



Matafao Elementary School students with their ASCC student teacher on the day of her "Culmination" peer review.

[Courtesy photo]



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2017

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DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

HOLIDAY EVENTS

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What's Happening throughout December

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To start off our Holiday happening is the popular Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Hotel & Bungalows in Apia, Samoa.

Offering the finest facilities for your stay in Samoa, the Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Hotel & Bungalows is set on making Christmas effortless and intimate for you and your family.

Christmas Lunch will be a private dining experience with a set menu crafted for social or family gatherings. Lunch will be WST \$175 per person and offers Artisan bread, a selection of salads including Tuna Niçoise, Waldorf, Poached Prawns, Mediterranean Pasta, Salmon Oka, Poke & Sashimi.

A delicious variety of mains include Braised Cabbage & Bacon, Moroccan Spiced Chicken,

(Continued on page 8)



IT'S LIFE THREATENING: CT scanner at LBJ down now for two weeks

MEANWHILE, STROKE PATIENTS HEAD TO SAMOA AND NZ FOR LIFE SAVING TREATMENT

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Tualauta Faipule, Rep. Vui Florence Saulo is requesting the House Health Committee to set up a hearing with LBJ Hospital officials, to discuss the problem with the CT scanner which has been inoperable for over two weeks.

Vui told House members this week she was saddened to hear about the case of a young woman from her district, who was rushed to the hospital after she suffered a stroke but was told the CT scanner wasn't working.

Vui said the young woman's life was saved by the love of God, through a quick connection between the American Samoa Government and the New Zealand Government, which resulted in an air ambulance medivac'ing the patient to Auckland for treatment.

"Without the help from NZ, this young woman would have lost her life because of the CT scanner problem at the hospital," Vui said. "The doctor on duty couldn't do anything to check on her situation because the CT scanner was down."

Vui thanked Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, ASG, and the director of the local Medicaid office, Sandra King Young, for the efforts that she said saved the woman's life.

House Speaker, Savali Talavou Ale reminded Vui that the Governor's Special Session will only cover the two items on the agenda, nothing else.

However, committee hearings to discuss essential issues involving the hospital and other issues pertaining to the health of the community will not stop; but, they will come after the special session.

House Health Committee chairman, Rep. Vesi Talalelei Fautanu Jr. said a hearing with officials from the hospital to discuss this issue will be called later this month.

A family member of the young woman, Vui spoke about, told Samoa News she was rushed to the hospital on Nov. 11 and told by a doctor that there was nothing they could do, because the CT scanner wasn't working.

The woman was taken to the ICU while negotiations were underway for help.

The family member said their family requested for a medivac to Hawai'i to get her an MRI/CT, because the doctor at LBJ was only guessing the cause of the problem, and wasn't sure about the diagnosis because the CT scanner was down.

Two days after the woman was admitted to the ICU, family members asked the LBJ CEO for an update on the CT scanner and his response was — according to the family member — he didn't know because it had been 3 weeks since the scanner was down.

Four days later, on Nov. 15, the woman's family received good news from the hospital. They confirmed that a medivac was ready to pick up the patient and take her to NZ for treatment. The air ambulance arrived at Pago Pago International Airport around 4:30 p.m. to pick up the woman and her husband.

The next day, the woman's husband posted a status on his Facebook page saying, "Talofa family and friends. We arrived safely in NZ and are at the Auckland City Hospital. After the CT scan, (it showed) my wife suffered a major stroke when in American Samoa. Brain swelling on right side and EMS surgery was done to drain liquid. Surgery successful and in recovery room."

A similar situation was reported to Samoa News by the father of a young woman from Pava'ia'i, who was rushed to the Moto'otua Hospital in Apia after seeking help at LBJ but was told that the CT scanner wasn't working.

"God saved my daughter's life," he said. "She was rushed twice to the LBJ hospital but the doctor told us there's nothing he can do, the scanner is down. We borrowed money from our church to pay for my wife and daughter's fare to go to Samoa."

According to the man, his daughter suffered a major stroke and they are seeking help from the Samoa government, to send the girl to NZ.

During last week's Cabinet meeting, LBJ CEO Faumuina Taufete'e Faumuina told directors the only problem the hospital is facing at this time has to do with the CT scanner — it had been down for two weeks so far, and a special engineer from off-island will arrive this week with a new part to install.

(Continued on page 8)

Siren will wail in Hawaii test for possible nuclear attack



HONOLULU (AP) — Just days after North Korea tested its most powerful missile yet, Hawaii is dusting off a relic not heard on the islands since the end of the Cold War.

The monthly test of Hawaii’s siren warning system for tsunamis and other natural disasters will have an added tone when it sounds Friday — one designed to alert residents of an impending nuclear attack.

“We believe that it is imperative that we be prepared for every disaster, and in today’s world, that includes a nuclear attack,” Hawaii Gov. David Ige said, adding that the possibility is remote.

Ige said the new test will ensure the public knows what they should do in case of an imminent attack. If a missile is launched, residents and tourists would have less than 20 minutes to take shelter, officials said.

“There needs to be different action taken should there be a nuclear attack than what is expected for a hurricane or tsu-

nami,” the governor said this week.

The attack warning with a wailing sound will be tested after a test of the long, steady siren for tsunamis and other events that people in Hawaii have grown accustomed to.

Vern Miyagi, administrator for Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, said the state delayed the test for a month to let people know it would be happening. Hawaii turned to public service announcements on TV and radio, town hall meetings, information on agency websites and media stories.

“The public can handle it. They’re not going to panic,” Miyagi said.

The test comes the same week that North Korea fired a powerful nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile it calls the Hwasong-15, leading analysts to conclude the nation has made a jump in its missile capability. The weapon would have a range of more than 8,100 miles (13,000 kilometers),

(Continued on page 7)

Fisherman arrested for marijuana possession

SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW WEED WAS ILLEGAL IN AMERICAN SAMOA

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

A fisherman on board the Natalia Victoria was arrested last week after illegal drugs were allegedly found on the vessel when it docked at the main port in Fagatogo.

Christopher Reynolds is charged with attempt to import a controlled substance — a misdemeanor - and unlawful possession a controlled substance, to wit; marijuana - a class D felony.

Reynolds made his initial appearance before District Court Judge, Fiti Sunia yesterday morning. His attorney, Assistant Public Defender Ryan Nelson asked for bail to be reduced to \$1,000 but the court agreed with Prosecutor Woodrow Pengelly’s argument, to keep the bail amount at \$2,000.

The defendant is scheduled for a preliminary examination hearing this morning.

According to the court affidavit, during an inspection by Customs agents, there were suspicions that illegal drugs were on board the vessel after two pill bottles with four different types of medications were

discovered.

In addition, Customs agents also found an empty white bottle that smelled of marijuana, as well as a wooden pipe filled with a green leafy substance that appeared to be marijuana.

Once contacted, several police officers and a K-9 dog from the DPS Vice & Narcotics were at the site.

The inspection took place during the morning hours of Nov. 27th

Reynolds occupied the cabin where the bottles were discovered.

When confronted by police, the defendant said he uses the containers recovered by police to store his medicine (antibiotics).

But investigators claim the container didn’t smell of antibiotics. They even handed it over to Reynolds so he could take a whiff, after which he said it did smell like marijuana.

When asked if there was any marijuana on the vessel, the defendant responded, “Yes just a little.”

Reynolds then pointed to where the marijuana was allegedly stored. He took police officers outside of the cabin, where

he retrieved — and handed to police — a piece of a wooden pipe that was stuffed with a green leafy substance, which tested positive for marijuana.

The defendant, along with other members of the vessel’s fishing crew, were escorted the DPS main central station for further questioning.

According to Reynolds, he didn’t know marijuana is illegal in the territory, and he only uses it to ease the pain of an infected tooth.

He added that the two types of pills in the container are muscle relaxers and antibiotics he takes for the same condition.

After he asked police what the punishment for marijuana possession is in the territory, Reynolds said, “It’s only a little bit... I won’t ever bring any here again, or ever bring it on the boat.”

When questioned by police, other crewmembers said Reynolds is new to the team and in the 29 days they spent at sea, they had no idea he was using marijuana.

Reynolds is remanded to custody until he is able to post bond.

New Zealand dairy giant Fonterra to pay Danone for recall

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) — An arbitration tribunal has ordered New Zealand dairy giant Fonterra to pay Danone of France \$125 million for recall costs stemming from a 2013 food scare.

The recall was made out of concerns, which proved later to be untrue, that some Fonterra products supplied to four Danone Nutricia baby formula plants in Asia were tainted by bacteria that can cause botulism.

Danone recalled products from eight regional markets.

Fonterra said Friday that it was disappointed over the ruling by an arbitration tribunal. It says its supplier agreement with Danone made it not liable for the recall costs.

Danone issued a statement welcoming the decision.

Fonterra is a cooperative owned by more than 10,500 farmers and enjoys a near monopoly on New Zealand milk. It is the world’s biggest dairy exporter.

The cooperative’s CEO, Theo Spierings, said in a statement that the 2013 recall was precautionary and that reviews by Fonterra and by the New

Zealand government found no risk to the public or wrongdoing by the company.

“The decision to invoke a precautionary recall was based on technical information obtained from a third party, which later turned out to be incorrect,” it said.

Worries over product quality of infant formula are a strong concern in Asia, especially China, after repeated problems with safety violations in the dairy industry.

The 2013 scare affected sports drinks, protein drinks and other beverages in addition to formula sold in New Zealand, China, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia. It was treated as a national emergency in New Zealand, where the dairy industry drives the economy.

The New Zealand government charged Fonterra with processing and exporting products in a way that failed to meet safety standards and then not notifying officials quickly enough when it learned of the lapses. The company pleaded guilty and was fined.

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USCG issues final waiver for use of only one tugboat at Port of Pago Pago

THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST “TWO CLOSE CALLS” IN THE HARBOR

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The US Coast Guard has issued the third and probably the final waiver to the Port of Pago Pago — allowing the use of one tugboat — while ASG’s Port Administration Department has secured for purchase, a second tugboat in the US .

Despite the Coast Guard waiver, serious concerns remain amongst lawmakers and others in the community over the use of one tugboat, the Sailele, for Pago Pago Harbor especially when oil tankers and cruise ships call into port.

And there have been at least “two close calls involving tank vessels,” in the harbor, according to a Coast Guard letter to Port Administration. This has further raised concerns from lawmakers, as ASG is liable if something serious happens in port.

The Port of Pago Pago — which comes under the jurisdiction of the US Coast Guard Captain of the Port Honolulu, headed by USCG Capt. Michael C. Long — was first issued a waiver for use of one tugboat in Oct. 28, 2016. Long issued a second waiver, effective Sept. 1, 2017 for a 10-week extension, permitting single tug operations until Nov. 15th, 2017. (See Samoa News Sept. 25th edition for details.)

Responding to Samoa News questions, Honolulu-based Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Scott Carr said Port Administration sent a letter to the Captain of the Port on Nov. 22 as well as a follow up email earlier this week to inform the Coast Guard that they are making progress in the purchase of a towing vessel and have narrowed down the search to one vessel.

At last week’s cabinet meeting, Port Administration director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele said she has received word from deputy director, Chris King, who is in Louisiana with Capt. Mike Pulu, that a tugboat has been identified and the next step now is purchasing the vessel.

Thereafter, it will probably take four weeks to prepare to sail and a crew should also be dispatched from here to bring the tugboat home, she said, adding that it’s been a year since the Coast Guard issued the first waiver allowing the use of one tugboat.

Under Coast Guard regulations, there should be two tugboats to bring vessels such as tankers, cruise ships and cargo ships into the harbor, said Taimalelagi.

Capt. Long informed Taimalelagi in a Nov. 15, 2017 letter that her request for a waiver from the Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) requiring two tug escorts in Pago Pago Harbor is approved until Mar. 15, 2018.

“There will be no further waivers granted for this purpose,” Long wrote in a copy of the letter Carr provided to Samoa News. Long said compliance with the stipulated APC criteria was last achieved in October 2016.

“Over the last year, there has been difficulty with availability of credentialed mariners, two close calls involving tank vessels, and issues related

to funding to achieve compliance,” Long noted.

Although he understands the need for additional time for Port Administration to acquire and operate an additional towing vessel to meet the APC criteria, “Due to safety and other concerns, I cannot continue to waive the APC requirements,” he told Taimalelagi.

If unable to meet compliance with the purchase of a second tug by Mar. 15th of next year, Long requested to be immediately briefed on the Port’s contingency plan.

Carr told Samoa News the “safe flow of maritime commerce in and out of the Port of Pago Pago is a priority of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Captain of the Port is committed to continue to work with Port Administration as they work to come into compliance with the Alternative Planning Criteria.”



FILE - In this June 19, 2012 file photo, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko leave after praying at the altar of the late Prince Tomohito, in Tokyo. Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Emperor Akihito plans to abdicate on April 30, 2019, in the first such abdication in about 200 years. The emperor will be 85 by then and has cited his age as a concern. Akihito’s elder son Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend the throne a day later, on May 1, 2019, beginning a new era.

(AP Photo/Itsuo Inouye, File)



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

P.O. BOX 9, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163.
Website: www.dbas.as

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Approved to issuance by: Ruth Matagi-Fa’atili; DBAS President
Date of issuance: Dec 1, 2017
Date & Time Due: December 30, 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

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 Dec 1, 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 December 30, 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.



StarKist CEO: Tax credit extension “very critical” for Am Samoa plant

by Steve Bittenbender, Seafood Source

As the United States Senate debates whether to pass a tax reform bill, the tiny territory of American Samoa is hoping a proposed tax credit extension will stick with the proposed legislation.

U.S. Delegate Aumua Amata, America Samoa’s non-voting congressional representative, said extending the American Samoa Economic Development Credit is a needed to entice investment and keep jobs in the southern Pacific territory that relies heavily on the seafood industry.

Amata’s provision seeks to extend the credit through 2022. The House of Representatives passed the bill on 16 November.

“We’re pleased to not only get our request for an extension of the tax credit itself, but also add economic stability by expanding it to six years for better business planning,” said Amata in a statement a day after the vote. “So far, it’s encouraging news for American Samoa and we’ll keep working through completion of the entire legislative process.”

Tuna dominates the American Samoa economy, representing 93 percent of the territory’s total exports.

Amata cited a U.S. Department of Labor report from 2007 that said without the credit, companies could be forced to relocate.

In October 2016, Tri Marine International shuttered its canning facility, which employed 800 people. In April, a company spokesperson said there were no plans to reopen it.

StarKist, owned by Dongwon Industries, currently employs about 2,300 workers in American Samoa for processing and canning. Andrew Choe, StarKist’s president and chief executive officer, told the Wall Street Journal the tax credit was “very critical” for the company to continue operating in the territory.

“This credit does help us to stay competitive,” Choe said.

Senate leaders are currently reviewing and amending the bill. If the credit is not included in the version the Senate passes – although passage there is not guaranteed – it could be brought back into through the committee process before it goes to U.S. President Donald Trump for his signature.

“Ensuring the renewal of this economic development credit has been an ongoing priority to preserve jobs and promote investment in American Samoa,” Amata said. “It’s important that our federal tax policy reflects an understanding of American Samoa’s unique economic needs.”

Reprinted with permission from Seafood Source, a leading online source for global seafood industry news, trends, expo coverage and business resources.



This combination photo shows Geraldo Rivera at “The Celebrity Apprentice” panel at the NBC 2015 Winter TCA in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 16, 2015, left, and Bette Midler at the 15th Annual Movies for Grownups Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 8, 2016. Midler is renewing an allegation of sexual misconduct against Geraldo Rivera, a day after Rivera called the news business “flirty.” In a tweet posted Thursday by Midler and confirmed by her publicist, the actress-singer called on Rivera to apologize for an assault she said occurred four decades ago.

(Photo by Richard Shotwell, left, and Rich Fury/Invision/AP, File)

Anchors, moguls, politicians: the growing list of accused

NEW YORK (AP) — Since The New York Times published allegations of sexual harassment and assault against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein in October, multiple men in entertainment, media and politics in the U.S. and beyond have faced allegations ranging from inappropriate behavior to forced sexual misconduct to rape. This week, allegations against “Today” show host Matt Lauer and humorist Garrison Keillor led to their prompt dismissals, while music mogul Russell Simmons stepped down from the companies he founded after a second allegation of sexual misconduct.

To be sure, prominent men have faced sexual misconduct claims before. But the accusations against Weinstein have opened a floodgate, sparked an international conversation and put new pressure on companies, industries, and political leaders to respond. President Donald Trump has condemned some of the accused, been more muted about others, and found himself again being asked about sexual harassment and misconduct allegations leveled against him during last year’s presidential campaign. The Republican says they’re fake.

The #Metoo moment is also prompting re-examination of past sexual misconduct claims against powerful men, including Democratic former President Bill Clinton in the 1990s. He was impeached and then acquitted of perjury and obstruction of lawmakers’ investigation into his sexual encounters with a White House intern, and he settled a sexual harassment lawsuit stemming from his time as Arkansas governor.

