



House Ed. Committee urged to look into school bus problems Page 3

Sassy Sisters prove, teamwork makes the dream work In Sports

MAGEO: Maualuga tau o le soifuaga, maualalo totogi amata Le Lali

During a brief ceremony yesterday afternoon, the U.S Coast Guard recognized the service of four local police officers, including DPS Commissioner Le'i Thompson, for their work in a case involving a fatality on a fishing vessel earlier this year. A team of USCG representatives arrived from Honolulu on Monday night, led by Capt. Michael C. Long (third from left) for the purpose of presenting Certificates of Recognition to the cops. According to Capt. Long, without the close work and partnership with DPS, they wouldn't have been able to complete the investigation. See full story in Monday's edition of Samoa News.

[photo: AF]



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Sen. Fonoti's solution to ASG's financial woes: pay cuts for directors

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

If she was governor and the government was faced with a financial shortfall requiring action to be taken, Sen. Fonoti Tafa'ifa Aufata said pay cuts for cabinet directors would be her priority.

The Tualauta female senator made the comment during a Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearing on Monday, where ASG Revenue Task Force members, including four cabinet directors, were called to testify on an Administration bill which sets up a 1% alternative minimum business tax (AMBT).

Fonoti's comment echoes something that has been suggested by many ASG workers, those in the private sector, and even

(Continued on page 14)

Police Commissioner establishes new DPS unit

OTHER CHANGES INCLUDE INSERTION OF NEW RANKS

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson has established a new unit in the Department of Public Safety. The Training Division is to provide training for local police officers and assist them in their duties.

In an interview with Samoa News earlier this week, Le'i revealed that he has established the new Training Division unit and has assigned one of the senior commanders to serve as the director of research and professional & development training.

Le'i did not reveal the name of the senior commander, although he did elaborate on his role, which is to perform training in various areas including professional development, sexual abuse, and other issues that are ongoing in the community.

The whole purpose behind these trainings, as mentioned by the Commissioner, is to update the police officers on the regulations in the statute, which they are ordered to uphold and enforce.

He said he spoke with his staff about the intended training, and it is something that must be done.

(Continued on page 7)



This past Wednesday, local business Tautua Mo Oe (TMO) presented a generous monetary donation that officially made them the Gold Sponsor for this year's Miss American Samoa pageant, set to be held at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium (Fale Laumei) in Utulei next Saturday, with six young beauties scheduled to compete for the 2017-2018 title.

TMO company vice president Francine Gaisoa-Liulevaega presented a check of \$5,000 to Simeafou Imo, president of Miss American Samoa Incorporated (MASI), in the presence of reigning Miss American Samoa Antonina Lilomaiaava and this year's contestants.

In her remarks, Gaisoa-Liulevaega said that despite the local economic hardship facing the territory's residents and the business community, their company believes that this shouldn't hinder the efforts of the young ladies who want to take on the challenge to become the territory's next ambassador.

She told Samoa News yesterday that she has been communicating with others in the private sector and there is a consensus that owning and operating a business in the territory is "very tough" now, and has been for the past five years, compared to the years before that.

She said the Miss American Samoa pageant is "the only competition that our local girls are involved in, to represent American Samoa; and whatever little we can do to help, we will." Gaisoa-Liulevaega is hopeful that other local businesses will make a donation to the cause, or even purchase a corporate table for the event. "This is a non-profit organization so they rely heavily on contributions," she said, adding that she is "very excited" because this year's contestants are "very beautiful girls".

Imo thanked TMO for the donation and said the money will be used to carry out pageant activities and everything that is being planned for an evening that will also mark the 25th anniversary of MASI. On that night, Miss Antonina Lilomaiaava will relinquish her crown after all former Miss American Samoa titleholders - whom have been invited to the event - entertain the crowd during a program that promises to be both spectacular and memorable.

[photo: courtesy]





Nana's Company, during the tug-of-war competition - which they won - at last Friday's Workforce Appreciation Day.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Cost of airfare poses challenge for local Red Cross volunteers

HAWAIIAN MILES CHARITIES PROGRAM IS RESTRICTED TO HAWAII-BASED CHARITIES

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

One of the major challenges when local American Red Cross volunteers are deployed to the US following a disaster is the “cost of airfare”.

This is according to local and off-island individuals who are familiar with the situation.

“Perhaps the big challenge for the Red Cross is the cost involved in paying airfares - and coming from American Samoa to the US mainland, is very expensive,” said one individual from the mainland, who asked not be identified but was responding to Samoa News inquiries seeking background information.

Local Red Cross office manager, Val Tuilefano told Samoa News in an initial interview that they are awaiting “official word” from the national level for the deployment of local volunteers to hurricane damaged areas in Texas and Louisiana.

And logically, deploying outside of the continental U.S. is a bit more of a challenge than deploying a team residing in California or neighboring states, said Tuilefano, who declined to comment further on the logistical challenge.

However, Samoa News has learned from a family member of a local Red Cross volunteer that airfare expense is one of the

major challenges. Since Red Cross is a non-profit group and depends on public contributions to serve its mission, Samoa News checked with Hawaiian Airlines if the Honolulu-based carrier, under its frequent flyer miles program - would allow local residents or Samoans living overseas to donate their frequent flyer miles to help the local Red Cross with airfare not only for Hurricane Harvey but any future disaster in the US.

The airline’s frequent flyer program webpage - accessible to its members - shows that frequent flyer members can contribute their miles to a charity organization and among them is the Hawai’i Red Cross.

Samoa News asked, “Can Hawaiian frequent flyer members contribute their miles directly to the American Red Cross-American Samoa office, which comes under the San Diego/Imperial Counties District office?”

“No, unfortunately we are not set up to allow Hawaiian Airlines frequent flyers to contribute their miles to Red Cross-American Samoa,” was the reply from Hawaiian spokesperson Ann Botticelli. “Our Hawaiian Miles Charities program is restricted to Hawaii-based charities and programs.”

(Continued on page 12)

Neil’s Ace Home Center calls for thorough review of proposed taxes

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa news Correspondent

In a letter to “government leaders”, Neil’s ACE Home Center shared its views on three revenue measures proposed by the Lolo Administration, and the more than 30-year-old family-owned company is calling for a thorough review of the proposed taxes, which they say will burden consumers.

The Sept. 5th letter, signed by President and CEO, Ngaire Ho Ching, notes the company’s official position on the three proposed revenues measures, which they claim “will significantly impact our business, the business community, but most importantly, the consumer.”

While the company understands the “financial hardship” experienced by the government, Ho Ching said, “We strongly believe the proposed measures need more thorough review before rolling out.”

SALES TAX

Regarding the proposed 7%

sales tax, Ho Ching said specific information needs to be disseminated to the public and the business community on how the sales tax will be collected.

She noted that some businesses have more advanced POS (point-of-sale) systems than others, so the 7% separation for these businesses is easily identified.

“Unfortunately for smaller businesses, it will be very difficult to track,” she explained, and noted that as a business owner,

“I need to know this will be fair for everyone, with specific collection methods and processes in place that give accountability to all businesses regardless of size.”

The company feels the sales tax should be rolled out gradually for the consumer, starting with a lower sales tax percent, because “7% is too high” and suggested 2% as a start while we ensure the collection method works, she wrote.

(Continued on page 10)

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House Education Committee urged to look into school bus problem

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Education director Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga said a school bus assigned to transport students to Manulele Tausala Elementary School on Tuesday broke down en route to the school, but a bus was available and did pick up students after school.

Matagi-Tofiga's response to Samoa News questions, comes after Itua Rep. Manuma Wayne Wilson raised the issue during a House session on Tuesday, where he informed his colleagues that students were late to school that morning - the first day of classroom instruction for the new school year - because there was no school bus for them.

Manuma claimed that he had contacted the head of DOE's bus division (known as the Transportation Division) that morning and was told that the bus assigned to Manulele Tausala went out for auto repairs in May and there are still problems with the bus, and therefore it was not yet out of the auto shop.

Manuma called on the House Education Committee to look

into the matter so that it doesn't happen again, at a time when public schools are back in session. (See Samoan story in the Lali section of the Aug. 6th Samoa News).

When contacted for comments Tuesday afternoon, Matagi-Tofiga told Samoa News she was informed that morning that the bus, which was supposed to pick up Manulele Tausala students "broke down, but [transportation division] were able to pick up the students after school".

Matagi-Tofiga provided to Samoa News a response Wednesday afternoon following a meeting earlier in the day with the bus drivers, and that is, the bus broke down on the way to pick up the students, but a bus did pick them up after school.

She added that the Transportation Division will look for drivers that have already dropped their students off for assistance in accommodating other routes, to ensure that all students arrive at their respective campuses before school time.

When asked about the total number of buses operating in

the DOE fleet, Matagi-Tofiga said, fourteen and this includes a bus that was transferred to Tutuila from Manu'a, where DOE is now utilizing vans to transport students.

"And we have 4 new buses arriving in October," she revealed. Over the years, the new buses for the DOE fleet - which also provide transportation for private schools - have been purchased with federal funds, such as Capital Improvement Project money, which is overseen by the US Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

For FY 2018, for CIP, a total of \$600,000 is allocated for new school buses, according to the OIA budget document.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale has called on the House Education Committee to look into the concerns raised by Manuma, saying that the problem at Manulele Tausala is probably occurring at other schools and he suggested a committee hearing with DOE officials to get direct answers.

