friday, June 30th marks the day when “The Conversation” column officially launched. Happy 3-week anniversary everyone!

I don’t believe any of the positive results could have been reached so quickly had it not been through the combined efforts of the team at Samoa News, and those of you in the community who have embraced both the column and the information shared here.

Samoa News and I believed that there needed to be a fresh public forum to discuss pressing issues, and we’re glad that you the people agree.

Specifically the types of issues discussed here will be those that not only affect many of us here on island

now but especially those issues affecting those who will continue carrying either the blessings or the burdens that come as an outgrowth of decisions made in this present time.

I’m so glad to know that the people of American Samoa have responded the way they have. A coming together in recognition of the fact that if they are unhappy with the way a matter is handled, that much can be done by having an open discussion and allowing people’s moral compass to guide the end result.

Always remember, none of us individually is smarter than all of us together. Teamwork will make the dream work. So let’s dream and work together to bring those dreams to reality!

Without the community coming together and addressing issues that significantly impact our lives, there can be no hope for achieving the best in life for

those we care about most. There is so much we can share here together in this amazing and beautiful place God has blessed us to enjoy!

Monday will be a day that Lord willing the current issue of the OMV will have some more clarification, as well as discussion about what the public sees as the next set of pressing issues facing us here.

Will it be the upcoming tax increases combined with a whole slew of fees facing business owners and private citizens? The educational system challenges for our youth? Matters of family?

This is after all your Conversation. Let’s hear what you have to say! You can connect with The Conversation online, with your letters, phone calls, and through the dedicated Conversation in American Samoa Facebook page as well as the Samoa News Facebook page.

See you on Monday!

Only low income families permitted to sell fish ‘outside’ in coolers, says DOH

SPECIFIC TYPES OF ICE-TRAY STALLS TO SELL FISH TO BE BUILT AT FAGATOGO MARKETPLACE

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

As part of its plan to help develop local fisheries, the government is looking to build stalls next to the Fagatogo Marketplace where local fishermen can sell their catch.

This is according to Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele, who points out that local fishermen are currently selling their catch at the marketplace free of charge.

Lafaele shared the government’s plan during a Senate Communications/Fisheries/Marine and Wildlife Committee hearing this week after some senators voiced health concerns over local residents selling fish

on the roadside. Testifying at the hearing was Health director Tuileama Motusa Nua, whose department has jurisdiction over the safety of food being sold to the community.

Sen. Fai’ivae Iuli A. Godinet told ASG officials that he is pleased and very happy to see local fishermen selling their catch at the marketplace, but there are others selling on roadsides and this becomes a concern when it affects the health of the community, with people purchasing fish that has been exposed on the side of the road for a long period of time.

Lafaele revealed the government’s plan to construct stalls next to the marketplace

— in the area next to the stream where the large banyan tree was located. He said the stalls will be specifically for local fishermen to sell their catch.

The DOC director told Samoa News several months ago that the government was looking to build a two-story facility around the same area — next to the stream — with the second floor to be used for office spaces and the first floor as an open fish market, similar to those in Apia and Honolulu.

At the Senate hearing, Lafaele said this was the initial plan, but it is time consuming and will require a lot of money.

The plan now is to build
(Continued on page 12)

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► Nearly two dozen seniors...

Continued from page 3

vice, Lili’o-Satele said their program is aimed at promoting a healthy environment and the biggest advantage is having the seniors take what they learn and teach it to their kids at home.

Other agencies that Lili’o-Satele said have supported TAOA in more ways than one, include KVZK-TV, ASTCA, the LBJ Medical Center, the Jean P. Hayden Museum, and also Neil’s Ace Home Center whose crew came out and taught the old folks how to make smoothies.

Even the gang from the AS Department of Homeland Security have stopped by to help with evacuation drills. During the 2009 deadly tsunami, the TAOA center in Pago was submerged in water and the catastrophe claimed the life of an elderly woman who was there that morning.

For now, a field trip to the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center is being planned, with 150 seniors expected to take part.

Even a visit to the Feleti Barstow Public Library is being

discussed, whereby the seniors will have a chance to speak to young children there.

In addition to activities, Lili’o-Satele said their employment agency is working hard to help those seniors who want to return to the workforce by providing them with the necessary training and skills.

She said some have indicated their wish to learn basket weaving and carving, as a private enterprise, while others have expressed their hope of getting an office position in the government and private sector.

Lili’o-Satele said there are plans to offer computer training and lessons in word processing and spreadsheets, as well as classes to teach them how to write a resume and fill out a job application. “Seniors hold the secrets to our past,” Lili’o-Satele said.

“They know our culture, our language and these are things that provide us with a better understanding of who we are, and why we are the way we are. Focusing on the past will help us in the future.”



Kids who participated in the Sanctuary Summer Science in the Village (SSSV) Program that was held in Aunu’u earlier this month didn’t just learn about marine life and the importance of conservation efforts, they also engaged in fun activities like a fishing derby, all under the watchful eye of the crew from the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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5TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank You! Faafetai Tele Lava!

The Board of Directors of the Tina Drabble Junior Golf Foundation would like to express its appreciation and gratitude to the companies, organizations, government departments, friends and relatives, both local and overseas for their tremendous help, support and donations that made the Tina Drabble 5th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament as successful as the past four tournaments since its inception in 2013. We apologize if we have missed anyone who may have donated foods, drinks, money and time that helped made this tournament possible. For all that you have given, may the Good Lord repay you ten times fold. Fa'afetai tele lava, thank you and may God Bless you all always.

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In The High Court
of American Samoa
TRIAL DIVISION

C.A. No. 14-17

In the Matter of the Petition of
TARA LALELEI GALUMALEMANA
Petitioner

NOTICE OF
HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa by **TARA ALLELE GALUMALEMANA** of Pago Pago, American Samoa, born August 26th, 1998, at LBJ Tropical Medical Center at Faga'alu, American Samoa. Petitioner is requesting the Court to approve a change of her legal name to **TARA ALLELE PEARSON**.

A hearing on that Petition will be held on **August 16 2017, at 9:00 a.m.** or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa in the High Court Building located at Fagatogo, American Samoa. All interested parties may appear before the Court on said date and time to respond to this Petition.

