



Man sentenced for sexual relations with 12 year old

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White House to Senate; Pass health bill now or else

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SPORTS B1



A batter from the central zone gets ready to hit the ball during one of the many cricket matches held this month at Fagaalu Park for the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago's 2017 summer games.
[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



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Fa'asea Fitafita Tuai: Fa'aletonu tautua Falema'i VA i Hawaii

tusia Ausage Fausia

Ua fa'aalia le tagialao mai o ni isi o tama fanau a le atunu'u sa tautua i vaega 'au a le malo tele o Amerika, o lo o autova'a atu i le falema'i mo Fitafita Tuai i Hawaii mo togafitiga, i le fa'aletonu o le auala o lo o ofoina atu ai e le Pulega a le Falema'i la latou tautua mo i latou.

O se fonotaga sa auai ni isi o Fitafita Tuai sa faia i Hawaii i le vaiaso na te'a nei, na mafai ai ona tu'ufa'atasia sa latou talosaga ma filifilia ai se tasi o latou totino, o ia fo'i lea o le Faipule mai le Itumalo o Manu'a #1, afioga Vesi Talalelei Fautanu Jr mo le fa'aovina mai lea o so latou finagalo e tusa ai o lea fa'aletonu.

O ni isi o Fitafita Tuai mai Amerika Samoa o lo o a'afia i lenei tulaga fa'aletonu, sa malaga atu i latou i le Falema'i mo Fitafita Tuai a le malo tele i Hawaii'i mo a latou talavai masani, ma latou molimauina ai tulaga fa'aletonu e pei ona a'afia ai i latou, i le leaga o le tausiaina o i latou, mamao o Fale Talimalo e nonofo ai ma le nofoaga o lo o i ai le Falema'i e faia ai talavai, ma ua i'u ai lava ina toe fo'i mai ni isi o i latou ua le mafai ona fa'ataunu'uina talavai, ona ua le talafeagai taimi o vaalele atoa ai ma le tele o le tupe e mana'omia e tausia ai i latou ao i ai i Hawaii.

Na taua e le afioga i le ali'i faipule ia Vesi i se fa'atalatalanoaga ma le Samoa News i le vaiaso na te'a nei i luga o le telefoni e fa'apea, o le fa'afitauli lea ua to'atele Fitafita Tuai mai Amerika Samoa ua a'afia ai, o ni isi e maua nofoaga e fa'amautu i ai mo a latou talavai, ae o isi fo'i e le maua se nofoaga e fa'amautu i ai, ona tau saili lea o ni Fale Talimalo e nonofo ai, ae na o le \$20 le

(Continued on page 4)

TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY IS MY PRIVILEGE, MY RIGHT

I cry out to our leaders, fight for us



By PFC AUVA (Arriana Princess Auva'a)

(Editor's Note: President Donald Trump announced last Wednesday that he plans to reinstate a ban on transgender individuals from serving "in any capacity" in the US armed forces. The twitter decision came without a plan in place to implement it. And, has left active transgender military members wondering how exactly this would be handled. Trump's decision reverses a policy initially approved by the Defense Department under President Barack Obama, which was still under final review, that would allow transgender individuals to openly serve in the military. American Samoa is affected by this decision.)

ment under President Barack Obama, which was still under final review, that would allow transgender individuals to openly serve in the military. American Samoa is affected by this decision.)

On June 13th, 2016, I left my home, for the ARMY. Without a clue of what was going to happen. No inkling of exactly how it would feel, how I would be treated, what to expect. I left my home, my place of security, my haven, for the ARMY. To defend. To serve. To be a part of the 1% of Americans who have raised their right hands and swore an oath to be a part of the greatest fighting force in the world.

I was scared. I was worried. I was coming into something totally new to me. All I had with me was my Faith and the support and prayers of my parents, family, friends, and people to help me through whatever I was about to undertake.

Becoming a soldier is something I have always wanted to do. Ever since I can remember, I wanted to follow in my Uncle's footsteps and serve. I wanted to be in the Army.

I always hid it from everyone because I was scared to admit it and I was embarrassed. For over a decade of my life I have lived as a Transwoman. A Fa'afafine in my culture. Accepted in our role as women in our families, churches, and

(Continued on page 4)



The program is being spearheaded by the American Samoa Area Health Education Center (AHEC), with the goal of exposing students to various health professions available on island, and to provide training to gain leadership and clinical skills.

