

David Vargas confirms his appointment as Independent Prosecutor Page 3

Stars and starters sit out, Cowboys beat Cardinals 20-18 In Sports

Fa’amanuiaga tau tupe mo le aufai fa’atoaga a le atunu’u Le Lali

Some of the business representatives who attended Wednesday night’s Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting, where the ASG Revenue Task Force presented their revenue measure proposals submitted by the governor to the Fono. The task force is looking to the Chamber to support the measures. See story in today’s edition.

[photo: FS]



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ASG Revenue Task Force chair says scope of their work is to generate revenue

OTHER COMPONENT IS TO CUT BACK AND CONTROL ASG EXPENSES, WHICH THEY HOPE WILL HAPPEN

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

In his presentation Wednesday night at the Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting regarding the Administration’s proposed revenue measures submitted to the Fono, the ASG Revenue Task Force chairman, Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale said the “honest truth is” that ASG’s monthly expenditures of \$10million, exceed its monthly collections of around \$7 million. He also noted the scope of their work was to generate revenue, not look at cutting back and controlling ASG expenses, which he identified as the second component of the equation to ASG’s financial problems. Talauega said it is their “hope that at some point” this part of the equation “will equal out.” Prior to Talauega’s presentation, Chamber chairman Taotasi Archie Soliai explained that the Board has already met with the task force on the proposed revenue measures, which include new taxes and the repeal of some current taxes.

However, Taotasi said that it was also important for business members to hear directly from the task force, as each business will be affected by the government’s proposals.

TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

Talauega first explained that this project, which is an initiative of Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, commenced late last year and most of this year, “in trying to understand the background on the forces that affect the ability of the government to operate and to pay your invoices.”

He said ASG is a big part of a lot of local businesses, but “unfortunately the government isn’t able to pay your invoices on time.” He believes this is the first time in a while that the government has begun governing itself, by taking a “deep look at our finances and to try to be honest on what we do as a government.”

“And the honest truth is, the government spends about \$10 million a month. There’s a lot of ways you can try to skin that cat and try to say ‘no, it’s \$7 million’”
(Continued on page 6)



The 28 young teachers from the World Teach Program are really enjoying American Samoa’s cool and sunny climate. Yesterday morning, Samoa News caught up with them as they were preparing to take a hike up Vatia National Park. The group met briefly yesterday morning for a pep talk and they are preparing to enter the classrooms at various public elementary and high schools throughout the territory when the new school year starts in less than two weeks. Shivan Wolt, their field director, led them during a short session to refresh their mindset on the call they have answered to become teachers. “What makes a good teacher? Explain in your own words!” Wolt said.

Each one of the teachers was given a brief moment of silence to think hard about the topic and come up with an answer. “A good teacher is a person who motivates, inspires, understands, and is a great advisor.” This was the collective response from the group members. “Encouraging the less fortunate in different academic levels to be better, and practicing patience and love,” was also part of the general response. Twenty-five of the teachers are recruits from the US while three are international teachers - from France, Canada, and India.

They are: Aubriahn Baez, Emily Bertram, Nicholas Capicotto, Elena Cortes, Sarah Dec, Jayna Diedrick, Liam Doherty, Jeffrey Feters, Kacie Fujino, Taylor Garrenton, Eilleen Hummer, Taylor Kamansky, Robert McCourt, Racheal Moore, Amanda Morrobel, Courtney Rainwater, Alisha Richardson, Justin Richardson, Alexandra Rubin, Alison Sagliocca, Amanda Tarantino, Anna Very, Kendra Wernle, Vang Xiong, Miranda Tonken, Aditi Krishnan, and Claire Launay. To qualify as an educator with the World Teach Program, individuals must have a bachelor’s degree and they must have passed the Praxis Test.

The majority of the group members pictured are mathematics and science degree holders. How the teachers will be disbursed, as far as what schools they will be serving, is not yet finalized. According to Wolt, 8 teachers will be working at Samoana High School and two will be heading to Fitiuta Elementary School in Manu’a. The remaining teachers will be serving other local schools including Tafuna HS, Nuuuuli VocTech, and Leone HS, as well as Lupelele and Pavaiai Elementary Schools.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

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A local female farmer who sells green bananas at the Fagatogo Marketplace. Many people who buy from the Market are supporting local farmers who rely heavily on this income for survival.

[photo: Sabrina Amosa]



Bananas, taro, coconuts, handicrafts, even handmade Samoan brooms (salu) can be purchased daily at the Fagatogo Marketplace. Pictured is a local farmer who was at the Market selling cabbage yesterday afternoon.

[photo: Sabrina Amosa]

How far does American Samoa have to go to get a bank?

PART III: WAITING FOR THE FED

By Rob Blackwell
Washington Bureau Chief for American Banker
(Reprinted with permission)

A tremendous amount of work has already gone into setting up the Territorial Bank of American Samoa.

Legislation was approved in February of last year to fund the bank via a bond issue. It formally opened its doors in October, using branches donated to it by the Bank of Hawaii, which finally departed the island at that time. Island leaders created a regulatory agency, the Office of Financial Institution, and hired Chee, a 23-year banking veteran, to run it. They sought out help from Roberts and Ware in Utah.

The bank is backed with more than \$12.5 million in capital and has already taken in \$1.7 million in deposits, according to its first-quarter financial statement.

Demand is clearly not a problem. At the bank's opening ceremony — which featured a speech from the governor — the lobby was packed with customers. Even months later, the bank was opening 12 to 15 deposit accounts a day, according to Ware.

Yet for all that, the bank is missing a crucial piece, and that threatens to doom the entire enterprise unless it is granted soon: access to the payment system.

It is the key to being able to transact with other U.S. institutions and offer basic services that the rest of the country takes for granted. Without it, the bank is unable to offer traditional amenities to customers, such as checks. It has to use a third-party service to offer customers their own debit card.

Those services are essential. Currently, there is no way for an American Samoa to obtain a credit card without going off the island, which can be prohibitively expensive to do. Technically, the Territorial Bank can offer loans without a transit number, but it's harder without the connection to the payment system. That has left American Samoans prey to so-called backyard lenders.

Without access to the payment system, the Territorial Bank can't even turn to other U.S. institutions as correspondent banks to help wire money or take other basic steps.

The Territorial Bank applied to the American Bankers Association last July for a transit routing number, which would make it part of the payment system. But winning that approval requires the Federal Reserve to sign off that the bank is eligible for central bank services. Despite months of waiting, that has yet to happen.

For the Fed, the case is unusual. It's a state-

backed public bank without FDIC insurance in a small geographic area with an overwhelmingly poor population. Fed officials are wary of government ties to the Territorial Bank, according to public testimony by bank executives.

But those executives believe they've addressed the substantive issues. Island leaders and bank officials have held lengthy discussions with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, which has sent the case to the Federal Reserve Board to review given the unusual circumstances. American Samoa's governor met with Fed General Counsel Scott Alvarez in February of this year to discuss the application.

Since then, it's been a waiting game. "We've got the system, got the building, got the people," Ware said. "Everything is in place to offer all of this, but we can't do it, because we're not part of the payment system. ...

"That is very frustrating."

It's not clear when or even if the Fed will act. A Fed spokesman declined to comment.

For their part, bank executives and Chee are confident that it's only a matter of time. If the approval does come through, Ware, who currently splits his time between Utah and American Samoa, plans to move to the island permanently.

He estimates it will take the bank less than a month after getting the approval to start offering more services.

"We'll have everything lined up and ready to go — we will be a bank after that," Ware said.

It's difficult to overstate just how important this approval is to the bank. In interviews, it is invoked repeatedly by government officials and bank executives, who clearly are waiting on tenterhooks for it to happen.