Date: July 12, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 7/21/17

In The High Court
of American Samoa
TRIAL DIVISION

HCCA No. 33-17

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
**KALALA LOLA MAMAEA, NEE
TAGALOA,**
Petitioner

NOTICE
OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa by **KALALA LOLA MAMAEA, nee TAGALOA** of Lauli'i, American Samoa, born September 11, 1984, at LBJ Tropical Medical Center at Faga'alu, American Samoa. Petitioner is requesting the Court to approve a change of her legal name to **KALALA LOLA TAGALOA**.

A hearing on the Petition will be held on **August 31 2017, at 9:00 a.m.** or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa in the High Court Building located at Fagatogo, American Samoa. All interested parties may appear before the Court on said date and time to respond to this Petition.

Date: July 12, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 7/21/17

Counting breadfruit trees from space

"IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD THINKING..."



Mervin Tano, a native Hawaiian student from Kapiolani Community College, was accepted by the 2017 NASA Summer Research Experience for Tribal College Undergraduates. As interns to the NASA funded project, students undergo intensive training in climate science, geospatial applications for science research, and are required to develop and complete a research project to fulfill their program requirements. Merv's current project will

take a University of Hawaii College of Business Administration 2014 national award winning project by the Pacific Business Center Program (PBCP), titled the 'Pacific Regional Breadfruit Initiative' (PRBI), to a higher level; like in satellite.

This PRBI project is based on the seminal work of Dr. Diane Ragone, Director of the Breadfruit Institute, National Tropical Botanical Garden in Kauai.

The NASA Experiential Learning Opportunity (TCU-ELO) program is hosted at Haskell Native American University, Lawrence, Kansas (<http://www.haskell.edu/sponsored-programs/nasa-elo-program/>).

The Pacific Business Center Program PRBI points to significant agricultural and economic development opportunities in Hawai'i and greater Oceania.

The Pacific Regional Breadfruit Initiative is funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs (OIA)

and the 2014 national award winning project through the University Economic Development Association (UEDA) of U.S. Colleges and Universities.

The project had a particular challenge regarding counting or obtaining an accurate inventory of trees in Hawai'i and the U.S. Pacific Territories spread out over 3 million square miles of ocean. A total land area comparable in size to the continental United States.

The area is from Hawai'i to Saipan in the north to far west Pacific, down to Palau in the south west Pacific, through the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands covering the mid Pacific and to American Samoa in the south Pacific.

Even local colleges and government departments of agriculture did not have accurate or updated inventories of breadfruit trees for their respective island or archipelago to formulate an estimate or projections essential for industry development and manufacturing feasibility for both local and regional economic development.

However, with Merv's NASA project on the table, what at first was considered an insurmountable challenge, has now become an exciting opportunity to expand and utilize remote imaging technological tools to focus on breadfruit identification and differentiation from surrounding vegetation utilizing remotely sensed multiple band satellite imagery.

Merv's project will have broader agricultural, economic, food security, climate change, rising tides and disaster preparedness applications utilizing the most current cutting edge technology brought together through Kiksapa's partnership with NASA.

For example, Merv will be introduced to the various remote sensing techniques to determine if breadfruit can be detected using remotely sensed data at varying spatial and temporal scales.

If this proves successful, he will expand the scope of his work to conduct regional and island by island count of standing trees and general phenology analysis. Remote sensing capacities will include species identification, soils analysis, health conditions, moisture and organic content of the soils, climate conditions and sea level rise information and data to name a few.

KIKSAPA is an Environmental Science, Geospatial and Education and Institutional Planning consulting company that works extensively with Native American higher education institutions in collaboration with NASA.

It focuses on training, content expertise and skills development with a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) focus. Kiksapa also works with DHS/FEMA in assisting Federally Recognized Tribes in establishing their Hazard Mitigation (Continued on page 7)

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Congresswoman Amata and Assistant Secretary of Insular Areas Nominee Doug Domenech prior to the confirmation hearing. [Courtesy photo]

▶ Counting breadfruit...

Continued from page 6

Plans, their Threats and Hazards Identification Risk Assessments (THIRA), and other processes to increase resiliency in Native communities.

Kiksapa was established by Dr. Bull Bennett who was the first Native American to earn a doctorate (2005) from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Dr. Bennett had the distinguished privilege to serve as a founding member of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, and as a member of the National Climate Assessment Development and Advisory Committee where he served as the Co-convening Lead Author on the 3rd National Climate Assessment (2014).

Merv will be field supervised over the 2017 summer/fall project period by PRBI partners in Hawai'i to conduct satellite GIS analysis.

They include Dr. Tusi Avegalio Director of the UH Shidler College of Business Administration Pacific Business Center Program on Oahu, and two Big Island field supervisors and PRBI team members. They are Kalani Souza, leading the establishment of an international phenology association and national outreach and coordinator for the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) for community resilience and food security, and Internationally acclaimed author on agroforestry and breadfruit Craig Elevitch of Agroforestry Net to pilot the project for expansion to local farmers as well as students from the region.

All three are members of

the Global Breadfruit Heritage Council (GBHC) that advocates for responsible agricultural practices that are sustainable through the weave of traditional wisdom and cultural knowledge with modern science and technology. Where feasible, additional students, farmers and/or volunteers from Hawaii, U.S. Territories and Oceania will be recruited as active participants.

A major goal of the project is to present the findings and KIKSAPA/NASA program at the 2017 Samoa 'Home of the Ma'afala' Pacific and Global Summit in Apia, Samoa in October. "With the success of Representative Su'a Jennings dehydrator in American Samoa that has produced market ready milled flour as determined by milling and flour making Professor Jeff Gwartz of Kansas State University, the challenge of effectively drying and milling breadfruit has been overcome. Securing an inventory of breadfruit tree's to project and calculate supply from raw harvest to flour conversion was the next critical factor essential to pulling the essential pieces together," Dr. Tusi said.

"Counting ulu trees from space lays another major plank in building local island economies utilizing a sustainable local agricultural product, establishing local manufacturing and creating local jobs from ground to table." Dr. Tusi chuckled, "It's not out of the box thinking, it's out of this world thinking!"

[Source: Pacific Business Center Program PRBI media release]



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Per decision of the CCCAS Administration and by Executive Order of such, we wish to announce to all members of the CCCAS Standing Committees, officers of auxiliary organizations, and the legal counsel for the church, that a SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY has been called to convene on Thursday, August 3, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the 'FALE MAFUTAGAA TINA' CCCAS Women Fellowship, Building. A reminder to all Standing Committee Members to please attend this special session.