A look at some of the men accused since the Weinstein accusations emerged:

Entertainment:

— Celebrity chef John Besh — Accused by 25 women of

sexual harassment. He has stepped down from the company he founded.

— Singer Nick Carter — Accused by pop singer Melissa Schuman of raping her approximately 15 years ago. Carter has denied her allegations.

— Comedian Louis C.K. — Accused by five women of sexual misconduct. Planned release of film “I Love You, DaFriday, December 01, 2017” halted. Netflix special canceled. He says the allegations are true and has apologized.

— Cinefamily executives Hadrian Belove and Shadie Elnashai — Accused of sexual misconduct. Movie theater shut down in the wake of allegations due to crippling debt.

— Actor Richard Dreyfuss — One woman alleges sexual harassment. He denies the allegation.

— Film producer Adam Fields — Accused of offering a promotion to a woman at his former employer, Relativity Media, in exchange for sex. He has denied the allegations.

— Director-producer Gary Goddard — Accused by one man of sexually molesting him when the man was 12. He denies the allegation.

— Casting employee Andy Henry — Admitted to urging women to take off their clothes during coaching sessions in 2008 while working on the “CSI” series. He was fired by his current employer.

— Actor Dustin Hoffman — Accused by woman of sexual harassing when she was 17. He has apologized for his behavior.

— Playwright Israel Horowitz — Accused by nine women of sexual misconduct, including forcible kissing and rape. He tells The New York Times his recollection of the events is different from the women’s accounts and apologized “with all my heart to any woman who has ever felt compromised by

my actions.”

— Actor Robert Knepper — Accused by one woman of sexual assault. He denies the allegations.

— Showrunner Andrew Kreisberg — Accused by 19 women of sexual harassment and inappropriate touching. The “Supergirl” and “Arrow” showrunner has been fired by Warner Bros. Television Group. He told Variety he has made comments on women’s appearances and clothes “but they were not sexualized.”

— Pixar and Disney Animation chief John Lasseter — Accused by several women of unwanted touching and has announced he is taking a six-month leave of absence. He has acknowledged some “missteps” with employees and apologized for any behavior that made workers uncomfortable.

— Actor Jeremy Piven — Accused by several women of sexual misconduct. He denies all allegations.

— Filmmaker Brett Ratner — Accused by at least six women of sexual harassment. Playboy shelved projects with Ratner and Ratner stepped away from Warner Bros. related activities. He denies the allegations.

— Comedy festival organizer Gilbert Rozon — Accused by at least nine women of sexually harassing or sexually assaulting them. Rozon stepped down as president of Montreal’s renowned “Just for Laughs” festival and apologized “to all those I have offended during my life.”

— Producer Chris Savino — Accused of harassing up to 12 women. Fired from Nickelodeon. He has apologized for his behavior.

— Actor Steven Seagal — Accused by two women of rape. He denies the allegations.

— Def Jam Records founder Russell Simmons — Accused

(Continued on page 13)

Police: Driver purposely struck wife, child of deputy

PHOENIX (AP) — Witnesses pulled a man out of a pickup truck and detained him for police after he appeared to intentionally drive onto a Phoenix sidewalk, killing the wife of a deputy sheriff and injuring his 11-year-old daughter. Authorities said Thursday. Court documents show Trent Ferree told homicide detectives that he drove around the area “looking for a victim to run over” and “claimed it was the combination of drinking alcohol and hearing vibrations and voices that made him want to murder someone.”

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office said the victims were the wife and daughter of a veteran deputy sergeant.

Phoenix police identified the woman killed as Amy Chervenak, 47, but didn’t immediately release the girl’s name.

The victims didn’t know Ferree, who lives in Mesa,

according to police.

Witnesses said the woman and her daughter were walking back to their home after going to their mailbox when they were struck from behind by a pickup truck. Ferree is accused of striking the woman at least three more times before several neighbors stopped him and pulled him from the vehicle and held him until police arrived.

Investigators learned that a 53-year-old man and 48-year-old woman also walking in the neighborhood earlier had to jump out of the way to avoid being struck by the pickup.

Chervenak was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Sheriff’s officials said a support crew was comforting Sgt. Steve Chervenak, who has been with the department since 2007.

Police said Ferree was booked into jail on suspicion of first-degree murder and three counts of attempted murder.





American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH
DECEMBER 2017

WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes kill over 40,000 people and injure three million every year, at a cost to society of some \$150 billion annually;

WHEREAS, alcohol-related crashes account for approximately 40 percent of those deaths and injuries;

WHEREAS, the December holiday season is traditionally one of the most deadly times of the year for alcohol impaired driving

WHEREAS, for thousands of families across the nation, the December holidays bring a somber reminder of the loved ones they lost to an impaired driver during a previous holiday season or at any time during the year;

WHEREAS, community-based programs involving consumer education, effective laws, and police enforcement have proven to be successful in reducing impaired driving;

WHEREAS, American Samoa is a partner in that effort to make our roads and streets safer;

WHEREAS, in 2014 in American Samoa there was a total of 135 drivers arrested for drunk driving accounting for 31% of all alcohol related cases;

WHEREAS, this December public and private organizations from our territory are joining the Department of Human and Social Services and the Department of Public Safety in promoting the National Impaired Driving Prevention Month under the theme "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over", by supporting anti-impaired driving program and policies;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Lieutenant Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga**, do hereby proclaim December 2017, as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month in American Samoa and hereby call upon all citizens, government agencies, business leaders, hospitals, schools, and public and private institutions in American Samoa to promote awareness of the impaired driving problem, to support programs and policies to reduce the incidence of impaired driving, to promote safer and healthier behaviors regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs, and to provide opportunities for all to participate in the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign this December holiday season and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature and Seal of the Office of the Governor on this 29th day of November, in the year of our Lord, two thousand seventeen.

FOLAFOLAGA FA'ALAU A'ITELE
MASINA O LE PUIPUIGA MAI LE AVE TA'AVALE FA'ASUA'AVA
TESEMA 2017

TALUAI, o ta'avale lavevea ua maliliu ai le silia i le 40,000 tagata, ma manunu'a ai le tolu miliona, ma le tau e tusa e 150 piliona tala i tausaga taitasi;

TALUAI, o fa'alavelave e feso'ota'i ma le ava malosi ma fuala'au fa'asaina, o lo'o mafua ai le 40 pasene o malii ma manu'aga ia;

TALUAI, o aso malolo ia Tesema o taimi ia e matua tele ai e maliliu ona o le ave ta'avale ma le ona;

TALUAI, mo le afe ma afe o aiga o le malo tele, o aso malolo ia Tesema e fa'amanatu mai ai aiga pele ua maliliu ona o aveta'avale onana i so'o se taimi o le tausaga;

TALUAI, ona o polokalama e faia i nu'u e pei o a'o'aoga, le tausiga ma le fa'amalosiga o tulafono, ua fa'amaonia lo latou aoga mo le fa'aitiitia o le aveta'avale ona.

TALUAI, o Amerika Samoa o se pa'aga i le taumafaiga ia saogalemu o tatou auala ma nofoaga.

TALUAI, o le tausaga e 2014 i Amerika Samoa, e 135 ta'avale na taofia ona o le aveta'avale ona, e tusa la ma le 31 pasene o fa'afitauli e aafia ai le ava malosi o le ave ta'avale ona, ae e leai se soifua na maumau ona o le ave ta'avale ona.

TALUAI, o fa'alapotopotoga i le atunu'u ua galulue fa'atasi ma le Matagaluega o Tautua ma Alaga Manuia mo Tagata Lautele (DHSS) ma le Matagaluega o le Puipuiga o Saogalemu Lautele, e fa'alauiloa le masina o Tesema mo le puipuiga o Saogalemu Lautele, e fa'alauiloa le masina o Tesema mo le puipuiga o le aveta'avale ona e mafua i le tagofia o lea ava malosi ma fuala'au fa'asaina.

O LE MEA LEA, O A'U LEMANU P.S. MAUGA, Lutena Kovana o Amerika Samoa, ou te fa'ailoa atu fa'alauaitele le masina o Tesema 2017, e avea ma masina mo le puipuiga o le aveta'avale ona, ona o le tagofia o le ava malosi ma fuala'au fa'asaina, ma ou te talosaga atu i tagatanu'u, ofisa o le malo, ta'ita'i o pisinisi, falema'i, aoga ma so'o se fa'alapotopotoga, ina ia fesoasoani e fa'alauitele le iloa e tagata o le fa'afitauli o le aveta'avale ona, ia lagolago atu i polokalama ma fa'ai'uga uma, ia fa'aitiitia ai le fa'afitauli; ia saili auala saogalemu ma aga talafeagai o le fa'aaogaina o le ava malosi ma fuala'au, ma saili avanoa mo tagata uma e auai i taumafaiga e puipui ai le aveta'avale ona, ae maise lava i le masina o Tesema atoa ma le tausaga fou.

Ua ou fa'amaonia ma **MA FA'AMAUF'AILOGAINA I LO'U SAINIA O LENEI** Poloa'iga Fa'alaua'itele i le aso 29 lenei o Novema, i le tausaga o lo tatou Ali'i lua afe sefulu fitu.

LEMANU P.S. MAUGA
 Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa



Senator Fonoti Tafa'ifa Aufata with Senator Paepae Iosefa Faiai who was confirmed yesterday by the Senate as an associate judge of the High Court of American Samoa. See story for details.

[photo: FS]

It's official: Paepae Iosefa Faiai is the newest High Court associate judge

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

In a show of support of Sen. Paepae Iosefa Faiai 's nomination as associate judge of the High Court, all 11 senators present during yesterday's Senate session voted "yes" by roll-call, instead of "by secret ballot" which — according to Senate rules — is how senators vote on confirmation of nominees. The action by senators followed a request by Sen. Faiivae Iuli Godinet to vote by "roll call", saying Paepae is a senatorial colleague. In support of the recommendation, Sen. Tuaolo Manaia Fruean moved to first "waive" Senate Rules on confirmation vote, and his fellow senators agreed.

Paepae thanked his colleagues for the blessing given to him — through the confirmation vote — saying he will very much miss all the senators, as he prepares to leave the Legislature to join the Judicial Branch.

An official Senate farewell for Paepae is slated for early next week, at which time he will also officially step down as a lawmaker.

Yesterday's vote followed Paepae's confirmation hearing Wednesday before the Senate Government Operations Committee (see yesterday's edition for details).According to the Chief Justice, Paepae is the Leone HS Class of 1981 valedictorian and after graduation, he enlisted in the US Army, serving 21 years with a career emphasis in aviation. Paepae attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida and in 2002, retired from the Army at the rank of Chief Warrant Officer III. He returned to the territory to serve his family, village and the American Samoa community.

With his military background in aviation and a US Federal Aviation Administration certification as an Airline

Transport Pilot, Paepae initially worked with the local inter island airlines as a pilot and chief from 2002 to 2009. He later worked for three years with ASG, managing and flying the ASG 'Segaula' aircraft.

Aside from his senatorial role, Paepae is also a ranking member and treasurer of the Nua and Se'etaga council of chiefs. He is a deacon and member of the CCCAS Nua and Se'etaga church, where he served as chairman and a member of its general finance committee.

OTHER FONO NEWS

The Senate and House yesterday approved in third reading their respective versions of an Administration bill that seeks to amend the Territorial Bank of American Samoa statute by deleting several provisions of the law pertaining to the bank's "Holding Company: — Territorial Bancorp Holding Company."

The House convened at 8a.m. yesterday, earlier than the usual 10a.m. session time to approve its version of the bill which was then immediately transmitted to the Senate, where it went through first reading yesterday. The bill will be presented today on the Senate floor for second reading, with third reading on Monday.

During its 10a.m. session yesterday, the Senate approved in third reading its version of the bill, which now goes to the House. The Fono this week also approved a Senate Concurrent Resolution which "conveys the heartfelt condolence and utmost sympathies" of the Fono and people of American Samoa to Mrs. Sia Grohse Salanoa as well as the Salanoa and Aumoeualogo families on the passing of former Sen. Salanoa Soli Aumoeualogo. The resolution, passed Wednesday by the Senate and yesterday by the House, also pays tribute to Salanoa's extensive service to his beloved home of American Samoa. Final funeral service for Salanoa, 78, is scheduled for today at the CCCAS Tula church followed by a burial service at his residence in Tafuna.

The Fono approved resolution will be read today during the church service.

Salanoa is survived by his wife, Sia Grohse Salanoa, 10 children, 23 grandchildren, and one-great-grandchild.



FA'ASILASILAGA OFISA O LE KONESULA SAMOA: ASO MALOLO KERISIMASI MA LE TAUSAGA FOU

E fa'asilasila atu ma le agaga fa'aaloalo i le mamalu o le atunu'u femalagaa'i e faapea:

O le a tapunia le Ofisa o le Konesula Aoa o Samoa, e afua atu i le **12:00 aoauli o le Aso Faraile, Tesema 22, 2017; seia aulia le itula 8:30 i le taeao o le Aso Lulu, Ianuari 03, 2018;** mo Aso Malolo o le Kerisimasi ma le Tausaga Fou.

E fautuaina ai le mamalu o e fufou malaga i Tumua e mana'omia pemitā, po o nisi auaunaga a lo tatou Ofisa nei mo ia aso Malolo, ina ia tapena mamao i ai.

Fa'afeta'i mai lo tatou Ofisa nei i telefoni 633-5919/633-5920; po o le imeli amtvpk1@gmail.com, pe a man'omia.

SUI TAIMI TAPUNIA O LE OFISA ASO FAIGALUEGA MASANI

Ina ia fesoaosani atili mo tapenaga mo aso Malolo, o le a suia ai le taimi tapunia ai le Ofisa mai le 3:00 (o lo'o iai nei) i le 3:30 p.m. i le Aso Faraile, Tesema 01, 2017 se'ia o'o i le Aso Tofi, Tesema 21, 2017.

A O TAPUNIA LE OFISA: TESEMA 25, 2017 - IANUARI 02, 2018

Mo ni Mataupu Le-Ma'alofia/Faanatinati a o tapunia le Ofisa ma aso Malolo ua ta'ua i luga; fa'amolemole fa'afeso'ota'i ane Alii Ofisa ia i Apia:

1. To'alepai Valhalla Siaopo Pese: +685-771-2166
2. Tailaoa Falaniko Lesa: +685-777-4504

E momoli atu le fa'afetai tele i le mamalu o le atunuu femalagaa'i mo lo outou taupati fai-pa'aga i lenei tausaga o le a mavae atu. Malo onosa'i, malo tauapati.

Momoli atu Mo'omo'oga alofa mo se Kerisimasi Fiafia ma le Tausaga Fou Manuia.

OFISA KONESULA-AOAO SAMOA

SAMOA CONSULATE GENERAL:

CLOSURE OF THE OFFICE FOR CHRISTMAS 2017 & NEW YEAR 2018

The general public is hereby advised that the Office of the Samoa Consulate-General will be Closed from **12:00 Noon, Friday, December 22, 2017 until 8:30a.m., Wednesday, January 03, 2018.**

The traveling public is therefore urged to arrange for their needed documentation and permits well before closure, to avoid disappointment.

Contact phone numbers and e-mail address remain the same (i.e. phone: 633-5919/633-5920 and email amtvpk1@gmail.com)

CHANGE OF CLOSING TIME

To assit in facilitating the procurement of documents and entry permits, the Consulate will extend its opening hours by Closing at 3:30pm on work days from Friday, December 01, 2017 until Thursday, December 21, 2017.

During closure for Christmas and New Year (December 25, 2017 - January 02, 2018).

For Emergency and extenuating circumstance only: Please contact the following

Immigration Officers in Apia:

1. To'alepai Valhalla Siaopo Pese: +685-771-2166
2. Taliaoa Falaniko Lesa: +685-777-4504

We take this opportunity to wish all our clients and the people of American Samoa all the very best for a most happy and joyous Christmas, and a safe and successful New Year.

SAMOA CONSULATE-GENERAL



FAIRNESS

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of it every day.**

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Samoa News at 633-5599*



**samoa
news**

Am Samoa signs on to agree- ments made at Two Samoa Talks

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Samoa based money transfer businesses wanting to open bank accounts in Pago Pago, business travel permits, and inspections fees were among the several issues that American Samoa and Samoa agreed upon, at this week’s Two Samoa Talks held in Apia.

The discussed and agreed upon issues, during the 10th Meeting on Cooperation Issues between the Two Samoa, were summarized in a six page executive communiqué, signed by Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and American Samoa Attorney General, Talauega Eleasalo Ale.

When asked why Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga didn’t sign the document, Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele said from Apia yesterday morning that “Governor Lolo was under the weather so he retreated to rest and Attorney General Talauega took his position leading the American Samoa delegation during deliberations and signing of the executive meeting communiqué.”

Lolo did attend the opening of the executive meeting, and he and Tuilaepa formally opened the meeting with their respective opening statements.

The executive session was held Thursday in Samoa (Wednesday in American Samoa) at the Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi Convention Center in the heart of Apia. The executive communiqué was the result of a separate meeting held Wednesday in Apia, between top officials of the two Samoas.