"This is the linchpin," Roberts said. "That has to happen. Once it does, all the doors open. The world changes for American Samoa."

FUTURE PLANS

Bank executives have big plans if and when the approval comes through. For one thing, rather than running a public bank in perpetuity, they are hoping in a few years it can be sold into private hands and obtain FDIC insurance, two separate transactions that would likely have to come at the same time. That would enable American Samoa to have a private community bank all of its own.

Bank executives said they already have an interested group of investors — the same ones that tried to form a bank earlier. But the Territorial Bank will need to show it can run profitably first.

Persuading the FDIC to grant deposit insur-

(Continued on page 6)

David Vargas confirms his appointment as Independent Prosecutor

by Samoa News staff

Local attorney David Vargas has confirmed that he has been appointed by the High Court as Independent Prosecutor (IP), but declined to reveal details.

The IP appointment came to light last month during a Samoa News interview with Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, who said that his office has received the police reports on the matters pertaining to the Speaker of the House and the Governor's Chief of Staff.

Victim's advocate Ipu Lefti, in a Letter to the Editor, published in the Aug. 1st Samoa News edition said Vargas was appointed IP as of July 28.

During an interview this past Wednesday, Vargas declined to give specific details of the cases assigned to him by the court to investigate and prosecute.

He said he can only confirm that he has been appointed as IP to investigate cases assigned to him by the court.

He added that there is a lot of work ahead for him, and this includes interviewing all witnesses and compiling their testimonies for cases assigned

to him. Additionally, he plans to meet with the Police Commission sometime this week for further information on the assigned cases. One of the cases that Samoa News asked about during the interview with Talauega is the one linked to House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale's name for a vehicle brought into the territory more than a month ago, but held by Customs, who allegedly found drugs in the car.

The vehicle was allegedly shipped to the House Speaker, who told Samoa News in late June that the vehicle belonged to his son-in-law and that he has already given a statement to police. The other case alleges wrongdoing by the Governor's Chief of Staff, Fiu J. Saelua, following a complaint filed last December with the Department of Public Safety.

Fiu is alleged to have misused his authority as a government official to try to deport a woman and her husband back to Samoa without due process.

Talauega explained to Samoa News at the time that all such cases in which allegations

are made against ranking government officials, go through the process involving the selection of an Independent Prosecutor (IP) and this process has been activated. As previously reported by Samoa News, the process the AG is speaking about involves the Attorney General submitting an application to the Appointing Division of the High Court for an Independent Prosecutor if there is a possible conflict of interest in the AG's Office prosecuting a particular case. (See Samoa News July 3rd edition for details.)

(Original Samoan story published in the Samoa News Lali section Aug. 2nd)



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Four young men and women who spent part of their summer gaining work experience with the American Samoa Community College's Division of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) celebrated the final week of the program with their supervisor, IE Institutional Researcher, Virginia Mailo-Filiga (center). Pictured are (l-r) Rodman Anthony Tavae, Tammy Tafefe, Mrs. Mailo-Filiga, Si'igava'a Faleali'i and Aufata Fa'afu'i.

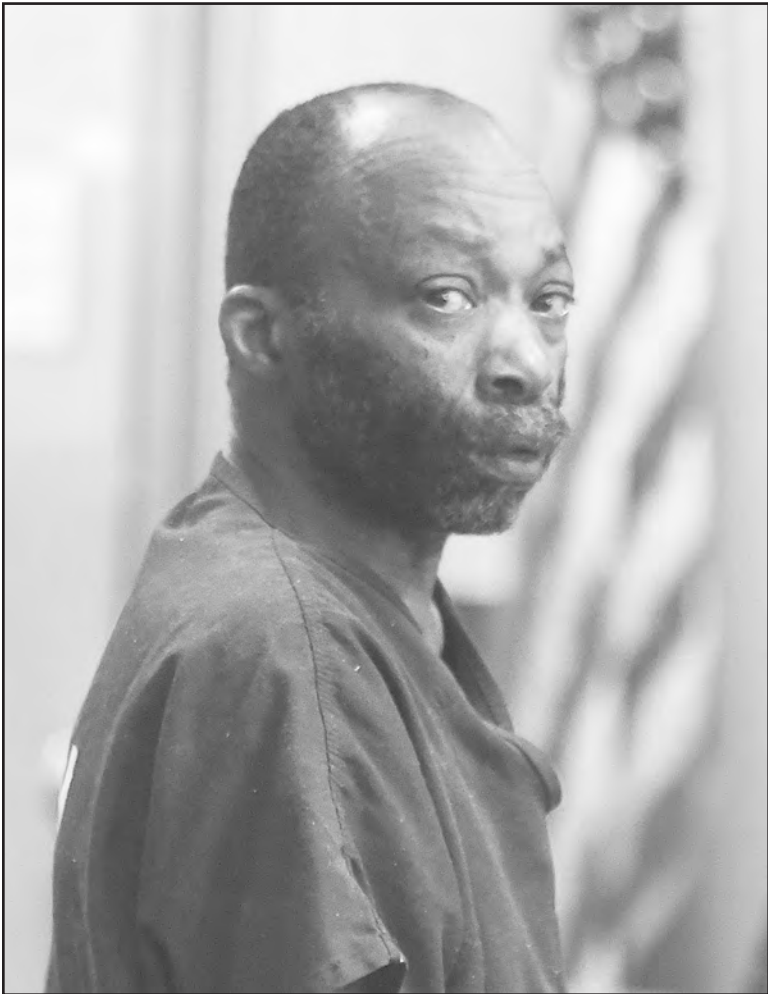
[photo: courtesy]



FONO BUILDING STILL AWAITING “NOTICE TO PROCEED” FOR DEMOLITION

The Fono Building in Fagatogo will be demolished as soon as a “Notice to Proceed” is issued. So says an official from Paramount Builders, responding to Samoa News inquiries yesterday afternoon. Paramount Builders won the contract for the demolition job, beating out a handful of other local companies. The total award amount is \$135,015. According to Paramount officials, the proper steps need to be taken before any demolition work can begin. This includes a walk-through by experts from off island to conduct an assessment of the asbestos levels, among other things. Earlier this year in June, the Department of Health stopped all work at the Fono building and taped off the structure due to health concerns over the amount of dust being emitted from the site. Signs were posted on the doors that read: “DANGER” ASBESTOS, Cancer and Lung Disease Hazard, KEEP OUT, AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY. Prolonged inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause serious and fatal illnesses including lung cancer, mesothelioma, etc. Currently, Fono business is being conducted elsewhere. The Senate conducts hearings inside the Fono’s Samoan Guest fale — which was recently renovated (or a re-build) by Paramount Builders — while the House of Representatives is utilizing the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium (Fale Laumei) in Utulei. Historic Preservation Officer David Herdrich, who heads the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO) plans to take snapshots of the building before it is torn down. And while the building is considered by many to be a landmark, Herdrich said yesterday that the structure is not officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



Raymond Durham appears in court in Detroit on Friday, Aug. 3, 2017. Authorities charged Durham with first-degree murder Friday in the slaying of Wayne State University police officer Collin Rose near campus, the third officer he is accused of shooting in Detroit.

(Daniel Mears/Detroit News via AP)



COURT REPORT...

Translated by Samoa News staff
FUIVAI SUA AND LUALIMA TALIU

Two men accused by the government of stealing and burglary, are back in the Territorial Correctional Facility to await their pretrial conference hearing set for Sept. 26th in the High Court. Fuivai Sua, who is charged with one felony count of stealing, and Lualima Taliu, charged with one count each of felony stealing and burglary, were arraigned in High Court last Friday where they both entered ‘not guilty’ pleas.