Thank you,
CCCAS Office of the General Secretariat
Rev. Ioelu N Onesemo

EKALESIA FAAPOTOPOTOGA KERISIANO I AMERIKA SAMOA
Ona o se mataupu faapitoa mo le Ekalesia, ua tuuina atu ai leni faaaliga ma le ava e tatau ai, mo le paia o le EKALESIA FAAPOTOPOTOGA KERISIANO I AMERIKA SAMOA; ua valaauina ai la tatou FONOTELE FAAFUASE'I e pei ona aiaia e lona Faavae. E faatala'uula atu i le paia o KOMITI TUMAU, OFISA O MAFUTAGA TU-MA'OTI, ma le LOIA FAUTUAA LE EKALESIA AOA O i Amerika Samoa nei, e tala mai aao e tatou te soalaupule i se mataupu ua maua ai se faautautaga e le mamalu o le Lauaifono a le Ekalesia Aoa. O le a usuia lau Fono Tele Faafuase'i i le Aso Tofi, Aokuso 3, 2017 i le itula e 10 i le taeao ile Maota o le Mafutaga a Tina, i Kanana Fou.

FAIA MA LE FAAALOALO TELE,
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.043.WW

Issuance Date: July 21, 2017

Closing Date & Time:

August 7, 2017 at 2:00 pm AS Time

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

***"The East Side Village (ESV) Wastewater Collection System Project,
Package 5 - Phase I (Rebid)"***

Submission

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) invites you to submit a proposal to provide professional services for the East Side Village Wastewater Collection System Project, Package 5 - Phase I (Rebid), within municipal collection systems of American Samoa. This project is part of ASPA's East Side Village Program funded through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The selected Offeror must provide a proposal that specifically and completely addresses a plan for the completion of the tasks which are detailed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Packet Attachment B, The Scope of Work (SOW).

A complete RFP package may be picked up from the ASPA Procurement Office located at the Tafuna ASPA compound. You may also view this RFP online at ASPA's website, www.aspower.com

For more information about this RFP, you may contact:

Ioana S. Uli
ASPA Procurement Manager
ASPA Procurement Office
PH: 684-248-1234
bids@aspower.com

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to:

1. Reject all proposals and reissue a new or amended RFP;
2. Request additional information from any Offeror
3. Select a firm for award based on other qualifications than "least cost" (e.g. capability to complete work in a timely fashion or proven technical capabilities);
4. Negotiate a contract with the Offeror that is selected for award;
5. Waive any non-material violations of rules set up in this RFP at its sole discretion.

Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director



⊗ Scientists have discovered what they say is the worst case of plastic pollution in the world — Henderson Island in the South Pacific — carried there on ocean currents. The uninhabited island, which is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, is the largest of the four Pitcairn Islands. A crab that would normally use a ‘shell’ as its home is seen here with a plastic container instead.

[Photo: Jennifer Lavers]

Pacific Island News in Brief

compiled by Samoa News staff
AMATA INTRODUCES ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INSULAR AFFAIRS NOMINEE

Washington, D C — Thursday, July 20, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata, introduced President Trump’s nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of Insular Areas, Doug Domenech this morning in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee hearing room.

“I have known Doug for several years now and I am proud to call him a true friend. The position for which he is seeking your support, is very important to the people of the Insular areas,” said the Congresswoman to the Senate panel.

“My home district of American Samoa is an insular area, and I can think of no one I would like to see in the position more than Doug Domenech. His knowledge and experience of the region and the mission of the office is unparalleled, and I know that his leadership will be welcomed as we seek to craft real solutions for the constituents we serve. In fact, I have had the pleasure to see him in action, and know that he will hit the ground running,” con-

tinued Amata.Mr. Domenech currently serves as the Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior, and is also Secretary Zinke’s appointee to the Advisory Council of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico, where he has lived and from where his family originally hails. Previously, he served as the Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia; overseeing six state environmental, recreation, and historic resource agencies, among other positions.The Senate panel will now send their recommendation to the Senate for a vote, which is expected in the coming weeks.

“I want to thank my friend Doug for his willingness to serve our great nation, and thank this Committee for allowing me to come before you today, and I hope that you will support his confirmation,” concluded the Congresswoman.(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata Office- Washington D.C.)

TUI-SAMOA SUBMARINE CABLE LOADING IS UNDERWAY

Apia, Samoa, July 20, 2017 – Samoa Submarine Cable Company Limited (SSCC) and Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN) have begun the loading of the 1,470 km TUI-Samoa

Cable on a freighter in Calais, France, at ASN’s factory: the freighter will sail at the end of the month towards Suva, where the cable will then be transferred to the ship that will be laying it.

Emmanuel Delanoue, SSCC CEO said: “We are pleased to announce another important milestone as part of the overall implementation. After the marine survey, the loading is another significant progress for the TUI-Samoa system implementation.” Strengthening Samoa’s domestic and international connectivity, Tui-Samoa Cable will have landing points in Apia and Tuasivi (Samoa) and Suva (Fiji). It will deliver a capacity of at least 8 Terabits-persecond (Tbit/s) using 100 Gbit/s transmission technology. The system will also have extensions to the islands of Vanua Levu – Savusavu (Fiji) and Wallis & Futuna. Samoa Submarine Cable Company Limited Sscc is a private company incorporated in Apia Samoa that will build, manage and operate the TuiSamoa submarine cable between Apia Samoa and Suva Fiji. SSCC will operate a Cooperative Sustainable Wholesale Model (CSWM) with the mandate to deliver fast, reliable and

(Continued on page 9)

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▶ Pacific briefs...