BANKING

The communiqué reveals that Apia-based Money Transfer Operators (MTO) have requested to set-up bank accounts in American Samoa, “but are unable to do so at this time due to global anti-money laundering policies and regulations practiced by ANZ bank” in the territory.

Therefore, MTOs from Samoa have proposed the possibility to set-up local bank accounts in American Samoa through the ASG owned Territorial Bank of American Samoa, which noted the MTOs request.

TBAS awaits a routing number from the Federal Reserve Board, which “could possibly facilitate” the opening of MTOs bank accounts in Pago Pago, the communiqué states.

At the same time, American Samoa has requested that the Central Bank of Samoa “assist with ensuring appropriate policies and regulations are in place to address money laundering.”

The Central Bank is Samoa’s reserve bank and as such it acts as a bank to the government

and commercial banks in the independent state, according to the bank’s website, which also provides information and laws pertaining to the Money Laundering Prevention Act.

TRAVEL PERMITS

American Samoa has proposed discussion with Samoa on a “Samoa Pass Program” to better facilitate travel between the two Samoa. The program, according to the communiqué, has two features.

The first is the “Samoa Pass”, which is proposed to be a “free three-day permit” for US Nationals to travel to Samoa. The second is the “Samoa Premium”, which is a single permit fee allowing multiple entries to Samoa over the course of one year.

According to the meeting communiqué, the two Samoas need to agree to an implementation schedule of the Samoa Pass Program.

The Samoa government announced in a news release two months ago that effective Oct. 9, 2017, an entry permit for US Nationals for up to 14 days is increased to \$20; for urgent issuance, \$US30; and \$US150 for multiple entries for 12 months.

At the time, ASG officials said American Samoa would raise the matter during the Two Samoa Talks.

Another issue cited in the communiqué is Samoa’s request for a “three-day permit free provision for business travelers” to Pago Pago. The communiqué says that facilitation of the request will be possible when ASG’s new Immigration Tracking Systems upgrades are in place by the end of this year.

American Samoa also informed Samoa that foreign passports are no longer seized at the territory’s ports of entry based on a new policy implemented by the Immigration Office. There have been complaints from Samoa travelers about their passports being held by Immigration upon arrival in the territory and it takes long to retrieve them before leaving Pago Pago.

FEES AND INSPECTION

The concerns by Samoa relating to American Samoa’s inspection fees have been resolved, according to the communiqué, which didn’t give examples of concerns, although Samoa News has received complaints about passengers from Samoa being charged inspection fees at the Tafuna airport and the inter island dock in Fagatogo, despite the fact that goods brought in “are for personal use”.

The communiqué states that American Samoa has confirmed that ASG only charges excise

fees - as set forth by statute - and duties are only levied against commercial goods, “not legitimate personal goods”. (It’s unclear what is considered ‘legitimate personal goods’.)

QUARANTINE/ BIOSECURITY

Samoa will continue to pursue approval from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the export of meat and meat products to American Samoa, which stands ready to assist upon a request from the independent state.

Samoa has confirmed receipt of an invitation from the US to meet regarding the matter, according to the communiqué.

Samoa getting USDA approval has been a long standing issue as many local residents want imported raw meat from Samoa - especially for the holidays and during fa’alavelave on island, because the cost is much lower and most of the time the meat is donated by families in Samoa.

Even lawmakers have urged ASG to help Samoa obtain USDA approval but ASG officials have said this is a federal issue; however, American Samoa stands ready to assist in any way possible.

Samoa News will report next week on other issues cited in the communiqué.

► Siren will...

Continued from page 2

easily reaching the U.S. mainland. Hawaii is the closest state to North Korea, and its large military presence could make it more of a target. The island of Oahu is home to the U.S. Pacific Command, the military’s headquarters for the Asia-Pacific region. It also hosts dozens of Navy ships at Pearl Harbor and is a key base for the Air Force, Army and Marine Corps.

Miyagi has previously said a nuclear strike on Hawaii would result in thousands of deaths, thermal radiation, severe damage to critical infrastructure, widespread fires and other chaos. Hawaii lawmakers have been urging emergency management officials to update Cold War-era plans for coping with a nuclear attack.

“I think it’s responsible to do this,” Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said of the tests, though adding the chances of an attack are slim.

The tests will continue on the first day of every month. If the siren sounds because an attack is imminent, residents and tourists should get inside and stay tuned for further instructions, officials said. Hawaii no longer has any nuclear shelters. When the Cold War ended, funding for maintaining them ran out as the threat of attack ended, emergency officials said.

Lorraine Godoy, 75, who was born and raised on the Big Island, said she vividly remem-

bers the air raid sirens that used to blast during the Cold War. She said the upcoming tests will bring back memories from her childhood, when she had a curfew and the sirens blared often. “It’s very scary. It’s loud. It’s frightening,” Godoy said. “I’m just glad I don’t have any children or grandchildren living here . because it was very scary to hear as a child.”

She said the tests are a “reminder that this is not a safe world anymore. Even here, in Hawaii, it’s not safe.”

Tourism officials disagree, saying travelers “should not be alarmed by the testing.”

“Its implementation is consistent with the state’s long-standing policy to be prepared and informing the public well in advance of any potential threat to Hawaii’s well-being,” George Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, said in a statement.

Some residents and visitors expressed confusion.

“I’m not sure then what we’re supposed to do after the siren happens,” Justine Espiritu of Honolulu. “That would be useful information. Am I supposed to like find a bomb shelter? Am I supposed to go to the mountains? Should I jump in the ocean? I’m not very sure.”

Tourist Bruce Jelsema of Grand Rapids, Michigan, also didn’t know what to do.

“Not living in Hawaii, I’m not familiar with the different sounds of the test so I would probably be confused as to how to respond,” he said.



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY Materials Management Office

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American Samoa 96799
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA18.012.ESD-WTR **Closing Date & Time: Friday, December 29, 2017**
Issuance Date: December 01, 2017 **No later than 2:00 p.m. local time**

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

“Water Use Information Project for American Samoa”

Submission

An original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **“RFP No. ASPA 18.012.ESD-WTR Water Use Information Project for Am. Samoa.”**

Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Friday, December 29, 2017:**

Procurement Office
American Samoa Power Authority
P.O. Box PPB, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Ioana Uli, Procurement Manager

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

Document

The RFP package outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Procurement Office at ASPA’s New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Power Authority or the public.

Approved for Issuance: **Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director**





▶ What's happening throughout December...

Continued from page 1

Couscous, Whole baked Red Snapper, Caper Butter, Slow Roasted Turkey Breast, Apple Stuffing, Mushroom Risotto, Shaved Parmesan Cheese, Mustard rusted Beef Sirloin, Red Wine Jus, Oven Roasted Herb Potatoes, Taro and Vegetables.

Any room left? Your sweet tooth will be in heaven with the luscious selection offered with a Christmas Dessert Tasting Plate. Yum!

Dinner? No Problem! Christmas Dinner is a Yuletide affair with a five course Degustation Menu. For WST\$220 per person dinner will start off with crusty, fluffy Artisan Bread, Olive Oil & Balsamic Vinegar, Vodka cured Red Snapper, Marinate Prawns, & Sesame Tuna. The Crispy Pork Belly, Scallop & Corn, Smoked Lamb Loin, Eggplant, & Harissa Sauce is sure to

delight. A Palate cleanser of Mint ices is served before the Slow Roasted Beef Sirloin, Lobster, Bubble and Squeak Carrot, & Shiraz Jus. A Christmas Dessert Tasting Plate finishes off this delicious dinner menu.

Dinner can be paired with wine for only WST \$50.

Christmas Lunch will be available on the 25th of December and Dinner will be served at 7pm Christmas Day.

Set menu is for sharing and serves a minimum of 2 people to a maximum of 25 people. You are asked to please call in and pre-book at least 24 hours in advance.

For any inquiries or reservations, please call PH:(685) 22880. Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Hotel & Bungalows wishes all of American Samoa a Happy & Safe Holiday Season.

▶ It's life threatening...

Continued from page 1

Speaking at the cabinet meeting, Lolo said the health of the people is always a challenge to the government, and it's something the government isn't taking lightly. He said people are complaining, even some doctors are pointing the finger at the government. "Despite a lot of negative impressions from members of the public, I can assure you the government will continue its service to the people," Lolo said. He instructed the director of the Medicaid office, Sandra King Young to make time to explain to the community, via KVZK-TV, the reason why American Samoa is partnering with the NZ government, in patient treatment. Lolo said he wants people to know that sending a patient to NZ for treatment is not only cheaper but the health service is good. One of the issues that was discussed during the Two Samoa Talks this week in Apia,

is the American Samoa Off-island Referral Program to NZ.

According to the meeting's official record, both Health Authorities will continue to explore ways to address issues related to the transfer of American Samoa patients including the possibility of using Samoa Airways and direct flight links from American Samoa to NZ; facilitating transit visas for New Zealand; and the support services required during the patient's transit in Samoa including the use of the Faleolo hospital. Samoa requested that American Samoa look into arrangements to address the issues around payments of services provided to the patients while transiting in Samoa.

Given the different standards of medication, there is also a need to explore regional standards for medication and infections control and antibiotic guidelines.

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[l-r] Secretary of the Senate, Leo’o Va’a Ma’o, with Sens. Fano F. Shimasaki, Fai’ivae Iuli Godinet, Magalei Logovi’i, Paepae Iosefa Faiai, Tilo Vasaga Tilo, and Nuanu-aolefeagaiga S. Nua posing for a Samoa News photo after the Senate session yesterday where senators unanimously endorsed Paepae’s nomination as Associate Judge of the High Court. See story for details.

[photo: FS]

Las Vegas Strip casino revenue down for month after shooting

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Casinos on the Las Vegas Strip saw a 6 percent drop in revenue in October compared with the same month last year, but state’s gambling regulatory agency did not attribute the decrease exclusively to the mass shooting that took place in the city that month. Data released Thursday by the Nevada Gaming Control Board show casinos on the Strip took in almost \$528.7 million from gamblers last month. That’s about \$34 million less than what they won in October 2016. Casinos statewide faced a difficult comparison going into October since it had one fewer weekend day than the same month last year. In addition, the establishments on the Strip had seen a 14 percent revenue increase in October 2016.

“I’m sure it played a part of it. I’m sure it played into the decrease, but it’s really difficult to quantify,” Michael Lawton, senior research analyst for the board, said. “What I can quantify, I can tell you that it was a difficult comparison.” On Oct. 1, a high-stakes gambler killed 58 people and injured hundreds more after he shattered windows of his hotel suite on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino and unleashed withering gunfire at a country music festival below before killing himself. The city’s tourism officials also on Thursday reported that visitation to the gambling oasis last month fell 4.2 percent to 3.6 million tourists. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority blamed the drop to trip cancellations and postponements following the shooting.



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 - Whole Baked Red Snapper, Caper Butter
 - Slow Roasted Turkey Breast, Apple Stuffing
 - Mushroom Risotto, Shaved Parmesan Cheese
 - Mustard Crusted Beef Sirloin, Red Wine Jus
 - Oven Roasted Herb Potatoes, Taro & Vegetables
- DESSERT
 - Christmas Dessert Tasting Plate

*Available for lunch on the 25th of December 2017
*Set Menu is for sharing and serves a minimum of 2 persons to a maximum of 25 persons
*Please Pre-book at least 24 hours in advance

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A Yuletide Affair special with a Five Course Degustation Menu

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Pair with Wine at only WST50

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- Crispy Pork Belly, Scallop & Corn
- Smoked Lamb Loin, Eggplant, Harissa Sauce
- Palate Cleanser - Mint Ice
- Slow Roasted Beef Sirloin, Lobster, Bubble and Squeak Carrot, Shiraz Jus
- Christmas Dessert Tasting Plate

*Available at 7.00PM on the 25th of December 2017





American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 01, 2017

WHEREAS, the global spread of HIV infection and AIDS necessitates a world wide effort to increase communication, education and action to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) observes December 1st of each year as World AIDS Day, a day to expand and strengthen the worldwide efforts to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, UNAIDS estimates that the number of people living with HIV is 36.7 million people worldwide; 1.8 million became newly infected with HIV and 1.0 million lost their lives to AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the American Samoa Government in conjunction with the American Association for World Health is encouraging a better understanding of the challenge of HIV/AIDS nationally as it recognizes that the number of people diagnosed with HIV and AIDS in the United States continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to focus local, national and international attention on HIV infection and AIDS and to disseminate information on how to prevent the spread of HIV; and

WHEREAS, the World AIDS Day 2017 theme, "My Health, My Right": the campaign, My Health, My Right, focuses on the right to health and explores the challenges people around the world face in exercising their rights. All people, regardless of their age, gender, where they live or who they love, have the right to health and everyone requires health solutions that are available and accessible, free from discrimination and of good quality. We need to raise awareness and help address the many issues affecting our people of today around HIV and AIDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that **I, LEMANU P.S. MAUGA**, Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa,

do hereby declare that American Samoa will observe World AIDS Day on December 1st, 2017. I urge all citizens to take part in prevention activities and observances designed to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS as a global challenge, and to join the global effort to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the Territory of American Samoa on this day of November 29, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lemaniu P.S. Mauga".

LEMANU P. S. MAUGA

Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa



**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

POLOA'IGA FA'ALAU'ITELE

**ASO FA'ATĀUAINA AI LE FA'AMA'I O LE AIDS I LE LALOLAGI
TESEMA 01, 2017**

TALU AI, o le pepesi ma le salalau atu o a'afiaga matuiā o le HIV ma le AIDS, ua tatau ai i le lalolagi atoa ona 'au'au mea fa'atasi, e saga fa'ateleina ala o feso'ota'iga, o a'oa'oga, ma galuega fa'atino, e taofia ai le pepesi o le HIV/AIDS; ma,

TALU AI, ona o galuega so'o-fa'atasi o polokalama o le HIV/AIDS (UN-AIDS) a Malo 'Aufa'atasi, ua fa'atāuaina ai le aso muamua o Tesema i tausaga ta'itasi, o le aso fa'apitoa mo le HIV/AIDS i le lalolagi atoa, e saga fa'alautele ma fa'amalosia atili ai taumafaiga a le lalolagi uma, e matuā taofia ma fa'amutaina ai le pepesi pea o le fa'ama'i o le HIV/AIDS; ma,

TALU AI, ua fa'ailoa mai e le UNAIDS, o le fuainumera o tagata o lo'o ua a'afia ma maua fo'i i le HIV e 36.7 miliona i le lalolagi 'atoa; 1.8 miliona i latou e le'i leva tele ona a'afia i le HIV, ma le 1.0 miliona ua maliliu ai i le AIDS; ma,

TALU AI, o le Malo o Amerika Samoa ma le Fa'alapotopotoga mo le Soifua Maloloina o le Lalolagi i Amerika, o lo'o taumafai malosi e a'oa'oina ma fa'amalamalamaina lu'itau 'ese'ese o le HIV/AIDS, talu le to'atele o tagata ua fa'amaonia lo latou a'afia ai i le HIV ma le AIDS i le Iunaite Setete, o lo'o ua aga'i pea i luga le fa'ato'ateleina; ma

TALU AI, o le aso fa'apitoa i le lalolagi atoa e fa'atauaina ai le HIV/AIDS, o le a maua ai nisi o avanoa taua e fa'a-'autu i ai ni polokalama aoga i lo tatou lotoifale, ma le malo atoa o le Iunaite Setete, fa'apea fo'i le lalolagi atoa, aemaise ai o le galuega taugologolo, e uiga i a'afiaga o le HIV ma le AIDS; ma fa'asoa ma fa'ailoa atu mea uma e tatau ona silafia e tagata uma, mo le matuā tapēina lava, o le pepesi pea o le HIV; ma,

TALU AI, o le manulauti o le aso fa'apitoa mo le AIDS i le lalolagi atoa, i lenei tausaga 2017, o le – **“O Lo'u Soifua Malōlōina o La'u Aiā Tatau.”** Ma, o lenei kemupeni, o le a iloilo lelei ai taualumaga aogā uma ma lu'itau 'ese'ese, e fitoi tonu i le silafia e tagata uma, o lea aiā tatau 'anoa. O tagata uma lava, tusa lava po'o le a le tulaga o i ai le soifuaga i nei aso, e aia tutusa uma, i le saga fa'atūmauina pea o le soifua maloloina, e aunoa ma le fa'ailogaloga lanu, fa'ailogaloga gagana, fa'ailogaloga aganu'u, ma tapua'iga. O nei taumafaiga lelei uma, e tupu ai le silafia o nai o tatou tagatanu'u, e uiga i nei fa'ama'i mata'utia o le HIV ma le AIDS.