Charges against the defendants stem from an incident early last month in which the pair allegedly broke into a home and took off with personal property. The homeowner was off island during the time of the alleged break-in and only learned of the incident when he returned to the territory.

Among the alleged stolen property were 10 cases of pisupo, 10 cases of wahoo, a gold chain, DVD players along with DVDs, and clothing that included several men’s suits.

During the investigation, police were able to interview witnesses, who stated that the defendants had sold the cases of pisupo to families. Police were able to locate the defendants

and interview them.

Since their arrest, both defendants have been unable to post the \$15,000 bond and both were remanded back to custody. If the defendants are able to post bail, the court has set several conditions of release, which include prohibition from making any direct or indirect contact with the witnesses, including the homeowner in the case. Public Defender Douglas Fiaui is representing Sua and Taliu, while prosecuting the case is Assistant Attorney General, Kristy Dunn.

TAO LIU

While the High Court last Friday accepted Public Defender Douglas Fiaui’s request to continue for two-weeks a status hearing for his client Tao Liu, Chief Justice Michael Kruse said the court doesn’t want to see the past habit by attorneys, who wait until the last minute to reach and sign plea agreements between both sides, making it difficult for the court to reschedule cases on its calendar.

Kruse said there are many times that a jury trial date is near when both sides in a last minute announcement say a plea agreement has been reached. He said the court calendar on jury trials is booked up to 2020.

Fiaui explained that the new felony charge against his client

is the reason for the delay in getting a plea agreement in place, as both sides want to include this charge as part of that agreement. Liu was charged last August with eleven counts including possession of a controlled substance with the intent to distribute, unlawful possession of the controlled substance marijuana, unlawful possession of the controlled substance methamphetamine, possession of an unlicensed firearm, resisting arrest, careless driving, and public peace disturbance.

While he was held in custody without bail, Liu allegedly escaped from confinement on the evening of Oct. 2, 2016 and was located the following day. It’s alleged that another inmate helped Liu in his escape from jail.

SOLOMONA TEOFILO

A 56-year old man, accused of assaulting relatives in two separate incidents, including one where he allegedly put a knife to his sister-in-law’s throat, has reached a plea agreement with the government; and the defendant returns to court in September for sentencing.

For the two cases, Solomona Teofilo was charged with three felony counts of unlawful use of a weapon, and five misde-

(Continued on page 7)

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AS-EPA moves headfirst with Litter Enforcement

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — PAGO PAGO, AS — AUGUST 02, 2017 —

The new Litter Law of American Samoa called Keep American Samoa Beautiful Act or merely KASB Act, authorizes certain government agencies and departments to issue litter citations. Government agencies and departments include AS-EPA, ASPA, DMWR, DOH, DPS, Parks and Recreation, and Samoan Affairs.

As the lead agency for the KASB Act, the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) “dove headfirst” to fully enforce the Litter Law since the beginning of 2017.

AS-EPA appreciates the proactive efforts from some of the public and community establishments in taking good care of the environment, and the AS-EPA’s enforcement team has played its role to ensure that everyone complies with laws and regulations set forth by the Fono.

Since the inception of the KASB Act, AS-EPA Enforcement Officers have issued 51 litter citations and are now awaiting court proceedings.

According to the AS-EPA Enforcement Officers who were part of the enforcement team, people were generally aware that it is against the law and outright wrong to litter, but for some reason they still discarded whatever trash they had on the ground.

It is the mindset and behavior that some people have, which really needs to change immediately — and that is why AS-EPA is always on the radio, TV, in the newspaper, and in schools talking about the issue of littering.

It is also the reason why AS-EPA will continue to aggressively enforce our litter laws until we change people’s behaviors, said another enforcement officer.

AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato emphasizes to the community how we collaboratively, as the caretakers of these islands call home, should be responsible for the health and wellbeing of our environment. Unfortunately, we are still faced with behavioral challenges.

“Catching those who litter our islands is tricky.

Litterers are typically the young and grown-ups, an entrenched group of people who already know they are engaged in socially unacceptable or illegal behavior but refuse to abide,” Director Pato said.

“If you are a person responsible for littering in any place, you are obligated by law to keep the place litter free.

“This applies to any public or private place which may include the precincts of a shopping center, a market place, school campuses, public parks, bus stops, businesses, private

properties or public roads.

“Taking the time to put your trash in a bin or trash can after consuming a beverage or food item, will help enormously in keeping our islands beautiful and may save you some money from litter fines.”

The director further stated that he would like to acknowledge the support of Honorable Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga and Lt. Governor Lemanu P. Mauga in his department’s efforts to Keep American Samoa Beautiful.

“Without their unwavering support and commitment to maintaining a clean and healthy environment for our people, my agency’s efforts would not have been as successful as it has been,” he said.

AS-EPA continues to move forward with litter enforcement and would like to thank the community for their support and cooperation.

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Some of the estimated 25 business representatives who attended Wednesday night's Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting, where the ASG Revenue Task Force presented its revenue measure proposals submitted by the governor to the Fono. Also in attendance was Fono legal counsel, Nathaniel Savali (far right-back row), who was there as an observer. [photo: FS]

► How far does American Samoa...

Continued from page 2

ance will be its own challenge. The FDIC is unlikely to approve deposit insurance for a state-run bank. It last issued guidance on the subject nearly 20 years ago, and though it did not specifically ban the concept, it expressed significant reservations.

The hope is that once the Territorial Bank can prove itself, the FDIC will look more favorably on granting insurance, particularly if private investors are willing to take it out of government control.

“The intention is to run the bank for two or three years to make sure we eliminate all the problems,” Pereira said. “So they have a track record for the FDIC to judge.” Roberts said the bank will ensure it follows

requirements of other FDIC-insured banks to make getting deposit insurance easier. "This will be run as if it were an FDIC institution," he said. "Same reports, same structure. All of that will be as if it is an FDIC bank." Beyond that, Chee has an even grander ambition. He is hoping that once the Territorial Bank is successful, other institutions will see there's opportunity on the island, despite the challenges of branching there. To that end, his agency has joined the Conference of State Bank Supervisors and he's been in meetings around the mainland in an attempt to drum up interest.

“This little bank is the impetus for us to be noticed by

the rest of the world so other banks can come in,” he said. “For us, it’s a necessary stopgap to get things going.”

But all agree that those goals are for the future. For now, the focus is on winning the Fed approval, and making the bank a full-service one. Once that happens, they feel confident they can deliver on a promise to islanders to give them what consumers in the rest of America already have.

"The bank isn't there to make money. It's there to provide services to the American Samoan people," Roberts said. "The whole idea is to find the mechanisms so that people in American Samoa can live their lives like people in Portland."

► ASG revenue...

Continued from page 1

Talauega said. "The reality is every month \$10 million goes out. And every month, if we're lucky, we're collecting \$6.5 million to \$7 million."

He told Chamber members, "Those numbers don't lie. That's the reality of where we live. There's no way, no form of accounting procedure that you can do to hide that," adding that at the end of the day, "somebody is not going to get paid."

The task force chair said he is sure that "a lot of people" at the meeting "have had that experience."

Talauega then explained that at the governor's request, a number of cabinet directors, including the Treasurer and the Commerce director, "We thought it was about time that we sit down and take a hard look at this. We wanted to have a full look at the ability of the government, and that includes the ability to look at the services and eliminate services that are not needed.

"Unfortunately, the scope of this task force was limited to revenue generation," he said. "We understand that there's a component of this that needs to be taken into account," and the proposals made, "is with the understanding that at some point the other part of the equation will equal out and that is, controlling the spending, controlling the workforce, controlling a lot of the un-budgeted spending that happens within the government."