Continued from page 8

affordable internet services to stimulate ICT innovation and development as an enabler of economic growth and social prosperity for the people of Samoa. (Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary]

NATIONAL ID IN THE WORKS

Samoa is on her way to having her very own National Identification Card, Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi has acknowledged, adding the concept has been long in the government’s thinking tank. The National ID card has been approved, and the new ID will replace Samoa’s voters ID and can be used as a Health or Medical ID, as well as for other services such as the Samoa National Provident Fund, a driver’s license — and may even replace a Voters ID during election. On-going research is also looking if the ID can be used for immigration purposes or as a passport. “With the changes in technology coupled with the country’s economic growth, the timing is right,” Tuilaepa said. “I have been told that samples have been designed and once all pieces of the puzzle are in place, the next step would be implementation.” The Office of the Statistics and Ministry of Information Technology is the implementing agencies, according to Tuilaepa. The Prime Minister is optimistic that the National ID card will be in circulation before the end of the current administration. (Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary]

SCIENTISTS NAME WORST PLASTIC POLLUTION IN WORLD

Scientists have discovered what they say is the worst case of plastic pollution in the world. Research published by Tasmania’s Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies says nearly 38 million items of plastic debris can be found on Henderson Island in the South Pacific — carried there on ocean currents. The uninhabited island, which is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, is the largest of the four Pitcairn Islands. Australian researcher Jennifer Lavers said the island had the highest density of plastic rubbish anywhere in the world. “I’ve been fortunate in my career as a scientist to travel to some of the remote islands in the world, but Henderson was really quite an alarming situation... The highest density of plastic I’ve really seen in the whole of my career,” she said. She said the finding, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, was a wake-up call to the world that plastic pollution was as grave a threat to humanity as climate change. Annual production of plastic has increased from 1.7m tonnes in 1954 to 311m tonnes in 2014. This has resulted in an estimated five trillion plastic items — mostly less than five millimeters in size - circulating in the surface layer of the world’s oceans. To under-

stand how much debris was accumulating on the remote island, Dr. Lavers, a conservation biologist at the University of Tasmania, and Alexander Bond at the Centre for Conservation Science in the UK surveyed the island’s North and East Beach for three months in 2015. Dr. Lavers said the 17.6 tonnes of plastic debris estimated to be on Henderson Island accounted for just 1.98 seconds’ worth of the current annual global production of plastic. She said the amount of rubbish was such that it took a five-person team six hours to survey a 10-meter section of the beach. The team calculated there were 671.6 items per square meter on the surface of the beaches, with approximately 68 percent of debris buried less than 10 centimeters in the sand. Each day, 17 to 268 new items washed up on a 10-meter section of North Beach, representing a daily accumulation rate of 1.7 to 26.8 items per meter. [Source: RNZI]

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DOC-DBAS team up to host workshop for business community

by Sabrina Sinapati
Special to Samoa News

Next Thursday, the Department of Commerce and the Development Bank of American Samoa will be co-hosting the “Access to Capital Business Workshop” at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium from 9 a.m.- 12noon.

Territorial Planner, Michael J. McDonald, shared with Samoa News the goals of supporting the economy, and bringing in supporting agencies that will help in producing new adventures.

Currently, DOC is working on ways to improve its services not only for local people but also for national and international communities abroad.

The goal of this whole idea

is to get new and existing businesses, as well as ambitious business owners to improve their services, develop, and expand. Additionally, it is to promote awareness on the various business financing programs available locally.

DOC has been working on plans to get the ball rolling in order to meet and satisfy the needs of American Samoa’s business community.

They have information on capital resources and programs available on island through local/federal organizations such as DOC, DBAS, USDA, and ANZ.

The workshop will serve as a way for attendees to learn more about business related services available in the territory; for

example, the Small Business Development Center, business license requirements/process etc.

The workshop also provides an opportunity for participants to network and meet various agency or organization representatives in person, to ask questions and get direct answers on the spot.

Those already involved or are looking to start businesses related to healthcare, manufacturing, fisheries, agriculture, renewable energy, technology, and tourism are encouraged to attend the workshop.

Those who do not fall into any of the aforementioned categories are encouraged to attend.

More information can be obtained by calling 633-5145.

Netflix makes Hall H debut with big budget Will Smith pic

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Imagine “End of Watch” but with orcs and fairies and magic. That’s the vibe of Will Smith’s big budget Netflix film “Bright,” which unveiled its first full trailer Thursday in a presentation at Comic-Con.

The film reunites Smith with his “Suicide Squad” director David Ayer and takes audiences to a gritty Los Angeles setting where two police officers, one human (Smith) and one orc (Joel Edgerton) have to contend with some mythical, evil forces plaguing the city.

Noomi Rapace and Edgar Ramirez also star. It was the Hall H debut for the streaming service, which brought out Smith, Edgerton, Ayer and the film’s other stars to charm the 6,500 super fans in attendance and get them excited about the \$90 million movie, which makes its Netflix debut on Dec. 22. Ayer said “Bright” is not some “standard issue PG-13 movie.” “I was able to do some real (expletive),” Ayer said. “I was able to tell a real story. I was able to do my thing.”

He praised Netflix for its support. Smith said the film has the hard “rated-R grind of ‘Training Day’” mashed up with “Lord of the Rings.” His character is stuck with the force’s first orc cop, which Smith said gave him a rare character opportunity: to be racist when you’re black,” Smith said. “You’re like, ‘Look man, I don’t want no orcs in my car.’” Smith is just the latest A-list movie star to try his luck doing a big film with Netflix and has made waves in Hollywood with his support of the service.

“There is a difference between seeing a movie in a theater and seeing it on Netflix,” Smith conceded, but added that he is “really excited” to see “whatever this new wave of entertainment is going to be.”