O LE MEA LEA, OU TE FA'ASILASILA ATU AI FA'ALAU'ITELE, O A'U, O LEMANU P.S. MAUGA, Lutena Kovana o le Malo o Amerika Samoa, o le a aloa'ia ona fa'atāuaina e le Malo o Amerika Samoa le Aso Fa'apitoa i le lalolagi mo le AIDS, ia Tesema 01, 2017. Ou te talosaga atu ai ma le agaga fa'anaunau tele, i sitiseni ma tagatanu'u uma, ina o tatou 'auai fa'atasi i le fa'atāuaina – **“O Lo'u Soifua Maloloina o la Tatou Aiā Tatau!”** Ia o tatou 'auai fa'atasi i fa'atinoga uma ua fuafuaina, e fa'atupula'ia ai le malamalama ma le iloa o le HIV/AIDS – o se lu'itau malosi mo le lalolagi uma, ma ia o tatou feso'ota'i atu ma le lalolagi atoa, ina ia matua taofia ma tapēina le saga pepesi pea o le HIV/AIDS;

INA IA FAI MA MOLIMAU, o lea ua 'ou tu'uina atu ai i lo'u lima le fa'amaufa'ailoga o le Teritori o Amerika Samoa, i lenei aso o Novema 29, i le tausaga o lo tatou Ali'i, Lua Afe Sefulu ma le Fitu.

LEMANU P. S. MAUGA

Lutena Kovana o Amerika Samoa



Local artist Regina Meredith-Fitiao of the ASCC Fine Arts Department with ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato. Meredith recently wrote an article on the dyes used for Samoan siapo, which has been published in Turkey Red Journal, an online resource for practitioners all over the world who work with making dyes and applying them.

(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)



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Human Resource Department, Tafuna
PO Box PPB, Pago Pago
American Samoa 96799
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Website: www.aspower.com

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 Fiji 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 “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 600 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 on Friday, December 8, 2017.

This ad has been revised as of 11/30/2017.

An Equal Opportunity Employer * A Drug Free Workplace

ASCC artist shares Samoan dye methods with prac- titioners worldwide

by James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press
Officer

Probably few outside the art world have heard of the online publication Turkey Red Journal, but for those who practice the age-old craft of making natural dyes and applying them, the journal represents a valuable forum for sharing ideas. In fact, the publication has a global reach that’s wide enough that it currently features an article by artist Regina Meredith-Fitiao of the Fine Arts Department at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC). Meredith-Fitiao’s piece titled “Dyes for Samoan Siapo with a focus on ‘O’a” appears in the Fall 2017 edition, accessible online at <http://turkeyredjournal.com/fitiao.html>.

The article describes in great detail the process by which local artists transform bark scrapings from the ‘O’a tree into the brown dye of the same name. Meredith-Fitiao emphasizes the care for the environment which goes into the bark collection, such as rubbing soil into the area of the tree which has been scraped in order to aid the tree’s own recovery process. She then discusses the method for extracting the rich brown dye from the bark scrapings, and concludes with the procedure for applying the ‘O’a dye to the u’a (paper mulberry) cloth which serves as the “canvas” for the siapo. Meredith-Fitiao also notes how most of this information has come directly from her late mentors, siapo masters Mary Pritchard and her daughters Marylyn Pritchard Walker and Adeline Pritchard Jones.

In her introductory notes to the current edition, Turkey Red Journal editor and publisher Pamela Feldman explains how the connection with Meredith-Fitiao was forged when

Feldman’s son Tristan visited American Samoa earlier this year as part of the Sea Education Association and relayed back to his mother word of the siapo artwork being done in the Territory. In addition to the artistic aspects of Samoan siapo, Feldman appreciated the nature-friendly approach of the indigenous-rooted process. “It is our intent to help dyers worldwide to communicate and share ideas about natural dyes and dye processes, and to promote the use of natural dyes in a manner that does not harm the environment or endanger personal safety,” said Feldman in her introduction.

The Turkey Red Journal was started in the spring of 1995, in Chicago, Illinois, after a number of local dyers formed a natural dye study group. The focus was to create a venue for natural dyers from all over the world to be able to share ideas and information. Since that time, 30 issues have been printed, sent out to over a hundred and twenty subscribers, with artists all over the world sharing their work and knowledge with the readers.

Editor and publisher Feldman teach classes in natural dyes and weaving for adults at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, Highland Park, IL, and this year she was invited to teach the Natural Dye class at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. “Creating color from natural dyes comes from the need to understand the multiplicity of color in plants,” Feldman reflected. “Plants have a hidden beauty in the colors that they can produce, which is rarely obvious to the eye.” For more information on Art classes at the College, see the ASCC catalog, which is available online at: www.amsamoa.edu.

Vermont city thanks French city for misspelled jerseys

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Vermont’s capital city said merci via Skype on Thursday to a French city it’s named after for some misspelled soccer jerseys that were sent its way.

Montpellier, France, ordered jerseys for its professional soccer team and fans but the jerseys came in misspelled, with just one L instead of two. The city in southern France decided to send the jerseys to Montpelier, Vermont, which is spelled with one L, not two. Montpelier Mayor John Hollar thanked Montpellier Mayor Philippe Saurel by Skype from the city’s

high school gym, where students wore the donated jerseys for the event. “If you could just send me a few jerseys every couple of weeks I could be the most popular mayor ever in Montpelier,” Hollar said. The jerseys will be auctioned off to benefit the athletic department and other charities. Noel Riby-Williams, a Montpelier High School senior and soccer player, said she hopes to raise money for a church in Ghana, where she was born.

“It’s just great that out of a little kindness another little kindness happens.



This photo provided by Innovative Health Solutions shows the NSS-2 Bridge. On Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017, the Food and Drug Administration announced clearance of the NSS-2 Bridge, a brain-stimulating device for patients suffering from debilitating withdrawal symptoms caused by addiction to heroin and other opioids. The nerve stimulator is the first device to treat such symptoms including joint pain, anxiety, stomach aches and insomnia.

(Courtesy of Innovative Health Solutions, Inc. via AP)

US approves monthly injection for opioid addiction

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials on Thursday approved the first injectable form of the leading medication to treat patients recovering from addiction to heroin, prescription painkillers and other opioids.

The Food and Drug Administration approved once-a-month Sublocade for adults with opioid use disorder who are already stabilized on addiction medication.

The monthly injection has the potential to reduce dangerous relapses that occur when patients stop taking the currently available daily medication. But that benefit has not yet been shown in studies and the new drug comes with a hefty price: \$1,580 per monthly dose. The older version of the drug, Suboxone, costs \$100 a month.

The approval comes amid the deadliest drug epidemic in U.S. history and a longstanding gap in medication-based treatment for patients recovering from addiction to opioids, including painkillers like OxyContin and illegal narcotics like heroin and fentanyl. More than 64,000 Americans died from drug overdoses last year, most involving opioids.

Drugmaker Indivior already sells the injection's key ingredient, buprenorphine, in medicated strips that dissolve under

the tongue. Patients take the daily medication to control withdrawal symptoms like nausea, muscle aches and pain. When dosed appropriately the drug also reduces the euphoric effects of other opioids, discouraging abuse.

The new injection has potential to reduce abuse and diversion of buprenorphine, which is itself an opioid sometimes sold on the black market. The FDA is requiring Indivior to conduct follow-up studies on the drug.

Roughly 2.4 million Americans are currently addicted to the opioids, according to federal figures, and about 1.1 million are receiving drug therapy to treat the condition. Indivior's Suboxone is the most widely used drug, though access has long been limited by gaps in insurance coverage, caps on prescriptions and training requirements for would-be prescribers.

The FDA last year approved an implantable pellet version of buprenorphine that releases the drug over six months. Other opioid abuse medications include methadone and naltrexone, an injection approved to treat opioid and alcohol addiction.

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has pledged to promote all available forms of medication-based addiction treatments. He has stressed that

some patients may need to take the medications for life.

While studies show patients on medications like buprenorphine cut their risk of death by half, some recovery groups favor abstinence-only approaches to treatment.

► Anchors, moguls...

Continued from page 4

by model Keri Claussen Khalighi of coercing her to perform a sex act and later penetrating her without her consent in his New York apartment in 1991. Also accused by Sidney Lumet's daughter of taking her to his New York apartment in 1991 against her will and having sex with her. In response to Jenny Lumet's allegations, Simmons has stepped away from his companies. Simmons has also disputed Claussen Khalighi's account, saying the relationship was consensual.

— Actor Tom Sizemore — Accused of groping an 11-year-old actress in 2003. Utah prosecutors declined to file charges, citing witness and evidence problems. He denies the allegation.

— Actor Kevin Spacey — Accused by at least 24 men of sexual misconduct or assault. London police reportedly investigating two sexual assaults. Fired from "House of Cards" and replaced in Ridley Scott's completed film "All the Money in the World." Massachusetts prosecutors are investigating one allegation. His former publicist has said he is seeking unspecified treatment.

— Actor Jeffrey Tambor — Two women — an actress on his show "Transparent" and his assistant — allege sexual misconduct. He denies the allegation, saying in a statement that he has "never been a predator — ever." Tambor said this week he doesn't see how he can return to the Amazon series.

— Actor George Takei — One man alleges sexual assault. He denies the allegation.

— Writer-director James Toback — Accused by hundreds of women of sexual harassment. Beverly Hills police investigating complaints. He has denied the allegations to

the Los Angeles Times.

— "Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner — Accused by one woman of sexual harassment. He denies the allegation.

— Producer Harvey Weinstein — Accused by dozens of women of sexual harassment or sexual assaults, including rape. Fired by The Weinstein Co. and expelled from various professional guilds. Under investigation by police departments in New York, London, Beverly Hills and Los Angeles. Weinstein denies all allegations of non-consensual sex, but he has apologized for causing "a lot of pain" with "the way I've behaved with colleagues in the past."

— Actor Ed Westwick — Accused by two women of sexual assault. The BBC pulled an Agatha Christie adaptation from its television schedule and halted production on a second sitcom starring the former "Gossip Girl" actor. Los Angeles police are investigating. He denies the allegations.

Media, publishing and business:

— Billboard magazine executive Stephen Blackwell — Accused of sexual harassment by one woman. He has resigned from the magazine.

— Penguin Random House art director Giuseppe Castellano — Accused by one woman of sexual harassment. Penguin Random House is investigating. Castellano has not commented.

— New Republic publisher Hamilton Fish — Multiple sexual harassment allegations. He has resigned from the magazine.

— Journalist Mark Halperin — Accused of harassing about 12 women while at ABC News. Book contract terminated.

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Testimony: Suspects bragged of dragging black man to death



GRIFFIN, Ga. (AP) — The case of two Georgia men accused of dragging a black man to his death behind a pickup truck is going before a grand jury.

Multiple media outlets report brothers-in-law William Moore Sr. and Frank Gebhardt appeared Thursday in magistrate court for a probable cause hearing at which a judge decided there was enough evidence against the men to proceed.

Gebhardt and Moore face a felony murder charge in the 1983 death of 23-year-old Timothy Coggins.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Jared Coleman testified in a cramped courtroom inside the Spalding County jail that the men bragged about the killing.

“They were proud of what they had done,” said Coleman, who works with the GBI’s cold case unit. “They felt like they

were protecting the white race from black people.”

Coleman said the men stabbed Coggins nearly 30 times, then chained his body to the pickup and dragged him into the woods.

The GBI believes the two may have carried out the killing because Coggins was socializing with a white woman.

“Something had happened between a black man and white woman,” said Coleman on Thursday, quoting another witness.

The suspects’ attorney said the motive could also have been a drug deal gone bad.

Whatever the reason, Coleman said, race was a factor.

The judge eventually agreed there was enough evidence to proceed.

Outside the courtroom, Coggins’ family said hearing the new details for the first time was hard on all of them. “Extremely difficult, extremely difficult to hear, to hold your tears, to hold your emotions, to contain your emotions listening to gruesome details of a loved one that was by himself,” said Coggins’ niece, Heather Coggins.

Three other people arrested are facing charges in the case, which could go before a grand jury as early as next week.



People gather at a makeshift memorial on the corner of Indiana Street and Whittier Blvd. in Boyle Heights, Friday, Nov. 17, 2017, where two boys were killed after they were struck by a Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department vehicle that was involved in a crash while responding to a radio call of shots fired. One of the boys died at the scene and the other at a hospital. Their mother was critically injured.

(Irfan Khan/Los Angeles Times via AP)

Texas sheriff says it's unlikely border agents were attacked

VAN HORN, Texas (AP) — A Texas sheriff who was among the first people to reach two badly injured U.S. Border Patrol agents said he thinks they may have been sideswiped accidentally by a tractor-trailer, not attacked, as President Donald Trump and some others have suggested.

The injured agents were found the night of Nov. 18 along a culvert next to Interstate 10 near Van Horn, which is about 110 miles (175 kilometers) southeast of El Paso and about 30 miles (50 kilometers) from the border with Mexico.

Agent Rogelio Martinez succumbed to traumatic head injuries and broken bones. His partner, who has not been identified, was seriously injured and hospitalized for several days. The agent has no memory of what happened that night.

Culberson County Sheriff Oscar Carrillo said he thinks a tractor-trailer may have accidentally sideswiped the pair. The Dallas Morning News reported.

I-10 is a heavily traveled route for truck drivers and accidents regularly occur, some due to wind drafts and others from drivers overcorrecting after drifting across lanes, Carrillo said.

“From the beginning we were radioed to assist in the incident as an injury, not an assault,” Carrillo told the newspaper. “That’s the way it was communicated to us.

“If this was an assault, believe me, as sheriff, I’d be the first one out there emphasizing safety in our community and with our deputies, pairing them up,” he added.

It’s not clear why Martinez and his partner were along the highway and U.S. Customs and Border Protection only said in a statement that they “were responding to activity.”

A Border Patrol union, the National Border Patrol Council, has said the pair was attacked and struck with a rock or rocks.

President Donald Trump, Sen. Ted Cruz and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott also have said the two were attacked, with Trump using the incident to renew his call for a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

Special Agent in Charge Emmerson Buie Jr. in the FBI’s El Paso office said last week that investigators were treating the incident as a “potential assault,” but they could not rule out other scenarios.

Federal officials have released few details about the circumstances leading to their injuries.

The FBI announced Thursday a \$45,000 reward for information leading to solving the mystery surrounding Martinez’s death and a new digital billboard campaign to promote the reward. It is asking for statements from anyone who drove through Van Horn between 10 p.m. and midnight on Nov. 18.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA18.002.ESD-WTR
Issuance Date: November 24, 2017

Closing Date & Time: December 20, 2017
No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

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

“Faga’alu Surface Water System”

Submission

An original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **“RFP No. ASPA 18.002.ESD-WTR Fagaalu Surface Water System.”** Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Wednesday, December 20, 2017:**

Procurement Office
American Samoa Power Authority
P.O. Box PPB, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Ioana Uli, Procurement Manager

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

Document

The RFP package outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Procurement Office at ASPA’s New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Power Authority or the public.

Approved for Issuance: **Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director**

Stranded in Bali tourists lampooned online for complaints

KARANGASEM, Indonesia (AP) — Australian tourists who complained about being stranded on tropical Bali when volcanic ash closed its airport have been roasted online as out of touch with the hardships faced by Indonesians forced to flee their homes.

Bali’s airport reopened Wednesday after being closed for 2 1/2 days and thousands of tourists are now leaving the island famous for its lush green interior, surf beaches and relaxed vibe.

About 40,000 residents from Mount Agung’s danger zone are staying in shelters such as sport halls, temples and tent camps. Ash could drift back and force the airport to close again.

A producer for an Australian television network temporarily locked her Twitter after being assailed for an article in which she complained of having to pay for a taxi to the airport after not getting through to airlines on the phone.

“People are being forced to measure risk, cost and desperation to make it home to their families on Christmas,” said the producer, Mary Jordan.

The article on the TV network’s website was later updated to show Jordan had managed to get a flight out for Thursday evening. But not before it was sarcastically dissected by an online travel guide.

One man was lampooned for telling Australian TV that the government should’ve sent

boats to rescue Australians and complaining that he spent three “cold wet” nights at Bali’s airport.

“It’s been hell,” the man, identified as Phil Wickham by Australian media, said on arrival at Perth in Western Australia.

Others were more stoic, commenting that it wasn’t too bad and the beer hadn’t run out.

Australian television also showed emotional scenes at airports as relieved parents were reunited with teenagers that had been holidaying on Bali.

Bali attracts about 5 million visitors a year, making tourism vital to the livelihoods of many on the island. It is a top destination for Australians.

Arie Ahsanurrohim, a spokesman for Bali’s airport, said about 17,000 people flew out of Bali on Thursday on both domestic and international flights.

The small international airport on neighboring Lombok island reopened Friday after it too was closed for a day because of drifting ash.

Mount Agung, which has been gushing huge columns of black ash since Saturday and glowing red at night, remains at its highest alert level. Explosions within the crater can be heard kilometers away and tremors occasionally shake the surrounding region.

Agung’s last major eruption, in 1963, killed about 1,100 people.

Trump lights National Christmas Tree for 1st time

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ringing in the holidays for the first time from Washington, President Donald Trump lit the National Christmas Tree Thursday evening, wishing the country “a Merry Christmas” — as he vowed to do during his campaign.

Taking part in the annual ritual, Trump counted down from 10 before his wife, Melania, pushed a button to set the tree aglow with golden lights and silver stars.

“Today’s a day that I’ve been looking very much forward to all year long,” said Trump. “And now, as the president of the United States, it’s my tremendous honor to finally wish America and the world a very merry Christmas.”

