

Samoa News management and staff wishes all in the Territory a Happy & Safe New Year. In observance of New Year's Day, Samoa News will not published on Monday, Jan. 1 and Tuesday, Jan. 2 and will return on Wednesday, Jan. 3. However, our business office will be open on Tuesday, Jan. 2 — for regular hours — 8a.m.- 4p.m.



WHY VACCINATE YOUR DOG?

In this photo, the Tuinei family pays a visit to the veterinary clinic to have their 4 new puppies vaccinated and dewormed.

Make two of your New Year's resolution be: 1) Vaccinate and deworm your pets; and 2) Love a Pet by adopting a pet. The vet clinic still has 4 kittens, and 2 adult male neutered dogs for adoption. See inside for more info about vaccinating and deworming your dogs.

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR! [Courtesy photo]



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2017

\$1.00

American Samoa looking for a brighter 2018

EVEN NUMBERED YEARS ARE ALWAYS LUCKIER...

*by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent*

Church services and parties top the list of activities when American Samoa welcomes in 2018 at the stroke of 12 midnight Sunday night, the last in the U.S. "family" to do so. Guam will be the first U.S. possession to welcome in the New Year.

"...may the New Year bring our territory prosperity and continued peace and goodwill," said Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga as part of his annual Christmas message released last week before Christmas 2017.

Samoa is the first country in the world to ring-in the New

Year while American Samoa and Niue are the last places on earth to welcome 2018 with open arms, as territorial leaders hope for a blessed one, especially in terms of the economy, following many challenges in 2017, especially in the fishing and canned tuna industry.

StarKist Samoa is currently on a 3-week end of the year hiatus, after coming off a five-week shutdown due to repairs right after Thanksgiving. They cannery is the largest private employer on island.

There is also big hope by the Lolo Administration for new developments, including the start of construction of a multi-

food processing plant in Tafuna that will employ up to 800 once fully operational.

Expected to attract new visitors, "Po o Moli" or the Night of Lights is a tradition for the Methodist Church on New Year's Eve services at the more than 15 parishes of the Methodist synod in the territory.

The service is where different families and church groups make trees, about 10- 15 feet high, and decorate them with candy or flower ulas, yards of material, food items such as chips, cookies, canned goods and boxes of saimin. And of course, some are decorated with just cash.

At the end of the service, which is after midnight, decorations from the trees are given out first to the church and village leaders, the elders in the church, invited guests and finally to church members.

Many residents are also hopeful for rain-free and clear-skies for Tutuila so they can enjoy New Year's Eve celebrations, including a chance to go out to Poloa village around 6p.m. to watch the last sunset of the year. Some residents told Samoa News that although New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday, they still plan on going out to Poloa.

And for those who follow

Chinese astrology — 2018 is the Year of the Brown Earth Dog which is predicted by the Chinese Horscope 2018 to be a "good year in all respects, but it will also be an exhausting year." Chinese New Year falls on Feb. 16, 2018, according to the thechinesezodiac.org website.

Because New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday, not many local establishments are planning big parties with free champagne to toast in 2018, although there are some who are planning to do so.

Check out yesterday's and today's editions of Samoa News for New Year celebration spe-

(Continued on page 11)



Employees of can manufacturing plant Talofa Systems American Samoa Inc., and their families gather for a group photo after a ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017 to honor 8 of their employees, who have reached 5 to 30 years of service with the Satala-based can plant; and two employees were also recognized with the 2017 Perfect Attendance Award.

The years of service recipients received gift certificates worth \$75 to \$375, plus plaques and cases of tuna based on the number of years they've attained. The Perfect Attendance recipients each received \$100 gift certificates and 15 cases of tuna.

The employees are pictured with some of the management staff including supervisor Iopu Mara (front row, kneeling at far left), Electrical Supervisor Graeme Dunstan (back row at far right) and Chief Financial Officer Eogyoon Kim (back row, third from far right).

Talofa Systems is owned by South Korean based Dongwon Industries, which also owns StarKist Inc. and StarKist Samoa Co. The cannery is currently on a three-week end of the year shutdown and will resume production on Jan. 15th.

[Courtesy photo]





[l-r] Johnny Victor Toma, Director of Finances of Georgetown University Hospital, Washington DC; Candyman; and local businesswoman Tisa Fa'amuli at DDW Cafe yesterday.

[photo:Leua Aiono Frost]



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Juris Doctor degree from an ABA accredited law school with five to seven (5-7) years experience as an attorney in relevant areas of practice. Must be admitted to practice in any state and a member in good standing of a state bar. Must be eligible for admission to practice in American Samoa and must either be admitted to practice and licensed to practice in American Samoa or obtain admission and license to practice within thirty days of commencement of employment. All hired employees are subject to background and credit checks.

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Feds dispute EU naming territories as “tax havens”

U.S. HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM AND ALL OF THE US TERRITORIES

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

US Treasurer Steven T. Mnuchin has objected to the European Union including American Samoa and Guam in its “non-cooperative tax jurisdictions” blacklist, with a recommendation to remove the two territories from the list, which names entities considered as tax havens.

The Council of the EU released a press statement as well as the list of 17 countries and territories on Dec. 5. In its 38-page “Outcome of Proceedings” document, it states that American Samoa and Guam — among other things — does not apply any automatic exchange of financial information, and does not apply the BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) minimum standards. (See Samoa News edition Dec. 6 for details.)

Samoa News had sought comments at the time from ASG Treasury Department without success. However, an ASG news release yesterday states that the local government officials, including ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonu-maipea and Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, have been working behind the scene with US Treasury officials on this very important issue for American Samoa.

The ASG news release also included a copy of a Dec. 27 letter from Mnuchin to Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen, the Secretary-General of the Council of the EU.

The letter includes specific issues pertaining to American Samoa and Guam, with Mnuchin saying that the US “particularly objects” to the inclusion of its two territories, adding that as US territories, American Samoa and Guam participate in the international community through the United States.

Additionally, the commitments and actions of the United States in implementing the BEPS minimum standards extend to the US territories — a including Northern Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Furthermore, the US territo-

ries are evaluated as part of the review of the United States in the Global Forum peer review process and under the criteria for non-cooperative tax jurisdictions established by the G-20.

“Therefore, American Samoa, Guam and the other US territories are already subject to monitoring of the implementation of international tax standards,” Mnuchin said, adding that the US “disagrees” with the EU’s decision to consider the US territories separately from the United States.

“Taking into account both the laws in American Samoa and Guam and their connection to the European Union, there is no basis for concluding that American Samoa and Guam have any role in promoting the evasion or avoidance of taxes imposed by the European Union member states,” he points out.

According to Mnuchin, the US supports international cooperation in tax transparency and remains firmly committed to working on the issues that concerned the Council of the EU when it announced its intention to create the list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes through the G-20 and the Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

Furthermore, the US “would like to reiterate the close connection between the legal framework in place in the U.S territories and the legal framework in the rest of the United States,” he explained.

Therefore the US “urges the Council to reconsider both the decision to analyze the US territories separately” from the US and the decision to include American Samoa and Guam on its list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions.

“The United States has full confidence in American Samoa, Guam and all of the US territories; their tax administrations; and their compliance with international norms with respect to taxation,” Mnuchin concluded.

Samoa News will report on the governor’s and ASG’s comments in next Wednesday’s edition. Due to the holiday, there will be no Samoa News publication on Monday, Jan. 1st and Tuesday, Jan. 2nd.

1 person critical after Seattle van crash

SEATTLE (AP) — A man in his 30s was in critical condition Thursday and undergoing surgery after a shuttle van struck a downtown Seattle building, hospital officials said.

Two women, 28 and 39, and a 52-year-old man were in satisfactory condition, Harborview Medical Center spokeswoman Barbara Clements said. Authorities say it appears the driver had

a medical emergency and lost control of the vehicle just before noon. He sustained minor injuries. The Shuttle jumped a sidewalk and struck a Gap store. The express van carries passengers throughout the metro area. The vehicle did not accelerate and there was “nothing obvious to make this an intentional act or deliberate,” Assistant Police Chief Marc Garth Green said.





COURT REPORT...



Pat Letuli (left) who just turned 75-years old on Wednesday — and her friend, 90-year old Litara, in this Samoa News photo yesterday. The pair are looking forward to 2018.

[courtesy photo]

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Yesterday, in court, District Court Judge Fiti Sunia raised his voice to a defendant, who is an overstayer, and who has allegedly caused a person to end up in the hospital. While specific details of the incident or charges against Sapi Osana were not immediately available, Samoa News understands that a police investigation is ongoing in this case.

For Osana, he was taken into custody Wednesday and made his initial appearance yesterday in District Court, where the Immigration Officer informed Sunia that this individual entered the territory under a 30-day permit on Sept. 21 this year, via the MV Lady Naomi.

Responding to questions from Sunia, the Immigration Officer further stated that Osana had petitioned for an immigration ID and paid the required bond.

“That’s meaningless, right? He’s still an overstayer, right?” Sunia asked the Immigration Officer, who responded, “Yes, your Honor.” The judge went on to raise questions as to why this individual was still on island and were there any efforts made to look for Osana.

“You were supposed to be gone 90 days ago,” Sunia said in a raised voice towards Osana, who was sitting next to his defense attorney, Assistant Public Defender Ryan Anderson. “As a consequence of you’re being here, somebody is in the hospital.”

The judge quickly ordered “no bond” for the defendant, with the pre trial conference scheduled for Jan. 23 next year.

Last week, the High Court sentenced an overstayer to jail after being convicted of two counts of sexual abuse in the first degree for having sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old girl several times this year. (See Dec. 27 edition for details.)

Another case in court yesterday prompted Sunia to raise his voice again. It dealt with the case against Sopa Siagigi, at his pre trial conference hearing, where the government moved to dismiss the charges as it believed they would not be able

to prove its case due to problems with witnesses, who were discovered to be the defendant’s relatives.

Sunia questioned the government at least three times to get clarification on the reason for the dismissal motion.

After granting the motion, Sunia told the defendant that this is the third time this has happen for this defendant and this is also the third time this final deposition was reached in the cases.

“We’re not in the business of spinning our wheel,” he told Siagigi in a raised voice.

OTHER ISSUES

Meanwhile, the District Court has had a full calendar since Tuesday, following the three-day Christmas holiday, with some 27 arrests made and these individuals made their initial appearances.

None of the cases were serious but many involved alcohol and peace disturbances in the community or their families.

The only serious case deals with Thomas Siaumau, who is accused of shooting at a police vehicle late Dec. 14 at the Tony Solaita Baseball Field. (See yesterday’s edition for details.)

For Wednesday’s court session, three new cases were heard, for initial appearance and 20 individuals appeared for status or pre trial conference hearings. There were also bench trials later in the day, according to the court calendar.

At yesterday’s court session, there were five new cases heard and 20 individuals who appeared for status or pre trial conference hearings, and later followed by about four bench trials.



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‘Obamacare’ sign-up tally dips slightly to 8.7M

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 8.7 million people signed up for coverage next year under the Obama-era health care law, the government reported Thursday, as the program that President Donald Trump has repeatedly pronounced “a disaster” exceeded expectations.

The final tally for the 39 HealthCare.gov states showed about 80,000 fewer sign-ups than an initial count provided last week, before the Christmas holiday. A spokesman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said the slight dip was due to late cancellations.

Still, HealthCare.gov enrollment reached nearly 95 percent of last year’s level, outperforming projections in a show of consumer demand, despite a shortened sign-up season and big cuts in the ad budget.

Ahead of open enrollment, analysts had predicted somewhere around 1 million to 2 million fewer people would sign up for subsidized private coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

But the latest numbers indicate that new customers kept

showing up as the Dec. 15 enrollment deadline closed. More than 66,000 new customers were added since the pre-Christmas enrollment report.

The dip in enrollment appears to be due to returning customers dropping out. There were about 145,000 fewer of those since the pre-Christmas report.

Some of those dropouts are likely to be people whose current plans were cancelled for next year, and who were reassigned to coverage that they didn’t like.

A complete national tally may not be available until March, as states running their own health insurance markets are continuing to sign up consumers. In California and New York, enrollment season ends Jan. 31.

While Trump says he’ll still try to repeal and replace “Obamacare,” prospects in Congress appear dim with Republicans losing a Senate seat in Alabama. A bipartisan bill to shore up the health law’s markets is also pending, but faces an uncertain outlook.

Remembering the loved and lost in 2017

by Samoa News staff

While death is often referred to as part of the natural order of our lives, it is not an easy event to accept, especially of family members and friends dear to us, whether they were public figures or otherwise. Each loss is keenly felt and mourned, with the hope that time will heal the wound left by their departure; and the void filled with good memories.

For 2016, the territory saw the passing of Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, and Human and Social Service director, Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Solomona, three former senators, as well as other traditional leaders; and, some well known members of our community.

Here’s a look at some of the stories regarding the passing of our loved ones as reported by Samoa News in 2017.

2016 TIMELINE

Perhaps the most tragic deaths of the year, was on Jan. 14 when three workers were electrocuted at the Manua’s Inc — known as Manu’a Store — compound at the Daniel Inouye Industrial Park, in Tafuna. OHSA has completed its investigation into the industrial incident and the case is not yet closed.

Then on Jan. 24, Western District Governor, Lualemaga Faoa, who was also a former senator and had worked for all three branches of government, passed away at the hospital after a sudden illness. A Paramount Chief from Aasu, Lualemaga was a vocal leader who raised

concerns and publicly spoke out on issues, and was always a friend of the media.

On Feb. 22 came word from Provo, Utah, that former Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, American Samoa’s longest serving non-voting Delegate to the U.S House of Representatives, passed at his home in Provo. Faleomavaega “passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by family and a few close friends,” said Theresa Hunkin, who is Faleomavaega’s sister-in-law.

“The Congressman lived a life of service to his people, to American Samoa, and to the community of the Pacific,” according to the Governor’s Office in a statement.

In early March came another tragic death, when a woman died after being hit by a vehicle in the Pago Pago area. The driver of the car was charged in this case.

And in June, US Army SPC Shaleen Maiava of American Samoa passed away unexpectedly at Fort Meade, Maryland. She was returned home to be remembered and laid to rest. Also in June saw the passing of a beloved female preacher, Rev. Dr. Fa’avaina Tiumalu Tufele Malemo Tilo, who passed away peacefully at LBJ Hospital. She was 85. The late former Sen. Avegalio Pesamino Aigamaui also passed away in June at the age of 80. He first served in the House of Representatives, representing Fofu County for 12 years, and later served in the Senate from 2004 to 2016 for

the same County.

In early August, former Rep. Agaese ‘Ace’ Tago passed away at his home in San Mateo, California. He was elected as a lawmaker for Itua County in 1976 and prior to that held cabinet posts in government. He was one of the founding board members of McDonald’s Corp. American Samoa and served as ASG Treasurer from 1989 to 1993.