WPRFMC: US territories should be consulted in status review of giant clam species

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has requested a federal government entity to consult appropriate agencies in the US territories - including American Samoa - when conducting a status review of giant clam species.

Earlier this year in June, the US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a notice seeking public comments on the 90-day finding on a petition to list 10 species of giant clams as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

NMFS found that the petition did not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing may be warranted for three petitioned giant clam species (*Tridacna crocea*, *T. maxima*, or *T. noae*).

In an Aug. 25th letter, the Council's executive director, Kitty Simonds informed NMFS of its position on the seven clam species (*Hippopus hippopus*, *H. porcellanus*, *T. costata*, *T. deras*, *T. gigas*, *T. squamosa*,

and *T. tevoroa*) for which NMFS found that the petitioned action may be warranted and is initiating status reviews.

In general, Simonds says the Council believes that much of the available information regarding threats to giant clams are "speculative and over-generalized", and do not provide sufficient evidence to support ESA listing for most of the species.

Further, the Council believes an ESA listing will do little towards the conservation of these species, given that the range of these giant clam species lies primarily outside of U.S. waters, and all species within the *Tridacnidae* family are listed under provisions of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Among the many issues covered by Simonds, include the US Pacific territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Guam. She informed NFMS that each US Flag Pacific Island has regulations governing the harvest of

(Continued on page 13)

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10:00am - 8:00pm

Cultural Celebration of
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Friday, Sept 15th
@ 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Under the leadership of the Pago Pago Mapusaga Stake Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, we would like to invite you to attend an OPEN HOUSE for our new Stake Center, which will be dedicated on Saturday, September 16, 2017.

It will be our great honor to have you as our guests to take a tour of this new building and share with you our testimony of the Savior Jesus Christ, His atoning sacrifice and His teachings. We will also demonstrate for you our work in genealogy and family history and show how families can be together forever!

Sincerely,

The Stake Presidency and Dedication Committee

I lalo o le ta'ita'iga a le Au Peresetene o le Stake a Pago Mapusaga o le Ekalesia Iesu Keriso o le Au Paia o Aso e Gata Ai, matou te fiala e valaaulia ma le fa'aaloalo le mamalu o le atunu'u ina ia tala'ao mai e maimoaina la matou Stake Center fou, o le a faapaaina i le Aso To'onai, Setema 16, 2017.

Matou te valaaulia outou e tala'ao mai ma a outou uo ma aiga se'i o tatou malaga faatasi i se maimoaga o lenei fale tatalo, lea o le a fa'asoa atu ai o matou talitonuga e uiga i le alii Faaola o Iesu Keriso, o lana taulaga togiola, atoa ai ma ana aoaoga. O le a matou fesoasoani foi e faailoa atu a matou galuega o gafa ma tala faasolopito o aiga atoa ai ma le auala e mafai ai e aiga ona mafuta faatasi e faavavau.

O le a matou talisapaia ma le agaga fiala lou tala'ao mai.

O le a tatalaina maimoaga i le Aso Lua, Setema 12, 2017 seia o'o i le Aso Faraile, Setema 15, 2017, i le 10:00 i le taeao seia o'o i le 8:00 i le afiafi.

O fa'afiafiaga e aofia ai siva ma pese faaleatunu'u o le a faataunu'uina i le Aso Faraile, Setema 15, 2017 i le 5:00 i le afiafi seia o'o i le 8:00 i le po.

Fa'afetai Tele,

Au Peresetene o le Stake ma le Komiti Faafoe

Israel strikes deep in Syria, said to hit military facility

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli warplanes struck a military position near the Mediterranean coast in western Syria Thursday, killing two soldiers, the Syrian army said, in a stronghold of President Bashar Assad that is also heavily protected by the Russians and Iranians.

The airstrike targeted a facility near the town of Masyaf, in Hama province, described by some as a missile producing factory, amid Israeli outrage over Iran's growing influence in the war-torn country.

Other reports suggested the facility was tied to Syria's chemical weapons program.

In a statement, the Syrian army said the Israeli warplanes fired several missiles from Lebanese air space, and warned of the "dangerous repercussions of such hostile acts on the security and stability of the region."

"We will do everything to prevent the existence of a Shiite corridor from Iran to Damascus," said Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who declined commenting directly on the strike in an interview with Israel's 100FM Radio Thursday. He said Israel isn't "looking for adventures, and we don't want to be dragged into this fight or another."

"We are determined to prevent our enemies from harming or even creating the possibility of harming the security of Israeli citizens."

Israel has carried out several airstrikes against suspected arms shipments it believed to be bound for Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, which is fighting alongside President Bashar Assad's forces, over the course of Syria's civil war, now

in its seventh year. Israel has also struck several Syrian military facilities since the conflict began, mostly near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Assad, not wanting to draw Israel into his country's war, has never retaliated.

The airstrike comes amid heightened tensions over Iran's growing reach in Syria. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed recently that Iran is building sites in Syria and Lebanon for the manufacture of "precision-guided missiles" with the aim of deploying them against Israel.

Thursday's air raid was seen as a message to both Russia and Iran that Israel can strike anywhere in Syria. It was also a rare instance of Israel striking a Syrian government facility rather than an arms shipment and harked back to an Israeli airstrike that destroyed a suspected, partially constructed nuclear reactor in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour exactly 10 years ago.

This week, Israel is conducting a massive drill along its border with Lebanon simulating war with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

It was not immediately clear if the facility struck Thursday was used for the production or storage of chemical arms. Syria denies having or using such weapons.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said two facilities were hit in Thursday's airstrike, a scientific research center and a nearby military base where short-range surface-to-surface missiles are stored.



Department of Human Resources with an early morning show for the Samoa News camera as they await the start of Workforce Appreciation Day held at the Veterans Memorial Stadium last Friday.

[photo: FS]

Traffic nightmare as 500K people told to leave South Florida

MIAMI (AP) — The race to flee Hurricane Irma became a marathon nightmare as more than a half-million people were ordered to leave South Florida on Thursday.

With the storm barreling toward the tip of Florida for perhaps a catastrophic blow this weekend, normally quick trips turned into day-long journeys on crowded highways amid a constant search for gasoline and lodging. Airline seats out of Florida were in short supply as well.

Mari and Neal Michaud loaded their two children and dog into their small sport-utility vehicle and left their home near Cocoa Beach about 10 a.m., bound for an impromptu vacation in Washington, D.C. Using a phone app and calls to search for fuel along the way, they finally arrived at a convenience store that had gasoline nearly five hours later.

The 60-mile trip up Interstate 95 should have taken an hour, Mari Michaud said.

"There was no gas and it's gridlock. People are stranded on the sides of the highway," she said. "It's 92 degrees out and little kids are out on the grass on the side of the road. No one can help them." The National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch for the Keys and parts of South Florida, including some of the Miami metropolitan area of 6 million people. It was the first of perhaps many watches and warnings along the Southeastern coast over the next several days as forecasters warn the storm could hit anywhere from Florida to North Carolina.

As people along the Atlantic coast anxiously watched the behemoth, Irma battered the northern Caribbean, killing at least 11 people and leaving thousands homeless after destroying buildings and uprooting trees.

At least 31,000 people fled the Florida Keys, which could begin seeing wind and rain from Irma as early as Friday night, Gov. Rick Scott said. He noted the size of the powerful Category 5 storm, and told residents not to become complacent.

"It is wider than our entire state and could cause major and life-threatening impacts from coast to coast. Regardless of which coast you live on, be prepared to evacuate," Scott said.

Scott ordered all schools and state offices to close Friday through Monday.

NASA secured Kennedy Space Center and SpaceX launched an unmanned rocket for an experimental flight. Kennedy closed its doors to all nonessential staff and a crew of about 120

people will ride out the storm on site.

Most of the critical buildings at Kennedy are designed to withstand gusts of up to 135 mph (220 kph). Irma's wind could exceed that if it reaches Cape Canaveral. With winds that peaked at 185 mph (300 kph), Irma was the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal ordered evacuations for all areas east of Interstate 95, including the city of Savannah, and authorized about 5,000 National Guard members to help with response and recovery. Noel Marsden said he, his girlfriend, her son and their dog left Pembroke Pines north of Miami with plans to ride out Irma in Savannah, only to find the city was also shutting down because of Irma. Marsden isn't sure where they'll all end up.

"I've got a buddy in Atlanta and a buddy in Charlotte. We'll wind up one of those two places because there are not hotels, I can tell you that," he said.

The last time Georgia was struck by a hurricane of force Category 3 or higher happened in 1898. Irma's eventual path and Florida's fate depends on when and how sharp the powerful hurricane takes a right turn, National Weather Service Director Louis Uccellini said.

"It has become more likely that Irma will make landfall in southern Florida as a dangerous major hurricane," the Hurricane Center said in a forecast discussion Thursday afternoon.

The last Category 5 storm to hit Florida was Andrew in 1992. Its winds topped 165 mph (265 kph), killing 65 people and inflicting \$26 billion in damage. It was at the time the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history.

President Donald Trump urged people to "be careful, be safe" during Hurricane Irma. In a tweet, Trump remarked that Irma "is raging but we have great teams of talented and brave people already in place and ready to help."