Regarding the proposed revenue measures, Talauega pointed out that “there’s some give and some takes. We’re going to propose to give back some of the money by eliminating certain taxes and we’re going to ask to have additional taxes... so that we’re able to finance the government.”

According to him, "We listened very carefully through the years to the public and the Chamber on what seems to be annoyances.

One of the issues that comes out is [the] excise tax. We understand that. Here we are trying to force you to pay us money before you even have the ability to try to sell that.”

So the task force looked at that and “we’ve come up with ways to make some concessions and some agreement to make things better, to create an environment for businesses to grow,” Talauega continued.

For example, the task force looked at the 2% wage tax and tax table for individuals. “So all of these things were taken into consideration and this is where

we're at," he said, and noted that "we're proposing a multi-year plan that'll include amendments to existing laws, we're going to propose new laws to generate new income and then we'll do a repeal of certain laws."

Talauega went on to detail proposals to repeal current laws, reform others and propose new ones — which are the same ones that Talauega made during the task force presentation to the Fono leaders and some lawmakers last month. (Samoa News has already reported on the details of these proposed laws.)

Lolo told lawmakers last month that the administration's proposed revenue measures will generate \$18.3 million in FY 2018; \$25 million in FY 2019; \$23 million in FY 2020; \$20.3 million in FY 2021; and \$17.8 million in FY 2022 in new revenues.

The reduction in revenue generation shown yearly from fiscal year 2019 to 2022 reflects savings or money given back to the people, according to the governor. During his presentation to the Chamber, Talauega stressed that the proposed revenue measures the task force put together are the governor's proposals, and have been submitted to the Fono which "will now do its job of investigating and determining whether these are good or bad proposals."

To Chamber members, he said, “You should feel free to participate in this process by talking to your legislator, or having a position of the Chamber to be [made] known to the Legislature on what you think about these proposals.”

Talauega continued, “We have taken the time to study and come out with these [proposals],” adding that the proposals look good, and “it looks like, we can handle it and we’ll be able to survive the current condition we’re in. So we feel comfortable about it. The governor feels comfortable about these proposals.”

“But again, we live in a democratic society, where you all — as members of this island — have an opportunity to comment and make your opinions known about what the government is doing,” he added.

The Chamber is holding another meeting in two weeks to discuss comments and feedback from members to the government's proposed revenue measures.

Samoa News will report on Chamber questions and other issues in Monday's edition.



ACCURACY

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► Court reports...

Continued from page 4

meanor counts — three for third degree assault and two for public peace disturbance.

As previously reported by Samoa News, based on court information, Teofilo was arrested and charged last October for allegedly assaulting his sister-in-law. He is accused of also putting a knife to the victim’s neck. In late May or early June this year, he was charged with assaulting yet another family member. Teofilo was in High Court early this week for a ‘change of plea’ hearing, during which a plea agreement was read and accepted by the court. The defendant pled guilty to one felony count of unlawful use of a weapon - referring to the knife - and the rest of the charges were dismissed.

For his guilty plea, Teofilo admitted that some time on Sept. 8, 2016 an argument ensued between him and his sister-in-law over a vehicle that the defendant wanted to use, but the sister-in-law told him to call her husband (the defendant’s brother). As the argument got heated, the defendant put a sharp knife to the neck of the victim and threatened to kill her. Under the plea agreement, the government agrees for the defendant to serve six months in jail and thereafter, depart the territory and return to his home country. Teofilo, who remains in custody, will be sentenced Sept. 1

VINCENT VILIAMU

Vincent Viliamu who was convicted in District Court of misdemeanor third degree assault has been sentenced to 12 months probation, under several conditions. He is not to consume alcohol, he must be a law abiding citizen, and he must apologize to the victim in the presence a Probation Office representative. Additionally, he is to attend and complete anger management counseling.

During sentencing earlier this week, Viliamu apologized for his actions and sought leniency in sentencing that would allow him to continue working to care for his family. He also apologized to the victim and asked for forgiveness.

According to court information, the defendant assaulted the victim for swearing at his children. Attorneys for both sides have told the court that both the defendant and the victim have resolved their differences and the victim has accepted the defendant’s apology.

However, District Court Judge Fiti A. Sunia told the defendant that his action could have resulted in serious injuries to the victim, or worse - the loss of a life, as the defendant couldn’t control his anger.

(Original Samoan stories published Samoa News online July 29 and in today’s Lali section.)

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American Samoa Community College Director of Teacher Education, Shirley Dela Rosa and staff member Christine Fuimaono congratulate Summer Youth Employment work-study participant Roseanne Hall (center).

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]



Farm Service Agency announces Reimbursement Program for Commercial Farmers

By Sabrina Amosa
Special to Samoa News

The USDA Farm Service Agency of American Samoa announced recently that through the Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP) commercial farmers in American Samoa are eligible to recoup up to 25% of their transportation costs for farm purchases made in fiscal year 2017.

“This program helps American Samoa’s commercial farmers, ranchers and livestock operators, who are at a competitive disadvantage when transporting agriculture products to market,” said Agricultural Specialist Josie Malepeai Lealasola.

She told Samoa News, they have been receiving applications after the workshop that was held as part of the Access To Capital Business Workshop last Friday, July 27th.

RTCP payments are calculated based on the costs incurred for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs during a fiscal year, subject to an \$8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year. In the event that claims for payments exceed the funds available from the program for a fiscal year, payments will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.

According to FSA Acting Executive Director, Steve Peterson, “This program helps US farmers and ranchers outside the 48 contiguous states who are at a competitive disadvantage when transporting agriculture products to market.”

Commercial farmers are encouraged to bring their original receipts for fiscal year 2017 (starting July 17, 2017 through September 2017) to the Farm Service Agency office located in Suite 213 of the Pago Plaza building, and the deadline to sign up is September 8th.

“While we are not able to reimburse the cost of the items purchased for the farming operation, RTCP is able to assist with the extra expense that we pay because the farming inputs are all at a higher cost locally to offset the transportation cost.

“Farmers importing using a freight forwarder or shipping company for farm purchases as well as purchases made locally are all eligible for this program, with an original receipt within the 2017 fiscal year,” Lealasola said.

If you have any questions regarding RTCP or to make an appointment to fill out an application please contact Josie Malepeai Lealasola at 633-1031 ext 127.

Tia Ofisa of Faga'itua with his granddaughter looking through the local produce sold at the Market Place in Fagatogo yesterday afternoon. Under the Reimbursement of Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP) commercial farmers in American Samoa are eligible to recoup up to 25% of their transportation costs for farm purchases made in fiscal year 2017. See story for full details.

[photo: Sabrina Amosa]

\$23

McAiga Box Meal





Pacific Island News in Brief

compiled by Samoa News staff
AMATA WELCOMES ACTION FOR VETERANS TELEHEALTH

Washington, D.C. – Congresswoman Aumua Amata, who serves on the Veterans Affairs Committee and its Health Subcommittee, on Friday welcomed an invite to the White House announcement of action to make healthcare more readily available to the veterans of American Samoa.

“Veterans in American Samoa need efficient access to their doctors, and this announcement is a good step forward,” said Amata. “American Samoan veterans face travel costs and delays for medical attention, but technology can help them see their doctor much more quickly and affordably. I greatly appreciate the continuing work of Chairman Phil Roe and all the Members of the Committee on these ongoing issues, as well as today’s action by Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin.”

The White House and the V.A. today announced a program called VA Video Connect that allows VA healthcare providers to use mobile devices to connect with veterans on their personal mobile devices, including smart phones or tablets, or their home computers. They also announced a new technology called the Veterans Appointment Request <mobile.va.gov/appstore>. This allows a veteran to schedule or manage their appointments directly with VA providers.