On Oct. 13, former faipule local businessman Galumalemana William Satele, 74, passed away peacefully in Honolulu. He had also served for many years in government. He represented Tualatai District in the House of Representatives.

The following month, former Sen. Salanoa Soli Aumoeualo passed away at the age of 78. He also held a private legal practice.

In the month of December, Taeoafua Dr. Meki Solomona, director of the Department of Human and Social Services, passed away suddenly on Dec. 12. He was the DHSS director since the Lolo Administration took office in 2013; and was a senior StarKist Samoa executive prior to the director’s post.

Then last week, Eti Sa’aga — who is remembered by many as a broadcaster on radio, poet and entertainer — passed away. He had worked for the late former Congressman Faleomavaega Eni for many years.

Samoa News once again extends our condolences to the families and friends of those who passed away in 2017.

⊗ 12 dead in fast-moving New York City apartment fire

NEW YORK (AP) — The deadliest residential fire to hit New York City in at least a quarter century swept through a Bronx apartment building Thursday on one of the coldest nights so far this winter, killing 12 people and leaving four more fighting for their lives, city officials said.

The dead included a child around a year old, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said during a briefing outside the building.

“We may lose others as well,” he added.

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro called the fire, “historic in its magnitude,” because of the number of lives lost. Excluding the Sept. 11 attacks, it was the worst fire in the city since 87 people were killed at a social club fire in the Bronx in 1990.

“Our hearts go out to every person who lost a loved one here and everyone who is fighting for their lives,” Nigro said.

The blaze broke out on the first floor of a five-story building just before 7 p.m. and quickly ripped through the roughly century-old structure, which stands in a row of similar apartment buildings a block from the grounds of the Bronx Zoo.

The cause remained under investigation.

About 170 firefighters worked in bone-chilling cold, just 15 degrees, to rescue people from the building. Water sprayed from hoses froze on the street.

Thierno Diallo, 59, a security guard originally from Conakry, Guinea, who lives in a ground floor apartment said he was home asleep when he heard banging on the door. It took him a moment to realize what was happening. “Only when I heard people screaming, ‘There’s a fire in the building!’” he said. “I heard somebody, ‘Oh! Fire! Fire! Fire!’” He ran out in his bathrobe, jacket and sandals.

Kenneth Kodua, 37, said he left his apartment to get food, leaving his roommate behind, and came back to find people fleeing in a panic.

Hours later, he was still trying to find out whether his roommate escaped.

“I tried calling her. I tried calling. No answer,” he said, still clutching his bag of uneaten food. His phone was dead.

Many questions remained in the immediate aftermath of the blaze, including how the fire spread so quickly in a brick building built after catastrophic fires at the turn of the 20th century ushered in an era of tougher enforcement of fire codes.



In this Oct. 12, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump speaks before signing an executive order on health care in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. An Associated Press analysis finds that Americans in states President Donald Trump carried account for more than 4 in 5 of those signed up for coverage under the health care law he still wants to take down.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)



Koko Bean restaurant staff pose for a Samoa News photo on Wednesday inside the restaurant, located inside the Laufou Shopping Center.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Long delay for travelers scheduled to go to Honolulu last Monday night

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

After two full days of waiting in frustration, passengers from Monday night’s flight finally left for Honolulu on Wednesday night’s flight — one of the three extra flights the airline scheduled between Honolulu and Pago Pago for the busy holiday season.

Some passengers as well as family members voiced their complaints and disbelief with Samoa News for the long wait, despite being told — via Samoa News stories — about why the flight was delayed — according to the airline, it was over an important issue re the safety of passengers.

The Monday flight returning to Honolulu was originally delayed until 1:35p.m. the next day due to an issue with an indicator light involving the air conditioning system. Passengers then re-boarded Tuesday afternoon, however, the light came back on and passengers were again deplaned.

After the matter couldn’t be addressed immediately, the flight was then officially canceled while a part was flown in on the Wednesday night flight, which arrived on time. Hawaiian had initially offered \$300 voucher credits but increased that amount to \$500 when the flight was canceled, according to airline officials.

Hawaiian spokesperson Ann Botticelli told Samoa News yesterday that the airline had accommodated “all passengers” from Monday’s flight on the Wednesday flight back to Honolulu. “Light Wednesday and Monday [passenger] loads enabled us to do that,” she said from Honolulu.

Botticelli reiterated that the issue with Monday flight was an indicator light in the left-side air conditioner.

“If it does not illuminate we do not operate the flight. We thought that we had addressed it, but when we loaded the flight again, it did not illuminate again, so we made plans to fly everyone out on Wednesday’s flight,” she said. She also confirmed that the part for the aircraft from Monday night, was flown in on the Wednesday flight with repairs carried out thereafter. And that aircraft was ferried back to Honolulu early yesterday morning. Last week, the airline had two delays — on Monday due to weather conditions and Wednesday due to a fuel indicator light.

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This is to inform Fuasalii Iose, that the Family of Iereneo T. Lea’e, no longer support you as a chief in the UTUGA Family for the village of Aasu. We no longer recognize you as “Tapuleele’ele” for numerous reasons. We have supporting documents to justify our decision.

Thank you
John A. Pele
John Lea’e
Matai “Faausi”

BEACH ADVISORY



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

Supporting efforts to clean our shores

AS-EPA

Release Date: December 27, 2017

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

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) advises the public that on December 26, 2017, the following recreational beaches tested positive for Enterococci bacteria levels that exceed American Samoa Water Quality Standards:

- Asili Stream Mouth
- Fagatele Beach-Fagasa
- Afono Stream Mouth
- Fagatogo Stream Mouth
- Laulii Stream Mouth
- Fagaitua Stream Mouth
- Aoa Stream Mouth

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

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

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

Accused tax fraudster set to visit territory

LOCALS STILL ACCUSING OTHERS OF FILING ILLEGALLY

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

An American Samoan woman accused of filing false tax returns with the US Internal Revenue Service for local residents is required to surrender her passport to the American Samoa Attorney General’s Office upon arrival in Pago Pago for her 30-day holiday visit with family in the territory, according to federal court records.

As previously reported by Samoa News, the defendant, Corina A. Ifopo, pled guilty at the federal court in Anchorage, Alaska on Dec. 12 to 28 counts of making false claims to the United States government. Sentencing is set for Mar. 7, 2018.

The defendant had also sought to amend her release to allow travel for the holidays to American Samoa and it was granted under several conditions — but an official court order was not yet issued.

Last week Friday, US Magistrate Judge Kevin F. McCoy, sitting at the Anchorage federal court, signed the order allowing Ifopo’s travel outside of Hawai’i — where the defendant resides — and Alaska.

According to the court order,

Ifopo is permitted travel to Pago Pago on or after Dec. 25, 2017 and return from Pago Pago on or before Jan. 27, 2018. Within twenty-four hours of Ifopo’s arrival in Pago Pago, she is directed to surrender her passport to the ASG Attorney General’s Office, which shall return Ifopo’s passport to her so she may travel back to Hawai’i.

Attorney for Ifopo is required to inform the federal Pretrial Services of the defendant’s itinerary, names of any travel companions, and the location where Ifopo will be staying while in Pago Pago.

Court documents also show that the defendant has already posted a \$25,000 unsecured bond allowing travel to American Samoa. Ifopo is accused of filing fraudulent tax returns with the IRS for local residents, who do not qualify for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The federal government claims that Ifopo’s crime occurred between 2013 and 2015 with the first IRS refund check issued May 20, 2014 and the last one on Feb. 20, 2016. Ifopo filed tax returns on behalf of over 200 other individuals living in American Samoa — all these individuals don’t qualify

for the EITC.

The federal indictment against the defendant shows 28 individuals, identified in court documents by their initials, with the dates of when the returns were filed with the IRS or when the IRS refunds were issued.

Total loss to the IRS — shown in the indictment — based on the amounts for the 28 individuals is \$167,000, although the US Justice Department had an estimated loss of more than \$1.3 million.

Meanwhile, more local residents continue to raise with Samoa News concerns over people still filing local taxes in the US in order to get a much higher tax refund, through the EITC. The latest concerns were raised this past week with three local residents pointing out that they are aware of either friends or relatives expecting tax refunds from the US.

And with next tax filing season for tax year 2017 to start next month, some residents claim to know people who plan on filing off island “again.”

Samoa News gave these local concerned residents the FBI number — 808-673-2834 — to provide any proof about people filing taxes in the US.

Peru president and rival questioned over links to Odebrecht

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski and one of his leading political rivals appeared Thursday before prosecutors investigating payments to politicians by Brazilian construction company Odebrecht.

Kuczynski and former congresswoman Keiko Fujimori are being investigated by anti-corruption prosecutors in separate probes. Both have denied wrongdoing.

Peru’s president was questioned for four hours at the presidential palace by prosecutor Hamilton Castro, who later left the palace without making comments to the press.

Fujimori, leader of the Popular Force party in Congress, quickly entered the offices of investigators without addressing journalists or dozens of supporters, some shouting “Keiko, you are not alone.” She also made no public comments when she left the offices.

Prosecutor Domingo Perez said that investigators were gathering more evidence and could call on Fujimori to “expand on her declaration” if necessary.

Thursday’s questioning came shortly after Kuczynski narrowly avoided impeachment

over the corruption allegations and then set off protests by pardoning jailed former President Alberto Fujimori, Keiko’s father. Many Peruvians believe the pardon was done to secure support from another political party led by Fujimori’s son, Kenji.

The former CEO of Odebrecht has admitted that company executives paid bribes and campaign contributions to secure public works contracts.

Kuczynski, a 79-year-old former Wall Street banker, was already unpopular when an opposition-led investigative committee revealed documents showing Odebrecht made \$782,000 in payments to his private consulting firm more than a decade ago. The payments were made during years Kuczynski served as a Peruvian government minister. He cannot be charged until he leaves office. His term ends in 2021.

Keiko Fujimori came under scrutiny because of an apparent reference to her when she was a presidential candidate in 2011 found on the phone of the former Odebrecht CEO, who acknowledged to Peruvian prosecutors that the company gave money to her. S

She denies that her party

received any money from the company but had not submitted to questions by prosecutors on three previous occasions.



Demonstrators shout slogans against the pardon of former President Alberto Fujimori while holding the flag of Peru that reads in Spanish: “Pardon is Insult, Assassin”, in Lima, Peru, Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017. Peru’s President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski granted a medical pardon to the former strongman Fujimori who was serving a 25-year sentence for human rights abuses, corruption and the sanctioning of death squads. (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)



Afoa Moega Lutu (far left standing) along with his family at DDW Cafe with Johnny Victor Toma, Director of Finances of Georgetown University Hospital, Washington DC and his mother (far left front row). Toma and his mother are returning to the US on Monday.

[photo:Leua Aiono Frost]

Apple apologizes for secretly slowing older iPhones

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple apologized for secretly slowing down older iPhones, a move it said was necessary to avoid unexpected shutdowns related to battery fatigue.

Many customers had interpreted the move as a way to force demand for newer iPhone models, their suspicions fueled by the fact that the company didn't initially disclose the slowdowns or its reasons for them.

Apple also said it will cut the price of a battery replacement by \$50 to \$29 through next year. New batteries had previously cost \$79 for those who didn't purchase the Apple Care maintenance plan.

"We apologize," the company said on its website. "We have never — and would never — do anything to intentionally shorten the life of any Apple product, or degrade the user experience to drive customer upgrades." The replacement plan begins in late January for anyone with an iPhone 6 or later that requires a new battery. Apple said it will also issue an update to its operating system early next year to give

users a better understanding of the health of their battery, so they can see if its condition is affecting performance.

Hostile customer reaction was swift after a report this month uncovered the intentional slowdown in speed tests. Only then did Apple acknowledge that the slowdown was due to a fix it rolled out last year. Shares dropped 2.5 percent Tuesday — also dinged by analysts predicting lower-than-expected demand for the iPhone X — and only partially recovered by Thursday.

At least five groups seeking class action status, involving consumers in Texas, Illinois, California and New York, have also sued the company in the wake of the slowdown revelation. Ben Bajarin, an analyst with Creative Strategies, said Apple found itself in a tough spot by having to explain what it did to cope with the reality that all lithium ion batteries degrade over time. "The error — if anything — was not being more transparent," he said.

"They were legitimately trying to make people's iPhones last longer."



RISE TO THE TOP!

Bluesky is an established telecommunications company in American Samoa, Samoa and Cook Islands. Our success comes through innovation and customer experience where our purpose is to apply technology and service excellence to advance and improve the lives of our customers. Be part of a company where employees have a chance to do exciting work and make a difference! Bluesky has an exciting opportunity for a marketing professional to manage and oversee Bluesky's marketing department.

MARKETING MANAGER

POSITION SUMMARY
Develop, implement and drive the company's marketing strategy to achieve company goals, market share, profitability, product development, marketing communications and product management. Responsible for the development and management of the marketing team. (Please refer to detailed Job Description on www.bluesky.as)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS REQUIRE

- Bachelors Degree in marketing, business administration and/or related field.
- Minimum of 5+ years of experience in a marketing position or related field
- Strong leadership, management and decision making skills; ability to lead and supervise staff directly and indirectly including the ability to achieve results and performance through others; excellent communications skills, self-motivated, self-starter, personable and well organized.
- Experience in telecommunications industry is an advantage
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills (both English and Samoan)
- Ability to communicate effectively with people at all levels inside and outside the company.
- Exposure to product promotion and advertising as well as strong statistical background.
- Competent financial skills
- Demonstrated skills, knowledge and experience in the design and execution of marketing, communications and public relations activities.
- Demonstrated successful experience writing press releases, making presentations and negotiating with media.
- Experience overseeing the design and production of print materials and publications.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to interpret and maximize the use of sophisticated market research data.
- Strong creative, strategic, and analytical skills

Competitive salary based on qualifications and professional experience. Company benefits include discounts on products and services, IRA retirement, medical insurance, annual leave, and many more. Bluesky is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Interested and qualified candidates must submit a cover letter and resume or curriculum vitae to the Human Resources Department by email at as.jobs@blueskypacificgroup.com or in person at the main office located in the Laufou Center 2nd Floor, Nuuli, Am. Samoa. We will continue to accept resumes until the position has been filled.