Trump's exclusive Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach — the unofficial Southern White House — sits in the path of the storm.

U.S. Air Force Reserve weather officer Maj. Jeremy DeHart flew through the eye of Irma at 10,000 feet Wednesday and through Hurricane Harvey just before it hit Texas last month.

He said Irma's intensity set it apart from other storms.

"Spectacular is the word that keeps coming to mind. Pictures don't do it justice. Satellite images can't do it justice," DeHart said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Qatar giving \$30 million to help Harvey victims in Texas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Qatar is donating \$30 million to help people in Texas recover from Harvey, its ambassador said Thursday, as the Persian Gulf nation works to show it's a constructive global player amid a diplomatic crisis with its neighbors.

The contribution appears to be the largest from a foreign government to assist with the hurricane that devastated stretches of the Texas coast. It came the same day that the United Arab Emirates, one of Qatar's opponents in the Persian Gulf dispute, announced its own \$10 million to help Harvey victims.

Both donations were announced as the leader of Kuwait, which has been mediating the Qatar crisis, was in Washington discussing the dispute with President Donald Trump and other American officials.

Qatar pledged the funds through the newly created Qatar Harvey Fund, which Ambassador Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani said would work with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, local organizations and other Texas officials including the Houston mayor. The funds will be used "to help rebuild communities" affected by flooding.

"Texans are stronger than any storm and will come back bigger and better, and Qatar stands ready to help our friends at every turn," Al Thani said in a statement that emphasized the gas-rich country's ties to Texas, including its consulate in Houston.

Abbott, the governor, said he was "amazed and humbled" at how people from around the world had shown support for Texas after the hurricane. Several other countries have offered far smaller amounts along with non-monetary assistance.

"Texas and Qatar have a longstanding partnership, and I thank the government of Qatar for their generosity and support for Texas and our citizens as we begin the long road to recovery," Abbott said.

The Texas governor issued a similar statement earlier Thursday praising the UAE for its donation.

Qatar has worked assiduously in recent months to improve its image in the United States, especially after Trump blasted the close U.S. partner on Twitter and from the Rose Garden for funding extremism. Those comments fueled the perception that Trump was siding against Qatar in a bitter feud with four neighbors that has fes-

tered for months.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE cut ties to Qatar in June over allegations it allows a permissive climate for funding extremists, foments opposition elsewhere in the region and maintains too close ties to Iran. Qatar firmly denies those allegations.

Since the crisis broke out, both sides have launched aggressive public relations campaigns in the U.S., hiring communications firms and placing ads to make their case to policymakers. Qatar has emphasized its role as a key U.S. security partner. The country hosts thousands of U.S. troops and a major base that's key for the campaigns in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson tried unsuccessfully in July to mediate by shuttling between the countries, and the U.S. has been letting Kuwait try to resolve it since then. On Thursday, Trump hailed Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah's mediation efforts as the Kuwaiti leader visited the White House.

Harvey killed at least 70 people in a storm system that escalated to a Category 4 hurricane before striking Texas last month, dropping 52 inches of rain over the Houston area. Abbott has said recovery could cost as much as \$180 million.

Qatar opened a consulate in Texas in 1997 and also has ties to the state's natural gas industry. The country says more than 450 Qataris live there. Doha, the Qatari capital, hosts a satellite campus of Texas A&M University.

Prosecutors want Shkreli's bail revoked

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors on Thursday filed a court motion asking a judge to revoke Martin Shkreli's bail and throw him in jail because of recent threats the so-called "Pharma Bro" allegedly made against Hillary Clinton.

"Since his conviction on August 4, 2017, Shkreli has engaged in an escalating pattern of threats and harassment that warrant his detention pending sentencing," prosecutors wrote in their motion.

"Most recently, Shkreli threatened former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton by publicly offering \$5,000 to anyone who would 'grab' some of her hair on the defendant's behalf during her upcoming book tour" prosecutors wrote.

The threat required "significant expenditure of resources by the U.S. Secret Service," prosecutors said, adding that there was risk that one of Shkreli's many social media

followers would take his statements seriously.

Prosecutors also cited several other Twitter and social media postings by Shkreli that they said were harassing to women.

"However inappropriate some of Mr. Shkreli's postings may have been, we do not believe that he intended harm and do not believe that he poses a danger to the community," Shkreli's lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said in a statement.

The former pharmaceutical CEO best known for hiking up the price of a life-saving drug and for trolling his critics on social media has been out on bail since a jury found him guilty of deceiving investors in two failed hedge funds he ran. The defense had argued that investors got their original investments back and even made hefty profits.

The 34-year-old defendant faces up to 20 years in prison,



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 • 11:30am
Lion's Park Tsunami Shelter

The Rotary Club of Pago Pago and Hawaiian Air will host a
Memorial Remembrance Service for the 34 Tsunami Victim's Immediate Family Members:

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017
Place: Tsunami Memorial Family Picnic Shelter at Lion's Park in Tafuna, AS
Time: 11:30am - 12:30pm

Members of the Public are invited to join with the families of the 2009 Tsunami victims on this day.

A memorial service will be conducted and all are invited to give testimonials to their lost family and friends who died on September 29, 2009. Human and Social Services will support the memorial service as part of the National Recovery and Wellness Healing for September 2016.

At the end of the service light refreshments and food will be provided by Corporate partners of the Rotary Club of Pago Pago.

This ad is paid for by ASPA / Tool Shop / CSL in the spirit of the community service



Seniors police officers parading during Police Week celebration earlier this year at Malaeoletalu in Fagatogo. DPS has a new established unit - the Training Division - which is set up to provide training for local police officers. See story for full details.

[photo: AF]



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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Website: www.dbas.as

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Approved issuance by: Ruth Matagi-Faatili, President.
Date of issuance: August 16, 2017
Date & Time Due: September 15, 2017
No later than 2:00 pm local time

DBAS requests proposals for financial audits and the related single audits for a period of three years, beginning with the audit of fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2019. Fiscal and calendar years are coincident at DBAS.

Document: Requests for proposal packet outlining requirements will be available for pick up at DBAS on Friday August 18, 2017 or emailing charmaine@dbas.as for information regarding the RFP. It can also be accessed through the DBAS website: www.dbas.as (click public notice)

The Request for Proposals (RFP) describes the specifications for the services to be provided in sufficient details to permit competition and allow the interested party to properly respond to the RFP.

This RFP is issued under Title 28, Chapter 1, of the *American Samoa Code Annotated*.

DBAS invites the submission of proposals to include pricing and other details as indicated in the specifications. Attachments will be provided as an aid in presenting a comprehensive proposal consistent with the requirements of DBAS.

DBAS will select a contractor who best meets the needs of DBAS. The factors for selection will include, but not be limited to the following: understanding of the requirements of the financial and single auditors; verifiable ability to perform well; good reputation; flexibility, including ability to respond quickly to needs of a small client in a remote location and throughout the year; and reasonability of costs.

The proposals will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives from DBAS management and board. The committee may request interviews with potential contractors after reviewing the proposals before the final selection is made.

Submission: Proposals must be received by DBAS no later than 2:00pm local time on September 15, 2017. They may be mailed or hand delivered in a sealed envelope to:

Development Bank of American Samoa
PO BOX 9
Attention: Charmaine Faleaana
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

They may also be emailed to charmaine@dbas.as, as an attachment in Word Format with a confirming email required to confirm receipt; or faxed to DBAS at (684) 633-1163 with a confirming fax to confirm receipt. The original is to follow by airmail first class.



ACCURACY

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news**

**In The High Court
of American Samoa
TRIAL DIVISION**

PR NO. 30-17

In the Matter of the Estate of

ROBERT DAVID MOORE

BY: JANE HETA MOORE

Petitioner

**NOTICE OF HEARING
ON PETITION
FOR LETTERS OF
ADMINISTRATION**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a petition for letters of administration has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Territory of American Samoa by JANE HETA MOORE for the Estate of ROBERT DAVID MOORE (deceased) who died on January 28, 2017 in American Samoa.

A hearing on the petition will be held on November 1, 2017 at 9 a.m. before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa. All heirs of ROBERT DAVID MOORE and other interested parties may appear before the court on said date to respond to this petition.

Date: August 21, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 8/25/17, 9/1/17, 9/8/17

► Police Commissioner...

Continued from page 1

“I think the time of ‘I like that person’, ‘that person is my family’, ‘that person is this and that’ - is over,” he said. “It’s time to achieve higher goals and the objective, which is to serve the people of American Samoa.”

Every time Le’i meets with his supervisors, he tells them that as leaders in the workforce, they need to understand every single thing under their watch, so they know how to make better decisions.

“As leaders, they need to know their budget, leave, overtime, and they also need to know about personal relationships, professionalism on the job, and especially be knowledgeable about their job and what they’re doing,” he said, adding that he believes times have changed and people can read everything on mass media, and if he looks at what is happening around the world today, he can say that our local cops need to improve both physically and mentally.

This is why, according to him, he told his supervisors that they need to change the structure of DPS.

“For example - we have 7 commanders. Someone thought that we needed to have 7 commanders. I don’t know why, but I’m not going to change anything about that. One of our commanders has opted to retire this month, and I’m not going to fill that position - because I know that the commanders we have right now are sufficient for this type of operation,” said Le’i.