Telehealth is a growing concept that should eventually allow veterans to access their doctor remotely using the internet without being restricted by state lines. This upgrade in service is particularly important to American Samoan veterans who otherwise would need to travel to see a physician, and often need to speak to doctors in Honolulu or elsewhere.

“This is a great example of working to remove an outdated obstacle for people,” Amata continued. “In my service on the Health Subcommittee, we’ve discussed the need for the best possible health care to veterans everywhere, and I’m pleased to see important progress made. I will continue to work on legislative solutions for full telehealth access to doctors.”

(Source: Aumua Amata’s Washington D.C. office)

SAMOA TO COME UNDER U.N. SPOTLIGHT

Human rights experts from the United Nations will carry out a fact-finding visit to Samoa next week.

They plan to assess the progress made towards eliminating discrimination against women and the protection and promo-

tion of women’s rights in the country.

The delegation plans to visit Apia and villages in Upolu and Savai’i to gather first-hand information.

It will be the first visit by independent experts from the UN Human Rights Council.

During its ten-day visit, the experts will meet with government officials, representatives of state institutions, and civil society organizations, academics, as well as individual women.

Violence against women and girls is among issues to be investigated.

The delegation will be in Samoa from August 8 to 18.

(Source: RNZI)

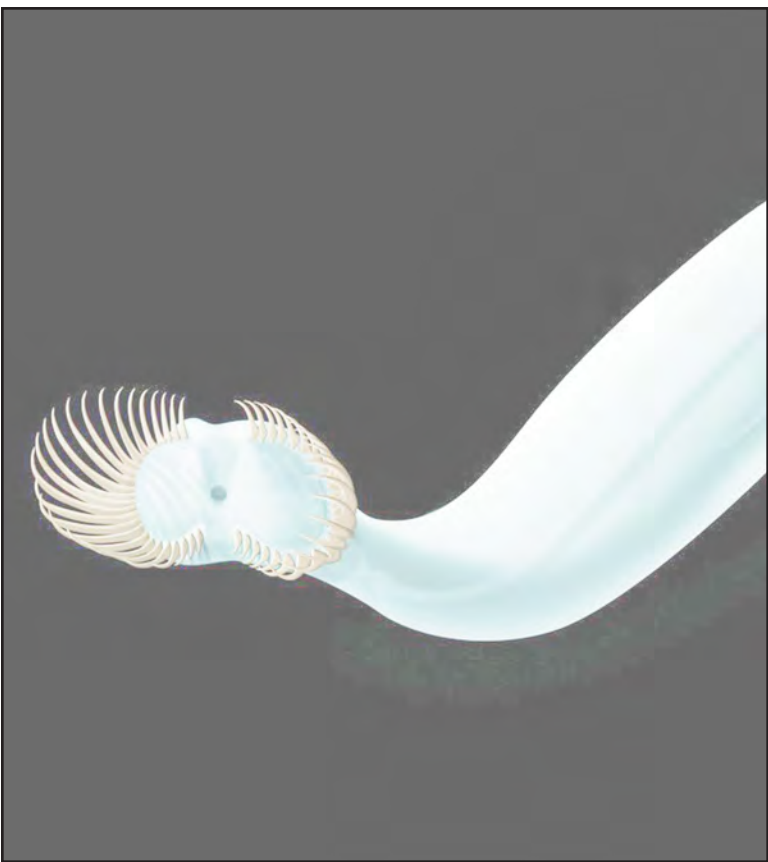
THAI UNION, GREEN-PEACE AGREEMENT

Thai Union Group, parent company of Chicken of the Sea, claims putting in place some of the measures from its agreement with Greenpeace will cause higher costs and, as a result, higher tuna prices, Undercurrent News reported this week.

Analysts covering the company also see the agreement as a possible driver of tuna prices, although two sector veterans told Undercurrent News the Thai Union and Greenpeace’s announcement is really only following what is already happening anyway, where fishing firms and regulators are focused on cutting catches and improving sustainability. Both analysts and industry sources welcomed the move, however.

As part of the agreement

(Continued on page 12)



In this illustration by Marianne Collins/Royal Ontario Museum shows a Capinatator praetermissus. Long before dinosaurs roamed the Earth, a bizarre creature swam the seas, a miniaturized prequel of, ‘Jaws.’ The Capinatator didn’t even have a face. Instead 50 curved rigid spines jutted out of its head. And when some unsuspecting critter came too close, those jaw-like spines snapped together and dinner was served.

(Marianne Collins/Royal Ontario Museum via AP)



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American Samoa Community College President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato (far left) and the ASCC staff celebrate the final week of the Summer Youth Employment Program with the participants who gained work experience at the College.

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]



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Responsibilities and Duties:

- Complies with office policies and procedures to ensure quality and effective management of campus based student files.
- Complies with developed procedures and assists in planning for the administration of the campus based programs.
- Assists in the compilation and reconciliation of end of year reporting: FWS & FSEOG.
- Prepare and distribute a comprehensive syllabi for all courses taught in a timely manner as requested by Academic Affairs.
- Reviews, evaluates and documents all eligible applicants, and calculates student academic progress
- Maintain attendance and scholastic records and submit this data to the Admissions and Records Office at the assigned date every semester / session.
- Records all campus based transactions, including those of transfer students, on counselor spreadsheets for transfer monitoring reports to NSLDS.
- Makes sure ASCC complies with the "Refund" compliance requirements listed in Section II of the Student Federal Aid Guide.
- Maintains current federal updates on all Title IV Programs as well as program-related policy compliance within the Financial Aid Office.
- Assists in enforcing ASCC/FSA Financial Aid Policies and Procedures in the office and throughout campus.
- Conducts student counseling throughout the school year and advises students on a course of action to take regarding FA matters in order to better support their academic endeavors.
- Assists in Financial Aid presentations to high schools and at ASCC orientation for students and parents.
- Communicates with the Financial Aid Administrator in resolving matters on student academic and financial situations and/or appeals submitted by students or parents concerning their Camus Based Award.
- Assists in compiling NSLDS Enrollment Report, collecting IPEDS data for compilation by FA Officer, as well as providing assistance with other federal and institutionally required reports and surveys.
- Performs other tasks and duties assigned by Financial Aid Officer.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor Degree in Architectural Drafting or related fields
- Seven (7) years of progressive work experience in Architectural Drafting and AutoCAD
- Five (5) years of experience teaching trades and technical courses at a two year or a four year institution
- Current professional certification or licens

Special Knowledge, Skills, & Abilities:

- Some College, or Associate's Degree or at least (2) years of experience in financial aid.

Salary Level: GS 12/05-07: \$16,373.00 - \$17, 673.00

Level II: GS-13/05-10: \$19, 120.00 - \$23,020.00

Application Deadline: August 10, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 Ext. 403/335/436 or by emailing Silaulelei Saofaigaalii at s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu or ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

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Showdown set in Venezuela as new assembly prepares for power

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela is nearing a showdown, with President Nicolas Maduro vowing to install a new constituent assembly that will trump every other branch of government and opposition leaders calling for a mass protest to ensure delegates know their arrival is unwelcome.

The first meeting of the 545 delegates is expected to convene Friday at the legislative palace in Caracas — only yards (meters) from the room where the opposition-controlled National Assembly holds its sessions. The legislative palace has been witness to bloody clashes in recent weeks and Friday's installation of the all-powerful assembly, which Maduro has vowed to use to strip opposition lawmakers of their constitutional immunity, sets the stage for an intensified power struggle.

Opposition lawmakers in congress have vowed they will only be removed by force.

"The only way they'll get us out of here is by killing us," declared Freddy Guevara, the National Assembly's first vice president. "They will never have the seat that the people of Venezuela gave us."