[photo: courtesy]





Farm Service Agency
American Samoa Field Office

Pago Plaza, Suite 213
PO Box 3661
Pago Pago, AS 96799

PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title:	Loss Adjuster	Posting Date:	Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Position Type:	Independent Contractor	Deadline:	Tuesday, August 8, 2017
Expected Hrs:	7 - 15 hrs per month	Pay Range:	\$10.00/hr for orientation, \$18.00/hr following successful training certification
Minimum Requirements	1. Must be a US Citizen or US National 2. Must have significant math skills. 3. Have some agriculture background. 4. Own your own vehicle. Will be reimbursed for mileage. 5. Must be able to pay fare to the Manu'a islands. Travel advancements will not be made however you will be reimbursed for travel fees.		
Desirable Qualifications:	1. Fluency in Samoan Language 2. Working knowledge of GIS mapping		
Job Description:	A Loss Adjuster is an independent contractor who will visit farms for the purpose of inspecting, measuring, and appraising agricultural crops. A Loss Adjuster will also ensure compliance with acreage and production reporting requirements. Training will be provided.		
Application packets are available at the USDA Farm Service Agency, American Samoa Field Office located at the Pago Plaza Building, Suite 213, 633-1031 ext 127 or 126. Completed applications must be submitted in person by close of business Tuesday, August 8, 2017.			
<i>USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.</i>			

Man sentenced for sexual relations with 12-year-old

translated by Samoa News staff

The High Court has ordered Apelu Saito Lilo, convicted of having a sexual relationship with a 12-year-old girl, to depart American Samoa and return home to Samoa, upon serving his jail term at the Territorial Correctional Facility.

Lilo, 20, was initially charged with one count each of child molestation (the most serious of the charges), sodomy, and deviate sexual assault — all felonies.

However, under a plea agreement with the government (which was accepted by the High Court in May), the defendant pled guilty to deviate sexual assault and the other charges were dropped.

With the guilty plea, Lilo admits that sometime last April, he had sexual relations with a 12-year-old. At the time, Lilo was 19 years old.

Lilo was in court last week for sentencing where he read a prepared statement, in English, saying he was remorseful and promised to never commit this type of crime again.

He asked for a chance to be released from jail so he can return home to care for his parents, and also further his education for a better future.

Lilo's attorney, Public Defender Douglas Fiaui pointed out that his client is still young,

he is a first time offender, and he is remorseful for his actions.

Assistant Attorney General Gerald Murphy supported the recommendation for a probative sentence as noted in the Probation Office report, which also orders the defendant to depart the territory and return to his home country of Samoa.

Lilo's departure, Murphy argued, will protect minor female children from being victims of such crimes in the future.

Deviate sexual assault is a class B felony, punishable by not more than 7 years imprisonment, or a fine of not more than \$5,000- or both.

In the end, the Court imposed a sentence of 7 years imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine. However, the prison term is suspended and Lilo is placed on 7 years probation, under several conditions, which includes a jail term of 28 months, with 13 months of pre-trial confinement being credited towards his sentence.

Upon release from the TCF, the court has ordered Lilo to depart the territory and remain outside of American Samoa for the remainder of his 7-year probation term.

Lilo was also ordered to get tested for HIV and to register as a sex offender, as required by law.