“Le Auauna lelei e, ma le faamaoni; Ulufale mai i le fiafia o lou Alii”
Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Tavita Solomona

Taoto ia i le Faga ua Sa le tiuga nai Avaloa ma mapu i ti’asa i ulupaaga lau matematega Samoa. Aua o oe o le Maota e faamatafauloagatā mai lona ulua’i Papatea i Malaetele, se’ia taia ona si’upapa na ma’ape i Analega. Tulou! Ae tau ia ina o’u so’a le loto, aua le masina na faga-talia, ma lilo i ona atalua. O lea ua isilā nei le ata o le tama na moe i le aga, ae faamalele le ata o le teine na moe i luga o le papa, a’o le upu e fai i le Aigailetai, “vaai i le vai, maua le ao tausila, sili lana pae ae mapu i siliga. Tulou, Tulou, Tulouna Lava!

Leone

Ua masofa ai nei le fa i le maota i Tia o Pouono, e Afio ai Faiivae o le Maluolefale. Susu ai le Matua o Usoalii, Usoalii ma Tamapaa. Lau fetalaiga Tuiloma faapea le aiga Sa-Faiivae. Aua o lea ua usuia le fono ma lalalo le upega lauga i le Tofa ia Taeaoafua Meki Tavita Solomona. O le lupe sa olotu i Asoma’auga ma o le alo e fa’asino i le Taeleifi ma ona falemagafa e fia. Ua tulolo ai nei ao o le lagi, ae taalili peau o le sami. Aua ua lagia Laloifi ma Falesau o le Fale o Mavaega. O le lagi lava lea aua le Afio o le Faatuiolemotu, Susu ai le Maluolefale. A’o le gausia o le atipouniu i le fetalaiga ia te oulua Tama Matua, Olo ma Leoso. Lagi aua Avegalio ma Tuiteleleapaga ma Afioga i Maava. A’o le goto o le fetū i Avalua i le fetaliga tumalele ia te oulua Matua o Salave’a ma Salave’a. Vae o le tootoo ia Fiu ma Maiava, ma upu i le Alataua. Tulou.

Faigamalo Amerika Samoa

Ua to’ulu ai nei autā ma malepe le asoa tautua i le Faigamalo o Tutuila ma Manu’a. E afio ai lau Afioga i le Kovana Sili Lolo Matalasi Moliga, afioga i le Lutena Kovana Lemanu Peleti Mauga faapea le paia o le kapineta mamalu i ona tulaga faalupelupeina. Aua o lea ua tuua le malo i lana Afioga i le Faatonusili o le Matagaluega o Tagata, Tautua ma Alaga Manuia Lautele, i lana Afioga i le Foma’i o le Tofa Manino, Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Solomona. Tulou!

Fitiuta

Ua tau fai sunu’i ai nei pito ao o le lagi i le maota i Puleinuutu ma le malaefono i Faleula. Aua o lea ua lagia le la’oai ma le tupuasā e Afio ai Galea’i o lē na Muamua i Ao. Susu ai le Faleifa ma Ma’opu. Malii mai Suafanuu, o Sa Matuafaiga o e na ulua’i tu’ia upu o le maota. Susu ai Usoalii. A’o le tafea o le fuesina i le vagaga maualuga ia te outou Tootoo o le Faleula Tau Aitu. Tulou!

Tafitoala

Ua malepe ai nei le tao ma le uatogi sa tatamu i Malae, o le tua o Togamau. Aua ua to le timu i le Tama a le Falelua i lau Afioga Ale. Susu ai Te’o ma Matai’a faapea i la’ua na pitolua ai le aiga o Satunumafono. Susu mai ē na alala maota, Usoalii ma le Matua o Fata. A’o le taape o le faasolo i le fetalaiga i lo oulua To’alua o Pepe ma Tuivaifale, faapea le mamalu ia te oe Fagailasau o le Alataua. Tulou!

Salaimoa

Ua fili ai nei i ulufanua i Fu’afu’a, Lotoso’a ma Aveavai ae talatala i le atuvasa i Falesoa, Niuvai ma Mata’ale le agi o le matagi na tō faata’uta’u. Aua ua lagia maota e fia e Afifio ai aiga e tolu (Puletele, Tilialo ma Luatuanuu). A’o le tulolo fo’i o le upega lauga i lau fetalaiga Luatua ma lou Gautaala, ma upu ia te oe le Faletolu. Tulou!

Ona o’u faalupetū ai lea i le vainiut i le Liana, ma o’u seu tutu’u i liu o va’a e pei o le fetalaiga ia Tulia Moeva’a, ma tātā efu o le fau e pei o le fetalaiga i le toluha lele nai figao. Aua e faigata oe so matou paolo tupu, ma ni o matou gafu na saili i malo. O oe o lo matou paolo o paolo, o lo matou malu o malu. E afua ai ona o’u se’e i le vaigalu, fai fo’i o ulugalu o le ‘auma, a’o si’u o le galu sa nofo ai Saveasi’uleo, aua o oe e malu ai lenei aiga ia Samoa ma le Lalolagi atoa.

Nuuuli

O lea ua peia ai nei le taualuga o le maota i Lotoā o Alii, e Afio ai le Maopu ia Soliai ma lona aiga Sa-Soliai. Ua utuutu salefu ai nei le malaefono i Nuuli ma Paepaepu. Aua o lea ua lagia le afioaga e Afifio ai Alii Maopu. Susu ai Usoalii ma Taumafaalofi. A’o le gausia o le tootoo i le fetalaiga i lo outou to’afa ma upu i le Ituau Malosi. Tulou, Tulou, Tulouna Lava!

O le porokalama e faapea.....

Aso Lua, Ianuari 2, 2018

5:00pm(Afiafi)....Sauniga mo Uō, Aiga & Aumeamamae a Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Tavita Solomona

Aso Tofi, Ianuari 4, 2018

9:00amSauniga Pu’upu’u i le Malumalu i le Falema’I Fagaalu

11:00amUlua’i Sauniga o lona malii i “Siona, Le Mauga Paia”

1:00pm.....Momoli atu lona tino malii i le faletalimālō a lona aiga “Pouono le Maotafono o Alataua”

6:00pm.....O ona faigāleo ma leoleoga i le po, “Siona, Le Mauga Paia”.

A mae’a ona taoto lea i “Pouono” mo mafutaga ma Lona Aiga Pele

Aso Faraile, Ianuari 5, 2018

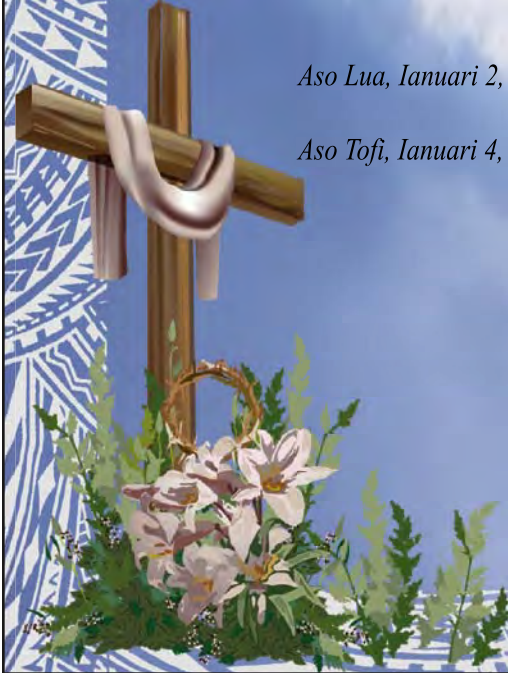
5:00am.....Faigalotu a le Faiifeau

9:00am.....Fa’amavaega ma le u’uina o lona tino malii

11:00am.....Sauniga Lotu mulimuli “Siona, Le Mauga Paia”

2:00pm.....Falelauasiga i le Lā aiga i Tafeta Hills

3:00pm.....Fa’aaloaloga mo le mamalu ua auai atu ma Aiga Pele i le “Pouono”



In Loving Memory of Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Tavita Solomona



Though only 63, he accomplished what few have done in our island home and we are deeply grateful to the Lord our God for the life of our beautiful husband, father, grandfather and father-in-law, Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Tavita Solomona. A beloved son of the late Rev. Si'ulagi Tavita Solomona and Faletua Fuarosa To'alepai Solomona. His services for next week, the first week of the new year is as follows:

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018 5pm "Family & Friends Service", Lee's Auditorium Utulei

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018 9am LBJ Chapel

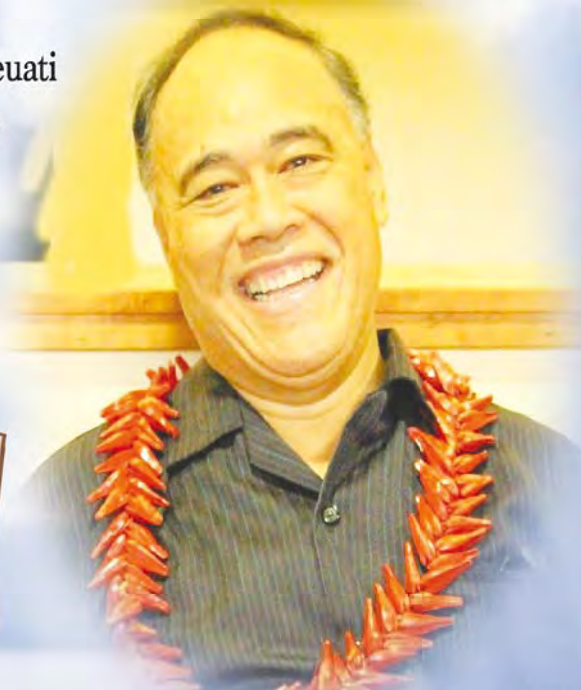
- 11am First Service "Siona le Mauga Paia", CCCAS, Leone, American Samoa
- 1pm His body will lay in Wake, "Pouono le Maota Fono o Alataua"
- 6pm Spiritual Singing & Hymns by Choirs, Faigaleo 'Aufaipese
- 9pm Return to "Pouono" for all-night vigil

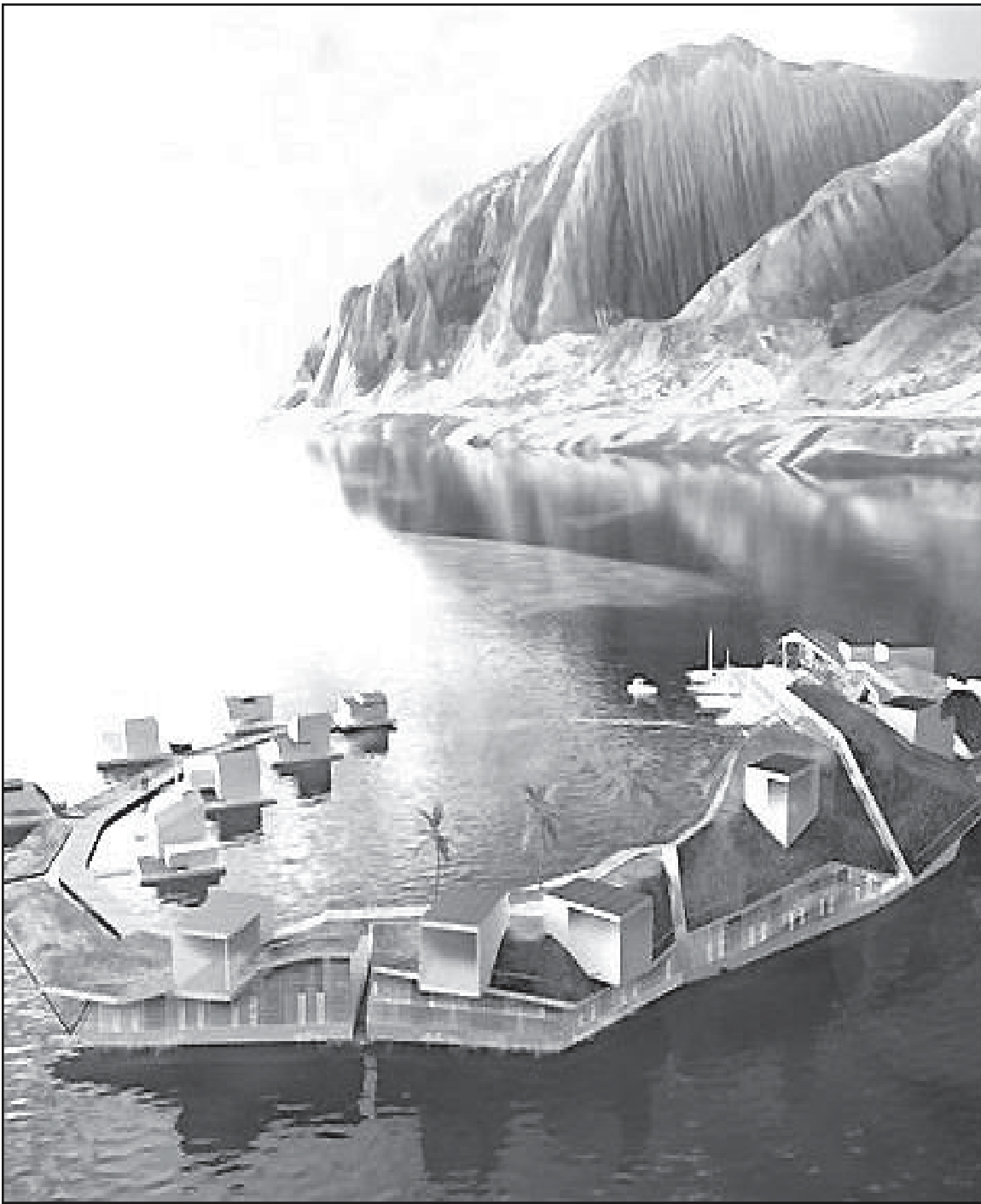
Friday, Jan. 5, 2018

- 5am Morning Devotion by his Siona Pastor, Rev. Toma Eteuati
- 9am Last farewell before closing his casket & anointing his body by his beloved wife, Vaofu'a Soliai-Solomona in "Pouono"
- 11am Last Service in "Siona le Mauga Paia" CCCAS, Leone
- 1pm Internment at his home, Tafeta Hills
- 2pm Traditional paying respects in Taeaoafua's honor, "Fa'aaloaloga"

Afioga ile Maluolefale o Alataua, Faiivae Iuli Alex Godinet, Tofa Taeleifi Amos Galea'i, Tausi ia Vaofu'a ma le Fanau pele, ma le aiga potopoto