Sunday's election of the constituent assembly has come under mounting scrutiny after the CEO of an international voting technology company said Wednesday that "without any doubt" the voter turnout numbers had been tampered with — accusations that Maduro and the National Electoral Council have dismissed. A growing list of foreign nations has refused

to recognize the assembly and many within Venezuela fear its installation will open a dark chapter in the nation's history.

"There has been a gradual erosion of democratic practice and this is a significant line that has been crossed," said Michael Shifter, president of the Washington-based think tank Inter-American Dialogue. "To attach the term democracy to Venezuela with this new constituent assembly is on very weak ground." The U.S. State Department called the assembly illegitimate Friday, saying the election was rigged to further entrench "the Maduro dictatorship." "The United States will not recognize the National Constituent Assembly," spokeswoman Heath Nauert said.

On the eve of the assembly's installation, the Spanish Embassy in Caracas was attacked with gasoline bombs. Prosecutors said two individuals on a motorcycle launched the devices, which started a fire but caused no reported injuries.

Carlos Romero, a professor and foreign relations analyst in Caracas, called the incident "extremely grave" and said it could further complicate relations between Venezuela and Madrid. Spain's ambassador to Venezuela was among a group of legislators who visited the National Assembly on Tuesday in a show of support after the constituent assembly election.

Prominent constituent assembly members like Diosdado Cabello, the leader of the ruling socialist party, have said they plan to target the opposition-controlled congress.

Review: In ‘The Dark Tower,’ franchise visions fall flat

Ah, August. It’s that time of year when you can head to your local multiplex to see Matthew McConaughey as an interplanetary David Copperfield who’s trying to use his “magics” to destroy a looming tower that protects the universe from ready-to-invade hordes of demons that linger just outside the universe. So, I guess, pretty far out there in space.

To be fair, this August boasts some of the more intriguing films of the summer, like Steven Soderbergh’s triumphant return (“Logan Lucky”) and Kathryn Bigelow’s furious race-riots docudrama (“Detroit”).

“The Dark Tower,” though, is the more traditional late-summer offering: a long-in-development, not-ready-for-prime-time studio dump.

A litany of directors, including J.J. Abrams and Ron Howard, has tried to crack Stephen King’s magnum opus, a series of seven novels he wrote over more than two decades. But after much shuffling, “The Dark Tower” has finally arrived via director Nikolaj Arcel, who penned the 2009 Swedish adaptation of “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo” and helmed the 18th century Danish period drama “A Royal Affair.”

The special effects-heavy fantasy is a leap in production size that outstrips Arcel. The film, at a lean 95 minutes, has the unmistakable air of a mitigated disaster. Its scope and running time have seemingly been reined in to keep “The Dark Tower” from completely toppling. What’s left is an elaborate and grand scheme told briskly but emptily — like if someone tried to explain the HBO series “Westworld” in 30 seconds or less.

“Westworld” surely took some of its inspiration from “The Dark Tower,” a soupy mix of sci-fi, horror, Western and Arthurian legend. The elaborate concoction of genres — it’s King to the max — would likely humble most any filmmaker. We have, as a civilization, found a way to marry Taco Bells with Pizza Huts, but the combo of wizards and cowboys remains a vexing one.

After a brief hint of what’s to come, the movie opens in modern New York City with a young teenager: Jake Chambers (newcomer Tom Taylor).

His dreams are plagued by visions of an alternate world, Mid-World, where he sees a gunslinger named Roland Deschain (Idris Elba) battling the Man in Black (McConaughey), who’s hell-bent, for reasons unknown, on ending the universe.

Jake furiously sketches his visions, prompting his sensitive but uncertain mother (Abby Lee, the best and most natural thing in this mess) and comic-book-cruel stepfather to agree to send him to a psychiatric retreat upstate. But when two arrive to retrieve him, Jake

observes a feature in their faces from his dreams: the stitches of false skin.

He flees and improvises his way to a building from his visions that turns out to be a portal to Mid-World. “This is good,” he says. “It’s all real.” He tosses in a shoe as a test and soon thereafter plummets in.

There he quickly runs into Roland, the stone-faced, duster-wearing gunslinger with a six-shooter in a land with minimal guns or bullets.

The name comes from King’s inspiration, the Robert Browning poem “Child Rolande to the Dark Tower Came,” and King’s Roland has a grim quest of his own: to avenge the Man in Black for murdering his father. Jake, we learn, will play a pivotal role in the battle that will decide the fate of both worlds — Mid-World and, as Roland calls it, Keystone Earth. His “shine,” we are often told, is strong and pure.



Josephine Afoa-Liliva Anae (center) of the American Samoa Community College’s Business Office with the two work-study SYEP participants she has supervised, Jayleen F. Leumuava and Sapati Fifita.

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]

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Time of American Samoa	Sunday (8/6)	Monday (8/7)	Tuesday (8/8)	Wednesday (8/9)	Thursday (8/10)	Friday (8/11)	Saturday (8/12)
10 : am	00' Jacob's Table for O'	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	Encore Drama
11 : am	10' 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)	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Manhole Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		Bwuty Bible 2017 (E,R)
2 : pm	30' Two Days and One Night (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)	Daegu Internatio' Musical Festival Awards (E,R)
3 : pm	50' 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)	Guerrilla Date (E,R)	50' The Return of Superman (E,R)	My Father is Strange Weekend Drama (E,R)
4 : pm	00' 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)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	00' Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Manhole (E,R)
5 : pm	10' Encore Drama The Innocent Man (E,R) # 14, 15, 16...	Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	My Father is Strange (E,R) # 42, 43, 44...	Queen for Seven Days (E,R) # 18, 19 20: Final	Jacob's Table for O'		
6 : pm	20' Gap Concert	Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E,R)					
7 : pm	40' History of Korea (E)	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Daegu Internatio' Musical Festival Awards (E)	Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)
8 : pm	00' Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	K-RUSH (E,R) KBS World E-Today Jacob's Table for O' Week's Food Odyss'	00' Gag Concert (E)	"The Return of Superman" (E)
9 : pm	40' 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)
10 : pm	KBS 9 News (Live)						00' My Father is Strange (E)
11 : pm	50' Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E)		Manhole Wed-Thu Drama (E)		30' Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Manhole (E,R)
12 : 00	00' Hollo Counselor (E)	We Like Zines (E)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E)	Happy Together (E)	Battle Trip (E)		
Next Day	20' Encore Drama "The Innocent Man" (E)	"The Return of Superman" Special (E)				50' Gag Concert (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)
1 : am	30' KBS World E-Today	KBS World E-Today	2016 Drama Special (E,R)	KBS World E-Today	11th K-RUSH (E,R)	Daegu Internatio' Musical Festival Awards (E,R)	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)
2 : am	40' History of Korea (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	K-RUSH (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)
3 : am	40' Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Gag Concert (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Manhole Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		50' My Father is Strange Weekend Drama (E,R)
4 : am	20' Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Manhole Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		00' The Innocent Man (E,R)	Fried Chicken to The World (E,R)
5 : am	30' Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E)	Sketchbook (E)	Happy Together (E)	Battle Trip (E)		

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

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Pacific brief...

Continued from page 9

with Greenpeace, Thai Union has committed to cutting its global sourcing of tuna caught on fish aggregation devices (FADs) by an average of 50% by 2020. Also, Thai Union has agreed to double the amount of verifiable FAD-free fish available in markets globally in the same period.

(Source: Undercurrent News)

BUMBLE BEE ENTERS GUILTY PLEA FOR TUNA PRICE FIXING

Bumble Bee Foods entered a guilty plea on Wednesday for its role in a price fixing cartel, agreeing to pay a fine of \$25 million, according to Undercurrent News

According to a report from Law360, Bumble Bee pled guilty to violating the Sherman Act in a California federal court Wednesday, in line with what the company announced in May.