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Time of American Samoa	Sunday (7/23)	Monday (7/24)	Tuesday (7/25)	Wednesday (7/26)	Thursday (7/27)	min	Friday (7/28)	Saturday (7/29)	min
10 : am	00' Jacob's Table for O' 10'	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	00'	Battle Trip (E,R)	Encore Drama	60'
11 : am	30' Battle Trip (E,R)	Encore Drama "The Innocent Man" (E,R)				50'	The Return of Superman (E,R)	The Innocent Man (E,R)	
12 NOON	30' Music Bank (E,R)	Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E,R)							
1 : pm	50' The Return of Superman (E,R)	Daily Drama "Lovers in Bloom" (E,R)							
2 : pm	30' Two Days and One Night (E,R)	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Queen for Seven Days Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		K-RUSH (E,R)		30'
3 : pm	50' Encore Drama The Innocent Man (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	30'	Battle Trip (E,R)	Music Bank (E,R)	30'
4 : pm	00' Encore Drama The Innocent Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Fight for My Way (E,R) Final	My Father is Strange (E,R)	Queen for Seven Days (E,R)	Gorilla Date (E,R)	50'	My Father is Strange Weekend Drama (E,R)		50'
5 : pm	10' Encore Drama The Innocent Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	My Father is Strange (E,R)	Queen for Seven Days (E,R)	The Return of Superman (E,R)	00'	Mon-Tue Drama	Wed-Thu Drama	60'
6 : pm	20' Encore Drama The Innocent Man (E,R) # 6, 7, 8.	Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R) # 1, 2	My Father is Strange (E,R) # 38, 39, 40	Queen for Seven Days (E,R) # 14, 15, 16	Two Days and One Night (E,R)		School 2017 (E,R)	Queen for Seven Days (E,R)	
7 : pm	20' Gag Concert	Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E,R)						Hollo Counselor (E,R)	20'
8 : pm	40' History of Korea (E)	KBS World News Today (Live)				40'	Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	40'
9 : pm	00' 2017 Asia Model Festival (E,R)	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Music Bank (Live)				
10 : pm	00' Jacob's Table for O' 40'	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	K-RUSH (E,R)	00'	Gag Concert (E)	"The Return of Superman" (E)	00'
11 : pm	20' Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E)	Daily Drama "Lovers in Bloom" (E)				20'	Immortal Songs 2 (E)	Two Days and One Night (E)	40'
12 : 00 Next Day	20' KBS 9 News (Live)	KBS 9 News (Live)				20'	My Father is Strange (E)		20'
1 : am	50' Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E)		Queen for Seven Days Wed-Thu Drama (E)		30'	Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Queen for Seven Days (E,R)	30'
2 : am	00' Hollo Counselor (E)	We Like Zines (E)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E)	Happy Together (E)	Battle Trip (E)				
3 : am	20' Encore Drama "The Innocent Man" (E)	"The Return of Superman" Special (E)				50'	Gag Concert (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)	50'
4 : am	30' KRS World E-Today	KRS World E-Today	2016 Drama Special (E,R)	KRS World E-Today	Music Bank (E,R)	00'	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	30'
5 : am	40' History of Korea (E, R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	K-RUSH (E,R)		My Father is Strange Weekend Drama (E,R)		50'
6 : am	20' Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Queen for Seven Days Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		00'	The Innocent Man (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles (E,R)	00'
7 : am	30' Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines	Sketchbook	Happy Together	Battle Trip				

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

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Alesana, Simealai	Ikenasio-Taliaoa, Ioane	Matamua, Lei	Satele, Uaea	Thiel, Mathew Vincent
Aliivaa, Taumasina	Iliili, Laki	Matau, Esau	Satui, Lea	Tiapula, Lenora
Allen, Lidwina	Ilimaleota, Levelevei	Matau, Ramona	Sauaso, Joyce	Tiapula, Raymond
Alo, Tautua	Ilimaleota, Mikaele	Matau, Tikeri	Saufoi, Lauina	Tili, Benjamin
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Atiae, Faatamalii	Kolomaile, Epifano	Mekuli, Asootama Lise	Save, Suani	Tiumalu, Saimua
Atualevao, Patricia	Kolone, Liuato	Meli, Octavia	Savea, Edward	Toala, Suilefaiga
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Chung Sum, Utulafilafi	Laifaga, Teuaina	Moananu, Finau	Sele, Jennilee	Toomata, Afereti
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Dixon, Mere	Lealofi, Nafanua	Moliga-Taiepisi, Elsie	Seuteva, Taputaua	Tovia, Sесilia
Eli, Kolotita	Leaoa, Upuanunu	Monaco, Thomas	Sialofi, Taupale	Tua, Alofagia
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Feulufa'i, Analosa	Magalo, Julie	Poloa, Angel	Talopau, Toelau	Vee, Meaalofa
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Fruean, Saena Samuelu	Maiava, Filisi	Pule, Antonio Jr.	Tapunuu, Pale	Visesio, David
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Fuimaono, Falesoa	Makiasi, Simativa	Purcell, Douglas	Tauai, Uufono	Yandall, Deeannah Aovaa
Fuimaono, Mavaega	Malo, Maria	Ripley, Faamalele Tagoi	Tauanuu, Faatiuga	
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Department of Human and Social Services
Government of American Samoa
Utulei, American Samoa 96799

TEMPORARY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Departments of Human and Social Services (DHSS) and Health (DOH) are collaborating to conduct a hybrid survey in July 2017 to gather health information that includes behavioral and mental health questions and non-communicable disease questions for baseline data so we may better understand the health needs of our community. The survey will be conducted using household interviews with adults 18 years of age and older between the hours of 1 pm and 8 pm. Our target is to survey 3,500 households on the islands of Tutuila, Aunu'u and Manu'a.

We are currently recruiting for the following temporary, part-time positions for the survey. Interested applicants must pick up an application form from the DHSS' Special Projects and Community Assistance Division located on the second floor of the Children, Families and Behavioral Health Services Building (CFBHS) between the ASWIC and the old Election Office buildings in Utulei on the main road. Please submit completed applications along with a copy of your birth certificate, Social Security card, a valid picture Identification (e.g., Driver's License, Passport, etc.) and a copy of your Immigration ID card if you are not a US citizen or US National. Deadline to receive applications is 3 pm, Friday, July 14, 2017. Please contact Ms. Tu'umafua Maiava or Mr. Wilfredo Tuiasosopo at 633-2696 or 633-0315.

JOB	DURATION	NO. POSTS	AGE	QUALIFICATIONS
Survey Supervisors	4-5 months	2	20 and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Associate DegreeMust have Management SkillsSpeak and write in English and SamoanMust have a drivers licenseMust be a US citizen, US national or a legal resident of American Samoa authorized by the Immigration Board to work in the Territory
Advance Mapping	1.5 months	10	18 and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High School DiplomaSpeak and write in English and SamoanMust have good PR SkillsMust be able to walk in the villagesMust have a Drivers LicenseMust be a US citizen, US national or a legal resident of American Samoa authorized by the Immigration Board to work in the Territory
Enumerator/ Interviewer	4-5 months	15	18 and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High School DiplomaSpeak and write in English and SamoanMust have good PR SkillsMust be able to walk in the villagesBasic Computer SkillsMust be a US citizen, US national or a legal resident of American Samoa authorized by the Immigration Board to work in the Territory
Enumerator/ Interviewer	4-5 months	15	18 and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High School diploma1 year of Nursing or Medical Assistant ExperienceMust have good Public Relations SkillsMust be able to walk in the villagesBasic Computer SkillsMust have a Drivers LicenseMust be a US citizen, US national or a legal resident of American Samoa authorized by the Immigration Board to work in the Territory

GOP leaders plan Tuesday health vote, it's an uphill climb

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leaders pushed toward a Senate vote next Tuesday on resurrecting their nearly flat-lined health care bill. Their uphill drive was further complicated by the ailing GOP Sen. John McCain's potential absence and a dreary report envisioning that the number of uninsured Americans would soar.