During his campaign, Trump had promised that, when he was elected, people would be saying “Merry Christmas again,” a reference to what he characterized as the country’s obsession with political correctness. In Trump’s view, the move toward

the use of the more inclusive “happy holidays” phrase minimized the Christian celebration.

Trump was introduced by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who called Trump “a man who loves our parks, loves our military, and loves our country. The man who brought ‘Merry Christmas’ back to our nation’s capital — and you did, sir.”


Speaking from behind a bullet-proof glass enclosure, Trump also bragged about the mild weather, which hovered in the mid-50s, and compared himself to President Ulysses S. Grant, who signed legislation making Christmas a federal holiday. “I sort of feel we’re doing that again,” he said to an audience that included many of his family members.

The program, which will air Monday on the Hallmark Channel, was hosted by Kathie Lee Gifford and actor Dean Cain and featured performances by the Beach Boys, Jack Wagner, Wynonna Judd, Craig Campbell and others.



A father sits with his son with a backdrop of the Mount Agung volcano in Karangasem, Bali, Indonesia, Friday, Dec. 1, 2017. The island’s airport reopened Wednesday after being closed for 2 1/2 days and thousands of tourists are now leaving. About 40,000 residents from Mount Agung’s danger zone are staying in shelters. Ash could drift back and force the airport and to close again.

(AP Photo/Firdia Lisnawati)



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Position Title

Welder I

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Power Generation

Division

Electric

Position Type

Career Service - 12 months probation

Reports To

Mechanical Supervisor

Posting Date

November 22, 2017

Deadline

December 4, 2017, 4:00 pm

Starting Rate

\$8.89/hr - \$9.25/hr

Job Grade/Status

D/6/A - D/7/A, Non-Exempt

Major Duties & Responsibilities

The primary objective of the position is to perform welding and fabrication services for the Electric Division. The journeyman welder shall weld and/or fabricate auxiliary pieces, frames and pipework for – generator sets, mechanical and electrical equipment, building frames and steel tanks for power generation and other company operations; shall rebuild and/or weld components; shall ensure all work is conducted safely and in accordance with established standards and best practices; shall work to enhance the productivity, reliability and efficiency of the generation division and other utility services.

Minimum Requirements

Education

Trade Certificate in welding or equivalent discipline.

Experience

- Five (5) years related work experience in welding and fabrication required in addition to the minimum educational requirement having been obtained
- Seven (7) years related work experience in welding and fabrication will be considered in place of the minimum educational requirement.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Must be knowledgeable and have experience with the operation of the arc-weld, tig-weld, mig-weld, gas-weld and welding of various metal materials (e.g. aluminum, stainless steel, steel, iron, etc.)
- Develop and display a working knowledge of rules and safety practices.
- Refer to service guides where required in order to obtain additional information.
- Determine dimensional specifications, set up and operating requirements for each job.
- Respond with sound judgment to unusual and hazardous circumstances.
- Maintain information on dimensional specifications for future reference.
- Maintain records of all work undertaken and parts/materials used.
- Refer to service guides where required in order to obtain additional information.
- Skills to fabricate and weld metal materials according to required specifications and standards.
- Skills to manufacture and/or fabricate pieces, frames, columns, beams, tanks and pipework for power generation and other company operations
- Ability to communicate with other workers to coordinate the preparation and completion of work assignments.
- Ability to liaise with warehouse personnel and mechanics with regards to ordering of spare parts for welding machines and equipment, welding materials and specialist tools etc.
- Ability to use hand and power tools when required.
- Inspect progress using required tools and instruments of the welding trade..
- Develop and display a working knowledge of rules and safety practices.
- Assist coworkers in solving work related problems.
- Perform other duties as required.
- Work involves standing, walking, stooping, bending, climbing and kneeling; Medium to heavy lifting is required. Good physical fitness is a requirement.

Physical Demands:

- Candidate will be subject to working under bad/unclear weather conditions in order to complete tasks.

Qualified applicants: Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA (address listed above) by the deadline listed above. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on employment drug test. ASPA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary.
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In a report from more than 15,000 scientists from 184 different countries, they have agreed that humans are consuming the planet’s resources at an incredible pace and Global Warming could have significant geographical changes with the levels at which the ocean is rising. According to one, Compton, CA could become beachfront property if nothing is done in the next hundred years. Illustrating the article is a photo of Ofu Lagoon where scientists are studying its coral system closely, because it has fared unusually well despite warmer waters and growing acidity, conditions that often come with global warming. [photo: NPAS]



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Japan’s Emperor Aki- hito to abdi- cate on April 30, 2019

TOKYO (AP) — Japan’s much admired Emperor Akihito plans to abdicate on April 30, 2019, at age 85 in the first such abdication from the Chrysanthemum Throne in about 200 years, the government said Friday. Akihito’s elder son Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend the throne a day later, on May 1, 2019, beginning a new as yet unnamed era.

The decision was made Friday at a meeting of the Imperial House Council, which included politicians, judicial officials and imperial family members. Akihito expressed his apparent wish to abdicate in 2016, citing his age and health.

Formal Cabinet approval of the decision is due on Dec. 8, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters. “I feel deeply moved that the decision was made by the Imperial Household Agency making a major step toward an imperial succession,” Abe said.

Legislation allowing Akihito to abdicate within three years was enacted earlier this year. His desire to leave the throne revived a debate about the country’s 2,000-year-old monarchy, one of the world’s oldest, as well as discussion about improving the status of female members of the shrinking royal population. The current male-only succession rules prohibit women from succeeding to the Chrysanthemum Throne and female members lose their royal status when they marry a commoner.





O se vā'iga lautele ia i latou na auai i le sauniga fa'afetai a le ASEPA i ana pa'aga sa galulue malosi mai mo le 3 tausaga ua tuana'i. Taga'i i le Lali i lenei lomiga mo le tala tusitusia.
[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Fuafua Ofisa o Fa'atoaga e toe fa'ataga le taro mai Samoa

tusia Ausage Fausia

Ua i ai le fa'ataga i le Fa'atonusili o le Ofisa o Fa'atoaga a le malo o Amerika Samoa, e pei ona fa'ailoa i le Fonotaga a Samoa e Lua i le vaiaso nei, o le masina o Mati o le tausaga fou 2018 lea ua fa'amoemoe e tatau ona o o atu i ai, ua toe fa'ataga le fa'aulufaleina mai o le taro mai Samoa i lafuanua o Amerika Samoa.

A o le i usuia le Fonotaga a Samoa e Lua i lalo o le ta'ita'iga a Ta'ita'i o malo e lua, le afioga i le ali'i Palemia, susuga Tui-laepa Lupesoliai Sailelei Malielegaoi ma le afioga i le Kovana o Amerika Samoa, tofa i le Tootoo ia Lolo Matalasi Moliga, na maua le avanoa o Fa'aululuga o Ofisa ma Matagalua a malo e lua e fono ai, mo le talanoaina o mataupu e si'itia ai le tautuaina o tagatanu'u, lea fo'i na fono ai Ta'ita'i o Ofisa o Fa'atoaga a malo e lua.

I lea fonotaga, na faailoa ai e sui o le Ofisa o Fa'atoaga a Samoa lo latou sauni e mulimulita'i i tulafono tau fa'atoaga a le malo o Amerika Samoa, ina ia mafai ai ona toe fa'ataga le fa'aulufale mai o le taro i le teritori.

O lo o fa'atali se ripoti mai le Ofisa o Fa'atoaga a Samoa, e tusa ai o le fa'aiuga o le suega sa auina atu i Peretania i le amataga o le tausaga nei, mo le su'esu'eina o le fa'ama'i lea na masalomia le a'afia ai o le taro i Samoa. O le mae'a ai ona malilie o Ofisa o Fa'atoaga a malo e lua i le tulaga o le a oo i ai le taro mai Samoa, na

fa'ailoa aloaia ai loa lea faaiuga ina ua usuia aloaia le Fonotaga a Samoa e Lua, lea na faailoa ai loa e sui o le Ofisa o Fa'atoaga a le teritori sa latou fuafuaga ua i ai, i le i ai lea o le avanoa e toe tatala ai le fa'aulufaleina mai o le taro mai Samoa i le masina o Mati 2018, pe afai e o o atu i ai ua ausia uma tulaga e pei ona moomia, e aofia ai ma le ripoti i le suega sa auina atu i fafo.

O le faaiuga e taofia ai le toe auina mai o le taro mai Samoa mo se taimi le tumau, na faia ina ua alia'e mai se fa'ama'i na a'afia ai se vaega o le fa'atoaga taro i Samoa, ma taofia ai loa ina ia puipuia ai le ono maua o lea fa'ama'i i fa'atoaga i le teritori.

E le o se mataupu laitiiti le mataupu i le faaiuga na faia e le Fa'atonusili o le Ofisa o Fa'atoaga a Amerika Samoa, susuga Rev. Filifaatali Michael Fuiava e taofia ai le toe auina mai o le taro mai Samoa.

E le gata na matua fa'asea ma muimui ai le to'atele o le aufai pisinisi sa latou la'uina mai lea matai'ai a le atunu'u, ae na oo lava fo'i i afioga i Senatoa ma Faipule, ua latou tu'u fesili i le mafua'aga ua fa'auliulito ai le finagalo o le Fa'atonusili o le Ofisa o Fa'atoaga a le malo, ae le toe tatala loa le taro mai Samoa.

Ae na faamanino e Filifa'atali ai se iloiloaga sa faia i luma o le maota o sui i le tausaga nei e fa'apea, o lona tiute i lalo o le tulafono o le puipuia lea o fa'atoaga a le atunu'u, mai le a'afia i soo se ituaiga fa'ama'i, e aofia ai fa'ama'i e ulufale mai i fua o fa'aeleeleaga mai fafo e

(Fa'aaunau itulau 19)



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Le tina ia Mema Sefo mai Malaeloa SDA sa tulaga silia i fa’amama sa fa’atino e le latou Auta-lavou. I le talotaloga i le taeao o le aso Gafua e fa’ataua ai lenei Vaiaso o le Siomaga 2017, na toe maua fo’i e ia le La’ei Silia i le MASCOT, a le ASEPA, e \$100 mo ia lava. Taga’i i le Lali i lenei lomiga mo le tala tusitusia.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



tusia Ausage Fausia

ELLIOTT SIAUMAU JR

Ua toe aafia fo’i le alii’ o Elliott Siaumau Jr i le tulafono, i le mae’a ai lea o se fa’alavealve lea na tula’i mai i le vaiaso na te’a nei, lea o lo o tuuaia ai o ia i lona aveese mai lea o lona atali’i ao i lalo o le puipuiga a Leoleo, atoa ai ma lona musu e tu lana ta’avale ina ua taumafai Leoleo e taofi o ia, ma mafua ai loa ona faia a latou tuliga ta’avale ma Leoleo i luga o le alatele.

O lo o tu’uaia e le malo ia Siaumau Jr i moliaga mama e fa e aofia ai le fa’atupu vevesi i nofoaga faitele, fa’aoolima i le tulaga tolu, fa’alavelave i galuega a Leoleo, atoa ai ma le sola ese ma Leoleo.

Na taua i fa’amaumauga a le fa’amasinoga e fa’apea, o le fa’alavelave e pei ona toe a’afia ai Siaumau Jr na tulai mai i le aso 22 Novema i le aoauli, ina ua vaaia e Leoleo le saosasaoa o le ta’avale a le ua molia i luga o le auala i Puapua, ma latou taumafai ai loa e taofi o ia, peita’i sa fa’aauau pea ona alu saosasaoa le ta’avale a le ua molia.

O le taimi lea na aiu saosasaoa ai le ta’avale a le ua molia i luga o le alatele, o le taimi tonu fo’i lea o lo o taumafai ai Leoleo e fa’afilemu se fusuaga sa tula’i mai i le va o ni tamaiti talavou i le maga tolu e aga’i i le auala i Taputimu.

Na aga’i atu le ta’avale a le ua molia i le auala tele i Leone, ma aga’i atu ai i le ofisa o Leoleo i Leone, ma ia aveese mai ai se tamaititi sa taofia ai e Leoleo ona o le taumafai e togafitiona manu’a, ma toe fa’aauau loa ona alu ese lana ta’avale, a o taumafai atu fo’i Leoleo e tuliloa ina ia taofi.

Sa i ai se taimi na taofi ai e le ua molia lana ta’avale ina ua taofi e Leoleo, ma fesiligia ai loa o ia i le mafu’aaga o le soona alu saosasaoa o lana ta’avale, ae na tali i ai le ua molia, na alu e aveese mai lona atali’i sa a’afia i le vevesi lea na tula’i mai i Taputimu. Sa ia faailoa atili i Leoleo e faapea, o le a faitalia o ia ma ave lona atali’i i le Falema’i e togafiti ai ona manu’a o lo o i ai.

Na toe fa’aauau le alu saosasaoa o le ta’avale a le ua molia, ma aga’i atu ai i Vaitogi. Na maua atu e Leoleo lana ta’avale o lo o fa’a lafi i se pupu

vao i Vaitogi. Na aga’i atu Leoleo ma taofia mai le ua molia mai lona fale, ma auina atu loa o ia i le ofisa o suesuega, fa’atoa taofia ai loa o ia i le toese e fa’atalai ai le taimi e tula’i ai i luma o le fa’amasinoga.

E \$500 le tupe lea ua faatulaga e totogi ona faatoa mafai lea ona tatala le ua molia i tua, e fa’atali ai taualumaga o lana mataupu.

FETOAI FALANIKO

O le ali’i lea o lo o tu’uaia i le fa’alavelave lea na manu’a tigaina ai se Tina mai Pago Pago i le vaiaso nei, ua tu’uaia nei o ia e le malo i le moliaga mama o le fa’atupu vevesi i nofoaga faitele, ma le fa’amoemoe o le a i ai moliaga mamafa e faila e le malo fa’asaga ia te ia, pe a mae’a suesuega a Leoleo o lo o fa’agasolo i le taimi nei.

Na teena e le ali’i o Fetoai Falaniko le moliaga ua tu’uaia ai o ia, ma ua toe taofia nei o ia i le toese ina ua le mafai ona ia totogi le \$3,000 ua fa’atulaga e tatala ai o ia, e fa’atali ai lana iloiloga lona lua lea a fa’atulaga i le aso 20 Tesema i le itula e 8:30 i luma o le Fa’amasinoga Fa’aitumalo.

Na finau le loia a Falaniko ia Ryan Nelson mo se avanoa e fa’aititia ai i le \$500 le tupe e tatala ai le ua molia, peita’i na talia e le afioga i le ali’i Fa’amasino ia Fiti Sunia le fa’afinauga a le malo, ina ia fa’atumau pea le tupe ua faatulaga e tatala ai le ua molia i tua, ona o lo o i ai le faamoemoe e faila moliaga faaopoopo faasaga ia te ia.

O lo o fuafua le malo e molia le ua molia i moliaga mamafa e lua e aofia ai le fa’aoolima i le tulaga lua, faapea ai ma le moliaga pito sili ona mamafa o le faaoolima i le tulaga muamua, le moliaga e ono mafai ona faasala ai se tasi i le toese mo le olaga atoa, poo le fa’asala mo le umi e le itiiti ofi i le 10 tausaga e le sili atu foi i le 30 tausaga.

O le fa’alavelave e pei ona taua i fa’amaumauga a le Fa’amasinoga, na tula’i mai i Pago Pago i le amataga o le vaiaso nei, ina ua so’a e le ta’avale a le ua molia se Tina ma se tamaititi ma manunu’a ai i laua. Na fa’anatinatu uma atu i le falema’i i laua na a’afia, ma taua ai le matuia o manu’a o lo o a’afia ai le Tina, se’i vagana ai le tamaititi sa manu’a mitimiti.

Fa’ailoga 30 tausaga ASEPA - fa’afetaia pa’aga galuega fa’amama

tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

O le taeao ananafi sa fa’ai’u aloa’ia ai le polokalama o le Fa’ataua Lou Siosiomaga - La’u Pasefika, Lo’u Lumana’i - Ia Mataituina A’afiaga o Suiga o le Tau, a le Ofisa o le ASEPA.

Peita’i e tolu isi mea tetele sa fa’ataua e le ASEPA i le fa’atasiga ananafi. O le atoaga o le 30 tausaga o lea ofisa, sa amatalia lava na’o se ofisa, i lalo o le va’ava’aiga a le Ofisa o le Kovana Sili. Peita’i o lea aveane nei ma ofisa tu maoti o le vaega fa’amalosia tulafono. Ua fa’afaigaluega ai tagata e to’a 34.

O le latou Ofisa, o se fale muamua lea ua gafatia ona fa’atautaia ana galuega uma e aunoa ma sana pili e tologia mo se eletise fa’aogaina, ma o se ulua’i fale lea o lena ituaiga ua fa’atuina i malo fa’aatumotu o le Pasefika.

O le keke ma le aiga fiafia a le ofisa, le latou pulega ma le aufaigaluega fa’atasi ma latou pa’aga ua aofia fa’atasi i galuega fa’amama, talu mai le tausaga 2013. Fa’afetaia le galuega, fa’afetai mo le sao o sosaiete, fa’alapopotoga, ekalseia, afio’aga, aiga, pisinisi ma nisi o Ofisa o le Malo, sa latou tausoa fa’atasi ma le ASEPA, e “Fa’amtogofie ma Fa’amama Amerika Samoa!”