In order for each of the police officers to develop and be rewarded with a higher grade before they become commander, Le’i said he’s also created new ranks to close the gap between each one.

For example, he has injected the rank of Major between Commander and Captain, and also the Corporal rank between Sergeant and PSO.

Le’i said the new ranks are included in the DPS structure, and the governor is aware, and this is something that will help the cops with their salary.

“I know it’s about time to make these changes so each police officer will be rewarded according to their service - but they have to earn it,” he said.

According to the Commissioner, almost everyday, DPS receives numerous complaints from members of the commu-

nity, accusing police officers of being disrespectful in the way they conduct their job, and calling them “kids on the road”.

“It’s a really sad issue if I look at our police force. They are sworn police officers who have the skills to do their job, they are not young kids. Some of these police officers are matai of their families while others have served in the force for a long time but they don’t have rank,” said Le’i. “The intent is to have them earn their ranks in order for them to get a raise in salary.”

As a former Director for the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Le’i said that this is one of the issues he worked on, and that is, trying to find ways to set salaries for police officers, because they’re very low.

“I just came back from the 21st Pacific Meeting for Commissioners and Chiefs, and as far as territories are concerned, we are the lowest in starting salary. CNMI starts at \$16,000; Guam I believe is at \$22,000; but we are way down at \$10,000 and \$11,000,” he said.

The issue regarding the salary of police officers is something Le’i and Gov. Lolo M. Moliga have discussed many times in the past and according to the Commissioner, the governor has asked him to find ways to raise the salary setting for the local police force.

“Our budget is not enough, compared to the number of police officers we have,” he said. “But we’re still trying to work closely with the Governor’s Office and DHR, to find ways to cure the problem.”

He said they are short of cops, considering the number of officers that serve in other subdivisions such as the Fire Department, Marine Patrol, the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), and the Tafuna Correctional Facility.

“The new school year has started and we’re going to place some police officers in certain schools to control the problem of drugs, because that’s the agreement we have with the Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) who provided funding for the last Police Academy, and we have to comply with it.”

The Commissioner believes that every change is made for only one purpose. And that is, to upgrade the service of DPS in the territory.



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA CONSULATE-GENERAL

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American Samoa 96799
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Facsimile: +684 633 5929
Email: amtvpk1@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE: FEES CHANGES FOR IMMIGRATION SERVICES CONSULATE GENERAL OF SAMOA

The public is hereby advised that effective from Monday, October 09, 2017, the following changes in fees charged for Immigration Services will apply.

PASSPORTS:		
Standard 5 day processing	Adult \$250	Child (16 years and under) \$125
Urgent Passport 2 days processing	Adult \$300	Child (16 years and under) \$175
Replacement for lost or damage passports (still valid)		
Standard 5 day processing	Adult \$500	Child \$250
Urgent passport 2 days processing	Adult \$550	Child \$300
DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY (DOI)		
Standard 2 days processing	\$100	
Urgent same day processing	\$150	
Replacement for lost or damaged DOI (still valid)	\$150	
Urgent replacement for lost or damaged DOI	\$200	
CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY (CI)		
Standard 1 day processing for Samoan citizens	\$60	
Standard 1 day processing for non-Samoan citizens	\$200	
ENDORSEMENTS		
Matai names/Married names	\$60	
Renewals (for emergencies only)	\$60	
AUTHORIZATION LETTERS		
One Way Travel		
- Samoan citizens	\$50	
- Non- Samoan citizens	\$100	
CONFIRMATION FOR 60 DAYS TRAVEL		
- Samoan citizens	\$50	
- Non- Samoan citizens	\$100	
CONFIRMATION OF TRAVEL MOVEMENTS		
- Samoan citizens	\$50	
- Non Samoa citizens	\$100	
ENTRY PERMITS FOR US NATIONAL		
For: 24 hours processing		Urgent Issuance
- up to 14 days	\$20	\$30
- up to 30 days	\$40	\$50
- up to 60 days	\$60	\$70
TRANSIT PERMITS		
Multiple Entry (for 12 months validity)	\$150	
Permit Overstayers (payable in Samoa)	SAT200	

Fees changes for other services please enquire at the office of the Consulate-General

Telephone: 633-5919/633-5920
Email: amtvpk1@gmail.com

Thank you,

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SAMOA

FAASILASILAGA TAU OFISA KONESULA AOAO O SAMOA

E faasilasila atu i lo outou paia ma mamalu e faapea, E afua atu i le Aso Gafua Oketopa 09 2017, o le a faamamaluina ai tau fou mo Tusifolau, Tusimalaga, Pepa Malaga, ma Pemita Ulufale i Samoa, e pei ona faailoa i lalo.

TUSIFOLAU:		
E faia i le 5 aso faigaluega	Tagata matutua \$250	Tamaiti (e 16 tausaga ma lalo ifo) \$125
E faia i le 2 aso faigaluega	Tagata matutua \$300	Tamaiti (e 16 tausaga ma lalo ifo) \$175
Talosaga mo se isi tusifolau fou pe afai ua leaga po ua leiloa foi (a'o aoga pea)		
E faia i le 5 aso faigaluega	Tagata matutua \$500	Tamaiti (e 16 tausaga ma lalo ifo) \$250
E faia i le 2 aso faigaluega	Tagata matutua \$550	Tamaiti (e 16 tausaga ma lalo ifo) \$300
TUSI MALAGA (DOI)		
E faia i le 2 aso faigaluega		\$100
E faia i le 1 le aso faigaluega		\$100
Talosaga ona ua leiloa po ua faaleaogaina fo'i (ae lei maea le aoga) ma e 2 aso e faia ai		\$150
Talosaga ona ua leiloa po ua faaleaogaina foi (ae lei maea le aoga) ma e fia maua i le aso lava lea		\$200

PEPA MALAGA (CI)	
Mo tagatanuu Samoa e faia ile 1 aso faigaluega	\$60
E le o se tagatanuu Samoa e faia ile 1 aso faigaluega	\$200

FA'AOPOGOA	
Faaopopoga o suafa matai/faaipoipo ma isi	\$60
Fa'afouga o tusifolau/tusimalaga (mo mafuaaga le maalofia)	\$60

PEMITA ULUFALE MO US NATIONALS (Tuaina atu i totonu 24 itula)		
E oo atu i le 14 aso	\$20	Manaomia vave
E oo atu i le 30 aso	\$40	Manaomia vave
E oo atu i le 60 aso	\$60	Manaomia vave
Pemita uia ai Samoa mo isi Atunuu (transit permit)		
Manaomia vave		\$60
Pemita Ulufale i soo se taimi-multiple mo le 12 masina)		\$150

TUSI FAAMAONIA	
• Mo soo se auaunaga e manaomia	
Tagatanuu Samoa	\$50
E le o ni tagatanuu Samoa	\$100
Faasalaga mo le silia o aso faatagaina i Samoa (permit overstaying)	\$200 e totogiina i Samoa.

Mo nisi auaunaga manaomia faamolemole faafesootai mai le tatou ofisa.

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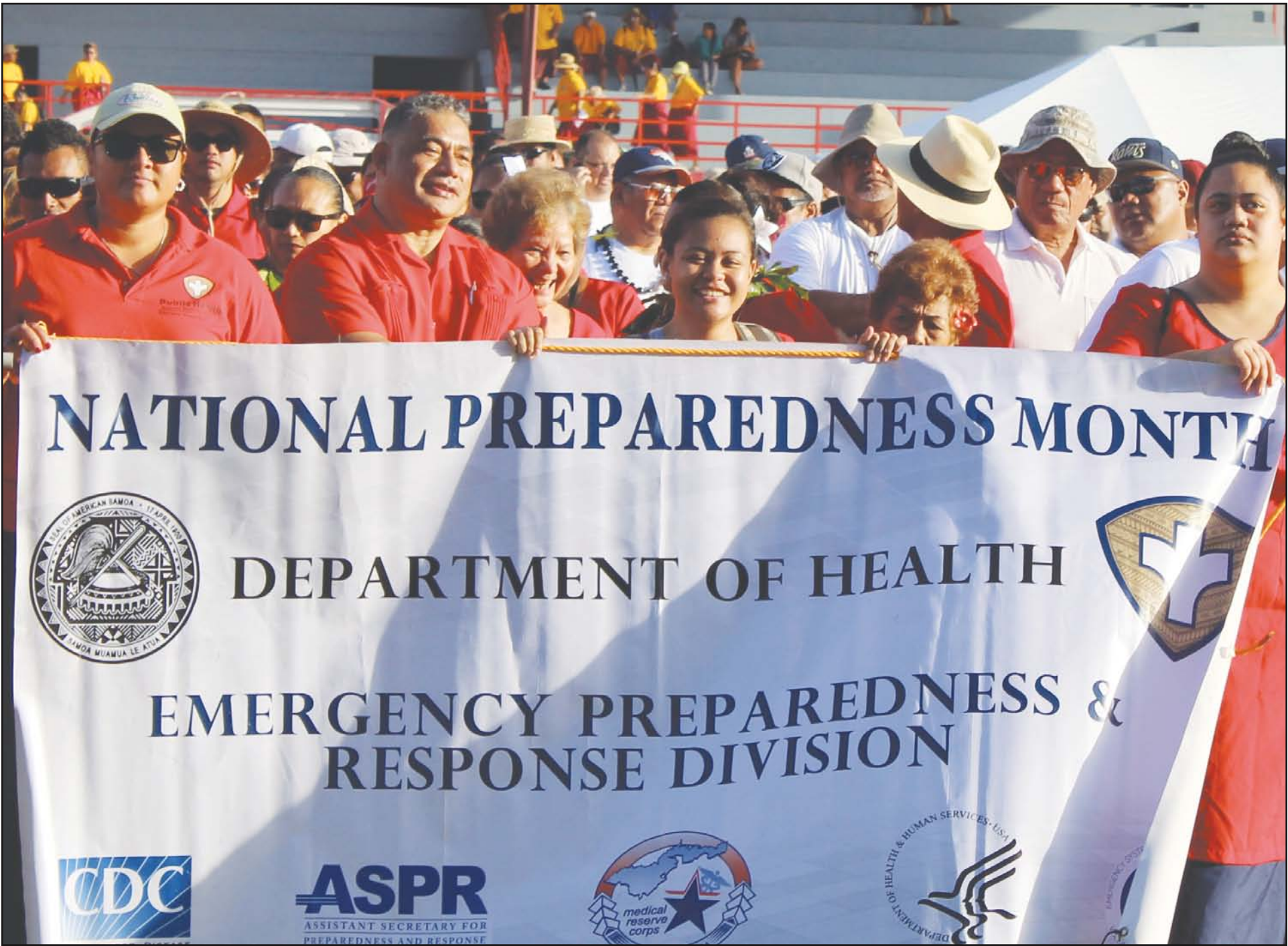
CONSULATE GENERAL OF SAMOA