The White House and GOP leaders fished Thursday for ways to win over recalcitrant senators, including an administration proposal to let states use Medicaid funds to help people buy their own private health insurance. But there were no indications they'd ensured the votes needed to even start debating the party's legislative keystone, a bill scuttling and supplanting President Barack Obama's health care law.

"Dealing with this issue is what's right for the country," said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. He added, "It was certainly never going to be easy, but we've come a long way and I look forward to continuing our work together to finally bring relief."

As leaders tested revisions that might attract GOP votes, others began comparing the process with the trade-offs they scorned seven years ago as top Democrats pushed Obama's overhaul.

"It's almost becoming a

bidding process — let's throw \$50 billion here, let's throw \$100 billion there," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn. "It's making me uncomfortable right now. It's beginning to feel a lot like how Obamacare came together."

In a blow, the Congressional Budget Office said McConnell's latest bill would produce 22 million additional uninsured people by 2026 and drive up premiums for many older Americans. Congress' nonpartisan fiscal analyst also said it would boost typical deductibles — the money people must pay before insurers cover costs — for single people to \$13,000 that year, well above the \$5,000 they'd be expected to pay under Obama's statute.

"Many people with low income would not purchase any plan even if it had very low premiums" because of that exorbitant deductible, the budget office said.

That dire outlook resembled one the office released last month on McConnell's initial bill, which the leader had to withdraw as Republicans rebelled against it.

Thursday's report seemed unlikely to do much better to help win over balking moderate Republicans upset over millions of voters losing coverage and cuts in Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor.

Only low income families...

Continued from page 4

stalls that will feature ice trays for the fish. Currently, he said, ice is placed on steel tables for the fish, but there are specific types of ice-trays for fish when they are put up for display.

He revealed that local fishermen are currently able to sell their catch at the marketplace free of charge, while DOC provides tents, ice, as well as tables to display the fish.

Lafaele didn't provide any further details.

Regarding the roadside sale of fish, Lafaele said he is not really sure if there is any law banning such a practice, but he agrees with concerns regarding the health of the community as far as buying fish from the side of the road.

Motusa explained that there is no law banning the selling of fresh fish on the roadside and therefore, DOH does not have the authority to stop such sales. However, he said, DOH has the authority to ensure that the low income families selling fish on the roadside have coolers — with ice — to keep the fish 'fresh'.

He added that DOH inspectors continue to visit these road-

side sites to make sure that those selling fish have the required coolers with ice to store the fish. He said DOH is working on ensuring that fish are not displayed — hanging on a stick — by the side of road, because this attracts flies and dust.

According to the Health director, in that past, store owners have been known to place coolers in front of their businesses when fresh fish is available, as a way to entice buyers.

However, DOH has halted that practice — for stores only — but allowing low income families to sell fish out of ice coolers on the roadside.

Motusa emphasized during his comments that individuals selling fish on the roadsides are low incomes families.

At one point, he informed senators that some sellers on the roadside, are mothers with young children sitting in the background waiting for the fish to be sold.

These are low income families — "o aiga lima vaivai" — and this is probably their only means of earning a living on a daily basis, he said.

Death of Australian woman ‘should not have happened’

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The fatal shooting of an Australian woman by a Minneapolis police officer responding to her 911 call “should not have happened,” police Chief Janee Harteau said Thursday, adding that the officer’s actions “go against who we are in the department.”

In her first public remarks since the death of Justine Damond, a 40-year-old life coach and bride-to-be, Harteau defended Officer Mohamed Noor’s training but criticized his actions.

“The actions in question go against who we are in the department, how we train and the expectations we have for our officers,” Harteau said. “These were the actions and judgment of one individual.”

She added: “This did not have to happen. Justine did not have to die.”

Damond had called 911 twice late Saturday to report a possible sexual assault in the alley behind her house on Minneapolis’ southwest side. Noor, who was in the passenger seat of a squad car, shot at Damond through the driver’s side window.

Noor has declined to speak with the state’s Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, which is handling the investigation. His partner, Matthew Harrity, told investigators he was startled by a loud sound right before Damond approached the police vehicle.

Neither officer had their body cameras turned on, which has drawn widespread criticism. Mayor Betsy Hodges said in a blog post Thursday that officers should turn them on any time

they are responding to a call.

Harteau also said the cameras should have been on. She said the department is making changes to its policy on the cameras, rolled out citywide eight months ago, including looking at technology that would turn them on automatically.

Damond’s family has said they want changes in police protocols, including a look at how often officers are required to turn on their cameras. Their Minneapolis attorney, Bob Bennett, said they also “want to see this person not be an officer.”

“He shouldn’t be on the street with a gun making decisions,” Bennett said, adding that he wanted to see Noor’s training records, including how he did in situations involving when to shoot or not shoot.

Harteau said a report on Noor’s training showed no problems.

“This officer completed that training very well,” she said. “He was very suited to be on the street.”

Harteau faced several questions about her absence in the days following the shooting, which sparked anger and a demand for answers in the city and in Damond’s home country. She said she had been back-packing in a remote area, it was “challenging” to return and that she had been in touch with her command staff.

The Damond family is just the latest to seek changes in police practices following a shooting. Other police shootings around the U.S. — particularly the killings of black men by officers — led to calls for change that included everything

from bias training for officers to upgraded technology. Sometimes those changes have been initiated by police departments. Other times they have been ordered by the federal government or through a lawsuit.

Minneapolis police said earlier this week they already were reviewing their body camera policy before Damond’s death. Issues being examined include having supervisors work with patrol officers to ensure the cameras are activated more frequently.

Minnesota created a \$12 million police training fund after the shootings of Philando Castile, a black motorist killed last year in suburban Minneapolis, and Jamar Clark, a black man killed in 2015 in Minneapolis. The Legislature also approved \$35 million in programs meant to reduce long-standing economic disparities between black and white residents, which Black Lives Matter and other organizations targeted as a root problem behind tension with police.