Na mua’i faafeiloa’ia le mamalu e le susuga le Sui Fa’atonu ASEPA, Fa’amao Jr Asalele, soso’o ai ma le saunoaga a le Faatonusili, Ameko Pato.

“Ua mae’a ona taua’aina le tusi mai fa’aululuga o le USEPA e fa’ailoa mai ai i le Kovana Sili ma ta’ita’i o le

malo o Amerika Samoa, o lo’o latou matauina, o lo’o aoga tele i ai tulafono uma tau le ‘Ea Mama’. I lea lava tusi, sa ia fa’afetaia ai le tele o galuega ua mae’a fa’amaumauina ma ua fa’ailoa atu fo’i o lo’o nafa ma leASEPA ina ia tausila le soifua o tagata ma meaola fa’apea ma la’au, ae maise o le Siosiomaga Mama ma Lauolaola o Amerika Samoa aua nei ma a taeao!”

O se fa’amalo na ia saunoa mai, “E tatau ia i tatou uma i totonu o lenei potu ona fa’afetaia, aua o lo’o saunoa tonu mai lava ia i tatou uma lenei saunoaga taua, o se fa’amalo i la outou pito la’au tautasi e pei ona outou ofo mai ai, le auaunaga ia fa’amama ma fa’amatalagofie le atunu’u, ia saga fiafia mai i ai le to’atele o tagata maimoa, ma maua ai fo’i so tatou taumaoa’iga tautasi.”

Sa ia fa’afetaia fo’i le galuega tima’i mo le fa’ataua o le Siosiomaga Mama ma le Matagofie, i le vasega o tagata faigaluega, le tamaitai o Tumau Lokeni ma Ioane. “O i la’ua lava nei e fa’amoemoe tele i ai le vaega a le ASEPA e faatino ai lenei matata, aua o le auga tonu lea o tiute tau’ave a le ASEPA. Fa’afetai mo la oulua vaega.”

Na saunoa foi le susuga ia Michael Wolfram, le sui o le USEPA mai Kalefonia Region 1X. O ia lea na te fa’amaonia galuega fa’atino a le ASEPA e ala i fa’atupega, polokalama fa’alauiloa, ae maise o mea e fa’alelei atili ai le tautuaina o le tatou malo ma lona Siosiomaga.

Ma sa ia saunoa fa’amalo i le aufaigaluega ma ta’ita’i i le ASEPA. Sa ia matua fa’afetaia

(Faaauau itulau 19)



O le Fa’atonusili o le ASEPA, Ameko Pato ma le sui mai le USEPA Region 9, Michael Wolfram, o se tasi e tele lona sao i le tele o galuega o lo’o fa’atinoaina nei e le ASEPA.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



Nisi o le aufaigaluega a le ASEPA, i le aso ananafi sa fa’amanatuina ai le 30 tausaga o le tautua a lea ofisa o le malo i le atunu’u. Taga’i i le Lali i lenei lomiga mo le tala tusitusia.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

► Fuafua ofisa...

Mai itulau 17

fa’aulufale mai i le atunu’u.

Na faamanino atili e Fuiava i le feiloaiga ma afioga i Faipule, o le taimi lava e faamaonia mai ai e le Ofisa o Samoa e ala i le faaiuga o le suega sa auina atu i

Peretania, e le o aafia faatoaga taro i Samoa i le fa’ama’i, ona toe iloilo loa lea o le faaiuga ua faia, ma toe fuafua ai loa le toe auina mai o le taro i le atunu’u.

► Fa’ailoga...

Mai itulau 18

le vasega o pa’aga e to’a 15 nei ua iloga le umi ona faia o galuega fa’amama, ae sa faia lava e aunoa ma se tau.

O galuega nei e iloga ai, “E taua tele lo tatou Siosiomaga ia tei tatou uma. E amata mai lava ia te oe le tagata e to’atasi, ma fa’asolo ane ai i le aiga, soso’o ane ai ma fa’alapotopotoga e te auai ai, i le afio’aga ma Ekalesia, Pisinisi ma Ofisa eseese o le Malo. Ua aotelega le atunu’u atoa i le alofa e fa’amama lo tatou Siosiomaga.”

Ao le’i mae’a lana tautalaga, sa ia toe lu’ia pa’aga a le ASEPA, e aua le tu’ua le galuega lelei, ae fa’aauau ma le fa’anaunauta’iga, ia mautu i agaga o fanau fai a’e a le atunu’u atoa, ia ola ma fa’amama le siosiomaga. O i latou na taua’aoina “Pepa e Talafua ai Oloa e Fa’aaoga i Fa’amama,” e fuafua fo’i le tele o le tau fa’atusa o lea pepa e tala ai oloa, i le tele o fa’amama sa faia e le Sosaiete, fa’alapotopotoga, autalavou po’o le aiga fo’i. O fa’ailoga sa maua e ta’i \$1,000; \$500, ma le \$300 mo pa’aga e 15. E to’aono i latou na mauaina fa’ailoga e ta’i \$1,000: SDA Pathfinder Club i Malaeloa e 29 a latou galuega fa’amama na fa’atino. Autalavou Katoliko mai Fagatogo e 28 latou galuega fa’amama. Failolo Pulenu’u ma lona aiga, Fa’amolemole Tuiese 28 galuega fa’amama na latou faia. Autalavou Ieova Nese mai Utulei 23 galuega fa’amama sa faia. SDA Autalavou mai Leone 21 fa’amama. Le tina o Iolani Misipeka mai Fagatogo talu mai lava le amataga o le Polo-

kalama o lo’o fa’atino pea e ia ma le aiga le galuega fa’amama.

O galuega na taua’aoina Pepa e Tala Oloa ta’i \$500: Autalavou Ekalesia New Apostolic Church i Pago Pago. Autalavou New Apostolic Church i Tafuna. Le aiga o Apo Siatuu i Utulei. Autalavou a le Heart of Worship Ministry i Tafuna. All People’s Pentecostal Church i Pago Pago. Kanana fou High School e 12 galuega fa’amama. Grafalen’s Landscaping mai Tafuna ma le MASI ma le Aiga o Imo i Nuuuuli.

O i latou na taua’ao i ai Pepa e Talafua ai Oloa ta’i \$300: Autalavou a Iakina SDA i Ilili ma ASCC Law & Justice Club mai Malaeimi. O le tulafono mo le fa’aaogaina o “Pepa e Talafua ai Oloa,” ua na’o oloa e fa’atino ai fa’amama. Suo, salu u’amea, Sapelu, taga lapisi, uilipaelo, mea uma fa’apena. E ta’ito’alua sui o fa’alapotopotoga ma sosaiete ua mae’a fa’amauiina suafa i le faleoloa o le Niel’s ACE Hardware i Malaeimi e mafai ona sainia nei pepa e tala ai oloa. O le vasega o pisinisi e matele ina galulue faapa’aga ma le ASEPA e aofia ai: GHC Reid & Co., PPTC Company ma le All Star Signs.

Peita’i o vaega eseese o le Malo e matele ina galulue ma le ASEPA i le fa’amama e aofia ai: ASCC - Conservation of Natural Resources; ASPA, Territorial Energy Office, Dept of Health, DOC, KVZKTV, National Park Services ma Miss American Samoa Inc (MASI).

Tagi lomiga o le aso Gafua mo isi tusitusiga i le ASEPA.



Le tina o Iolani Misipeka (itu taumatau) ua ia maua le \$1,000 aua o ia lea na amata mai loa lenei polokalama fa’amama a le ASEPA, oso loa i luga o le fua, se’ia o’o mai lava i lenei tausaga, e faia lava lana fa’amama.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



FILE—This Sept. 15, 2017, file photo shows Eric Kelley, right, being hugged by his lawyer Vanessa Potkin moments after Passaic County Superior Court Judge Joseph Portelli granted Kelley a retrial in the case in which he was found guilty of the killing of a video store employee during a robbery in 1993, during a hearing, in Paterson, N.J. Kelly and Ralph Lee, imprisoned for nearly a quarter-century in the killing of a New Jersey video store clerk, have been released on bail to await new trials. Kelley and Lee left the Passaic County Jail on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017. Their convictions were overturned after new tests found someone else's DNA on a key piece of evidence.

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez, File)

Bizarre episodes surround FIFA trial in Brooklyn

NEW YORK (AP) — A juror dismissed for sleeping during hearings. A defendant allegedly doing a throat-slitting gesture to intimidate a witness. A judge admonishing a defendant for taking a paper clip and a pen from her clerk's desk.

The trial of South American soccer officials charged in the FIFA bribery scandal is not only about corruption. It also has drawn some attention because of a series of bizarre episodes that have happened over three weeks of witnesses giving testimony and journalists going in and out of a Brooklyn courtroom to report on an investigation that has shaken the soccer world.

On Thursday, for example, judge Pamela Chen admonished defendant Manuel Burga, former president of the Peruvian soccer federation, for allegedly taking a paper clip and a pen from her clerk's desk.

"No one, no party, nobody should be touching anything in this bench area", Chen told him.

The federal judge actually tightened Burga's bail conditions a couple of weeks ago when he allegedly sought to intimidate a witness by staring at him in the courtroom and making a slashing gesture across his throat. The defense said Burga was merely scratching a rash his neck. The witness, Alejandro Burzaco, an Argentinian former marketing executive who testified about paying millions in bribes, was shaken from the gesture and the trial was postponed at least an hour.

Burzaco and others have testified how they brokered the bribes paid to soccer officials in exchange for their influence in awarding lucrative broadcasting and hosting rights for the World Cup and other major soccer tournaments. More than 40 defendants have been charged in the corruption case, with many, including Burzaco, pleading guilty in hopes of getting reduced sentences.

Besides Burga, the trial has other two defendants: Jose Maria Marin, former president of

the Brazilian soccer federation and Juan Angel Napout, former president of the Paraguayan soccer federation and former president of CONMEBOL (South America's soccer governing body).

In another bizarre event, Chen dismissed this week a member of the jury who slept during hearings. A couple of hours before lawyers and Chen had discussed how to dismiss him without embarrassing him. It was decided to do it in the courtroom without any other jurors present.

"We need the full attention of any juror. So I apologize but we're going to have to let you go," Chen told him. He was then escorted after his belongings were brought to him by U.S. Marshalls.

Besides journalists, Chen's courtroom has been everyday filled with relatives of the defendants and lawyers from companies who have an interest in the case and who take notes continuously. Defendants eat sometimes sandwiches and a salad in the court's cafeteria, like the lawyers, journalists and court's staff who does the same.

Statements from witnesses have generated headlines around the world. A former Argentine government official, Jorge Delhon, killed himself hours after the court was told he took millions in bribes in exchange for handing out television rights. On Thursday his name came up again when a witness gave more details about how he paid the money.

Eladio Rodriguez, an Argentinian who worked for Burzaco, said that in 2013 he registered a \$2.6 million payment to an entity he named "the government".

"Everything that says government was Delhon", he said.

Delhon dealt with the now-defunct government program Futbol para Todos (Football for All), which broadcast local soccer matches on public TV.

Argentina no longer looking for survivors from missing sub

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's navy said Thursday that it is no longer looking for survivors among the 44 sailors aboard a submarine missing for 15 days, though a multinational operation will continue searching for the vessel.

Hopes of finding survivors had already dimmed because experts said the crew had only enough oxygen to last 7 to 10 days if the sub remained intact under the sea. The navy also had said an explosion was detected near the time and place where the ARA San Juan made its last contact with shore Nov. 15.

Navy spokesman Enrique Balbi said the rescue mission had "extended for more than twice what is estimated for a rescue."

"We've had 28 ships, nine aircraft, 4,000 people involved, 18 countries supporting," he told reporters. "Despite the magnitude of these efforts, we've been unable to find the submarine."

Balbi said the search was no longer considered a rescue mission, but the hunt would go on for the missing sub.

Some relatives of the crew broke into tears after they received the news.

"I don't understand this arbitrary and unjustified decision," Luis Tagliapietra, the father of 27-year-old crew member Alejandro Tagliapietra, told local TV. "It's unusually cruel. Every day, it's a new blow. I'm destroyed."

The navy has said the vessel's captain reported that water entered the snorkel and caused one of the submarine's batteries to short circuit. The captain later communicated by satellite phone that the problem had been contained.

Some hours later, an explosion was detected near the time

and place where the San Juan was last heard from. A navy spokesman said this week that the blast could have been triggered by a "concentration of hydrogen" caused by the battery problem reported by the captain.

The search for the San Juan has employed some of the latest technology in one of the largest efforts of its kind. So far, aircraft have flown some 557,000 nautical miles, while ships have searched more than a million nautical miles in the frigid South Atlantic, the navy said.

A Norwegian ship carrying the U.S. Navy's underwater remotely operated vehicle and its pressurized rescue module was returning to the Patagonian port of Comodoro Rivadavia to resupply before setting out again to search for the sub. The U.S. Navy also said Thursday that its Cable-operated Unmanned Recovery Vehicle 21 had been deployed to join the search efforts after Argentina shifted its focus to undersea assets capable of deep seafloor searches.

Some family members have denounced the navy's response to the sub's disappearance as well as the age and condition of the vessel. President Mauricio Macri has promised a full investigation.

The San Juan, a German-built diesel-electric TR-1700 class submarine, was commissioned in the 1980s and was most recently refitted in 2014.

During the \$12 million retrofitting, the vessel was cut in half and had its engines and batteries replaced. Experts say refits can be difficult because they involve integrating systems produced by different manufacturers, and even the tiniest mistake during the cutting phase can put the safety of the ship and crew at risk.



Relatives of crew members of the missing ARA San Juan submarine embrace outside the navy base in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017. Argentina has ended a rescue operation for 44 crew members aboard the submarine that went missing on Nov. 15, but it will continue the search for the sub.

(AP Photo/Marina Devo)

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Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong, second left, is escorted by police as she leaves the Shah Alam court house in Shah Alam, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017. Malaysia, Äôs high-profile trial of two women accused of killing the estranged half brother of North Korean leader goes on recess with the last hearing until next year.

(AP Photo/Sadiq Asyraf)

Defense will try to shift focus to North Korea in Kim murder

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia’s high-profile trial of two women accused of killing the estranged half brother of North Korean leader has gone into recess until next year.

Indonesia’s Siti Aisyah, 25, and Vietnam’s Doan Thi Huong, 29, are accused of smearing a nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam’s face in a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13. The two are the only suspects in custody, though prosecutors have said four North Koreans who have since fled the country were also involved.

Prosecutors have focused on proving the women’s guilt but shied away from scrutinizing any political motive behind the killing. Defense lawyers, who say their clients were duped into carrying out the attack, will look to shift that focus when the trial resumes Jan. 22.

Here’s a look at what’s been presented in court since the trial began two months ago.

THE VICTIM

Kim Jong Nam was seen on airport security camera footage as he was approached by two women, who appear to smear something on his face. Footage showed Kim gesturing for help before he suffered seizures. He was dead within two hours.

Kim was carrying four diplomatic passports that identified him as Kim Chol, aged 46.

An autopsy showed the banned VX nerve agent was found on Kim’s face and in his eyes, blood, urine, clothing and bag. His organs were damaged, including part of his brain, both lungs, his liver and spleen. Doctors concluded the cause of his death was “acute VX nerve agent poisoning,” and ruled out contributing factors.

Police testified Kim was carrying eight international currencies, including \$124,000. He also carried a drug known to be an antidote for nerve agents.

It is known that Kim Jong Nam, the eldest son of the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, had been living abroad for years after falling out of favor. It is thought that he could have been seen as a threat to his brother Kim Jong Un’s rule.

THE DEFENDANTS

The two young women face the death penalty if convicted, but under Malaysian law they can’t be sentenced to die if they didn’t have intent to kill. That is their defense.

The court has heard that traces of VX were found on the women’s clothing as well as on Huong’s fingernails. A government chemist testified that VX was a “strategic” choice of poison because it doesn’t evaporate quickly and a victim could

be targeted without affecting the surroundings.

The chemist told the court that rubbing VX on a person’s eye would be the fastest way to kill because the eyes have no barrier like the skin. He said the palm is the least sensitive area and VX can be washed from the hand within 15 minutes of exposure — which could explain why the women weren’t affected.

Prosecutors contend the women knew they were handling poison and deliberately rushed to wash their hands after the attack. Security camera footage shows both holding their hands away from their bodies as they rush to separate restrooms.

Defense lawyers argued that the women didn’t flee the country nor discard their clothing, indicating they didn’t know they were handling poison. Furthermore, they point to the women’s contention that they thought they were playing a prank for a hidden camera show.

The defense says the men who hired the women for the prank show were actually North Korean agents who fled the country after the attack. North Korea has denied any involvement.

THE NORTH KOREANS

Police have told the court that several North Korean men helped plot the attack, including a man one of the women says hired her to stage pranks. The four men left Malaysia on the day of the killing.