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Director of Health, Motusa Tuileama Nua, (second from left) with the DOH staff on the field at Veterans Memorial Stadium during Workforce Appreciation Day last Friday.

[photo: FS]

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American Samoa Visitors Bureau executive director David Vaefa shaking hands with three of the six contestants of the Miss American Samoa pageant, before the start of the Workforce Appreciation Day celebration last Friday.

[photo: FS]

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► Neil’s ACE...

Continued from page 2

“If we already have problems with businesses with questionable and/or fraudulent reports, then charging the consumer 7% sales tax is opening up avenues for temptation for additional income for said businesses that will still not be reported correctly,” she pointed out.

The company feels that the sales tax should replace the import tax, and not be an additional tax on top of it, she said.

Ho Ching also suggested that the sales tax should apply to online orders and imported goods . (Samoa News points out that applying the sales tax to online orders has also been suggested by others in the private sector, and the ASG Revenue Task Force says they are looking into the issue as well.)

“Strong initiatives and pushes have been made to buy local, but if we implement the 7% tax, we will discourage buying locally,” Ho Ching said. “We must ensure this sales tax is paid on imported consumer goods like building materials, lumber, tiles and appliances.”

“These are products that affect our hardware industry that consumers have brought in of their own accord, some with container loads,” she explained. “To be fair, these online orders or imported consumer goods must be taxed.”

PORT FEES

The Administration is proposing to hike fees and charges at the Port, with the Port Administration director having the authority to review such fees and charges every five years.

Neil’s Ace Home Center disagrees with giving the Port director sole authority or discretion, said Ho Ching, who said this is not a decision to be made by one person alone.

“Shipping costs, cost of fuel and such are already at a high rate,” she wrote. “Our concern is that increased port fees will further discourage outside investment as it will be too costly for businesses to operate here.”

She continued, “These costs will be passed from the shipper to the consumer.”

AMBT PROPOSAL

Another administration

revenue bill, the 1% alternative minimum business tax (AMBT), which the government estimates will bring in about \$2.3 million annually, applies to corporations and other entities subject to taxation in American Samoa.

Ho Ching said their company does not support the AMBT “for the simple reason that a business that has an honest loss would now be forced to pay a minimum 1% tax on their gross receipts, driving them further in debt and possibly out of business.”

“This is true for startup businesses that struggle the first few years of operation,” she continued, adding that implementing the AMBT will discourage new business development and discourage new entrepreneurs.

She suggests that the Tax Office monitor the suspected business if they file losses year after year and perform audits to ensure their information is correct, “rather than penalizing across the board.”

CONCLUSION

Ho Ching reminded government leaders that Neil’s Ace Home Center has been part of the local community for over 30 years and understands that the “success of our business is a partnership between the government and the community.”

“However, we have not received enough information on the revenue measures [sales tax, port fees, and AMBT] to fully support these initiatives,” she wrote and asked government leaders “to ensure these proposed revenue measures are fair for everyone. And ultimately, be affordable for the consumers to absorb and support.”

Copies of Ho Ching’s letter were sent to Fono leaders as well as several lawmakers who are members of the Budget committees and Ways and Means committees in both the Senate and House.

Another local company, G.H.C Reid & Company, also sent a letter to lawmakers voicing their views and suggestions on all five proposed revenue measures from the administration last month.

No collusion with Russians, Trump Jr. insists to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump’s eldest son cast his meeting with a Russian lawyer last year as simply an opportunity to learn about Hillary Clinton’s “fitness, character or qualifications,” insisting Thursday to Senate investigators behind closed doors that he did not collude with Russia to hurt her campaign against his father.

Donald Trump Jr.’s description of the June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower in New York, delivered in a statement at the outset of a Senate panel’s staff interview, provided his most detailed account yet of an encounter that has drawn close scrutiny from Congress and special counsel Robert Mueller.

He tried to dismiss concerns about one comment he made in emails leading up to the meeting. He said he was just being polite when he emailed “I love it” to Rob Goldstone, the publicist who was setting up the meeting with a Russian who was said to have election-season dirt on Clinton.

Trump Jr. said it was “simply a colloquial way of saying that I appreciated Rob’s gesture.”

Thursday’s interview at the Capitol was the first known instance of Trump Jr. giving his version of the meeting in a setting that could expose him to legal jeopardy. It’s a crime to lie to Congress.

Multiple congressional committees and Mueller’s team of prosecutors are investigating whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to influence the outcome of the election. A grand jury used by Mueller as part of his investigation has already heard testimony about the meeting, which besides Trump Jr., included the president’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and his then-campaign chairman, Paul Manafort.

Trump Jr. spoke to the Senate Judiciary Committee for about five hours, leaving in the midafternoon, out of view of reporters. In a statement released afterward, he appeared

to suggest he would not testify publicly before the committee, saying he trusted that “this interview fully satisfied” the panel’s inquiry.

In July, the committee’s chairman, Republican Chuck Grassley of Iowa, said he wanted Trump Jr. to appear at a public hearing, though in recent days he’s declined to say whether that will still happen. California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the panel, said Wednesday that she and Grassley had agreed in July to subpoena Trump Jr. if he wouldn’t appear willingly in public. Trump Jr. and the Judiciary Committee had negotiated for him to appear privately on Thursday and to be interviewed only by committee staff. Senators were allowed to sit in but not ask questions.

According to one person with knowledge of what was said, Trump Jr. told committee staff that he didn’t inform his father about the June 2016 meeting.

He also said he didn’t know or didn’t recall the details of any White House involvement in his response to the first reports of that meeting, the person said. The White House has said the president was involved in drafting a statement saying the meeting primarily concerned a Russian adoption program.

The person declined to be identified because the meeting was private. In prepared remarks obtained by The Associated Press, Trump Jr. did not address the drafting of the statement. Instead, he sought to explain the emails that showed him agreeing to the meeting, which had been described as part of a Russian government effort to help his father’s campaign.

He said he was skeptical of the outreach by music publicist Goldstone but thought he “should listen to what Rob and his colleagues had to say.”

“To the extent they had information concerning the fitness, character or qualifications of a presidential candidate, I

believed that I should at least hear them out,” Trump Jr. said.

He said the Russian lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, gave vague information about possible foreign donations to the Democratic Party but then quickly changed the subject to a sanctions law, known as the Magnitsky Act, which the Russian government opposes.

On the day of the meeting, Trump Jr. said he didn’t know who would be attending because Goldstone didn’t give him a list ahead of time. He said Trump Tower security also didn’t keep a record. Goldstone was able to bring the “entire group up” by only giving his name to a guard in the lobby, he said.

“There is no attendance log to refer back to and I did not take notes,” Trump Jr. said.

He said he remembers seven people in the meeting, though eight have been publicly reported.

The attendees Trump Jr. identified were himself, Goldstone, Manafort, Kushner, Veselnitskaya, a translator and Irakli Kaveladze, who worked for a Russian development company headed by Aras Agalarov and his son, Emin, who partnered with Trump to bring the Miss Universe pageant to Moscow in 2013.

He did not mention Russian-American lobbyist Rinat Akhmetshin, who has told multiple news outlets, including the AP, that he attended the meeting at Veselnitskaya’s invitation. In recent weeks, Akhmetshin has testified about his recollection of the meeting before a Washington grand jury used by Mueller.

The top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, California Rep. Adam Schiff, released a statement responding to reports of the meeting and said Trump Jr.’s statement “raises more questions than it answers” and “highlights how significant the campaign viewed the promise of dirt on their opponent from the Russian government.”