Kenese 32: 30-31, "Ona fa'aigoa ai lea e Iakopo lea mea o Penieli; auā ua fa'apea a ia, "Na'ou iloa ai le Atua ua ma fesaga'i lava, a ua laveaiina a'u." Na alu a'e le lā, o ui ane o ia i Penieli, ua setusetu foi lona vae." Ua sola i lagi le tulafale Leone; ua lē uma feau a le taule'ale'a Papua. Na ala ona fanau i Papua, Niu Kini, ona ole galuega a le Atua. O le upu a Solomona le Failauga 3:1, "O le mea ma lona tausaga i mea uma, ma ona lava po i mea uma lava i lalo ole lagi." Ua o'o i lona tau e foi ai i lona Matai. Ona fa'apea lea, ua "i nei le manu ae logo le vateatea auā sa matou nononofo i luga o Punaloa ma Punamai, o punāvai e fa'asūsūina Laloifi ma Falesau o Faleomavaega. I le aoao, o Taeaoafua Meki Tavita Solomona, ole tama Sapapalii, mai Matāniu Feagai ma le Ata, na sunu'i ai le ālafale ole Mālō o le Atua ua ao ai Samoa, o fanau ole Tala Lelei ua ao ai le Pasefika atoa. I le ma lea Amerika Samoa, o Laloifi ma Falesau o Faleomavaega na ulua'i afea e Ioane Viliamu ile Tala Lelei, na feavea'i e le tamaloa Leone o le nu'u o Taeaoafua, o Amoamo. Talofa, ua fesili Vāgauta i Vāgatai, "Aiseā ua pogisa ai le Fagaoatua?" Tulouna ia le lagi, lagi, lagi ma le lagi, o lo'u gutu ma le afi. Tulou, tulou, tulouna lava. A o le tūlafale nei foi, o Safata, Sāle'imoa, Safune, ma Auala. Ona oso ane lea o le manatu, "Le lagi e, aisea ea?" Pe taluai i Sili ma Vaiafai ua mālā ai nei vai ole aiga sālā Tagaloa. Sole, fai mai o oe ole tamāloa o le Fale Tuamasaga ae o le nei ua e fano to'atasi, o fa'alau muāgagana e fanolua ile Taimasa. Ona 'ou afe lea i lape o upu ma 'ou uia le Fale Safata, ma 'ou fa'apea ai, "Pe lē ole pogai ea, ona a 'ou iloa oe i Si'ulepa, oute iloa foi oe i Togamau." Taeaoafua, ua sa'o lava lou suafa, o oe o le Luatua o le tulafale fai ālaga. Le MotuSa ile nu'u o lou tamā na e fa'amemeo ai, o Fitiuta. Le Ilamutuopuapuaga, le Afioga ile na Muamua i Ao, le Afioga ile Galea'i, talofa ua sola le tama na tiu i ou paia ma ou mamalu, i Tu-tu ma Puleinu'utu. Fa'afetai fa'aeaea ma talimana'o i le atalii ole Faifeau i taimi na tagi atu ai i lau fesoasoani, e le galo oe le Taisamasama ole Tuimanu'a, le Malamalama mai Saua e mua'i sulugia ai ave ole la i Samoa. Lana manamea, lona paolo ma lona fa'amalumuluga, le na Tausi-alii ile Tofa a Fofoga o Aiga, e moni ai Upu a le Tusi, e te le tātātuli pe fafagu i lau pele, na i'u lava lona soifua i ou aao. Leitia le atunu'u pese, o oe lava Vāofu'aomālō Charlene Soliai-Solomona, o lona paolo sa malu ai; o lou paolo, sa ia maua ai le filemu ma le mapusaga. Fa'afetai ai ile Afioga ile Maopu Soliai ma le paia ole aiga i Lotoa o Alii, na tou alolofa ia te ia, o se alo iina, a'o atalii iinei. O ona toe sauniga ole vaiaso a sau lea. 2 Samuel 3:38; "Do you not know that a great man has fallen in Israel today?"





⊗ A concept for the floating island project in French Polynesia. The creators of a man-made floating island off Tahiti say they want a quarter of its population to be made up of Polynesian people. [Photo: Supplied]



compiled by Samoa News staff
**MACHETE ATTACK
LEAVES MAN FIGHTING
FOR HIS LIFE**

A man, who was found unconscious in a pool of blood, is fighting for his life at the hospital from severe injuries to his head.

The Police has launched an investigation to find who was responsible for the attack.

This was confirmed by Police Superintendent and Media Spokesperson, Auapa’au Logoitino Filipo, in response to questions from the Samoa Observer.

The young man is at the Intensive Care Unit of the Tupua Tamasese Meaole hospital in Moto’otua.

“Preliminary reports indicate that a machete was involved,” he said.

“As of now (Wednesday morning) the man is undergoing emergency surgery.

“The matter was reported to us around 4am. We are now looking for the suspect(s).”

(Source: Samoa Observer)
**SAMOAN COMMUNITY IN
NZ CONCERNED OVER
LAND RIGHTS IN SAMOA**

Samoans in New Zealand’s Auckland city met recently to discuss how land rights back in Samoa would affect families living abroad.

The Samoa Solidarity International group led the meeting to give clarity on the Lands Title Registration Act 2008 which some claim breaks communal land into individual titles, thus infringing on customary rights.

The same concerns were raised in Samoa on December 18 when over 200 people marched in the capital at Apia.

A committee member of the New Zealand group, Taloto Obed Unasa said the main concern for those at the Auckland meeting was the lack of understanding on the long term consequences for people’s land under the current law.

Taloto said the registration act allows the government access to negotiate how the lands can be used, if families do not protect it accordingly.

“There was a deep concern with their own families in Samoa and the need for more dialogue, more conversation and more understanding around this particular issue because at the end of the day, it really affects every Samoan person, whether you live in Samoa or you’re outside Samoa,” he said. “You are part of a village and you are part of that culture that your families will own land.”

“Prior to the law of 2008, you didn’t have that type of negotiation with the government because land in Samoa is traditionally owned by the people,” he said.

“In the context of the village life, it’s owned by the chiefs and their families. It’s a collec-

tive ownership,” Taloto said.

Samoa’s Prime Minister has denied claims rights to customary lands have been violated by the Registration of Lands and Titles Act of 2008.

He said it is clear that under the [Samoa] constitution customary lands cannot be sold and would always remain the property of the heirs to the relevant matai title.

(Source: RNZI)
**GUAM LOSES OUT ON
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
IN TAXES**

An audit report released this week in Guam has revealed tax exemptions between 2014 and 2016 amounted to \$US210 million in lost government revenue.

The report from the Office of Public Accountability shows the revenue lost from granting Gross Receipts Tax exemptions was over a three year period.

The Guam Daily Post reports the office is recommending the government review its policy on exemptions and measure how well its moving towards achieving Guam’s social and economic goals.

The report shows that between 2014 and 2016 over 800 taxpayers claimed the exemptions worth a combined sales value of more than US\$5 billion (5.3 billion).

It said given the 4 percent tax rate, the government has been foregoing, on average, more than US\$70 million (70.2 million) a year for the three year period.

(Source: RNZI)
**PLIGHT OF POOR IN
TIMES OF HAPPINESS**

While the world continues to celebrate the Festive Season with lots of food, monies and merry making, not everyone is as fortunate.

On the streets of Apia every day and night, there are young children hustling to help their families make ends meet. That includes putting food on the table.

In the process, they are being abused verbally and physically while simply trying to make a tala to feed their families.

For the past few days, this reporter spent some time talking to some of the young street vendors who weave between cars and scores of strangers — including drunks — to try and make a sale.

Many of the children are younger than 10-years old. They carry boxes of goods that range from earbuds, toothbrushes, boxes of matches and other things.

They are there at all sorts of hours, depending on how soon they can sell all they have been given by their parents and their superiors.

“I am here to sell popcorns for \$2 tala and I have to sell them all,” Meki, an eight-year-old said.

(Continued on page 12)



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

PO Box PPB, Pago Pago
American Samoa 96799
Phone No.: (684) 248-1234
bids@aspower.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA18.009.ESD-WTR Closing Date & Time: Wednesday, January 3, 2018
Issuance Date: December 06, 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:

“RFP No. ASPA.18.009.ESD-WTR, SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE (VFD) and MAG METER PROJECT”

Submission

An original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **“RFP No. ASPA 18.009.ESD-WTR, Supply and Delivery of Additional Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) and Mag Meters”**

Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Thursday, January 3, 2018:**

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



American Samoa...

Continued from page 1

cials, as well as for food and liquor sale specials.

Bars and nightclubs are reminded by the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board to comply with local laws, which prohibit the sale of alcohol after 2 a.m., the normal closing time for bars and clubs. Retail stores are barred from selling beer or alcohol after 10 p.m.

Additionally, all sales of beer and alcohol in the stores, wholesale and retail, on Sunday are prohibited.

However, restaurants with liquor licenses are exempt from this law. Tradewinds is having a special celebration on New Year's eve hosted by Samoa Musika Foundation, Inc. It's a live musical extravaganza featuring Tui & Malie Letuli, Jonitta Fruean, Mal Lavatai, Banned from the Sun, Ulale Pusi Ulale, Failauga Peke Anoa'i

... and other guest artists. The hotel's restaurant & bar is open as well. (See advertisement in Samoa News for details.)

Perhaps the biggest New Year's Eve celebration in the United States is the one at Times Square in New York City, and earlier this week workers put the finishing touches on the new crystal ball, which drops at midnight. The event will be carried live television and local residents can watch it on CNN's special broadcast, which includes a global countdown to 2018.

Another major US event on New Year's Day is the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California and it's carried live by CBS network. As in past years, the sound of fireworks — illegal in American Samoa — will be heard island-wide, mixed with the noise of the homemade

Samoa cannons or "fagaofe", which began to sound across the territory before Christmas Eve.

In observance of New Year's Day, a local and national holiday, all government offices will be closed as well as many businesses including the local banks.

Police remind the public to celebrate safely and they will be out in full force to ensure a safe and Happy New Year. The annual DPS holiday law enforcement continues until Jan. 5, 2018.

In observance of New Year's Day, Samoa News will not publish on Monday, Jan. 1 and Tuesday, Jan. 2 and will return on Wednesday, Jan. 3. It's business office will be open Tuesday, Jan. 2. Wishing all the people of American Samoa and our Toa o Samoa a Happy New Year 2018!

At least 15 dead in fire at rooftop Mumbai restaurant

NEW DELHI (AP) — A fire broke out early Friday in an upscale rooftop restaurant in Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital, leaving at least 15 dead and a dozen injured, officials said.

The 1 a.m. fire quickly spread from the restaurant through a

four-story building, said fire official Balkrishna Kadam.

The TimesNow television news channel said an artificial bamboo ceiling in the restaurant burned quickly and collapsed as people tried to escape the fire. Most people died of suffocation from the smoke, it said.

More than 50 people were brought to a hospital, of whom 12 were being treated for injuries that were not life threatening, said Avinash Supe, a doctor at KEM Hospital. The dead included 11 women, fire officials said. "There was a stampede and someone pushed me. People were running over me even as the ceiling above me was collapsing in flames. Still don't know how I got out alive," Mumbai gynecologist Sulbha Arora tweeted.

UC regent resigns amid criticism over offensive remark

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A University of California regent who was caught on tape last year asking an employee if he could hold her breasts has decided to resign amid growing calls that he step down.

Regent Norman J. Pattiz sent a letter dated Thursday to Regents Chair George Keiffer saying that after 16 years on the board he would retire in February.

His letter, which was first reported by the San Francisco Chronicle, did not mention the sexual harassment accusation.

Keiffer responded in a letter that thanked Pattiz for announcing his retirement, adding that "after so many years you deserve a break."

Pattiz is the founder of America's largest radio network, Westwood One, and CEO of Courtside Entertainment Group, which produces radio shows and podcasts.

The controversy became public in October 2016, when comedian Heather McDonald aired comments that Pattiz had made to her while taping a podcast commercial in May 2016 for a memory-foam bra.

She flubbed some of her lines, and Pattiz asked, "Can I hold your breasts? Would that help?" and showed his hands, saying, "These are memory foam."

Pattiz subsequently apologized for the remarks and said they were meant as a joke.

The University of California promptly created new guidelines on sexual harassment for its governing board in response to outrage over Pattiz' behavior. Under that policy, all regents are now required to take the university's training program in sexual harassment prevention, as do employees at UC's 10 campuses.

Students revived calls for his resignation in recent weeks as women across the country have spoken out about sexual misconduct by powerful men. Students protested at a November UC Regents meeting, demanding he be removed.

Earlier this month, several regents including Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom raised questions about whether the Board of Regents had dealt too lightly with Pattiz.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Photos by Maclyn



FILE- In this May 12, 2011, file photo, Recy Taylor stands in Lafayette Park after touring the White House. Taylor, a black Alabama woman whose rape by six white men in 1944 drew national attention, died Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, according to her brother Robert Corbitt. She was 97.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

Recy Taylor, who fought for justice after 1944 rape, dies

ABBEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — Recy Taylor, a black Alabama woman whose rape by six white men in 1944 drew national attention, died Thursday. She was 97.

Taylor died in her sleep at a nursing home in Abbeville, her brother Robert Corbitt said. He said Taylor had been in good spirits the previous day and her death was sudden. She would have been 98 on Sunday.

Taylor was 24 when she was abducted and raped as she walked home from church in Abbeville. Her attackers left her on the side of the road in an isolated area. The NAACP assigned Rosa Parks to investigate the case, and she rallied support for justice for Taylor.

Two all-white, all-male grand juries declined to indict the six white men who admitted to authorities that they assaulted her.

In a 2010 interview, Taylor told The Associated Press that she believes the men who attacked her are dead, but she still would like an apology from officials.

“It would mean a whole lot to me,” Taylor said. “The people who done this to me, ... they can’t do no apologizing. Most of them is gone.”

The Alabama Legislature passed a resolution apologizing to her in 2011.

Taylor’s story, along with those of other black women attacked by white men during

the civil rights era, is told in “At the Dark End of the Street,” a book by Danielle McGuire released in 2010. A documentary on her case, “The Rape of Recy Taylor,” was released this year.

“It is Recy Taylor and rare other black women like her who spoke up first when danger was greatest,” Nancy Buirski, the documentary’s director, told NBC News in an email. “It is these strong women’s voices of the 40’s and early 50’s and their efforts to take back their bodies that led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott and other movements that followed, notably the one we are witnessing today.”

► Pacific brief...

Continued from page 10

“I go to school but now school is finished so I am here in town selling popcorn to help my family’s daily survival.”

Meki is from a family of nine. “We all have to do our part to help our family.”

Next to him were twins, who identified themselves as Mena and Kalolina. “My twin sister and I are selling earbuds and boxes of matches for \$2 tala a packet. The money we get from here we give it to our parents at home.”

The twins told the Samoa Observer that they only sell during weekends and not school days.

(Source: Samoa Observer) FLOATING ISLE OFF TAHITI SEEKS PACIFIC RESIDENTS

The creators of a man-made floating island off Tahiti say they want a quarter of its population to be made up of Polyne-

sian people.

The company Blue Frontiers has released more details of its plan to build environmentally friendly floating platforms within the lagoon for people to live on and work on new technologies.