A police investigator identified the four as Hong Song Hac, Ri Ji Hyon, Ri Jae Nam and O Jong Gil. On Malaysia’s request, Interpol has issued arrest warrant for the men, who are believed to be back in Pyongyang, but North Korea is not a member of the organization.

Airport security footage played in the courtroom showed all four discarding their belongings and changing their outfits after the attack. They were then seen meeting North Korean Embassy official Hyong Kwang Song and Air Koryo official Kim Uk-II in another part of the airport before flying out of the country.

The embassy and Air Koryo officials have told police it was their duty to assist North Korean citizens leaving the country. Those two and another North Korean police were seeking to question were allowed to leave the country in the days after the killing in exchange for the release of nine Malaysians stuck in Pyongyang.

The court heard that Hong Song Hac was the mastermind who orchestrated the operation on the ground.



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In this Sept. 30, 2014 photo, Garrison Keillor talks with Daily Circuit host Tom Weber in the studios at Minnesota Public Radio in St. Paul, Minn. Keillor said Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, he has been fired by Minnesota Public Radio over allegations of improper behavior.
(Jeffrey Thompson/Minnesota Public Radio via AP)

Garrison Keillor firing prompts backlash from his fans

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Outraged Garrison Keillor fans deluged Minnesota Public Radio Thursday with complaints about the firing of the humorist over alleged workplace misconduct.

Some say they will no longer support MPR, one of the nation’s largest public radio operations, which depends heavily on financial contributions.

MPR said Wednesday it was cutting ties with Keillor, creator and former host of the popular public radio show “A Prairie Home Companion,” over an allegation of workplace misconduct. The network did not give details, but Keillor told the Minneapolis Star Tribune that he had put his hand on a woman’s bare back while trying to console her.

On Thursday, MPR repeated that it had received just one formal complaint against Keillor, a day after a statement by him raised questions about the extent of the allegations.

Keillor told MPR’s news department in an email that two employees had made allegations. MPR spokeswoman Angie Andresen, asked to clear up the discrepancy, said the network has “a formal complaint from an individual that includes multiple allegations related to Garrison’s behavior.”

Keillor told The Associated Press in an email Thursday evening that one person had brought a claim against MPR and one person had brought a claim against him. He says he hasn’t seen the allegations against him and that his account to the Star Tribune was the only incident he could remember.

Andresen didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment on Keillor’s statement.

Meanwhile, MPR News reported that many people were angered at Keillor’s dismissal and dozens planned to cancel their memberships.

Bridget George of Anoka says she wants a fuller explanation from the network. She said Keillor spoke at a fundraiser at her church last year and is a “kind, caring, compassionate person.”

“I think a lot of politics go into these decisions,” George said. “I would be curious to know what other things were going on that might have motivated the board to take that action.”

More than 400 people had expressed themselves through MPR’s Public Insight Network within 24 hours of the news breaking. Discussions on the MPR News Facebook page had generated more than 25,000 words, enough to fill a 100-page book.

“We understand that some listeners are upset and know that the limited information we’ve

made available at this time may not seem to justify such a consequential decision,” said Angie Andresen, a spokeswoman for MPR and APM. “We want to assure that this decision honors the highest standards they’ve come to expect from us.”

While many fans supported Keillor, the professional fallout for the popular radio personality continued on Thursday.

The Washington Post said it won’t distribute any more columns by Keillor because he didn’t reveal he was under investigation in his most recent column. Keillor’s last column criticized calls for Minnesota U.S. Sen. Al Franken to resign over allegations of sexual misconduct.

Washington Post editorial page editor Fred Hiatt said Keillor’s column failed a basic transparency test. The Post had syndicated Keillor’s column after his retirement from “A Prairie Home Companion.”

According to its 2016 financial report, St. Paul-based MPR and its parent company, American Public Media, received 63 percent of its revenue that fiscal year from the public. Of that public support, \$21 million was from individual gifts and memberships.

Keillor was on an East Coast tour through Sunday with the folk duo Robin and Linda Williams. But the remaining shows in Connecticut and New York State were canceled, according to websites for those theaters. Keillor also was set to appear Wednesday night at a theater in western Massachusetts, but that show was canceled after news broke of his dismissal by MPR.

MPR has said it received allegations of “inappropriate behavior” against Keillor last month involving one person who worked with him during his time hosting “Prairie Home.” MPR did not elaborate on the allegation.

Keillor told the Minneapolis Star-Tribune that he meant to pat the woman on the back but, “her shirt was open and my hand went up it about six inches. She recoiled. I apologized,” Keillor said. “I sent her an email of apology later, and she replied that she had forgiven me and not to think about it. We were friends. We continued to be friendly right up until her lawyer called.”

Keillor retired as host of the radio variety show last year, but the Saturday evening show continues with mandolinist Chris Thile as host.

MPR said it would rename the show and end distribution of “The Writer’s Almanac,” Keillor’s daily reading of a poem and telling of literary events. MPR also plans to end rebroadcasts of “The Best of A Prairie Home Companion” hosted by Keillor.





[l-r] Sens. Fano F. Shimasaki, Paepae Iosefa Faiai, and Fai'ivae Iuli Godinet with Secretary of the Senate, Leo'o Va'a Ma'o, following a Senate session yesterday where senators unanimously endorsed Paepae's nomination as Associate Judge of the High Court.

[photo: FS]

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Jury: Mexican man not guilty in San Francisco pier killing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A jury on Thursday found a Mexican man not guilty in the killing of a woman on a San Francisco pier that touched off a fierce national immigration debate two years ago, rejecting possible charges ranging from involuntary manslaughter to first-degree murder.

The shooting of Kate Steinle came during the presidential primary campaign in 2015 and was used by then-candidate Donald Trump to push for a wall on the Mexican border.

“From Day 1 this case was used as a means to foment hate, to foment division and to foment a program of mass deportation. It was used to catapult a presidency along that philosophy of hate of others,” defense attorney Francisco Ugarte said after the verdict. “I believe today is a day of vindication for the rest of immigrants.”

Jose Ines Garcia Zarate had been deported five times and was wanted for a sixth deportation when Steinle was fatally shot in the back while walking with her father on the pier.

The case spotlighted San Francisco’s “sanctuary city” policy, which limits local officials from cooperating with U.S. immigration authorities.

Politics, however, did not come up in the monthlong trial that featured extensive testimony from ballistics experts. Defense attorneys argued that Garcia Zarate was a hapless homeless man who killed Steinle in a freak accident. Prosecutors said he meant to shoot and kill her.

Garcia Zarate did not deny shooting Steinle and said it was an accident.

Jurors did find him guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm, meaning he knowingly had a firearm but there was no intent for him to hurt or shoot anyone. Public Defender Jeff Adachi said the count carries a potential sentence of 16 months to three years behind bars.

“The verdict that came in today was not the one we were hoping for,” said Alex Bastian, a spokesman for the San Francisco prosecutor’s office. “The jury came back with the verdict they did, and we will respect that decision. ... This is really about the Steinle family. They showed incredible resolve during this whole process.”

Jim Steinle told the San Francisco Chronicle the family was saddened and shocked by the verdict.

“There’s no other way you can coin it. Justice was rendered, but it was not served,” he said in what he called the last interview he would do about the case.

The family did not attend the reading of the verdict. Jurors left without comment and the

judge sealed their names.

Before the shooting, Garcia Zarate finished a federal prison sentence for illegal re-entry into the United States and had been transferred to San Francisco’s jail in March 2015 to face a 20-year-old charge for selling marijuana.

The sheriff’s department released him a few days later after prosecutors dropped the marijuana charge, despite a request from federal immigration officials to detain him for deportation.

The Trump administration has sought to punish sanctuary cities through a series of legal actions, including an executive order to withhold funding, but a federal judge recently blocked it in a lawsuit from two California counties, San Francisco and Santa Clara. The administration has appealed.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement Thursday that San Francisco’s decision to release Garcia Zarate led to Steinle’s death.

“The Department of Justice will continue to ensure that all jurisdictions place the safety and security of their communities above the convenience of criminal aliens,” Sessions said. “I urge the leaders of the nation’s communities to reflect on the outcome of this case and consider carefully the harm they are doing to their citizens by refusing to cooperate with federal law enforcement officers.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia said during the trial that she didn’t know why Garcia Zarate fired the weapon, but he created a risk of death by bringing the firearm to the pier and twirling around on a chair for at least 20 minutes before he fired.

“He did kill someone. He took the life of a young, vibrant, beautiful, cherished woman by the name of Kate Steinle,” she said.

Defense attorney Matt Gonzalez said in his closing argument that he knows it’s difficult to believe Garcia Zarate found an object that turned out to be a weapon, which fired when he picked it up.

But he told jurors that Garcia Zarate had no motivation to kill Steinle and that as awful as her death was, “nothing you do is going to fix that.”

Garcia Zarate was sitting about 90 feet (27 meters) from Steinle when the gun fired. The bullet ricocheted on the pier’s concrete walkway and fatally struck Steinle in the back.

The gun was stolen from the SUV of a U.S. Bureau of Land Management ranger that was parked in San Francisco.



Matt Gonzalez, chief attorney of the San Francisco Public Defenders Office, center, fields questions after a verdict was reached in the trial of Jose Ines Garcia Zarate Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017, in San Francisco. Garcia Zarate was found not guilty in the killing of Kate Steinle on a San Francisco pier that touched off a national immigration debate two years ago, rejecting possible charges ranging from involuntary manslaughter to first-degree murder.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

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FILE - In this Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, file photo, South Korean President Moon Jae-in speaks as he presides over a meeting of the National Security Council at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea. North Korea,Äôs latest missile launch is a frustrating development for South Korean organizers of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, just 10 weeks away from the opening ceremony.

(Yonhap via AP, File)

North’s missile frustrates South Korea’s Olympic preparation

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Just when South Korea thought it was finally creating a buzz for February’s Winter Olympics, North Korea fired its most powerful missile yet and re-ignited safety worries about the small mountain town that will host the games not far from the rivals’ anxious border.

The Pyeongchang Olympics probably aren’t in jeopardy because of Wednesday’s launch for a number of reasons, including that the North is unlikely to attack the more powerful, U.S.-backed South. Despite its belligerent neighbor, South Korea is also one of the safest places in the world with a wealth of experience hosting international sporting events.

Still, the launch, which followed a 10-week lull, was a frustrating development for Pyeongchang’s organizers, who have only recently got on track after facing construction delays, controversies over cost overruns and wary sponsors. They can also do little to calm international fears created by North Korea’s accelerating nuclear weapons and missile tests.

Shortly after North Korea fired the Hwasong-15 into the sea Wednesday, South Korean President Moon Jae-in convened a national security meeting where he ordered government officials to closely review whether the launch could hurt South Korea’s efforts to successfully host the Olympics, which begin on Feb. 9.

South Korea wants more than a million spectators for the Olympics, which will be held just 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the border, and expects 30 percent of them to be foreign visitors. Organizers have strug-

gled for months to spark enthusiasm for the games locally, where the national conversation over the past year have been dominated by a massive corruption scandal that toppled and jailed the last president and North Korea’s flurry of weapons tests.

Sung Baikyoo, an official from Pyeongchang’s organizing committee, on Thursday downplayed worries that North Korea would scare away athletes and visitors to Pyeongchang. Organizers and government officials have held briefings and site inspections for Olympics officials, members and sponsors to reassure them of South Korea’s security readiness.

The 92 nations that have so far registered to participate in the Pyeongchang Games represent the largest ever Winter Olympics field. And after a slow start, organizers had managed to sell more than half of the available tickets by the end of November.

Sung said there hasn’t been any talk with the International Olympic Committee about moving or canceling the games.

“It wouldn’t make sense for anyone to cancel tickets to Pyeongchang because of fears about North Korea,” Sung said. “There’s no war; bombs aren’t being dropped on Pyeongchang.”

Hyun Jae-gyung, an official from Gangwon province, which governs Pyeongchang and nearby Gangneung, a coastal city that will host the skating and hockey events during the Olympics, said cancelations at hotels and other accommodation facilities in the areas have been few and sporadic and unlikely linked to security

concerns.

But there’s nothing organizers can do if North Korea raises fears even higher with more tests. North Korea has conducted 20 ballistic missile launches just this year, and the tests are becoming increasingly aggressive; some in the South fear that Washington might consider a pre-emptive strike on the North as the intercontinental ballistic missile tested Wednesday may be able to reach anywhere in the continental United States.

Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul’s Dongguk University and a security adviser to South Korea’s presidential office, thinks it’s highly unlikely that the North will do any significant weapons tests or other aggressive acts that would disrupt the Olympics.

After Hwasong-15’s successful flight test, delighted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared that the country has “realized the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force.” Many experts, including Koh, believe that this suggests the country could soon consider its nuclear program as “enough” and shift the focus to its dismal economy.

It would do nothing for heavily sanctioned Pyongyang to worsen its awful reputation by creating trouble during the Olympics, Koh said. In recent government statements, including the one announced after Wednesday’s missile test, North Korea has repeatedly claimed itself as a “responsible” and “peace-loving” nation, something it has been emphasizing since the United States relisted the country as a state terror sponsor, Koh said.

Possible link found between some Utah suicides, electronics

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Researchers studying a spike in teen suicides in Utah found that 18 of the 150 youngsters who took their own lives in a five-year period had recently lost privileges to use their electronic devices such as phones, tablets and gaming systems, according to a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report made public Thursday.

The report was released after outside researchers earlier this month issued findings based on CDC data showing an increase in suicide rates among teens across the U.S. over the 2010-2015 period occurred at the same time social media use surged. Teen suicides had declined in the two previous decades.

Both reports stop short of blaming electronics and social media for the rise in suicides, but say the findings beg for more research on the topic.

The findings add to a growing body of research that raise serious questions about whether young people who spend many hours on social media are more at risk for relationship problems, said Michael Friedrichs, a Utah state epidemiologist who was among those who spoke at a Thursday news conference in Salt Lake City.

More than half — 55 percent — of the Utah suicides from 2011-2015 had experienced

a recent crisis, most of which were family or dating relationships, the report found.

“A social media connection or a phone connection is not a substitute for a real connection,” said Michael Friedrichs, a Utah state epidemiologist. “People need to go outside. . . . There is a lack of connectness that is not satisfied by being tethered to a gadget.”

Utah requested the federal investigation to get more in-depth research done after the rate of suicides among youth 10-17 more than doubled from 2011-2015.

The peak of 44 youth suicides in 2015 marked an all-time high — and was more than double the yearly average from the previous two decades, state figures said. The 2015 rate — 11.1 youth suicides per 100,000 — was also more than double the national rate.

The rate has decreased slightly in 2016-2017, but remains much higher than ever recorded previously, state data said.

The federal researchers did not find a single factor driving the increase, but found that mental health issues seem to be a common factor with 35 percent of the victims diagnosed with some kind of mental health issue and 31 percent depressed when they died, the report found.

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Feds seek 60-year prison sentence for Michigan sports doctor

DETROIT (AP) — Federal prosecutors on Thursday asked for a 60-year prison sentence for a Michigan sports doctor who was caught with child pornography while under investigation for sexually assaulting female gymnasts.

Larry Nassar, 54, who worked at Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics, will be sentenced for child porn crimes on Dec. 7. In the last week, he has pleaded guilty to molesting teens and younger girls with his hands in two other cases in state court.

Nassar “has led a double life,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean Lewis said in a court filing. “On the surface, he was a respected, world-renowned expert for elite athletes. He was a medical doctor, a husband and a father. But underneath this veneer lurked a predator.”

Lewis said Nassar “poses an immense risk to the community.”

In July, he pleaded guilty to three charges in federal court in western Michigan, each carrying up to 20 years in prison. Sentences typically run at the same time, but U.S. District Judge Janet Neff can order separate, consecutive punishments.

Nassar’s attorneys didn’t make a specific recommendation in their memo but asked Neff for a “just sentence.”

“While Mr. Nassar wishes he could rewind the hands of time and make different choices, he realizes that this is not possible. ... He

deeply regrets the pain that he has caused the community, as well as his family and friends,” Shannon Smith and Matthew Newburg said.

Investigators found more than 37,000 images of child porn on Nassar’s electronic devices.

He acknowledged that he dumped computer hard drives in the trash and paid \$49 to have a laptop’s memory wiped clean to obstruct investigators who were hearing allegations about sexual assault.

The hard drives were discovered only because the trash truck in Nassar’s neighborhood was late one day.

“To be clear, this defendant amassed an enormous collection of abominable images of children being sexually abused, raped and degraded,” Lewis said.

Nassar pleaded guilty Wednesday to assaulting three girls at a Lansing-area gymnastics club while they sought treatment for injuries.

He made a similar guilty plea last week, admitting that he molested girls at his Michigan State clinic and his home. Meanwhile, more than 100 women and girls are suing him.

Olympians Aly Raisman, McKayla Maroney and Gabby Douglas say they were victims when Nassar worked for Indianapolis-based USA Gymnastics.

Former sports doctor Larry Nassar, left, stands with his attorney Shannon Smith as he pleads guilty to three counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017, in Judge Janice Cunningham’s courtroom in Eaton County, Mich.