SOUTHBOUND

ARRIVAL

VESSEL	VOY	SEA	L/BEACH	OAK	PPT	NUKUALOFA	APIA	PAGO
New Guinea Chief	488	TBA	SAILED	SAILED	09/08	---	09/13	09/13
Cap Taputapu	033	TBA	09/10	09/12	09/23	---	09/28	09/28
New Guinea Chief	489	TBA	09/27	09/29	10/10	---	10/15	10/15
Cap Taputapu	034	TBA	10/13	10/15	10/26	---	10/31	10/31
New Guinea Chief	490	TBA	10/29	10/31	11/11	---	11/16	11/16

SOUTHBOUND

ARRIVAL

VESSEL	VOY	PPT	N/ALOFA	APIA	PAGO
New Guinea Chief	488	09/08	---	09/13	09/13
Cap Taputapu	033	09/23	---	09/28	09/28
New Guinea Chief	489	10/10	---	10/15	10/15
Cap Taputapu	034	10/26	---	10/31	10/31
New Guinea Chief	490	11/11	---	11/16	11/16

HAMBURG SÜD

Note: All Schedule dates are estimated

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Matamua, Lei
Matau, Esau
Matau, Ramona
Matau, Tikeri
Mauga, Palepoi Ernie
Mauigoa, Seepa
Maulupe, Roanna
McGraw, Stephen
Mekuli, Asootama Lise
Meli, Octavia
Meredith, Anthony
Mika, Maria
Mika, Utumoeaau
Minoneti, Lusila
Misiuepa, Suluifaleese
Misivila, Sophia
Moananu, Finau
Moemoe, Tailua
Moliga-Eli, Saiaulama
Moliga-Taiepisi, Elsie
Monaco, Thomas
Moors, Harry
Muao, Ropeti
Muliau, Samasoni
Mulitalo-Ieremia-Foster, Anna
Navelika, Onosa'i
Netane, Luki
Niumata, Nuusina
Noa, Finau
Nuutai, Petaia
Nyel, Naomi
Oloa, Iuliano
Onosai, Saisavaai
Osa, Maria
Paepule, Lemusu
Paleafei, Toma
Palepoi, Faleata
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Paselio, Fiapapalagi
Pasikale, Siuii Matauifaga
Passi, Simamao Katherine
Pati, Apelu
Paulo, Paulo
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Pene, Peleipu
Peni, Suetena
Peric, Taofegauiai
Petelo, Anitelea
Petelo, Silaulelei
Peters, Frank
Pine-Ah See, Taulaloese
Pio-Tuimavave, Etimani
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Poloai, Faafetai
Posala, Talaesea
Pule, Antonio Jr.
Puni, Ioane
Purcell, Douglas
Ripley, Faamalele Tagoai
Ropati, Suegafaafaifeau
Safua, Fausaga

Sagapolutele, Frank
Sakaria, Paese
Salaivao, Bernie
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Save, Suani
Savea, Edward
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Sialofi, Taupale
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Suiaunua, Brian
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Taalefili, Tui
Tafaese, Onoiva
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Tago, Fuatai
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Talapa, Ana
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Talopau, Toelau
Talosaga, Sandra
Tanielu, Soli
Tapunuu, Pale
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Tauai, Usufono
Tauanuu, Faatiuga
Tauiliili, Motiana
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Taumua, Alvin
Taumua, Pago Pago
Tautala, Paoivaoese Jr
Tautala, Paoivaoese Sr
Tautalafua, Tufatu
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Taylor, Joe
Tavake, Loveni
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Tupua, Tuumuli
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Tuupo, Doris
Ufuti, Tilomai
Uikirifi, Krystellen "Faga"
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Vaa, Sala
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Nations rush to help islands devastated by Hurricane Irma

BEACH ADVISORY

Supporting efforts to clean our shores



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

AS-EPA

Release Date: September 6, 2017
Contact: AS-EPA Water Program at (684) 633-2304

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) advises the public that on September 5, 2017, the following recreational beaches tested positive for Enterococci bacteria levels that exceed American Samoa Water Quality Standards:

Aua Stream Mouth
Laulii Stream Mouth
Alega Stream Mouth
Fagaitua Stream Mouth
Masausi Stream Mouth
Alofau Stream Mouth
Fagasa-Fagalea Stream Mouth
Fagasa-Fagatele Stream Mouth
Afono Stream Mouth
Vatia Stream Mouth

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

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

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

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — French, British and Dutch military authorities rushed aid to a devastated string of Caribbean islands Thursday after Hurricane Irma left at least 11 people dead and thousands homeless as it spun toward Florida for what could be a catastrophic blow this weekend.

Warships and planes were dispatched with food, water and troops after the fearsome Category 5 storm smashed homes, schools and roads, laying waste to some of the world’s most beautiful and exclusive tourist destinations.

Hundreds of miles to the west, Florida braced for the onslaught, with forecasters warning that Irma could slam headlong into the Miami metropolitan area of 6 million people, punish the entire length of the state’s Atlantic coast and move into Georgia and South Carolina.

More than a half-million people in Miami-Dade County were ordered to leave as Irma closed in with winds of 175 mph (281 kph).

“Take it seriously, because this is the real deal,” said Maj. Jeremy DeHart, a U.S. Air Force Reserve weather officer who flew through the eye of Irma at 10,000 feet.

The hurricane was still north

of the Dominican Republic and Haiti on Thursday evening, sweeping the neighboring nations on Hispaniola island with high winds and rain while battering the Turks and Caicos islands on its other side.

Big waves smashed a dozen homes into rubble in the Dominican fishing community of Nagua, but work crews said all the residents had left before the storm. Officials said 11,200 people in all had evacuated vulnerable areas, while 55,000 soldiers had been deployed to help the cleanup.

In Haiti, two people were injured by a falling tree, a national roadway was blocked by debris and roofs were torn from houses along the northern coast but there were no immediate reports of deaths. Officials warned that could change as Irma continued to lash Haiti, where deforested hillsides are prone to devastating mudslides that have wiped out entire neighborhoods of precariously built homes in flood zones.

“We are vulnerable. We don’t have any equipment to help the population,” Josue Alusma, mayor of the northern city of Port de Paix, said on Radio Zenith FM.

About a million people were without power in Puerto Rico after Irma sideswiped the island overnight, and nearly half the territory’s hospitals were relying on generators. No injuries were reported.

The first islands hit by the storm were scenes of terrible destruction.

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said four people were confirmed dead and about 50 injured on the French side of St. Martin, an island split between Dutch and French control, where homes were splintered and road signs scattered by the fierce winds. The cafes and clothing shops of the picturesque seaside village of Marigot were submerged in brown floodwaters and people surveyed the wreckage from whatever shelter they could find.

The toll could rise because rescue teams had yet to get a complete look at the damage.

At least four people were killed in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and officials said they expected to find more bodies.

Authorities described the damage as catastrophic and said crews were struggling to reopen roads and restore power.

Three more deaths were reported on the British island of Anguilla, as well as Barbuda and the Dutch side of St. Martin.

Irma also slammed the French island of St. Barts, tearing off roofs and knocking out electricity in the high-end tourist destination.

French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said 100,000 food rations were sent to St. Barts and St. Martin, the equivalent of four days of supplies.

“It’s a tragedy. We’ll need to rebuild both islands,” he said. “Most of the schools have been destroyed.”

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the storm “caused wide-scale destruction of infrastructure, houses and businesses.”

“There is no power, no gasoline, no running water. Houses are under water, cars are floating through the streets, inhabitants are sitting in the dark in ruined houses and are cut off from the outside world,” he said.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said the U.S. military was sending troops to aid relief efforts.

The primary focus for now is “making sure people have meals, water and shelter,” Mapp said.

“An event of this magnitude is very chilling.”

The territory’s two islands were battered by 150 mph (241 kph) winds for four hours. Two fire stations, two fire police stations and the hospital on St. Thomas were destroyed.

A curfew was ordered for St. John and St. Thomas that also covered about 5,000 tourists who were unable to leave before the storm.

► Cost of airfare...

Continued from page 2

When asked if a Hawaiian frequent flyer member can donate frequent flyer miles directly to the local Red Cross, Botticelli said the airline’s frequent flyers cannot donate their miles directly to an organization.

“They can share their miles with the person traveling as long as they have a Hawaiian Airlines credit card,” said Botticelli, who is the airline’s senior vice president of corporate communication and public affairs.

“The other option, if they don’t have a Hawaiian Airlines credit card, is that the person willing to donate the miles

would have to make the reservations for the person traveling,” she continued.

When asked if Hawaiian offers special airfares for Red Cross volunteers deployed for disasters to the US from American Samoa, Botticelli replied,

“We do not have an agreement with the Red Cross. We do have an agreement for travel with AirLink, but not with the Red Cross.”

Under the airline’s charity program, Hawaiian at the end of the year will match up to a half-million miles for each participating charity.