It’s working with the French Polynesian government on the project which is expected to be a special economic zone at sea about the size of a soccer field, housing up to 250 people.

One of the company’s founders, Marc Collins, said 25 percent of the places would be opened up to Polynesians from other islands in the region to counter accusations it might just be an enclave for wealthy foreigners.

“It’s more about finding young Polynesians who are interested in the issues around sea level rise, around entrepreneurship, technology start-ups.

The idea is that they wouldn’t be coming on to the platform, onto the pilot as employees of the project or just as staff of a hotel, that’s not at all the objective.”

Collins said Blue Frontiers had identified four potential areas on the south side of Tahiti for the project.

He said the remainder of the floating community’s population would be an international mix of people including those from Singapore, Japan, France, and the United States.

“All of them would be focused on the sea level rise issue as well as other types of blue tech. So anything related to ocean, energy, food production, water.”

“It is a world first and I think we’ll be able to learn a tremendous amount of things from the project,” Collins said.

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In this Dec. 23, 2017, photo distributed on Dec. 24, 2017, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during the conference of cell chairpersons of the ruling party in Pyongyang. North Korea on Sunday, Dec. 24, called the latest U.N. sanctions to target the country “an act of war” that violates its sovereignty, and said it is a “pipe dream” for the United States to think it will give up its nuclear weapons. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: “KCNA” which is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency.

(Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP)

Trump criticizes China after report of NKorea oil transfer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump criticized China on Thursday following reports that Chinese ships transferred oil to North Korean vessels at sea in violation of U.N. sanctions over the North’s nuclear weapons program.

Trump said on Twitter that China had been “Caught RED HANDED,” adding he was “very disappointed that China is allowing oil to go into North Korea.”

“There will never be a friendly solution to the North Korea problem if this continues to happen!” the president said, without citing the source of his information. He later told The New York Times, “It was reported this morning, and it was reported on Fox.”

China accounts for the vast majority of North Korea’s external trade and oil supplies. Just two weeks ago, Trump credited China for its help in the U.S.-led pressure campaign against Pyongyang, including support for three U.N. Security Council resolutions this year — the latest last week — over the North’s nuclear and missile tests.

However, on Tuesday the South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo cited unidentified South Korean government officials as saying U.S. reconnaissance satellites have spotted Chinese ships transferring oil to North Korean vessels some 30 times since October in seas off China. That report was picked up by some U.S. media outlets, including Fox News.

China’s foreign ministry has defended its enforcement of U.N. sanctions against North Korea. A ministry spokeswoman said Wednesday she had no information about the latest report, but said China has strictly enforced trade restrictions.

The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on that report. But in a commentary Thursday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson urged Beijing to exert “decisive economic leverage” on Pyongyang.

“China has applied certain import bans and sanctions, but it could and should do more,” he wrote in The New York Times.

Ship-to-ship trade with North Korea at sea is prohibited under U.N. sanctions adopted

Sept. 11. The latest sanctions adopted Friday, in response to the test of a North Korean inter-continental ballistic missile, also impose sharp reductions on imports of refined oil products by the isolated nation.

Last month, the Treasury Department sanctioned six North Korean shipping and trading companies and 20 of their vessels, and published photos of what it said was a North Korean vessel on Oct. 19 possibly transferring oil to evade sanctions. The statement did not specify whether Chinese vessels were involved in the transfer. At that time, the U.S. also blacklisted four Chinese-based companies and one Chinese individual said to have deep commercial ties with North Korea.

Trump has blown hot and cold on China’s efforts on North Korea, which despite a dramatic increase in sanctions has made major progress this year on perfecting a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike the United States.

On Dec. 15, Trump said Russia — another significant trading partner with North Korea — had failed to help, while China had.

“China is helping. Russia is not helping. We’d like to have Russia’s help — very important,” Trump told reporters after a phone conversation with President Vladimir Putin.

On Thursday, though, he told the Times, “But when oil is going in, I’m not happy about that.”

In the interview posted Thursday night on the Times website, Trump said, “China can solve the North Korea problem, and they’re helping us, and they’re even helping us a lot, but they’re not helping us enough.”

Also Thursday, Trump sought to remind the world that he’s long warned about the dangers posed by North Korea’s nukes.

He tweeted a compilation video that included edited footage of an interview he did with NBC’s “Meet the Press” nearly two decades ago.

In the interview, Trump said he’d be willing to launch a pre-emptive strike against North Korea if negotiating “like crazy” didn’t work. And he describes the country as “sort of wacko.”



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) RFP-022-2018

Issuance Date: December 20, 2017

Date & Time Due: January 17, 2018

No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide:
“Tecnical Support Services: Island-Wide Land Surveying Services”

Submission

Original and five copies of the Qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP: Technical Support Services: Island-Wide Land Surveying Services.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), January 17, 2018:

Office of Procurement
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO

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.

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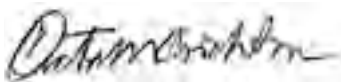
The RFP Scope of Work outlining the proposal requiements is available at the Office of Procurement, Tafuna, American Samoa, during normal working hours.

Review

Request for Proposal data will be thoroughly reviewed by an appointed Source Evaluation Board under the auspices of the Chief Procurement Officer, Office of Procurement, ASG.

Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Government 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 Government or the public.



DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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Trump administration rescinding rules for oil, gas drilling

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — President Donald Trump’s administration is rescinding proposed rules for hydraulic fracturing and other oil- and gas-drilling practices on government lands, government officials announced Thursday.

The rules developed under President Barack Obama would have applied mainly in the West, where most federal lands are located. Companies would have had to disclose the chemicals used in fracking, which pumps pressurized water underground to break open hydrocarbon deposits.

The rules to be rescinded Friday were supposed to take effect in 2015 but a federal judge in Wyoming blocked them at the last minute. In September, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver declined to rule in that case because the Trump administration intended to rescind the rules.

The long-awaited change drew praise from industry groups including the Washington, D.C.-based Independent Petroleum Association of America and Denver-based Western Energy Alliance, which sued to block the rules.

They claimed the federal rules would have duplicated state rules, putting unnecessary and expensive burdens on petroleum developers.

“States have an exemplary safety record regulating fracking, and that environmental protection will continue as before,” Western Energy Alliance President Kathleen Sgamma said in a release.

Fracking has been so successful in boosting production over the past decade it has become almost synonymous with oil and gas drilling. In many areas, it would be rare nowadays for a gas or oil well to not be fracked.

The process requires several million gallons of water each time. Environmentalists say the potential risks to groundwater require regulation.

“Fracking is a toxic business, and that’s why states and countries have banned it. Trump’s reckless decision to repeal these common-sense protections will have serious consequences,” Brett Hartl, government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in an email.

Myanmar releases journalists, staff arrested over drone

BANGKOK (AP) — Two journalists and their two local staff were released from a Myanmar prison Friday, two months after their arrest for allegedly flying a drone over the parliament.

Singaporean Lau Hon Meng and Malaysian Mok Choy Lin were working for the Turkish state broadcaster TRT when they were arrested Oct. 27 in the capital, Naypitaw.

A court on Thursday dropped additional charges against them, their local interpreter Aung Naing Soe and driver Hla Tin. They had been scheduled for release on Jan. 5 after serving a 2-month prison sentence for illegally flying a drone but were freed early. Their lawyer Khin Maung Zaw said Thursday that authorities dropped more the serious charges of importing a drone without permission and immigration violations against the foreigners after concluding they did not intent to endanger

national security.

Authorities also wanted to maintain good diplomatic relations with the countries of the two journalists, he said.

In a separate case Wednesday, a court extended the detention of two Reuters journalists and set their trial for Jan. 10 on charges of violating state secrets.

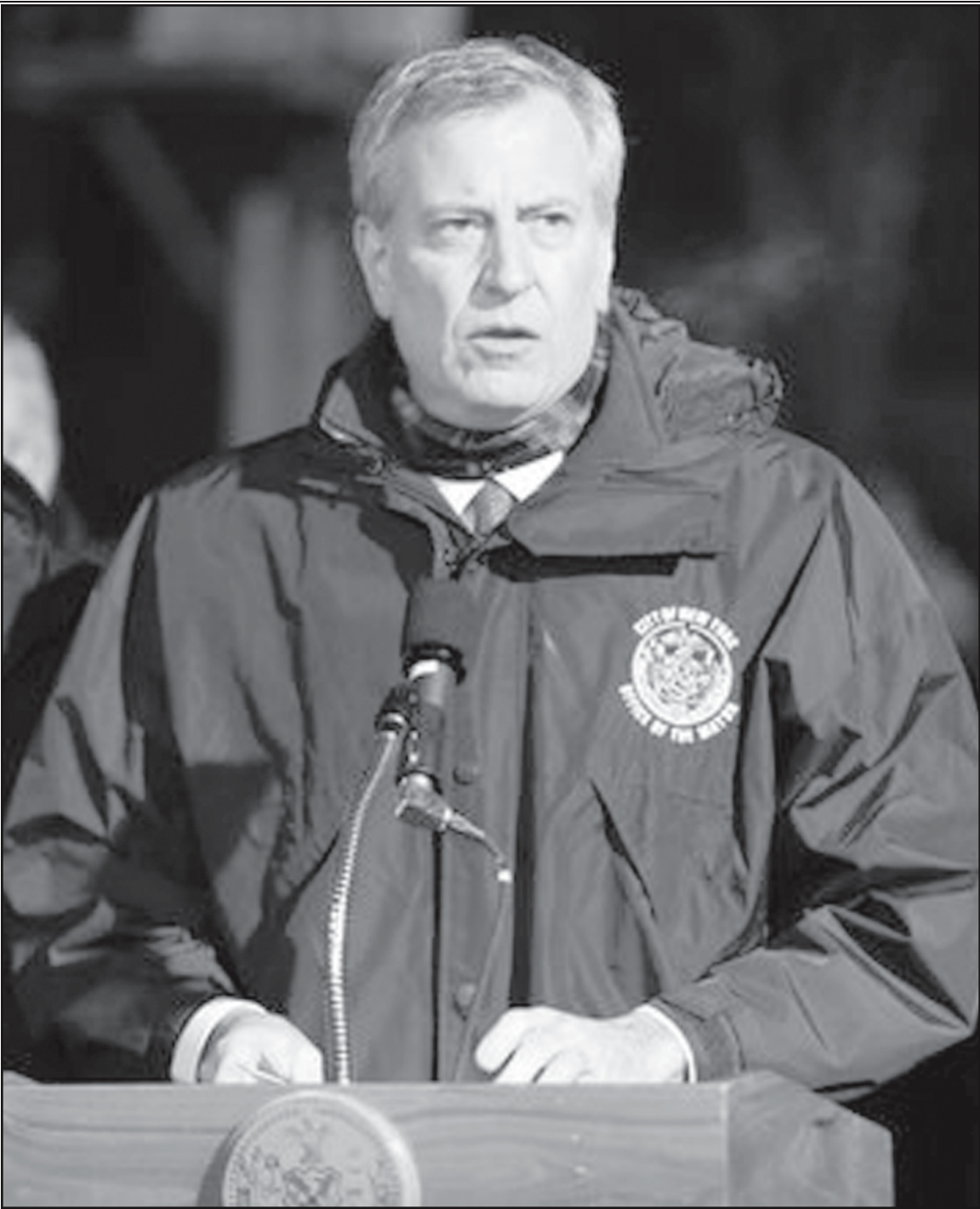
Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested Dec. 12 for acquiring “important secret papers” from two policemen. The police officers had worked in Rakhine state, where abuses widely blamed on the military have driven more than 630,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. The charges are punishable by up to 14 years in prison. Rights and media groups have criticized the new civilian government led by the Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi for continuing to use colonial-era laws to threaten and imprison journalists.

China offers tax break to keep investors after US changes

BEIJING (AP) — China is offering foreign companies a tax break in a bid to retain investment in response to changes in U.S. and other foreign tax laws.

The Finance Ministry said Thursday companies will be exempt from withholding taxes on profits so long as they are re-invested in industries specified by Beijing. The exemption

is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2017, meaning companies would receive a refund on taxes paid this year. The official Xinhua News Agency says Beijing wants to “attract foreign investors after a host of countries unveiled similar measures to lure foreign and domestic investment.”



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio speaks during a news conference after fire crews responded to a building fire Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, in the Bronx borough of New York.

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)



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INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB No: 1221-2018

Issuance Date: December 21, 2017

Closing Date: Friday, January 19, 2018
No later than 2:00 PM local time

Notice is hereby given that the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa, by and through the General Secretariat, will receive sealed bid packets from qualified contractors for the **CCCAS 'UA TAUNUU' ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT.**

Submission:

All bids submissions are to be sent to the following address:
EFKAS Main Office Building
Kanana Fou, Tafuna OR
P.O. BOX 1537, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Rev. Ioelu Onesemo

Sealed bids will be received by the General Secretary of CCCAS no later than 2:00 p.m. (local time), Friday, January 19, 2018 at which time and place the sealed bids will be open and read by the CCCAS Executive and the General Purpose Committee Board.

Any bid 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.

Pre-bid Conference:

There will be NO pre-bid conference required for this project. However, we strongly advise all interested contractors to do their own assessment of the site, existing roof of the Church Building and come up with an estimate to renovate interior of the building, remove and replace the roof of the present building.

For more information about this project, please contact the following person (s):
Rev. Ioelu Onesemo (General Secretary CCCAS, Acting) 699-9810
Rev. Letalitonu Tagaloa (Chairman General Purposes Committee) 770-8515

Note: Documents and blueprint of the NEW ROOF can be picked up at the CCCAS Main Office, Kanana Fou (9am-4pm) and additional information regarding the project.

The Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted bids that are not in the best interest of the CCCAS.

Approved for Issuance: **Rev. Elder Eveni Mamoe, Jr., CCCAS Moderator**

Regina Meredith - toe amata ana a'oga tusiata i le Hope House

tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

O le aso Lulu na o'o atu ai le tama'ita'i faia'oga o le Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi i mataupu tau Atisi, Regina Meredith, ina ia toe fafagu mai le vasega tusi ata sa masani ona ia fa'atautaia i tausaga ua mavae, ae ua loa fo'i ona le toe fa'aauaina.

O lana auunaga lea sa fa'atino, aua sa nofoia e nisi o fanau e i ai mana'oga fa'apitoa le Hope House, ae na matua iloga le atamamai i le tusi ata ma le vali ata i le tapoleni.

"O Rudy Steffany, ma Tony Hema, o nisi sa tauavea latou a'oga tusi ata i le Kolisi, e ui ina e fa'anonofo lava ma feoa'i i a la'ua nofoa fa'ata'avaale. Ua mae'a lelei ona fa'au'u i la'ua nei i le Kolisi ma la'ua fa'aailoga AA i le Atisi," o se fa'amatalaga lea a Meredith e tusa o le aoga tele o lana lea vasega i na tausaga ua tuana'i.