(Matthew Dae /Lansing State Journal via AP)

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FILE - In this Sept. 26, 2017 file photo, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listens to transportation minister Yisrael Katz during the weekly cabinet meeting at his office in Jerusalem. On Monday, Nov. 6, 2017, Netanyahu pledged 200 million shekels (\$57 million) to build safe bypass roads for Jewish West Bank settlers, in a move that looks to satisfy a key constituent but anger Palestinians who consider it a further encroachment upon their hoped for future state.

(Gali Tibbon, Pool via AP, File)

Israel intelligence chief says he plans to succeed Netanyahu

NEW YORK (AP) — Israel’s intelligence minister said Thursday he plans to succeed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who is embroiled in corruption scandals and a police investigation.

But Israel Katz said in an interview with The Associated Press he hopes Netanyahu will be able to continue as prime minister, and “that the clouds that are hanging over his head now will pass.”

Israeli police have questioned Netanyahu six times over a pair of corruption scandals and one of his closest former aides has become a witness against him. Netanyahu has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and called the accusations a witch hunt orchestrated by a hostile media.

Police say they suspect Netanyahu of being involved in bribery, fraud and breach of trust. The scandals have yet to threaten his rule but have chipped away at his public approval ratings.

“I trust the law enforcement,” said Katz, an ally of Netanyahu. “Israel has a system and I hope that it will finish soon and that Netanyahu will have the possibility to continue to do the very important things that he is doing.”

“I’m planning to be after him, leader of the Likkud (party) and prime minister of Israel,” he said.

In the wide-ranging interview, Katz talked about President Donald Trump’s campaign promise to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

“It’s an American decision,” he said, but quickly added, “it’s time that United States will recognize Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the Jewish people since 3,000 years as the capital of the state of Israel ... and after that to move the embassy.”

Katz said Trump has to keep his promise.

“I’m optimistic. I’m optimistic this will happen,” he said.

U.S. officials, however, said Thursday the president is poised to again delay a move. But they said he will likely temper the blow by declaring Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

Israel has controlled the western part of Jerusalem, home to most of Israel’s government institutions, since gaining independence in 1948. Its capture of east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 and annexation of the holy city is not internationally recognized, and the Palestinians want east Jerusalem as the capital of their future independent state.

Moving the embassy risks infuriating the Palestinians and could inflame regional tensions though Katz dismissed the prospect of violence

if a move takes place.

“What will they do? It’s not against peace negotiations,” he said. “It’s for the historic right.”

Katz came to New York from Washington where he said he met with Trump’s special Mid-east envoy Jason Greenblatt, who is a key player in the administration’s effort to get an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and end decades of conflict.

“I pray that President Trump will succeed to bring the peace,” the Israeli minister said.

He said Israel would like negotiations with the Palestinians without any preconditions that can include Arab countries in the region. He singled out Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

“I think Mohammed bin Salman now has the chance to do what Anwar Sadat did before 40 years — to take the decisions for him, and also for the Palestinians,” Katz said. “I don’t think the Palestinians are strong enough to take the decision — historic decision to accept the existing situation.”

He was referring to Sadat’s negotiations with Israel after Egyptian forces surprised Israel in the 1973 Yom Kippur war that culminated in the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.

“We are for trying to get the peace,” Katz said, and the Trump administration is “trying to be creative.”

He said that with Saudi Arabia and other countries, the U.S. is talking “and we are talking, and they are talking about regional process and regional normalization.”

Katz said Israel’s security is paramount in any peace agreement and he raised the issue of “terminology” — “if you call it an independent state or you call it autonomy.”

The Palestinians already have limited autonomy and have repeatedly said any peace deal must culminate with an independent state.

At the United Nations, Katz said, Israel is campaigning to enforce the U.N. resolution that ended the 2006 war between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. It calls for Hezbollah and all other militias operating in Lebanon to be disarmed and demobilized — something that has not happened.

Katz said Israel wants the U.S. to enforce the resolution and “take very paralyzing sanctions on Hezbollah” to keep Iran from supplying weapons and money to the military group and to warn Iran “to stop what they are doing.”

He said there should be U.N. sanctions “but the power will have to come from the United States and other countries.”



BEACH ADVISORY



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

Supporting efforts to clean our shores

AS-EPA

Release Date: November 29, 2017

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

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) advises the public that on November 28, 2017, the following recreational beaches tested positive for Enterococci bacteria levels that exceed American Samoa Water Quality Standards:

Fagatogo Stream Mouth
Utulei Beach
Utulei-DDW Beach
Nu'uuli Pala Lagoon

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

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

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



In this Nov. 16, 2017 frame grab from video, Kristina Myers, widow of Steven Myers, who was killed on Oct. 6, 2017, in Sun City, Kansas, during an encounter with Barber County sheriff deputies, speaks about the event in Wichita, Kan. The widow of the Kansas man killed last month by an undersheriff has asked a court to release video and audio recordings of the encounter that her attorney says show her husband was unarmed and trying to obey instructions when he was shot.

(AP Photo/Roxana Hegeman)

Kansas widow sues sheriff, undersheriff over shooting death

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — The widow of a Kansas man killed last month during an encounter with Barber County deputies has sued the county's sheriff and his undersheriff.

Kristina Myers filed a federal lawsuit Thursday alleging law enforcement officials used excessive force when they

killed her 42-year-old husband, Steven. The lawsuit contends video shows Steven Myers was standing with empty hands at his sides, and did not threaten officers or attempt to escape during the Oct. 6 encounter in Sun City, Kansas. Undersheriff Virgil Brewer shot Steven Myers at close range with a

beanbag round. Video from a body camera captured Sheriff Lonnie Small saying, "Shot him with a beanbag round. Hadn't shot anybody with it yet." The sheriff's office referred comment to the county attorney's office, which did not immediately return a phone message.

Kansas plan for new prison draws criticism from lawmakers

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A plan to have the largest private prison operator in the U.S. build a new state prison for Kansas immediately faced bipartisan criticism from legislators Thursday because the state would pay for the project by leasing the facility from the company for 20 years.

The state Department of Corrections announced that it selected Core Civic Inc., based in Nashville, Tennessee, to oversee construction of a new prison in Lansing, near Kansas City. The new lockup for 2,400 inmates would replace the state's oldest and largest prison on the same site.

Most legislators don't dispute the need to replace the existing prison, which has space dating to the 1860s. But even as lawmakers authorized the project earlier this year, some wanted to take the more traditional approach of issuing state bonds to finance construction. Those lawmakers are at odds with the department over whether using bonds would be cheaper over time.

State law still requires legislative leaders and Republican

Gov. Sam Brownback to formally sign off on the department's plan next month for the two-year, \$170 million project to go forward. Ahead of that decision, the department outlined its plan Thursday to a legislative committee that reviews building projects — and the panel recommended delaying the project to solicit new proposals to finance the prison with bonds. Republican Rep. J.R. Claeys, of Salina, even suggested corrections officials engineered the selection process to result in a lease-purchase deal with CoreCivic. "I just don't think that the way that this was set up, that it smells right," Claeys said. The state took bids for the project but limited it to companies with experience in building prisons. It received proposal from CoreCivic and another private-prison company, GEO Group of Boca Raton, Florida, and CoreCivic's was significantly less expensive. Neither company proposed a bond-financed project.

CoreCivic, formerly Corrections Corporation of America, owns, controls or manages more than 80 facilities in 20 states

and the District of Columbia, with roughly 90,000 beds. It reported revenues of \$1.85 billion in 2016.

The company has faced questions in lawsuits and critical audits about its operations in at least six states, including Kansas, and the District of Columbia. But President and CEO Damon Hininger told reporters Thursday that more than 90 percent of its government contracts are renewed.

According to the secretary of state's office, the company has five registered lobbyists in Kansas, including Hininger.

The lobbyists also include David Kensinger, a confidante and former chief of staff to Brownback. Records show he registered Nov. 13 and expected to spend less than \$1,000 in lobbying for the firm before the end of the year.

Steve Owen, a CoreCivic managing director, said in an email that Kensinger was hired to advise the company, which finds it best to "engage local experts." But, Owen said, the company's own staff handled responses and negotiations with the department.



Kansas Corrections Secretary Joe Norwood outlines a plan for building a new prison to replace the state's oldest and largest prison during a legislative committee, Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017, at the Statehouse in Topeka, Kan. The plan calls for private prison company CoreCivic Inc. to build the prison and lease it to the state for 20 years

(AP Photo/John Hanna)



Currency traders work at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Dec. 1, 2017. Asian stock markets were marginally higher Friday, after an overnight recovery of technology stocks on Wall Street. An agreement among key crude exporting countries to extend oil output cuts boosted sentiment. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Asian stocks mostly higher following tech recovery, oil deal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were marginally higher Friday, after an overnight recovery of technology stocks on Wall Street. An agreement among key crude exporting countries to extend oil production cuts also boosted sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan’s Nikkei 225 was flat at 22,724.11 while South Korea’s Kospi rose 0.2 percent to 2,480.42. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index slipped 0.1 percent to 29,158.26 and China’s Shanghai Composite Index lost less than 0.1 percent to 3,316.50. Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.2 percent to 5,981.20. Stocks in South-east Asia were mostly higher.

ANALYST’S TAKE: “The recovery in technology stocks looks set to ignite a rebound for Asian equities into the end of the week,” said Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG in Singapore.

CHINA DATA: In China, the latest Caixin purchasing managers’ index showed that factory activity fell to its lowest level in five months in November while confidence about the business outlook also dropped. The indicator that shows a snapshot of operating conditions in China’s man-

ufacturing economy registered 50.8 last month, down from 51.0 in October.

WALL STREET: On Thursday, the Dow Jones industrial average finished with its biggest gain since March and pushed it past the 24,000 mark for the first time. The Dow jumped 1.4 percent to 24,272.35. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index climbed 0.8 percent to 2,647.58 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq gained 0.7 percent to 6,873.97. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked 0.1 percent to 1,544.14.

OIL: Crude oil prices gained after OPEC and a group of allied oil-producing nations agreed to extend crude output cuts until the end of next year. Benchmark U.S. crude added 20 cents to \$57.60 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract finished at \$57.40 per barrel on Thursday, up 10 cents. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 34 cents to \$62.97 per barrel in London. It finished at \$62.63 a barrel, up 10 cents in the previous day.

CURRENCIES: The dollar edged higher to 112.57 yen from 112.54 yen while the euro rose slightly to \$1.1907 from \$1.1904.



FILE - This Dec. 11, 2013 file photo shows a Fonterra milk powder factory at Pahiatua, New Zealand. An arbitration tribunal has ordered New Zealand dairy giant Fonterra to pay Danone of France US\$125 million for recall costs stemming from a 2013 food scare. (Steve Carle/New Zealand Herald via AP, File)

Strong quake jolts sparsely populated Iran; no damage

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran’s state TV is reporting a magnitude 6.1 earthquake has jolted a sparsely populated area in the country’s southeast. There are no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

The U.S. Geological Survey has put the magnitude at 6.

The Friday quake jolted Hojedk town, about 1,100 kilometers (683 miles) southeast of the capital Tehran. The farming town has a population of 3,000 and is frequently hit by quakes.

Last month, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck western Iran, killing 530 and injuring more than 9,000 people. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 quake flattened the historic southern city of Bam, killing 26,000 people.

Iran is located on major seismic faults and averages a quake per day.



People stand in the street after feeling aftershocks from an earthquake in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017. The deadly earthquake hit the region along the border between Iran and Iraq on Sunday. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was centered 19 miles (31 kilometers) outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar’s office for the registration of the Matai Title TUFONO of the village of FAGATOGO by PHILIP LANGFORD of the village of FAGATOGO, county of MAOPUTASI, EASTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title TUFONO shall be registered in the name of PHILIP LANGFORD in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: OCTOBER 18, 2017 thru DECEMBER 18, 2017
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registra

Fa’aaliga o le Fa’amauina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa’aaliga lenei ua faasalalauina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauina o le suafa matai o TUFONO o le nu’u o FAGATOGO e PHILIP LANGFORD o FAGATOGO faalupega o MAOPUTASI, falelima i SASA’E.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu’u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloia, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete’e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai lenei fa’aaliga. Afai o lea leai se talosaga tete’e, po’o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o PHILIP LANGFORD e tusa ai ma aiatiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

11/01 & 12/01/17

LAND COMMISSION

NOTICE is hereby given that TE’O PUIA’I MANUMA TUFELE of PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, has executed a LEASE AGREEMENT to a certain parcel of land commonly known as ALAFA which is situated in the village of PAGO PAGO, in the County of MAOPUTASI, EASTERN District, Island of Tutuila, American Samoa. Said LEASE AGREEMENT is now on file with the Territorial Registrar to be forwarded to the Governor respecting his approval or disapproval thereof according to the laws of American Samoa. Said instrument names AILEEN E. SOLAITA as LESSEE.

Any person who wish, may file his objection in writing with the Secretary of the Land Commission before the 15TH day of DECEMBER, 2017. It should be noted that any objection must clearly state the grounds therefor.

POSTED: OCTOBER 16, 2017 thru DECEMBER 15, 2017
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

KOMISI O LAU’ELE’ELE

O LE FAASALALAUGA lenei ua faia ona o TE’O PUIA’I MANUMA TUFELE ole nu’u o PAGO PAGO, Amerika Samoa, ua ia faia se FEAGAIGA LISI, i se fanua ua lauiloa o ALAFA e i le nu’u o PAGO PAGO i le itumalo o MAOPUTASI, Falelima i SASA’E ole Motu o TUTUILA Amerika Samoa. O lea FEAGAIGA LISI ua i ai nei i teuga pepa ale Resitara o Amerika Samoa e fia auina atu ile Kovana Sili mo sana fa’amaoniga e tusa ai ma le Tulafono a Amerika Samoa. O lea mata’upu o lo’o ta’ua ai AILEEN E. SOLAITA

A iai se tasi e fia fa’atu’iese i lea mata’upu, ia fa’aulufaleina mai sa na fa’atu’iesega tusitusia ile Failautusi o lea Komisi ae le’i o’o ile aso 15 o TESEMA, 2017. Ia manatua, o fa’atu’iesega uma lava ia tusitusia manino mai ala uma e fa’atu’iese ai.

11/01 & 12/01/17



Protests grow as vote count in Honduras drags on

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Protesters and police clashed violently Thursday as incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernandez emerged with a growing lead for re-election following a reported computer glitch that shut down vote counting for several hours.

Challenger Salvador Nasralla has alleged fraud and said he won't respect the official results. He's watched an initial five-point lead diminish in recent days as official results have trickled out.

Thursday night, Hernandez was ahead by more than 45,000 votes with nearly 93 percent of Sunday's votes processed. He had 42.9 percent of the vote to Nasralla's 41.4 percent.

Opposition supporters protested throughout the day and into the night outside the electoral court's facilities and on major boulevards, setting up roadblocks and lighting bonfires in the streets. Hooded

demonstrators threw rocks and pieces of wood at riot police carrying batons and shields, who responded forcefully with tear gas and water cannons as calls to maintain calm were increasingly unheeded.

David Matamoros, president of the electoral court, said Thursday that officials had not finished counting in part because overnight they had to evacuate after tear gas drifted into the building. He said that about 2,000 electoral reports from polling sites contained "inconsistencies," including lacking signatures from members of the polling sites or not having seals. Those will most likely require a special count and it was unclear how many votes were at play in those cases, he said. Representatives of the Organization of American States called for transparency in the count. Honduras' influential Private Business Council urged the electoral court to wait until all the votes are counted before announcing the result.

Across the country, columns of smoke rose from tires set ablaze in the streets.

In Tegucigalpa, protesters and riot police faced off amid billowing clouds of gas. Officers with batons and tear gas closed two central boulevards, and water cannons were deployed for crowd control.

At least four people were admitted to the University School Hospital with injuries to the head and neck. Red Cross workers also attended to people in the streets, including one young protester bleeding profusely from the head. In the northern municipality of Santa Rita, police reported that two officers and a member of the military were injured by opposition protesters.

"We will be on guard all night," said Lastenia Figueroa, an office worker who took part in the demonstrations in Tegucigalpa.

The Public Safety Department warned that it would "peacefully clear out the protesters because they are blocking traffic." It reported more disturbances in at least eight cities besides the capital.

Many schools and universities in the capital announced they would be closed through the weekend to keep students out of harm's way. The Association of Banking Institutions recommended branches close Thursday afternoon in anticipation of street clashes.

Nasralla via Twitter asked his supporters to continue to protest peacefully and not be provoked into violence. Luis Zelaya, candidate for the Liberal Party, who was running a distant third in the tally, called for his supporters to "defend democracy."

Caritas de Honduras, the social service arm of the Catholic Church, scolded all parties Thursday for calling their supporters into the streets.

Josh Corney and about two dozen supporters stand for the playing of Taps for the last time at Corney's 49 Glen Ave. home in Glen Rock, Thursday Nov. 30, 2017. Corney, a lieutenant commander in the Navy, has been playing a 57-second recording from his home just before 8 p.m. nightly for about two years now.

(John A. Pavoncello /York Dispatch via AP)

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