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- BAR S CHOPPED HAM - 10LB..... \$19.95/pk
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- HOFFY SAUSAGE - 10LB..... \$12.95/cs

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- DIAMOND RICE - 2LB..... \$1.25/bg
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- SUGAR - 2KG..... \$2.40/pk
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- LIPTON 50CT..... \$2.95/pk
- LIPTON 100CT..... \$4.50/pk
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- WESSON OIL 48oz..... \$3.90/pk
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Former US presidents raising money for hurricane relief

WASHINGTON (AP) — The five living former U.S. presidents said Thursday they would team up to create the “One America Appeal” to raise money for storm recovery as Texas and Louisiana seek to regroup from Harvey and Florida and the Atlantic coast brace for Hurricane Irma.

The hurricane recovery effort was announced by former presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter.

Online donations can be made at OneAmericaAppeal.org.

The current president, Donald Trump, tweeted his support: “We will confront ANY challenge, no matter how strong the winds or high the water. I’m proud to stand with Presidents for #OneAmericaAppeal.”

The hurricanes represent the latest philanthropic collaboration by living ex-U.S. presidents and their first joint effort

since Trump’s election. The elder Bush and Clinton raised money for victims of the devastating tsunami in Asia in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

After Haiti’s massive earthquake in 2010, Obama tapped Clinton and the younger Bush to lead a relief effort.

For the Bush family, Harvey struck close to home.

George H.W. Bush lives part of the year in Houston while George W. Bush, a former Texas governor, lives in Dallas.

Organizers said a special restricted account had been established through the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation to collect and quickly distribute donations. Officials said “100 cents out of every dollar” donated will help hurricane victims.

All donations are tax-deductible.

The effort was being launched with a public service announcement broadcast on

NBC during the Thursday night kickoff of the NFL season.

Donations designated to help victims of Harvey will be distributed to the Houston Harvey Relief Fund and the Rebuild Texas Fund.

The appeal is expected to be expanded to help those affected by Irma, which could strike south Florida and the state’s Atlantic Coast and then move up into Georgia and South Carolina.

Harvey has caused widespread flooding in Houston and elsewhere and has been blamed for at least 71 deaths, while damaging more than 200,000 homes.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has suggested that Harvey’s damages could cost up to \$180 billion, even more than from Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

JOB OPENING AMERICAN SAMOA PUBLIC SCHOOL REPAIR PROJECTS MANAGEMENT TEAM

HHF Planners is recruiting qualified staff to support the deferred maintenance reduction program (DMRP) for American Samoa public schools as part of the Office of Insular Affairs, Insular ABCs Initiative. One position is available:

Construction manager: develop project scopes and estimates; project observation and applying a practical knowledge of architecture and engineering, as well as construction; use the Enterprise Asset Management System to open, track and record work orders and associated documentation and other regular work practices.

Please review detailed description available at <http://www.hhf.com/about/careers/or> contact info@hhf.com for more information. Apply by September 22, 2017.



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APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The American Samoa Power Authority announces an excellent opportunity for young technically minded individuals who want a challenging, profitable career in American Samoa.

ASPA is looking for its next generation of technicians and engineers. Over the next few years, ASPA will be developing young technicians and engineers for key positions within the organization. It needs skilled specialists in a number of fields.

ASPA will provide employment and professional training for successful applicants. Apprentices will receive training both on the job and in formal apprenticeship classes. Qualified apprentices will receive an all-expense paid education at a technical school or university in New Zealand or equivalent. Applicants must be willing to commit to spending 2 – 3 years off-island in pursuit of a diploma or degree. The focus for this apprentice program will be on mechanical and electrical trades or a related field.

Selected apprentices will be employed by ASPA in preparation for the academic session starting in February 2018.

Applicants must have the following qualifications:

Educational Requirements: High School graduate (minimum); Associate degree or better preferred. Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or maintained at least a B or better grade average in the following courses:
(1) Physics, Chemistry, General Science
(2) Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus
(3) English (TOEFL score of 500 or better)

Skills and Aptitudes: Intermediate level computer skills. Ability to work independently, disciplined, self-starter, technically minded (confirmed by required references). Other desirable skills include hand-eye coordination, motor skills, attention to detail, and work well in a team environment.

Citizenship: US National or Citizen.

Testing: All applicants will be required to complete ASPA’s internal testing for science and math ability.

Salary will be based on the technical area and job duties assigned.

Applicants must complete an ASPA Employment Application Form and provide two written references. The form is available at ASPA Human Resource Office in Tafuna or via ASPA’s website at www.aspower.com

All application information, including school records and references, will be subject to verification as part of the screening process.

Deadline for submitting applications is 4pm, September 29th, 2017.

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▶ WPRFM...

Continued from page 3

giant clams.

For example, in “American Samoa no giant clam can be harvested if below 7 inches”, she explained, and noted that commercial sale of clams must be whole with meat still attached to the shell, while giant clams for personal consumption must have meat attached to the shell until they reach the fishermen’s home or place of consumption.

“These regulations do not apply to clams raised in captivity as long as the clam culturist has a valid aquaculture permit from the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources and can prove that the clam was raised in captivity,” Simonds wrote to Lisa Manning of the NMFS Office of Protected Resources.

The federal government has established extensive Marine National Monuments around Rose Atoll in American Samoa as well as CNMI and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIAs), which prohibits all extractive activities including commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing.

Simonds pointed out that several of the giant clam species to be included in the NMFS’ status review occur in territories and some of these species are not known to occur naturally in waters surrounding the U.S. Flag Pacific Islands, but were introduced from other areas of the Pacific such as Palau.

For example, T. derasa was introduced into American Samoa in the mid-1980s from Palau, and T. gigas was similarly introduced into American

Samoa in the early 1990s. Prior to introduction, T. derasa was not previously known to occur in American Samoa, and T. gigas was also not likely to have occurred historically in American Samoa due to the lack of fossil shell embedded in the fringing reefs.

In its review, Simonds suggests that NMFS should clearly distinguish between natural distributions of each species and areas outside of the natural distribution where certain species were intentionally introduced, especially in the U.S. Flag Pacific Islands where ESA provisions apply.

“Should NMFS proceed with proposed listing of any of the giant clam species, we request that the distinction between the natural and introduced distributions be considered in its rule-making related to prohibitions,” she said.

According to Simonds, the Council requests that NMFS, in the process of conducting the status review for the seven giant clam species, consult and work closely with the staff of Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center’s (PIFSC) Coral Reef Ecosystem Program, who have wealth of data on giant clam species occurrence, clam densities, and impacts of climate change on giant clams in the Western and Central Pacific.

Additionally, NMFS should consult with other giant clam experts, as well as the appropriate agencies in American Samoa, CNMI and Guam. The Council has also offered its assistance.



American Samoa Government
DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE

Public Notice


NOTICE OF PUBLIC INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE American Samoa Government CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) Program Year 2016

Notice is hereby given that the American Samoa will submit a Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2016 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) before September 20, 2017. The CAPER is an annual report that describes the use of the following Community Planning and Development (CPD) Programs funded by HUD: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) grant.

Citizens and interested parties are invited to review a draft copy of the CAPER. The draft is available for public review and comment(s) from September 1, 2017 to September 18, 2017 at the Department of Commerce during office hours from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The public has fifteen (15) days to comment on the proposed CAPER draft. All comments must be submitted in writing to the CPD Coordinator by letter or email to peti.matila@doc.as. A summary of public comments received will be included in the CAPER submitted to HUD.

Comments may be submitted to:

Ms. Petti T. Matila
Office of the Governor
A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building 3rd Floor
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799


Keniseli F. Lafiele
Director of Commerce



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-2434-17

Issuance Date: August 31, 2017 Closing Date: September 19, 2017
No later than 10:00am (local time)

- 1. INVITATION**
Sealed bids are being solicited to provide **Tech Equipment** for the LA-Immigration System Upgrade.
- 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), **Tuesday, September 19, 2017** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.
- 3. BID DOCUMENTS**
Bid documents, including Specifications, may be examined at the Office of Procurement or obtained there from free of charge during normal hours of operation.
- 4. CONDITIONS**
The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:
 - not accept the lowest or any bid.
 - reject all bids and reissue and amended IFB.
 - request additional information from any bidder submitting a bid.
 - waive any informalities in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.


DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

Equifax breach exposes 143 million people to identity theft

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Credit monitoring company Equifax has been hit by a high-tech heist that exposed the Social Security numbers and other sensitive information about 143 million Americans. Now the unwitting victims have to worry about the threat of having their identities stolen.

The Atlanta-based company, one of three major U.S. credit bureaus, said Thursday that “criminals” exploited a U.S. website application to access files between mid-May and July of this year.

The theft obtained consumers’ names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses and, in some cases, driver’s license numbers. The purloined data can be enough for crooks to hijack the identities of people whose credentials were stolen through no fault of their own, potentially wreaking havoc on their lives. Equifax said its core credit-reporting databases don’t appear to have been breached.

“On a scale of one to 10, this is a 10 in terms of potential identity theft,” said Gartner security analyst Avivah Litan. “Credit bureaus keep so much data about us that affects almost everything we do.”

Lenders rely on the information collected by the credit bureaus to help them decide whether to approve financing for homes, cars and credit cards. Credit checks are even sometimes done by employers when deciding whom to hire for a job.

Equifax discovered the hack July 29, but waited until Thursday to warn consumers. The Atlanta-based company declined to comment on that delay or anything else beyond its published statement. It’s not unusual for U.S. authorities to ask a company hit in a major hack to delay public notice so that investigators can pursue the perpetrators. The company established a website, <https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/>, where people can check to see if their personal information may have been stolen.