Peita'i o lea ua fa'ato'a toe tau fafagu mai i lenei vaitau, ma ua i ai le ulua'i fa'atasiga lea ma i latou o lo'o tausia mau i le Hope House, ae o nisi fo'i o tausia lelei i o latou lava aiga, ae sa vala'aulia ina ia o'o atu e auai i lea vasega mo i latou.

O le susuga Justin Lutu, le ali'i ua fa'atolu ona maua Pine Auro i le Olimipeka Fa'apitoa, sa auai atu ai fo'i, ma sa iloga ona fiafia i lona avanoa e lisia atu ai e ia mea e sili ona mana'o e fia faia i lona olaga i le taimi nei."

"O lo'u mana'o lea ou te fia faia e numera muamua lava le "Fia Alu i Amerika ma nofo mau ai loa! Lona lua ou te mana'o ina ia tele ni a'u avanoa ou te ta'alo ai i le Olimipeka ma malo mai ai." Ua fa'afiafiaina matua, aua e le o mailoa lava mana'oga lilo o Justin o i ai, ae leai se mea e popole ai, e to'atele ona uso ma tuafafine i fafo e mafai ona nofo ai le tama o Justin Lutu pe afai e fia masi'i i Amerika e alaala tumau ai.

O le latou a'oa'oga lea sa toe fafagu ai le fiafia o i latou na auai, sa taumafai le faia'oga e fa'aailoa mai e le tagata mai le tasi se'ia o'o i le 10 lana lisi o mea e fia mana'o ai e faia i lenei tausaga fou.

"O se tasi o nei alii talavou sa ia fa'aailoa mai, "Ou te fia alu e tafao i le lalolagi atoa, e amata atu i Fiti, agai Saina ae o'o fo'i i Iapani."

Na fa'aailoa mai e Meredith, "O le lisi na taua'aina e Lupelele, se tasi o tina matua, e atagia ai le mama ma le sa'o lelei ona fa'asolo, e foliga mai sa failautusi lenei tina i sana galuega a'o talavou. O i latou na sa latou fa'aailoa maia, le agaga fiafia ma le aiga i le mafutaga."

I le a'oa'oga sa faia, ua toe manatu mamafa ai lenei tama'ita'i faigaluega e toe fa'aa'e le galuega sa faia muamua, aua o lea ua iloga mai, e i ai le naunauta'iga ia i latou nei, ina ia fa'aauau lea ala e

fa'aailoa mai ai latou mana'oga fa'apitoa o natia.

I le to'alua o sui sa iloga ona galulue fa'atasi ma Meredith i nai tausaga ua te'a, e to'atasi ua maluu, Tony Hema, ae to'atasi ua malaga i fafo ina ua mae'a maua lona fa'aailoga AA in Arts, ua fa'aipoipo ma ua maua fo'i le la'ua alo e to'atasi. O lo'o soifua lava ma fa'aauau lana tusi ata ae u i lona gutu le pulumu vali ata. O le susuga lea a Rudy Steffany.

Ina ia mafai ona tu'u ma toe maua lea avanoa, o le a mana'omia lava ona toe feso'ota'i i matou uma e mafai ona avefa ma faia'oga ma sui fo'i e fesaosoani i lesone ma le pulega a le Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi, ae ua naunau fo'i i matou uma e aofia ai ma Sandy Scanlan ina ia faia lea tulaga.

(Faaauau itulau 19)



O se va'aiga lea ia i latou na auai i le a'oga tusi ma vali ata, o i latou e i ai mana'oga fa'apitoa sa aoaoina e le tama'ita'i faia'oga atisi a le ASCC Regina Meredith.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



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Capt ‘Blackie’ Jim Johnson & le tamaita’i Faia’oga A’au - Patti Greene, ao maimoa i pesepesega e fa’ailoga ai le Kerisimasi a Amerika Samoa.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



Le Tama o Jake ma lona aiga ua fiafia fa’atasi fo’i i le DDW mo le latou ‘aiga o aso fiafia. Manuia le tausaga fou.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Faiaoga a’au mo tagata iai mana’oga fa’apitoa & isi uma

tusia: *Leua Aiono Frost*

O lo ua o’o mai i Amerika Samoa le tama’ita’i e maua ona tusi pasi fa’apitoa i le avefa’aga ai ma Faia’oga A’au mo so’o se tasi e afua mai fanau iti e ta’itasi le tausaga le matutua, se’ia o’o i tagata matutua lava ua mana’omia ona iloa a’au, ae fa’apea fo’i ma i latou “e i ai mana’oga fa’apitoa, pe o afaina tumau o latou tino ma le mafauafau.

O Patti Greene Johnson, o se tasi na soifua a’e i Michigan, ae lima ona tausaga, si’itia mai le galuega a lona tama i Pearl Harbor i le vaega au, ma aumai ai lava o ia, ua le toe o ese ai ma Hawaii. O lona uiga, ua mafai ona saunia Patti, o ia o le tama’ita’i mai le atumotu o Hawaii.

O ona tomai uma fo’i o lo’o ua agavaa ai o ia i galuega na tautua ai ma o lo’o fa’aauau pea ona aoga atu ai i nisi, sa a’otauina ai lava o ia i le setete o Hawaii mai lona talavou.

O lo’o iinei le tama’ita’i o Patti ma lona to’alua, Capt. Jim Johnson lea e fa’aigoaina lava e ia o “Capt. Balckie!” lea sa la’ua folau mai i le la’ua va’a faila, ma ua taula nei i le Marina i Fagatogo.

Na fa’ailoa mai e Johnson, o le tele o lona tomai sa galue ai o ia i le Matagaluega o Paka ma Malaeta’alo i le setete o Hawaii mo le 20+ tausaga. Peita’i e tusa o le 40+ tausaga e galuega feso’ota’i lava o ia ma le sami po’o vaitafe, ona o ia e fiafia tele i le a’au, alo paopao, kayak ma le Maulu.

E laisene uma lava le tama’ita’i nei i ona agava’a ua lisia i luga, ma o le lelei lea o lona o’o mai, ua mafai ona ia faia a’oa’oga a’au mo le mamalu lautele ae maise fanau iti pe talavou, e le’o iloa a’au.

“O i tatou o tagata o atumotu, e tele na’ua le vaega o le tatou olaga e ola feso’ota’i lelei ma le moana po’o vaitafe, peita’i e maofa nisi o setete tutotonu o Amerika pe afai o le a fesiligia oe pe ete iloa a’au ae o le a e tali atu e leai,” o sana tala ‘ata lea.

Lona lua o sona taofi fa’aalia, “E matua lava ma totoe le taimi e mafai ai e le tagata o le atumotu ona fa’aaoga tatau e o’o ai e ta’ele i le sami po’o se vaitafe, e le mamao le sami mai o tatou fanua o alaala ai. Ae ona o le le mana’o lava i ai o le tagata Samoa. O le malosi fo’i lea e maua e tino o tagata Samoa, e matua lava ma totoe mo le a’au mamao.” O le isi lea manatu e fa’aosofia ai le naunau e a’au o le to’atele.”

I le Marina taula va’a faila i Fagatogo e to’aono nisi o fanau talavou, mai le 9 tausaga se’ia o’o i

le 17 ua mafai ona fa’aaoga tatau lo latou taimi e Patti e ao ai le latou a’au i le Vaita’ale o le fale-talimalo o le Sadies by the Sea i Utulei.

“I le taimi na matou fetui ai, o lo’o togitogi ma’a lenei vasega o le fanau i le sami, e foliga mai o fia maua se i’a e ave i le fale, ae togi i le ma’a. Ua ou iloa nei e matua masau lava tauau o tamaiti samoa i le togitogi.”

Ona toe fa’aauau lea o lana fa’amatalaga ma fai mai, “Peita’i na ou fesiligia po’o a latou mea e fai, ae pe lelei latou a’au. Tali le fanau, e leiloa a’au, tali le tasi e lelei lana a’au ae le mamao, tali le tasi, masalo e tatau ona la’ua tutu’u e iloa ai pe a mai lana a’au.”

“O nei vaega uma, e i ai e matua leiloa a’au, o nisi e iloa a’au ae le sa’o le ala o a’au ai, ae o le isi e matua leiloa lava a’au. O lea la ua tofua maua e i latou sa’u meaalofoa mo i latou nei, ia iloa lelei a’au mamao ma le malosi,” o se tala fiafia lea a Patti.

I le taimi nei ua faia lava e ia a’oa’oga o le a’au i so’o se tasi, ae fa’asolosolo i le matutua ana vasega, aua e tatau ona a’oa’oina fa’atasi tagata e tupulaga. Ua tutusa lelei le malosi o le manava. O lea o lo ua ofo ane le Swimming Pool po’o le vai ta’ele a le Faletalimalo o le Sadies i Utulei ina ia faia ai nei a’oga. E amata i le itula e 1:30 i le aoauli mo le fanau iti e na’o le 1 - 5 tausaga le matutua, ona soso’o lea ma le a’oga fa’apitoa mo le fanau e le o atoatoa le malosi o le tino po’o le mafauafau, ona fa’ato’a avanoa lea mo le vasega feololo ma le vasega matutua e fa’ai’u i ai.

“O le galuega ma le taleni lenei, e le tatau ona matamuli ai se tasi, aua a tutupu fa’alavelave fa’afuase’i i luga o va’a femalaga’i, po’o va’alele fo’i i nisi taimi, a le lava ofu fa’aola, ia mafai ona e fa’asaoina lou soifua i luga o le sami.”

O lo ua auai fa’atasi le tama’ita’i o Sany Scanlan ma nisi fo’i o matua ma aiga, ina ia fesoaoni malosi ia Patti Greene ina ia mafai ona tu’ufa’atasia vasega a le fanau iti ma le fanau fa’apitoa.

E tusa ai ma se manatu fa’apitoa o se tasi o tina matua, “Ou te fa’afetai, sa ou le iloa e amata ona a’oa’o se tamaititi i le 1 le tausaga e a’au, ae o mai lava teine sasa’o latou fa’ailoa mai, amata vave e o’o ane le tamaititi i le matua pe talavou fou, ua tele lona tomai e mafai ona tauva ai i ta’aloga e faia i le vai po’o luga o le sami, ae maise e mafai fo’i ona fa’asaoina lona soifua i ni fa’alavelave tutupu e ono a’afia ai i luga o le sami.”



O le nei le tama’ita’i na sau mamao lava e toe faia se fa’atauga mo le mamalu o aiga i le Manu’atele. O lo’o taumafai ina ia maua le va’alele muamua e o’o ai i le Manu’atele ona o nei oloa e mo’omia. Ms La’apui o Fitiuta Manu’a.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



O tama’ita’i faigaluega a le Le Lalelei Stor i Laufou, lea ua fiafia e fa’amanuia mai le tausaga fou ia i latou uma o aulelei i la’ei saunia lelei mai a Le Lalelei Store.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

► Regina...

Mai itulau 17

E le gata ina faia fa’atasia lenei vasega ma fanau ua nonofo i tua i aiga ma tausia ai i latou ina ia mataituina latou mana’oga fa’apitoa, ae ua naunau i latou e fia iloa lea taleni o le tusi ma le vali ata.

E le o toe mamao ae tatou va’aia ni fua lelei o lenei galuega ua toe fa’aa’e, ma o le a toe faia fo’i le isi vasega vali ata ma tusitusi i le aso Faraile a sau nei.

Sa toe fa’asoa mai Meredith e tusa o le tomai o nei fanau ma e matutua fo’i sa auai, “Ua fa’atulaga fa’atasi le matou lisi o fesili e mafaufau loloto i ai le vasega ona tali mai lea, amata i le e te mana’o lava e faia i le taimi nei, se mea’ai e te fia tausami ai, se vaiinu e te fia inu ai, ae toe tu’u atu loa le fesili po’o le a le mea e soso’o ae fai mai le isi talavou, “Po’o le a le show e te fia maimoa ai?”



O le va’aiga i lenei auaiga ma latou pa’aga ua fia fa’amanuia mai fo’i le tausaga fou i le mamalu o le atunu’u lautele e ala i le tatou nusipepa nei. Ia manuia le 2018. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



O se ‘aiga fiafia fo’i a le Tama o Malcolm Sword ma le fanau ma fanau a fanau e fa’amanatu ai le aso na soifua ai Caroline Sword, le tina o le aiga. Manuia le aso soifua ma ia manuia fo’i le o’o atu i le 2018. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



a fiafia tele lenei aiga ina ia malaga mai i le DDW mo le latou ‘aiga fiafia e suia ai fo’i le sipili o le Kerisimasi ma le tausaga fou. Manuia le tausaga fou toetoe a o’o mai. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



O le va’aiga i le aiga atoa o le tina o Patricia Letuli - si ana fanau ma fanau a lana fanau, maua le mafutaga fiafia i lona aso fa’ailogaina ua atoa i ai le 75 o tausaga o le soifua. Manuia lava le aso soifua Patricia Letuli. Manuia fo’i le tausaga fou. [ata foai]



O i latou nei o fa’atau oloa a le faleoloa o le Laufou i Nuuuuli, ua fa’ailoa mai, ua sau le lelava aua e pisi lava taimi uma i le tele o fa’atauaga o lenei vaitau. Peita’i o le pisinisi lena, a pisi o lona lelei lea. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



O se tasi o ali’i laufofoga fiafia ma tautuaina le mamalu o i latou e gasolo atu e mo’omia so’o se ituiga o ie mo latou lavalava. O Patel e tautua lava ma le laufofoga fiafia i taimi uma. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



In this Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, photo, homeless men Sean Stuart, left, and Segundo Rivera walk on a street after spending the day at St. Francis House in Boston. With temperatures across Massachusetts not expected to rise above freezing for days, politicians and advocates for the homeless are particularly concerned about getting as many people as possible into shelters. Stuart and Rivera told the Boston Herald that they're not comfortable spending the night in a shelter. "We've lived out here so long it's like honestly, this is comfortable for us," Rivera said.

(Christopher Evans/The Boston Herald via AP)

As deep freeze sets in, people urged to help most vulnerable

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — As a deep freeze sets in across half the country, officials are urging people to help those most vulnerable, especially the homeless and the elderly.

Forecasters warned people to be wary of hypothermia and frostbite from the arctic blast that's gripping a large swath from the Midwest to the Northeast, where the temperature, without the wind chill factored in, dipped to minus 32 (minus 35 Celsius) on Thursday morning in Watertown, New York.

The prolonged, dangerous cold weather has sent advocates for the homeless scrambling to get people off the streets and to bring in extra beds for them. Warming centers also were set

up in some locations.