In Castile’s case, Minnesota’s governor and family members called for a federal investigation, and residents called for changes during city meetings. In the end, there was no federal civil rights investigation into Jeronimo Yanez, the St. Anthony officer who fatally shot Castile, but the city of St. Anthony requested a voluntary review by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. That review is looking at traffic stops, recruitment practices and how the department works with the community.



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BEACH ADVISORY



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

AS-EPA

Supporting efforts to clean our shores

Release Date: July 19, 2017

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

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) advises the public that on **July 18, 2017**, the following recreational beaches tested positive for Enterococci bacteria levels that exceed American Samoa Water Quality Standards:

Utulei Beach

Avau Beach

Nuuuli Pala Spring

Nuuuli Pala Lagoon

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.

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

Probate No. 20-2014

IN RE: ESTATE OF INITA T. AFO,

Deceased,

Fa'ailoilo Lauvao,
Petitioner

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Fa'ailoilo Lauvao has been duly qualified to act as the Administratrix for the Estate of Inita T. Afo.:

All creditors with a claim against the Estate of Inita T. Afo are required to submit their claims to the Administratrix of this Estate within 60 days of the first publication of this notice.

Submit all claims to: Estate of Inita T. Afo c/o Matailupevao Leupolu, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 5007, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

Date: June 09, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 07/17 & 07/21

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LAND COMMISSION

NOTICE is hereby given that SEIULI VASAGA MAULOLO of NUA, American Samoa, has executed a LEASE AGREEMENT to a certain parcel of land commonly known as NUA which is situated in the village of NUA, in the County of ALATAUA, WESTERN District, Island of Tutuila, American Samoa. Said LEASE AGREEMENT is now on file with the Territorial Registrar to be forwarded to the Governor respecting his approval or disapproval thereof according to the laws of American Samoa. Said instrument names ATAULOMA TAVEUVEU as LESSEE.

Any person who wish, may file his objection in writing with the Secretary of the Land Commission before the 12TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2017. It should be noted that any objection must clearly state the grounds therefor.

POSTED: JULY 14, 2017 thru SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
SIGNED: Taïto S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

KOMISI O LAU'ELE'ELE

O LE FAASALALAUGA lenei ua faia ona o SEIULI VASAGA MAULOLO ole nu'u o NUA, Amerika Samoa, ua ia faia se FEAGAIGA LISI, i se fanua ua lauiloa o NUA e i le nu'u o NUA i le itumalo o ALATAUA, Falelima i SISIFO ole Motu o TUTUILA Amerika Samoa. O lea FEAGAIGA LISI ua i ai nei i teuga pepa ale Resitara o Amerika Samoa e fia auina atu ile Kovana Sili mo sana fa'amaoniga e tusa ai ma le Tulafono a Amerika Samoa. O lea mata'upu o lo'o ta'ua ai ATAULOMA TAVEUVEU.

A iai se tasi e fia fa'atu'iese i lea mata'upu, ia fa'aulufaleina mai sa na fa'atu'iesega tusitusia ile Failautusi o lea Komisi ae le'i o'o ile aso 12 o SETEMA, 2017. Ia manatua, o fa'atu'iesega uma lava ia tusitusia manino mai ala uma e fa'atu'iese ai.

07/21 & 08/21/17



U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly speaks with a Coast Guardsman from the military branch, Æs new California-based Maritime Safety and Security Team after viewing a training demonstration aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Aspen on Thursday, July 20, 2017.

(AP Photo/Mike Balsamo)

CIA director: Moscow loves to 'stick it to America'

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — CIA Director Mike Pompeo said Thursday that Russia has no plans to leave Syria and will continue to try to meddle in U.S. affairs to “stick it to America.”

He reiterated his belief that Russia interfered in the U.S. presidential election and described the U.S.-Russia relationship as “complicated.”

“I think they find anyplace that they can make our lives more difficult, I think they find that’s something that’s useful,” he said

Pompeo also said he has seen only minimal evidence that Russia has pursued a serious strategy against Islamic State militants in Syria. He said any suggestion that Russia has been a U.S. ally in Syria is not borne out by what’s happening on the ground.

But Pompeo said he was hopeful there will be places in the world where the U.S. and Russia can cooperate on counterterrorism.

He said it’s difficult to imagine a stable Syria with President Bashar Assad still in power. He called Assad a “puppet of the Iranians,” who now have a “significant foothold in Syria.”

Russia will stay in Syria, he said, because it loves its naval port in Tartus, off the Mediterranean Sea.

The CIA director spoke in a wide-ranging conversation at the Aspen Security Forum, an annual gathering of intelligence and national security officials and experts in Aspen, Colorado.

He said the Trump administration is working on ways to push back against Iran, which wants to be a “kingpin” in the Middle East. Pompeo continued his criticism of the Obama administration’s nuclear deal with Iran. The Trump administration recently confirmed that Iran had met its obligations under the deal but warned

it would face consequences for breaching “the spirit” of the accord — a reference to Iran’s continued pursued of a ballistic missile program.

When it comes to Iranian compliance with the agreement, Iran is a “bad tenant,” Pompeo said. He likened their compliance with a renter who doesn’t pay rent until the landlord demands it and then sends a bad check. He noted that President Donald Trump has been working with Gulf states and Israel to find a common way to push back against Iranian aggression in the region.

What won’t work is appeasing Tehran or forcing them into compliance, he said.

“When we have our strategy in place, I’m confident you will see a fundamental shift in policy” toward Iran, Pompeo said.

Pompeo also addressed the threat from North Korea and said Trump asks questions about Pyongyang nearly every time he sees him.

“It is at the front of his mind,” Pompeo said.

It’s one thing for North Korea to have a missile that can harm the United States and another for it to have an arsenal of such weapons, he said, adding that things can be done to narrow its capacity to develop a stockpile.

While some people believe North Korea’s leader is irrational, Pompeo said he is convinced Kim Jong Un understands his core mission — “which is to keep himself in power.” While he avoided saying the U.S. might favor a regime change, Pompeo said he’s “hopeful that we will find a way to separate that regime” from its nuclear capabilities.

“The North Korea people — I’m sure are lovely people — and would love to see him go as well. You know they don’t live a very good life there,” Pompeo said.

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Cancer isn't silencing McCain in career's latest chapter

WASHINGTON (AP) — John McCain couldn't bring himself to vote for Donald Trump — so he talked about writing in his best friend's name for president. After the election, he's been the leading Senate Republican critic of Trump's posture toward Russia. And from his Arizona home, where he's battling brain cancer, the Arizona senator on Thursday lobbed a new attack at the White House over its Syria policy.