► Senator Fonoti...

Continued from page 1

Samoa News readers - both Samoan and non Samoans - residing off island.

The governor implemented in mid-April this year the reduction in working hours from 80 to 70 hours per pay period, but there were certain employees who were exempted such as medical professionals and teachers. It was later that the governor added to the exemption list, employees whose salaries are funded with federal money.

Lolo also made clear at the time that he along with the lieutenant governor as well as executive branch directors were included in the reduction of hours. Since the later part June, the only employees still affected by the reduction of working hours are those making \$30,000 or more and this includes directors - whose salaries are above the \$50,000 mark.

At the Senate committee hearing Monday, Fonoti asked about the status of the 10-hour reduction every pay period for government employees, to which ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaipē’a explained that only employees making \$30,000 or more are currently affected.

Fonoti said directors are the ones who always face the Fono, and for some, once they are fully confirmed as cabinet director, they quickly travel off island, along with a large per-diem while employees stay behind and do all the work.

Fonoti said that if she was governor, the priority would be to cut the salaries of directors instead of the entire workforce. She said she has shared this view with her family and asked the witnesses what they thought about her suggestion.

The witnesses - which included Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, Commerce director Keniseli Lafaele, Port Administration director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele, Budget and Planning Office director Catherine Aigamaua Saelua and the governor’s executive assistant Iulogologo Joseph Pereira - sort of looked at each other, not sure who was going to answer Fonoti’s question.

Several seconds went by before Iulogologo responded by first referring to a popular Samoan saying, “e pule lava Sitaiane i le la o lona va’a”. He pointed out that the final decision rests with the governor, and directors are included in the reduction in working hours.

When Iulogologo said he will relay Fonoti’s message to the governor, Fonoti quickly responded, “You should be the first one” to have your salary cut. The statement resulted in laughter from the witnesses and several senators.

Durning a cabinet meeting in June the governor said he and Lemanu continue to review the government’s financial situation and there’s a possibility that the reduction will remain in effect until the end of the fourth quarter - which is Sept. 30th, also the end of the current 2017 fiscal year.

Magnitude-8.1 earthquake hits south Mexico, tsunami possible

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A massive 8.1-magnitude earthquake hit off the coast of southern Mexico, toppling houses in Chiapas state, causing buildings to sway violently as far away as the country’s distant capital city and setting off a tsunami warning.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake struck at 11:49 p.m. Thursday local time and its epicenter was 165 kilometers (102 miles) west of Tapachula in southern Chiapas state not far from Guatemala. It had a depth of 35 kilometers (22 miles).

The U.S. Tsunami Warning System said hazardous tsunami waves were possible on the Pacific coasts of several Central American countries, including Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and Honduras, within three hours. There was no tsunami threat for the U.S. West Coast, but the warning system said waves could reach Mexico and as far as Ecuador.

“The house moved like chewing gum and the light and internet went out momentarily,” said Rodrigo Soberanes, who lives near San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas, a poor largely indigenous state popular with tourists.

Civil Defense in Chiapas said on its Twitter account that its personnel were in the streets aiding people and warned residents to prepare for aftershocks. But it made no immediate comment about damage.

The quake was so powerful that frightened residents in Mexico City more than 1,000 kilometers (650 miles) away fled apartment buildings, often in their pajamas, and gathered in groups in the street.

Buildings swayed strongly for more than one minute, loosening light fixtures from ceilings. Helicopters crisscrossed the sky above Mexico City with spotlights. Some neighborhoods kept electricity while others remained in darkness.

In neighboring Guatemala, President Jimmy Morales spoke on national television to call for calm while emergency crews checked for damage. Local radio in the Central American country reported one death, but it could not be confirmed.

“We have reports of some damage and the death of one person, even though we still don’t have exact details,” Morales said. He said the possible death occurred in San Marcos state near the border with Mexico.

S. Korea braces for another possible N. Korea missile test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea is closely watching North Korea over the possibility it may launch another intercontinental ballistic missile as soon as Saturday when it celebrates its founding anniversary. Seoul’s Unification Ministry spokeswoman Eugene Lee said Friday that Pyongyang could potentially conduct its next ICBM tests this weekend or around Oct. 10, another North Korean holiday marking the founding of its ruling party.

North Korea has previously marked key dates with displays of military power, but now its tests appear to be driven by the need to improve missile capabilities.

The North is just coming off its sixth and the most powerful nuclear test to date on Sunday in what it claimed was a detonation of a thermonuclear weapon built for its ICBMs. The country tested its developmental Hwasong-14 ICBMs twice in July and analysts say the flight data from the launches indicate the missiles could cover a broad swath of the continental United States, including major cities

such as Los Angeles and Chicago, when perfected.

North Korea fired the ICBMs at highly lofted angles in July to reduce ranges and avoid other countries. But South Korean officials say the next launches could be conducted at angles close to operational as the North would seek to test whether the warheads survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric re-entry and detonate properly.

In Washington, President Donald Trump reiterated Thursday that military action is “certainly” an option against North Korea, as his administration tentatively concurred with the pariah nation’s claim to have tested a hydrogen bomb. A senior administration official said the U.S. was still assessing last weekend’s underground explosion but so far noted nothing inconsistent with Pyongyang’s claim.

“Military action would certainly be an option,” Trump told a White House news conference. “I would prefer not going the route of the military, but it’s something certainly that could happen.”



Local Department of Homeland Security personnel came out in full force last Friday during Workforce Appreciation Day which was held at the Veterans Memorial Stadium in Tafuna.

[photo: FS]



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT “PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING”

ASCC Land Grant Program will be conducting a Pesticide Applicator Safety training for those who handle farm chemicals. If you are using farm pesticides, or you are planning to use chemicals in the near future, this is a good opportunity for you to attend this important training. The training schedule is as follows:

Date: September 11-15, 2017
Time: 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
Place: ASCC Land Grant Training Room

Registration is FREE. To confirm your participation for this training, please call Joyce or Helen at 699-1575/2019.

Thank You.

FAAALIGA FA’ALAU’ITELE

“A’oa’oga mo i lātou o lo’o fa’aaogāina vailā’au o’ona”

‘O le a faia se a’oa’oga mo i latou o lo’o fa’aaogā vailā’au o’ona i fa’atoaga. A fai o lo’o ‘ē fa’aaogā vailā’au o’ona, po o ‘ē faamoemoe fo’i e te fa’aaogā i se taimi o i luma, o lou avanoa lelei lenei e te ‘auai ai i lenei a’oa’oga tāua. ‘O taimi la nei mo lenei vasega:

Aso: Setema 11-15, 2017
Taimi: 12:00 - 4:00 i le afiafi
Nofoaga e fai ai: Potu mo A’oa’oga, a le Vaega o Laufanua ma Atina’e a le Kolisi Tu’u Faatasi ma Alaalafaga a Amerika Samoa

‘E leai se totogi o le resitala. A fai e te fia ‘auai i lenei a’oa’oga, fa’amolemole ia fa’afeso’ota’i mai Joyce po o Helen i le telefoni 699-1575/2019.

Fa’afetai.

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Authorities say 5 children die in Alaska trailer-home fire

PALMER, Alaska (AP) — Five children — all believed to be girls between 3 and 12 — died Thursday in a trailer fire in suburban Anchorage, Alaska, authorities said.

The bodies will be sent to the city for autopsies and positive identification. Officials were not releasing much information.

A fire marshal told an Anchorage television station there were complicating factors to the fire.

Asked to elaborate, Alaska Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Megan Peters said, “All fires are complicated. This one is even more complicated” because of the five deaths.

It was not immediately known if the girls were related or if there were adults in the trailer home when the fire erupted.

“There are a lot of unknowns,” Peters said. “Essentially all the questions reporters have and people in the community have, we have those too.”

Peters said interviews were being conducted, and the fire marshal was working to determine the cause of the fire.

The home is down a dirt lane, off a major road in an undeveloped area about 45 miles southeast of Anchorage.

It’s among several other homes in an area called The Butte, accessible by a highway that takes traffic between Anchorage and Palmer.

Fire officials were notified of the blaze just before 7 a.m. The trailer was fully engulfed when firefighters arrived and were told there were five people unaccounted for.

Except for saying that all five bodies were found inside the trailer, Peters didn’t have a narrative of what happened.

“You don’t have to have kids for this to break your heart,” she said.

Autopsies will determine how the girls died — whether it was from the fire, smoke inhalation or some other factor, Peters said.

Ron Alcock, who lives next door, called the victims the “sweetest girls in the world,” saying they would play with his children. He dreaded having to tell his daughters what happened.

He said he left for work at 4:30 a.m. and saw lights on in the trailer next door. Though that was unusual, he knew the man living there had just taken a new job.

No other mobile homes on the lane appeared to suffer any fire damage. Yellow police tape at the beginning of the lane kept reporters and onlookers at bay.



This Sept. 6, 2017 photo shows storm damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in St. Martin. Irma cut a path of devastation across the northern Caribbean, leaving thousands homeless after destroying buildings and uprooting trees. Significant damage was reported on the island known as St. Martin in English which is divided between French Saint-Martin and Dutch Sint Maarten. (Jonathan Falwell via AP)