Bumble Bee admitted to its role in a conspiracy to fix the price of canned tuna and agreeing to pay a reduced fine of \$25M.

Jill Irvin, Bumble Bee's general counsel and senior vice president, entered the guilty plea in court on Aug. 2.

According to Law360, she told judge Edward Chen that it was true the company had colluded with other seafood producers.

Undercurrent News was

unable to obtain a copy of the plea agreement, which has been filed under seal.

The firm will have five years to pay the \$25M under a proposed sentencing agreement filed with the court.

(Source: Undercurrent News)

TRUMP'S TRANSGENDER MOVE SURPRISES HIS MAN IN SAMOA

President Donald Trump's announcement of a ban on transgender military service took the United States of America's New Ambassador to Samoa by surprise, the Samoa Observer reported this week.

"Actually it came as a surprise to me," Scott Brown said when his opinion was sought during his first media interview in Samoa.

Brown visited last week to present his letter of credentials to the Head of State.

The Ambassador who served 35 years in the military said he believes a person's preference in terms of gender would not affect their mission.

"I was actually instrumental in reversing the 'don't ask don't tell' policy to allow gays in the military," he said.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

PACIFIC FILM ABOUT GRIEF WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

A short feature Pacific film has won the People's Choice Award at the recent interna-

tional Public Broadcasting Service Online Film Festival.

The film, Maria, is about the matriarch of a large Polynesian family who lies bedridden and silent, unable or unwilling to speak after a long illness.

But when a family crisis strikes, Maria gets some unexpected help as she struggles to reunite her fractured family.

The film was written by Samoan Tokelauan Taofia Pelesasa, and directed by Samoan Jeremiah Tauamiti.

Maria is played by Leiataua Si'u lepa who at 80 years-old is fast making a name for herself in acting roles in New Zealand.

Cook Islander Karin Williams produced the film which centers around the immense loss and strain faced by the family after the passing of a young child.

She said the film was based on a true event in the family of the writer and the passing of his niece to whom the film is dedicated.

Taofia Pelesasa wrote the script as a tribute to the women of his aiga [family] and their resilience, according to Williams.

She also told PBS in an interview that the writer wanted to show the quiet strength of mothers who shoulder the burden of responsibility for elderly parents and young children, often in silence.

(Source: RNZI)

Trump promotes technology to improve veterans' health care

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced new efforts Friday to use technology to improve veterans' health care, saying the programs will greatly expand access, especially for mental health care and suicide prevention. Veterans living in rural areas will also benefit, he said.

Initiatives include using video technology and diagnostic tools to conduct medical exams. Veterans also will be able to use mobile devices to make and manage appointments with Veterans Administration doctors.

"We call it 'anywhere to anywhere' VA health care," VA Secretary David Shulkin said. Shulkin said the goal is better health care for veterans wherever they are. He said existing "telehealth" programs provided care to more than 700,000 veterans last year.

A medical doctor, Shulkin wore his white coat to the White House announcement, during which he demonstrated the technologies for Trump.

Trump said, "This will significantly expand access to care for our veterans, especially

for those who need help in the area of mental health, which is a bigger and bigger request, and also in suicide prevention. It will make a tremendous difference for the veterans in rural locations in particular."

A regulation will need to be issued for these services to be provided anywhere in the country.

Shulkin was the VA's undersecretary for health in the final years of the Obama administration.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-2413-17

Issuance Date: August 01, 2017

Closing Date: August 16, 2017

No later than 10:00am (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide "DOE-Warehouse SY 17-18 Supply".

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 10:00a.m. (local time), **WEDNESDAY, August 16, 2017** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. BID DOCUMENTS

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

4. CONDITIONS

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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American Samoa Government
AMERICAN SAMOA
ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has developed the AS-EPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan that addresses the need to monitor for nonpoint source pollution in American Samoa. A main group of pollutants that cause water quality impairments in American Samoa are pathogen indicators, specifically enterococcus in coastal recreation waters. Two objectives of the AS-EPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan are to determine whether nearshore marine water quality meets the American Samoa Water Quality Standards (ASWQS) for enterococcus, and to inform the public when coastal recreation waters do not meet ASWQS for enterococcus, as well as the potential risks associated with the polluted waters.

The AS-EPA has created a file that contains the AS-EPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan, a summary of historical bacteriological data of coastal recreation waters, the American Samoa Water Quality standards, and the advisory format used to give notice to the public that the coastal recreation waters are not meeting or are not expected to meet applicable water quality standards for enterococci. These documents are available to the public at the AS-EPA office in Utulei. AS-EPA invites public comments concerning the monitoring and public notification program regarding: (1). The beach evaluation and classification process, including a list of waters to be monitored and beach ranking; (2) the sampling design and monitoring plan, including sampling location and sampling frequency; and (3) the public notification and risk communication plan, including methods to notify the public of a beach advisory. Comments must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the published date of this notice. Submit comments to the AS-EPA office or by mail to AS-EPA Water Program, P.O. Box PPA, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. For more information, please contact Christianera Title at 633-2304 or christianera.tuitele@epa.as.gov.

AMEKO PATO
AS-EPA Director
July 25, 2017



This photo taken July 27, 2017, in Albany, N.Y., shows carved ivory tusks, some of the artifacts to be crushed Friday, Aug. 3 in Central Park to highlight New York's determination to crush the illegal ivory trade. The sale of ivory across international boundaries has been banned since 1990, but the United States and many other countries have allowed people to buy and sell ivory domestically subject to certain regulations that gave smugglers loopholes. Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service instituted a near-total ban on the domestic commercial ivory trade and barred sales across state lines.

(AP Photo/ Mary Esch)

2 tons of seized ivory crushed to protest illegal trade

NEW YORK (AP) — Trunkets, statues and jewelry crafted from the tusks of at least 100 slaughtered elephants were fed Friday into a rock crusher in

Central Park to demonstrate the state's commitment to smashing the illegal ivory trade.

The artifacts placed ceremoniously onto a conveyor belt to be ground into dust included piles of golf-ball-sized Japanese sculptures, called netsuke, intricately carved into monkeys, rabbits and other fanciful designs. Many of the items were beautiful. Some were extremely valuable.

But state environmental officials and Wildlife Conservation Society members, who partnered with Tiffany & Co. for the "Ivory Crush" of nearly 2 tons (1.8 metric tons) of ivory, said no price justifies slaughtering elephants for their tusks.

"By crushing a ton of ivory in the middle of the world's most famous public park, New Yorkers are sending a message to poachers, traffickers and dealers who try to set up shop right here on our streets," said John Calvelli, the Society's executive vice president and director of the 96 Elephants Campaign. "We won't stand for the slaughter of elephants. Nobody needs an ivory brooch that badly."

The sale of ivory across international boundaries has been banned since 1990, but the U.S. and many other countries have allowed people to buy and sell ivory domestically, subject to certain regulations that gave smugglers loopholes. Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service instituted a near-total ban on the domestic commercial ivory trade and barred sales across state lines.

Since August 2014, New York law has prohibited the sale, purchase, trade or distribution of anything made from elephant or mammoth ivory

or rhinoceros horn, except in limited situations with state approval. Enforcement efforts have focused on New York City, the nation's largest port of entry for illegal wildlife goods, state officials said.

The ivory pieces sent to the crusher included more than \$4.5 million worth seized by undercover investigators from Metropolitan Fine Arts & Antiques in New York City in 2015. In pleading guilty last week to illegally selling ivory, the store's owners agreed to donate \$100,000 each to the World Wildlife Fund and Wild Tomorrow Fund for their endangered species protection projects. Also headed for the crusher was a netsuke, depicting three men with a fish, worth an estimated \$14,000, and a pair of elaborately carved ivory towers worth \$850,000.