Boston's Pine Street Inn is sending a van with outreach workers around to persuade people to spend the night inside, but some said they prefer the streets.

Segundo Rivera and Sean Stuart told the Boston Herald that they're not comfortable spending the night in a shelter.

"We've lived out here so long it's like honestly, this is comfortable for us," Rivera said.

A shelter spokeswoman said that if people don't want to go to a shelter, they're given blankets, warm clothing and a hot beverage, and informed of the dangers of extreme cold.

The Ohio Department of Aging said older people are at increased risk from such severe cold, from medication side effects to falling risks. The department encouraged people to check on family members, friends and neighbors to make sure they're warm enough and have their needed medications and sufficient food and water.

Animal advocates also urged people to remember their pets.

In Toledo, the humane society was looking into the death of a dog found "frozen solid" on a porch, cruelty investigator Megan Brown told The Blade.

"I don't know how long she was out there," Brown said.

A second dog was recovered shivering inside the home. The dogs' owner told The Blade utilities that had been shut off but he had been providing for the dogs while living elsewhere. He said he didn't know how one dog, an American bully, got outside.

On Thursday, cold weather records were set from Arkansas to Maine, and the cold air will linger through the weekend, reaching as far south as Texas and the Florida Panhandle.

In New Hampshire, the cold set a record for the day of minus 34 (minus 37 Celsius) atop the Northeast's highest peak, Mount Washington.

In the Midwest, temperatures in Minneapolis aren't expected to top zero (minus 18 Celsius) this weekend, and it likely will be in the teens (minus 11 Celsius to minus 7 Celsius) when the ball drops on New Year's Eve in New York City.

A winter storm warning was in effect for much of Montana, calling for significant snowfall followed by dangerously cold temperatures as 2017 comes to an end.

"People like to think of themselves as being prepared for the weather and things like that," Billings forecaster Dan Borsum said, "but this one will get your attention."



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.

Actress Rose Marie of ‘Dick Van Dyke Show’ fame dies at 94

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rose Marie, the wisecracking Sally Rogers of “The Dick Van Dyke Show” and a show business lifer who began as a bobbed-hair child star in vaudeville and worked for nearly a century in theater, radio, TV and movies, died Thursday. She was 94.

Marie had been resting in bed at her Los Angeles-area home when a caretaker found she had stopped breathing, said family spokesman Harlan Boll.

“Heaven just got a whole lot funnier” was the tribute posted atop a photo of Marie on her website.

She was a child star of the 1920s and 1930s who endeared herself to TV fans on the classic ‘60s sitcom that featured Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore.

The subject of the 2017 documentary “Wait for Your Laugh,” Marie often claimed she had the longest career in entertainment history. It spanned some 90 years, with co-stars ranging from W.C. Fields to Garfield the cat, and the highlight for many was “The Dick Van Dyke Show.”

The sitcom was widely loved for its sophisticated writing, inspired casting and insightful view of the inner workings of the then-new medium of television. Van Dyke starred as Rob Petrie, head writer for a hit comedy-variety show and Mary Tyler Moore, in her first major role, played his wife Laura.

The blonde, raspy-voiced Marie teamed with her pal Morey Amsterdam as assistant writers.

Drawing on his experiences on Sid Caesar’s shows, Carl Reiner created the series, wrote and directed many episodes and made occasional appearances as the surly star, Alan Brady. After an uncertain beginning in 1961, “The Dick Van Dyke Show” caught on with TV viewers, was still popular when it ended in 1966 and remained a favorite for decades in reruns.

“There’s never been a more engaging & multi-talented performer & always had audiences clamoring for “more!!” Reiner posted Thursday on Twitter. “The Dick Van Dyke Show” not only was an ideal vehicle for Marie’s comic gifts, but was a showcase for her singing, with Sally belting out “Come Rain or Come Shine” and other old favorites during nightclub and party scenes.

Marie was especially proud of playing a woman defined by her work, a rare sitcom character at the time who wasn’t “a wife, mother, or housekeeper,” she tweeted in 2017.

The actress did have conflicts with Reiner, resenting that Moore was given more prominence than her on the show. Reiner, speaking in “Wait for

Your Laugh,” bluntly pushed back. “I used real strong language,” he recalled. “I said, ‘You both have beautiful legs. They wanna look at her legs.’”

Nominated three times for Emmys, Rose Marie had yet to turn 40 when she joined the Van Dyke cast, but had been an entertainer for more than 30 years.

She was born Rose Marie Mazetta of Italian-Polish parentage in New York City on Aug. 15, 1923. When she was 3, her mother entered her in an amateur talent contest in Atlantic City as Baby Rose Marie.

“My mother was terrified,” she recalled in a 1992 interview with The Associated Press. “But I went out and sang ‘What Can I Say, Dear, After I Say I’m Sorry?’ and won the contest.”

She began singing on radio and was a hit on “The Rudy Vallee Hour.” NBC gave her a seven-year contract and her own show, 15 minutes on Sunday. Her powerful voice gave rise to rumors.

“Stories went around that I was really a 45-year-old midget,” she remarked in 1992. “So they sent me on a year-round personal appearance tour of theaters across the country to prove that I was a child.”

Marie sang in a series of movie shorts including “Baby Rose Marie, the Child Wonder” in 1929 and appeared on most of the vaudeville circuits until vaudeville’s demise. Among her friends was one of the country’s most notorious gangsters.

“My father worked as an arsonist for Al Capone,” Marie told People magazine in 2016. “He used to burn down your warehouse if things weren’t going the right way, but I didn’t know that at the time. I was a child star and to me Al was my ‘Uncle Al,’ my mother used to cook for all these guys. Years later when I was working Vegas with (casino owner and known mobster) Bugsy Siegel, I cooked for that generation, I guess I knew then.”

In 1946 she married Bobby Guy, a trumpeter in Kay Kysler’s band and later on top NBC radio shows in Hollywood. (They had a daughter, Georgiana). Bobby Guy was just 48 when he died suddenly of a blood infection, in 1964, a loss so devastating Marie wore black for a year and hesitated to take on work beyond “The Dick Van Dyke Show.”

One of her first outside performances was on “The Dean Martin Show,” when she performed the melancholy ballad “Little Girl Blue.”

“Then Dean sang ‘(Smile),’ to me and I couldn’t help it, the tears began pouring down,” she recalled in her memoir “Hold the Roses,” published in 2003.



FILE- In this April 1, 2002, file photo, actress and comedian Rose Marie talks to the press as she arrives for a ceremony honoring comedian Milton Berle at Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary in Los Angeles. Family spokesman Harlan Boll said Marie, the wisecracking Sally Rogers of, “The Dick Van Dyke Show,” died Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017. She was 94.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut, File)



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REQUEST FOR QUOTES (RFQ)

RFQ No: ASPA18.013.ESD-WTR **Closing Date & Time: Friday, January 5, 2018**
Issuance Date: December 18, 2017 **No later than 2:00 p.m. local time**

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Quotes (RFQ) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written quotes for the:

“Water Project Vehicle”

Submission

An original and one PDF of the Quote must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “**RFQ No. ASPA 18.013.ESD-WTR Water Project Vehicle**”.

Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00pm. (local time), **Friday, January 5, 2018:**

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

Any quote 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 RFQ package outlining the quote requirements is available at the New Procurement Office at AS-PA’s Tafuna Compound, 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 quotes and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted quotes that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Power Authority or the public.

Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director

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Cambodia court fines exiled opposi- tion leader \$1 million

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — A court in Cambodia on Friday ordered an exiled opposition leader to pay \$1 million for defaming Prime Minister Hun Sen in a Facebook post.

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court found Sam Rainsy guilty of defamation in the latest case against him brought by Hun Sen and his ruling party. Sam Rainsy has been in self-imposed exile since late 2015 to avoid a two-year prison sentence also on charges of criminal defamation.

The conviction comes amid an intense push by Hun Sen’s government to neutralize political opponents and silence critics ahead of an election next year. A Supreme Court last month ordered Sam Rainsy’s party, the country’s only legitimate opposition, to be dissolved on the grounds that it was plotting to overthrow the government.

Kem Sokha, who took over the party, has been detained on treason charges and is awaiting trial.

The government has also intensified restrictions on civil society groups and independent

media outlets. The campaign, which means Hun Sen will face no serious challengers in the election, has prompted international condemnation.

The latest case against Sam Rainsy stems from a Facebook post in January in which he accused Hun Sen of offering \$1 million to a political operative to attack the opposition. Hun Sen filed a defamation case and demanded 4 billion riel (\$1 million) in compensation.

The court also ordered Sam Rainsy to pay another 10 million riel (\$2,500) as a fine to the state.

Sam Rainsy is also facing a charge of incitement filed by Cambodia’s military last month after he called on soldiers on Facebook not to obey any “dictators” if they are ordered to shoot innocent people.

The U.S. announced last month that it will restrict visas for Cambodians “undermining democracy.” The State Department said it was a direct response to “anti-democratic actions” by the Cambodian government but did not disclose which individuals would be affected.





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A new day on Dec. 28 with three more days before the New Year 2018, with great weather in sunny American Samoa, as the sun rose from coastline off Faganeanea village on Tutuila island around 8a.m. [photo:Leua Aiono Frost]

Turkey nabs 29 suspected militants ahead of New Year's Eve

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish police detained 29 suspected Islamic State group militants in the capital, Ankara, on Friday, some of whom allegedly were preparing to carry out attacks during New Year's celebrations, the state-run news agency reported.

Some 500 police officers took part in simultaneous raids to detain the suspects, many of them foreign nationals, Anadolu Agency reported. Police had warrants to detain 17 other suspects.

Materials seized by police during the raids indicated that some of the suspects had staked out locations and made preparations for possible attacks on New Year's Eve, the report said.

There was no immediate information on the foreigners' nationalities.

Turkey has suffered a series of deadly attacks blamed on IS militants, including a New Year's attack at an Istanbul nightclub by a gunman that killed 39 people.

The country is stepping up security measures ahead of this weekend's celebrations, including canceling several large-scale New Year's Eve street parties in Istanbul. Turkey's police chief said 275,000 police officers would be on duty.

On Thursday, police in the northwestern province of Bursa detained 38 IS suspects in similar raids, including several Syrian nationals.

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Talofa Systems' employee Faaaliga Tui (second at far right) holds up his 15 years of service plaque and an envelope with \$150 worth of gift certificates during a ceremony at the Satala-based can plant on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017 to honor their years of service. Tui is pictured with Talofa Systems CFO Eogyoon Kim (far left), coworker Ioana Tasi (second at far left) and Electrical Supervisor Graeme Dunstan (far right).

[courtesy photo]



Talofa Faimoa (center), a mechanic with the can-manufacturing plant, Talofa Systems American Samoa Inc., celebrated his 20 years of service this year with the Satala-based plant. He is pictured with Talofa Systems CFO Eogyoon Kim (far left) and Electrical Supervisor Graeme Dunstan, who presented him with his plaque, an ula, and gift certificates valued at \$200 during a luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017.

[courtesy photo]



Mrs. Tapaau Fleming (at center) is all smiles after being honored on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017 by her employer Talofa Systems American Samoa Inc., for attaining 25 years of service with the Satala-based can plant. In addition to receiving 25 cases of wahoo, she was also presented with a plaque, an ula and gift certificates valued at \$275. She is pictured with her coworker Ese Lemusu (left) . The company hosted a luncheon honoring 8 employees who have reached 5 to 30 years of service with the can plant.

[courtesy photo]



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FILE - In this June 11, 2014 file photo, a demonstrator carries a mock coffin with a message reading “They want to kill us - Uber” during a 24 hour taxi strike and protest in Madrid, Spain against unregulated competition from private companies, in particular, Uber. The European Union’s top court has ruled on Wednesday Dec. 20, 2017 that ride-hailing service Uber should be regulated like a taxi company, a decision that could change the way it functions across the continent.

(AP Photo/Paul White, File)

SoftBank group acquires major stake in Uber

NEW YORK (AP) — A group led by Japanese technology conglomerate Softbank has acquired a major stake in Uber, potentially tamping down internal warfare at the troubled ride-hailing company and strengthening the hand of CEO Dara Khosrowshahi as he seeks to move it past the firestorm that has consumed it for the past year.

In a tender offer that expired Thursday afternoon, SoftBank acquired a 15 percent stake in Uber while the remaining members got about 3 percent, according to a person familiar with the situation who was not authorized to publicly discuss details. Under the deal, the SoftBank group will also buy about \$1 billion worth of new Uber stock. SoftBank said it expects to close the overall investment in January.

Uber has been plagued by a growing string of scandals over the past year, including allegations of sexual misconduct and charges that it deployed an espionage team to plunder trade secrets from its rivals. It’s also facing off with regulators in London over its right to operate there, dealing with the fallout from a major hack of driver and passenger information that it paid a hefty ransom to conceal, and is battling Google spinoff Waymo in a lawsuit accusing it of trade-secret theft. Uber denies engaging in trade-secret theft.

The SoftBank deal clears the way for Uber, among the most valuable tech firms in the world, to sell stock to the public. Under the deal, a pos-

sible initial public offering could take place before the end of 2019. Last month, Benchmark Capital, Menlo Ventures and other early Uber investors had confirmed their intent to sell shares in the company.

It also curtails the influence of former CEO Travis Kalanick, an Uber co-founder, who was pushed out in June but retained control of 3 of Uber’s 11 board seats. Benchmark, in fact, sued the former CEO in August, accusing him of trying to pack the board with his allies and plotting to return as CEO.

As part of the SoftBank deal, Kalanick agreed to allow a majority of board members to vote on any future appointments he makes. Benchmark agreed to suspend its lawsuit against Kalanick and to drop it after the end of the tender offer period.

“We have tremendous confidence in Uber’s leadership and employees and are excited to support Uber as it continues to reinvent how people and goods are transported around the world,” SoftBank CEO Rajeev Misra said in a statement.

Uber said in a statement that the overall transaction would “support our technology investments, fuel our growth, and strengthen our corporate governance.”Uber had been valued at \$68.5 billion in a previous stock sale. The Wall Street Journal said the tender offer valued Uber at \$48 billion, a 30 percent discount.

NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the VELETALAOLA Family and to all whom these present may come!
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ALAI & FETINEIAI FULU of AOA has offered for recording in this office an instrument in writing which seeks to separate a certain structure which is or to be erected, on land MALAEFOA allegedly belonging to VELETALAOLA FAMILY of the village of AOA. Said land MALAEFOA is situated in or near the village of AOA in the County of VAIFANUA, Island of TUTUILA, American Samoa. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person may object to the recording of such instrument by filing in the Territorial Registrar's Office in Fagatogo, a written objection to the recording of said instrument. Any objections thereto must be filed with in 30 days from the date of posting of this notice. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if no such objections are filed within the said 30 day period, the instrument will be recorded and shall be valid and binding on all persons. The said instrument may be examined at any time at the Territorial Registrar's Office.