The grave medical diagnosis hit the six-term senator just as he was settling into the latest notable role in his storied career. The ex-prisoner of war, former GOP presidential nominee and onetime standard-bearer of the political Straight Talk Express has emerged as a voice for what some Republicans feel is a party lost in the Trump era. He's lambasted Trump as a defamer of military personnel, recoiled from Trump's willingness to cozy up to Russian President Vladimir Putin and rejected Trump's self-described boorishness toward women.

On Thursday, less than 24 hours after announcing he'd be undergoing treatment for glioblastoma, McCain promised — warned, really — that he won't be gone for long. “He is yelling at me to buck up so I'm gonna buck up,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, McCain's close friend in the Senate. It was classic McCain, whose candor offers a dose of authenticity and moxie at a time when his fellow Republicans control Congress and the presidency but are struggling to govern. His absence, however long, raises the prospect of a Senate without its sometimes trash-talking, yet also self-effacing, senator from Arizona for the first time in more than three decades. In the short term, McCain's treatment deprives Senate Republicans of a vote they need for a controversial health care rewrite in the narrowly divided chamber.

After audio surfaced in October of Trump talking about groping women, McCain broke with the candidate and said he'd write in Graham's name on Election Day. When Trump won, he called for a special committee to investigate Russian meddling in the election, recently lamenting that the Russia issue is “a challenge to Washington, D.C., the way we do business, a challenge to bipartisanship and a challenge to the effectiveness of this newly elected president.”

McCain, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, says he received sensitive information last year and turned it over to the FBI, an apparent reference to an unsubstantiated report that Russia had compromising personal and financial information about Trump.

On Thursday, from his home in Arizona, McCain said the administration would be “playing right into the hands of Vladimir Putin” if, as The Washington Post reported, Trump was ending a program to back the opposition to Syrian President Bashar Assad. Graham said McCain had called him three times Thursday on immigration legislation.

“I think John is a force that is unique to him. He has done things that most people could not do,” said Graham. “Going forward he's excited, quite frankly, about getting a second chance to finish things that have been stuck.” Yet for all of his confrontational style, McCain has voted with Trump most of the time. He voted in favor of most of the president's Cabinet nominees and with Trump against several Obama-era regulations. Longtime colleagues, even those McCain has called names, say he developed his fearlessness as a navy aviator held as a prisoner for more than five years in Vietnam. Resilience, they say, has fueled his long Senate career and helped him overcome two failed presidential campaigns. For some, McCain has become the moral voice of the Republican Party, whose leaders have not always said out loud what they really think about Trump.

“He's not afraid of anybody or anything, clearly,” said Texas Sen. John Cornyn, a Republican at whom McCain shouted, “F--- you!” in 2007. “He's unique, to say the least.”

“He does everything to make sure he's heard,” said GOP Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, whom McCain has called “a f----- jerk.” “When he disagrees with people he's going to tell them he disagrees.”

He's been known to apologize after some of his more colorful outbursts. Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said pushing back against the administration only rarely requires a public challenge of the president. “But I think John McCain figured out that his personality and his history let him do that,” Blunt said. “That irascibility helps keep everybody else moving in the right direction.” McCain's relationship with Trump has long been testy, dating back at least to Trump's declaration two years ago that McCain was not a war hero by virtue of having been captured. McCain said Trump owed other veterans an apology for that.

The Arizona senator emerged early in the Trump administration as the new president's nemesis, breaking with Trump on his immigration order, warning him against any rapprochement with Moscow, lecturing him on the illegality of torture and supplying.

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IFB No. Re-Bid ASCC# 005-2017 **Due Date and Time: July 24, 2017**
Date of Issuance: July 5, 2017 **No Later than 2:00p.m. Local Time**

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) issues an Invitation for Bids (IFB) from qualified firms to submit bids for the following:

“FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT (FF&E) FOR ASCC NEW MULTIPURPOSE CENTER BUILDING”

SUBMISSION:
An original and one (1) copy of the Invitation for Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “ASCC IFB#004-2017 Furniture, Furnishings & Equipment for new Multipurpose Building” Bids are to be sent or email to the following address and will be received no later than 2:00p.m. Local Time; **Monday, July 24, 2017:**

ASCC Procurement Office
Mapusaga Campus,
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Jessie Su'esu'e, Procurement Officer
Email: j.suesue@amsamoa.edu

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

DOCUMENTS:
The IFB complete package detailing requirements is available at the ASCC Procurement Office, Mapusaga Campus during normal working hours and may also be obtained by emailing j.suesue@amsamoa.edu

RIGHT OF REJECTION:
The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted bid proposals that are not in the best interest of the college or the public.

Approved for Issuance by:
Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato
President, American Samoa Community College (ASCC)



ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato (far right) congratulates the College's Special Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Academic Affairs Ms. Cherylmoanamarie Ripley (2nd right) for 40 years of service to ASCC. Joining them are (from left) Office of Institutional Effectiveness Director Mr. Sonny Leomiti, Human Resources Office staff member Ms. Nazarene V.L. Apa, and HRO Director Mrs. Sereima Asifoa

[Photo: M. Ah Kau-Sagapolu]

Ex-Navy sailor gets 40 years for killing transgender woman

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (AP) — A former Navy sailor has been sentenced to 40 years in prison for the 2016 stabbing death of a transgender woman in Mississippi. Dwanya Hickerson, 21, pleaded guilty Thursday to murder in the killing of Dee Whigham in a St. Martin hotel room on July 23. Hickerson will also have to serve 15 years for a robbery charge. He could have faced the death penalty if he had gone to trial on the original charge of capital murder.

Autopsy results show Whigham, 25, was stabbed 119 times. Many of the wounds were to the victim's face, and her throat was slashed three times.

Jackson County Sheriff's Deputy Leo Allen said surveillance video showed Hickerson and Whigham walking together into a Best Western Hotel room around 8:30 p.m. He said Hickerson was seen leaving the room alone about 23 minutes later, his shirt around his neck, WLOX-TV reported. Before leaving the room, he took a shower. Hickerson, a New Orleans native, was training at Keesler Air Force Base to be a weather forecaster, according to The Sun Herald.

Hickerson said in court Thursday that he and Whigham had been chatting online for a couple of months but had never met in person. He said they decided to meet while she was in Biloxi with friends.

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