More than 270 tons (245 metric tons) of ivory have been destroyed by governments and conservation groups in high-profile public events in 22 countries, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Some critics have argued that destroying ivory could drive up black market prices by increasing scarcity, thus encouraging more poaching. Others argue that it's wasteful and that it would be better to sell confiscated ivory to pay for conservation efforts in poor African countries.

Wendy Hapgood, founder of Wild Tomorrow Fund, said crushing events send a signal that laws banning the ivory trade will be strictly enforced.

"It's a way to tell the world that ivory shouldn't be coveted, it should be destroyed. It belongs only on an elephant," she said.



In this photo taken Jan. 28, 2017, President Donald Trump speaks on the phone with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. Transcripts of President Donald Trump,Âs conversations with the leaders of Mexico and Australia in January offer new details on how the president parried with the leaders over the politics of the border wall and refugee policy, with random asides on subjects including drug abuse in New Hampshire.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Trump talked tersely with leaders of Mexico, Australia

WASHINGTON (AP) — Transcripts of President Donald Trump’s conversations with the leaders of Mexico and Australia in January offer new details on how the president parried with the leaders over the politics of the border wall and refugee policy — with random asides on such subjects as drug abuse in New Hampshire.

The president’s exchanges with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull just a week after the inauguration were widely reported upon at the time. But transcripts published Friday by The Washington Post offer new detail on the new president’s blunt exchanges with the U.S. allies. The White House said Friday that the release of the transcripts is a disservice to Trump.

“I’m not going to comment on leaked calls,” White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said. “It’s a national security matter when phone call transcripts are being leaked out. It prevents the president from being able to do what he does best, negotiate with foreign leaders.”

In his conversation with Pena Nieto, Trump urges the Mexican president to stop saying his country won’t pay for the wall along the southern U.S. border, and the two agree to stop talking about the subject in public.

In the Turnbull conversation, the two leaders discuss a 2016 refugee deal between their nations, under which the Obama administration agreed to accept asylum seekers who had been trying to get to Australia.

Turnbull insists to Trump that the deal is still on. Trump complains that the deal makes him look bad and says he had a more pleasant conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Highlights from the conversations:

POLITICS OF THE WALL

Trump acknowledges that talk about building a wall at the US-Mexico border is more about image management than economic policy.

“Believe it or not, this is the least important thing that we are talking about, but politically this might be the most important talk about,” he said. “But in terms of dollars - or pesos - it is the least important thing.”

He acknowledges both leaders are “in a little bit of a political bind” because each has vowed not to pay for the wall. “If you are going to say that Mexico is not going to pay for the wall, then I do not want to meet with you guys anymore because I cannot live with that,” he adds.

Pena Nieto tells Trump: “Let us stop talking about the wall. ... But my position has been and

will continue to be very firm saying that Mexico cannot pay for that wall.”

NEW HAMPSHIRE SLAM

Trump says he won New Hampshire “because New Hampshire is a drug-infested den.”

Trump won the GOP primary in New Hampshire. Democrat Hillary Clinton won the state in the general election.

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu on Friday bristled at Trump’s description.

“The president is wrong,” Sununu said in a statement, adding that overdoses and drug-related deaths are declining in key parts of the state. “It’s disappointing his mischaracterization of this epidemic ignores the great things this state has to offer.”

THE REFUGEE DEAL_BAD OPTICS

In the Turnbull call, Trump complains about being saddled with an Obama administration agreement to help resettle some refugees who attempted to reach Australia by boat, particularly as Trump is rolling out his travel ban.

“Boy, that will make us look awfully bad,” Trump says. “Here I am calling for a ban where I am not letting anybody in and we take 2,000 people. Really it looks like 2,000 people that Australia does not want, and I do not blame you by the way, but the United States has become like a dumping ground.”

Turnbull counters that “this is a big deal, and I think we should respect deals.”

Trump returns: “This is going to kill me. I am the world’s greatest person that does not want to let people into the country. And now I am agreeing to take 2,000 people, and I agree I can vet them, but that puts me in a bad position.”

DEALMAKING AND DIPLOMACY

Turnbull, in pressing for the refugee deal to be honored, repeatedly appeals to Trump’s background as a dealmaker.

“There is nothing more important in business or politics than a deal is a deal,” he says.

Trump tells the Australian leader: “You have brokered many a stupid deal in business, and I respect you, but I guarantee that you broke many a stupid deal. This is a stupid deal. This deal will make me look terrible...I am going to get killed on this thing.”

He adds: “I will be seen as a weak and ineffective leader in my first week by these people. This is a killer.”

Turnbull offers some advice: “You can certainly say that it was not a deal that you would have done, but you are going to stick with it.”





Employment Opportunity

Delivery Driver

The Company

Origin Energy American Samoa, Inc is a supplier and distributor of LPGas in American Samoa and has been doing business in the territory for over 30 years. Origin is also an equal opportunity employer.

The Position

We are seeking a highly motivated and professional individual for the role of **Delivery Driver**. The position is based out of our Aua Terminal location.

Job purpose

To perform delivery duties for the distribution of our products to our customers across the island and to perform other general duties.

Duties

- Drive delivery trucks (delivering small exchange cylinders)
- Assist with delivery operations
- Assist with servicing & maintenance of delivery vehicles
- Assist in general terminal operational duties
- Follow all HSE policies & procedures

Qualifications

- Must have successfully completed High School
- Must have excellent communication skills (bilingual Samoan & English)
- Must have at least 2 years previous work experience in the position/role
- Must possess basic computer skills (basic knowledge in Microsoft Word & Excel)
- Must hold valid ID & driver's license (private & commercial)
- Preferably with a good driving record
- Must be in good health & capable of lifting 70lbs
- Agrees to random drug & alcohol testing

Compensation Package

- We offer excellent wages based on experience
- We also offer 401K, paid holidays, insurance package & many other benefits.

All interested persons qualified for the above position can apply in person at our Tafuna Office between the hours of 08:00am to 4:00pm. Deadline for applicants is 4:00pm on 09th of August 2017.



FILE - In this Jan. 16, 2016 file photo, Angelina Jolie arrives at the world premiere of "Kung Fu Panda 3," in Los Angeles. Vanity Fair is standing by its description of the casting process used for Jolie, Æs forthcoming Netflix film, ÆFirst They Killed My Father. Æ The article described a Ægame, Æ used to find the child star of Jolie, Æs film about the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. It said casting directors presented money to impoverished children only to take it away from them as an acting exercise.

(Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP, File)

Vanity Fair stands by Angelina Jolie cover story

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Vanity Fair is standing by its description of the casting process used for Angelina Jolie's forthcoming Netflix film, "First They Killed My Father."

The magazine wrote in a statement Friday that it has reviewed transcripts and audio recordings from interviews with Jolie that were used to produce its September cover story about the actress.

The article described a "game" used to find the child star of Jolie's film about the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. It said casting directors presented money to impoverished children only to take it away from them as an acting exercise.

Jolie said last week that the suggestion that real money was

taken from children during the auditions is "false and upsetting." She also said parents and guardians were present throughout the audition process.

Vanity Fair said Jolie's attorney contacted the magazine earlier this week and asked it to remove the original paragraph from its story and publish a correction.

The magazine said the attorney, whom it did not identify by name, also asked it to prominently publish a statement explaining that the children auditioning were "made aware of the fictional aspect of the exercise."

Robert Offer, who has represented Jolie on other matters, did not immediately return email and telephone messages Friday afternoon.



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