POSTED: DECEMBER 22, 2017 thru JANUARY 22, 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

FA’AALIGA O LE FEAGAIGA MO SE TU’U’ESEINA

I tagata o le aiga sa VELETALAOLA, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina lenei fa’aaliga!
O le fa’aaliga lenei ona o ALAI & FETINEIAI FULU o le nu’u o AOA ua ia fa’aulufaleina mai i lenei ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e fa’ailoa ai se mana’oga fia tu’u’eseina o se fale ua/po o le a, fa’atua i luga o le fanua o MALAEFOA e fa’asino i le aiga sa VELETALAOLA, o le nu’u o AOA. O leni fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu’u o AOA, itumalo o VAIFANUA, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa. O le fa’aaliga fo’i e fa’apea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i lenei mata’upu e mafai ona fa’atu’iese ile fa’amauina o lenei feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana fa’atu’ese tusitusia. O fa’atu’iesega uma lava e ao ona fa’aulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faitauna mai i le aso na faiaalia ai lenei fa’aaliga. Afai ole a leai se fa’atu’iesega e fa’aulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta’ua i luga, o le a fa’amauina loa lenei feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'a'afia ai tagata uma.

12/29/17 & 01/12/18

NOTICE FOR SEPARATION AGREEMENT

TO Members of the TAELEIFI Family and to all whom these present may come!
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that LANCE & RUTH GLODOWSKI of LEONE has offered for recording in this office an instrument in writing which seeks to separate a certain structure which is or to be erected, on land ASOPANOA allegedly belonging to TAELEIFI FAMILY of the village of LEONE. Said land ASOPANOA is situated in or near the village of LEONE in the County of FOFO, Island of TUTUILA, American Samoa. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person may object to the recording of such instrument by filing in the Territorial Registrar's Office in Fagatogo, a written objection to the recording of said instrument. Any objections thereto must be filed with in 30 days from the date of posting of this notice. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if no such objections are filed within the said 30 day period, the instrument will be recorded and shall be valid and binding on all persons. The said instrument may be examined at any time at the Territorial Registrar's Office.

POSTED: DECEMBER 8, 2017 thru JANUARY 8, 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

FA’AALIGA O LE FEAGAIGA MO SE TU’U’ESEINA

I tagata o le aiga sa TAELEIFI, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina lenei fa’aaliga!
O le fa’aaliga lenei ona o LANCE & RUTH GLODOWSKI o le nu’u o LEONE ua ia fa’aulufaleina mai i lenei ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e fa’ailoa ai se mana’oga fia tu’u’eseina o se fale ua/po o le a, fa’atua i luga o le fanua o ASOPANOA e fa’asino i le aiga sa TAELEIFI, o le nu’u o LEONE. O leni fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu’u o LEONE, itumalo o FOFO, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa. O le fa’aaliga fo’i e fa’apea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i lenei mata’upu e mafai ona fa’atu’iese ile fa’amauina o lenei feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana fa’atu’ese tusitusia. O fa’atu’iesega uma lava e ao ona fa’aulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faitauna mai i le aso na faiaalia ai lenei fa’aaliga. Afai ole a leai se fa’atu’iesega e fa’aulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta’ua i luga, o le a fa’amauina loa lenei feagaiga e taualoaina ma 'a'afia ai tagata uma.

12/15 & 12/29/17

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 LAGO of the village of PAGO PAGO by LI'ATAMA AMISONE of the village of PAGO PAGO, 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 LAGO shall be registered in the name of LI'ATAMA AMISONE in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: DECEMBER 21, 2017 thru FEBRUARY 20, 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

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 LAGO o le nu’u o PAGO PAGO e LI’ATAMA AMISONE o PAGO PAGO 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 faafinagaloina, 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’e 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 LI’ATAMA AMISONE e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

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Judge blocks Arizona ethnic studies ban he found was racist

PHOENIX (AP) — A U.S. judge has permanently blocked an ethnic studies ban in Arizona public schools that dismantled a popular Mexican-American studies program, dealing a final blow to a law that he found to be racially motivated.

Following a seven-year court battle, U.S. District Judge A. Wallace Tashima issued a final judgment Wednesday that prohibits Arizona education officials from enforcing the 2010 law, which stirred up additional allegations of racial discrimination by a state that passed a landmark crackdown on immigration the same year. Tashima had previously ruled that racism and political gain were behind the ban’s creation, findings that he reiterated in this week’s decision.

Because the law “was enacted and enforced, not for a legitimate educational purpose, but for an invidious discriminatory racial purpose, and a politically partisan purpose ... (the law) cannot be enforced,” he wrote.

Attorneys for the state have denied that racial discrimination played a part in the law. The Arizona Attorney General’s Office, which defended education officials in the case, said it may appeal the ruling. “We will consult with the superintendent and see how she would like to proceed,” spokesman Ryan Anderson said. “Additionally, we have an obligation to evaluate the likelihood of success on appeal for the individual findings.”

The office has until Jan. 26 to appeal. Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas and the state Board of Education did not immediately reply to messages seeking comment Thursday.

The law banned courses appearing to promote resentment toward a race or class of people or advocate ethnic solidarity instead of treating people as individuals.

Lawmakers passed it after Tucson Unified School District began offering classes in 1998 focused on Mexican-American history, literature and art.

Steven Reiss, an attorney for Tucson students who sued over the law, praised the ruling.

“That should make it clear to everyone in the state: This law is not only invalid and cannot be enforced, it makes it clear that the Tucson Unified School District is absolutely free to readopt the Mexican-American studies program,” Reiss said.

Nolan Cabrera, an associate professor at the University of Arizona’s Center for the Study of Higher Education, led a study that said students who took Mexican-American studies were more likely to graduate and pass their standardized tests.

If the judge’s decision stands, it could open the door to more effective ethnic studies programs in all Arizona school districts, Cabrera said. Schools in other states such as California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington have already taken the lead in offering such options. “You can put in Maya Angelou and take out Shakespeare and say, ‘I have an ethnic studies program,’” Cabrera said. “That’s not what we’re talking about here, not just a tokenizing version of the curriculum.”

The Tucson school district ceased the classes in 2012 to avoid the threat of losing 10 percent of their state funding. District officials did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment Thursday.

Anne Ah Foon-English, a former Samoa News reporter, shared her story on how she donates to others, during this Christmas season, by collecting coins.

“Our favorite thing to do during the holiday season; is counting these babies (or coins) and gifting them to those in need. Started this since my kids were little and I hope some of you will also make this a tradition in your home,” she said via email from the US.

“I have a few containers placed near where we usually enter our house; however many coins make it home in our pockets (or inside the car), they go here. You’d be amazed how much one household could collect by the end of the year,” she said, adding, “please don’t get tempted to buy that xBox with it.” With these coins, we’re able to help a few families with their Christmas meals. Imagine if all of us could do this simple thing for someone else, a little bit of kindness can go a long way.”

Samoa News hopes that Anne’s story will help many others, not only in American Samoa but also around the world to save those coins for a great present for others for the next Christmas holiday.

[photo: A. English]

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"Channel 47" KBS WORLD Program of American Samoa

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Time of American Samoa	Sunday (12/31)	Monday (1/1)	Tuesday (1/2)	Wednesday (1/3)	Thursday (1/4)	min	Friday (1/5)	Saturday (1/6)	min
10 : am	00' K-pop World Festival 10' Quiz on Korea 2017 (E,R)	Dragon's Club Overgrown Romance		The Unit Jisook's Table for O'	Happy Together (E,R)	00'	Music Bank	Encore Drama	00'
11 : am	30' The Swan Club (E,R)	Encore Drama "Gunman in Joseon" (E,R)		Encore Drama The Swan Club		00'	The Beauty	Lovers of Music	
12 NOON	40' Heritage Tomorrow	Daily Drama "The Secret of My Love" (E,R)						(E,R)	
1 : pm	50' Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E,R)							
2 : pm		The Swan Club (E,R)	Jugglers Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Black Knight Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)			K-RUSH (E,R)	30'
3 : pm	30' Dragon's Club Overgrown Romance	Drama Special 2017 K-pop World Festival	Dragon's Club Overgrown Romance	The Unit K-RUSH (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	30'	The Swan Club (E,R)	Music Bank	30'
4 : pm	50' Encore Drama "Gunman in Joseon" (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Jugglers (E,R)	Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Black Knight (E,R)	The Unit		My Golden Life		50'
5 : pm	00' Encore Drama "Gunman in Joseon" (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Jugglers (E,R)	Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Black Knight (E,R)	(E,R)		Weekend Drama (E,R)		00'
6 : pm	10' Encore Drama "Gunman in Joseon" (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Jugglers (E,R)	Weekend Drama My Golden Life (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Black Knight (E,R)			Mon-Tue Drama Jugglers	Wed-Thu Drama Black Knight (E,R)	10'
7 : pm	20' # 20, 21, 22 Final	# 6, 7, 8	# 32, 33, 34	# 6, 7, 8	Jisook's Table for O'		(E,R)	2017	
8 : pm	Gag Concert	Daily Drama "The Secret of My Love" (E,R)						KBS Drama Awards	
		Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E,R)							
9 : pm	00' UHD UNESCO World Heritage Special (E,R)	KBS World News Today Heritage Tomorrow				40'	Happy Together (E,R)	(E,R)	
10 : pm	00' Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Drama Special 2017 (E,R)	The Swan Club	The Unit	K-RUSH (E,R) Please Find Her (E,R) Guerrilla Date (E,R)	00'	Gag Concert (E)	"The Return of Superman" (E)	00'
11 : pm	40' K-pop World Festival	K-pop World Festival	K-pop World Festival	Jisook's Table for O'	Week/Food Odyssey	20'	4 Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E)	40'
12 : 00	Daily Drama "The Secret of My Love" (E,R)								
Next Day	Daily Drama "Love Returns" (E)								
1 : am	KBS 9 News (Live)			KBS 9 News (Live)			KBS 9 News (Live)		00'
2 : am	50' The Swan Club (E,R)	Jugglers Mon-Tue Drama (E)		Black Knight Wed-Thu Drama (E)		20'	My Golden Life Weekend Drama (E)		20'
3 : am	00' Dragon's Club Overgrown Romance (E,R)	The Unit Jisook's Table for O'		Happy Together		30'	Mon-Tue Drama Jugglers (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Black Knight (E,R)	30'
4 : am	20' Encore Drama Lovers of Music (E,R)					2017 KBS Song Festival (E,R)			
5 : am	30' Heritage Tomorrow					50'	Gag Concert (E,R)	The Return of Superman (E,R)	50'
6 : am	40' UHD UNESCO World Heritage	Quiz on Korea 2017 (E,R)	K-RUSH (E,R) Jisook's Table for O' K-pop World Festival		The Beauty	10'	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	30'
7 : am	40' Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Gag Concert (E,R)	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	The Swan Club (E,R)	Dragon's Club Overgrown Romance				
8 : am	20' The Swan Club (E,R)	Jugglers Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Black Knight Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		50'	My Golden Life Weekend Drama (E,R)		50'
9 : am						00'	"Gunman in	The Beauty	00'

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

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FILE - In this Thursday, May 18, 2017, file photo, Regent Norman Pattiz gestures while speaking during a meeting of the University of California Board of Regents in San Francisco. Regent Pattiz who was caught on tape in 2016 asking an employee if he could hold her breasts has decided to resign amid growing calls that he step down. In a resignation letter to Regents Chair George Keiffer, first reported by the San Francisco Chronicle, Pattiz said that after 16 years on the board he would retire in Feb. 2018.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg, File)

Government seeks change to order lifting Trump refugee ban

SEATTLE (AP) — Lawyers with the Department of Justice have asked a federal judge to change his order that partially lifted a Trump administration refugee ban.

Just before Christmas, U.S. District Judge James Robart in Seattle imposed a nationwide injunction that blocks restrictions on reuniting refugee families and partially lifted a ban on refugees from 11 mostly Muslim countries. Robart limited that part of the injunction to refugees who have a bona fide relationship with people or entities in the United States. He also said that refugees who have formal agreements with refugee resettlement agencies were covered under his order.

The government does not want to include resettlement agencies.

Government lawyers filed a motion Wednesday saying that although the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has interpreted the “bona fide relationship” to include connections to resettlement agencies, the U.S. Supreme Court has stayed that ruling. That means the highest court indicates it disagrees with the appeals court on that point, the lawyers say.

Attorneys for refugee support organization HIAS and Jewish Family Service say the government’s claims are wrong.

“The Supreme Court was clear in its earlier order protecting refugees with bona fide relationships to the US from the last temporary refugee ban,” Mark Hetfield, president and CEO of New York-based HIAS, said Thursday. “Yet in its latest ban, the Trump administration not only ignored this admonition, but went even further to explicitly prevent refugees in the U.S. from reuniting with their spouse or minor children.”

The refugee organizations and the American Civil Liberties Union filed two lawsuits, consolidated into one, challenging the Trump administration’s refugee ban.

The ACLU represents a Somali man who has spent years trying to bring his wife and children to his home in Washington state.

Jewish Family Service challenged the admin-

istration’s prohibition of refugees from certain countries until the vetting process could be reviewed. Department of Justice lawyers argued in a hearing last week that the ban was a temporary and reasonable way for agencies to deal with gaps in the screening process.

But ACLU and Jewish Family Service lawyers said the government violated federal law when it implemented the ban. Robart agreed, and also said the refugee ban violated the Immigration and Nationality Act passed by Congress.

Mariko Hirose, a lawyer on the Jewish Family Service case and litigation director for International Refugee Assistance Project, said the Trump administration has attacked refugee resettlement since the first travel ban, leaving vulnerable refugees in limbo.

The plaintiffs include two Iraqi men who served as interpreters for the U.S. Army and are said to be in “extreme danger” because of their work. Other plaintiffs include an Iraqi woman was kidnapped, raped and threatened with death for her work with an American company and a transgender woman in Egypt faces harassment and persecution. They all were in the process of coming to the U.S. when the executive order went into effect.

In the motion filed Wednesday, government lawyers cited the Supreme Court’s three stay orders on previous Trump travel bans as evidence the high court disagrees with letting the bona fide relationship include refugee resettlement agencies or humanitarian organizations.

“For individuals, a close familial relationship is required,” the lawyers wrote. “As for entities, the relationship must be formal, documented and formed in the ordinary course, such as a relationship between a foreign student and an American university or between a foreign worker and an American employer.

“Unlike these types of relationships, refugees do not have a freestanding connection to resettlement agencies, apart from the refugee admissions process itself, by virtue of the agency’s assurance agreement with the federal government.”



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