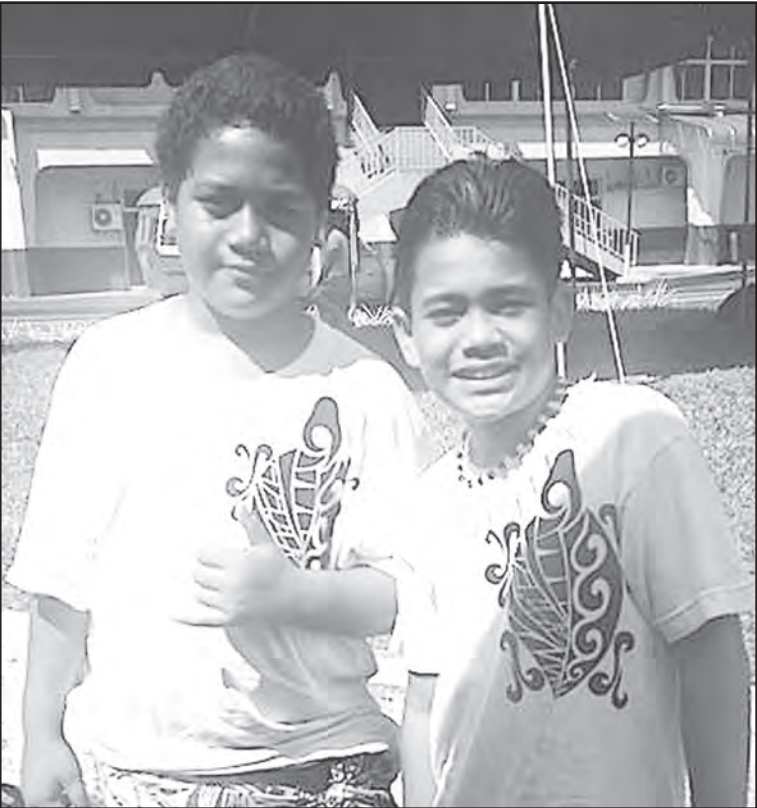
Some of the kids who participated in the fishing derby hosted for the Sanctuary Summer Science in the Village (SSSV) program in Vaitogi earlier this month. The fishing derby was one of four Tautai Fagota Fishing Derbies hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS), with major sponsor South Pacific (SOPAC) Distributors/Aloha Maid.

[photo: BC]



The Tafuna 1st, 2nd and 3rd Wards of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) joined LDS members around the world in commemorating the 170th year since the arrival of the first group of Mormon Pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. Members of the Tafuna 1st, 2nd and 3rd Wards, which included babies carried by their mothers, young children being carried on their older siblings shoulders, young men and women, parents even the elderly, trekked from the LDS Malaeimi Stake Center to the LDS Ottoville Stake Center (which is an hour-long walk), on Saturday, July 29, 2017. Some of the members that joined in the trek were dressed in early Mormon pioneer outfits, pulling handmade carts as they paid homage to the great courage and faith shown by the early pioneers, when they were driven out of their homes and headed west to what has now become the center of their religion, in Utah. The program on Saturday also honored early Mormon pioneers of both Samoa and American Samoa. The members played games that were played by the early pioneers which included sack races and tug of war, early country dancing and of course the main event of the day...food.

[photos: ET]



Two boys who participated in this year's Children's Cultural Maintenance Summer Program held at the Jean P. Haydon Museum in Fagatogo were all smiles last Friday after they entertained a crowd of parents and friends with skits and dance performances,

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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Translated by Samoa News staff
SIVANILA TAUINAOLA

A citizen of Samoa who has appeared in court six times for various crimes, has been sentenced to 20 months in prison for his latest conviction on drug possession.

The jail term for Sivanila Tauinaola, who was sentenced late last week in High Court, is among the conditions of his 5-year probation, for unlawful possession of marijuana — a felony. Upon serving his jail term, the court ordered that Tauinaola depart the territory and remain outside of American Samoa during the rest of his probation period.

The drug possession charge against the defendant stems from an incident last April when he was taken into custody for disturbing the peace while he was intoxicated, whereby police found a marijuana cigarette in his clothes during a body search.

During sentencing last week, the defendant apologized for his crime and requested leniency that would allow him to stay out of jail and find a job to help his parents. He said he is remorseful and this was echoed by his attorney Public Defender Douglas Fiaui.

Assistant Attorney General Kristy Dunn said the govern-

ment has no argument on a sentence for the defendant and left it up to the court's discretion.

The statement prompted Chief Justice Michael Kruse to ask if the government is not concerned with the many times the defendant has been charged and convicted in court, because he was intoxicated and disturbed the peace in public places.

Kruse noted that the defendant has appeared in court six times and has been convicted for several different crimes, all involving alcohol.

The Chief Justice told the defendant that the court had given him many chances but he has learned nothing from it. Kruse said the only other decision is to impose a hefty jail term.

However, he said the overcrowding issue at the Territorial Correctional Facility is the reason such a lengthy prison time is not imposed.

ALOFA LETULI & OLAFOU WILSON

The High Court has taken under advisement a motion by Assistant Public Defender Michael White to withdraw from representing Department of Public Safety officers Alofa Letuli and Olafou Wilson, citing a possible conflict of interest.

Letuli and Wilson are two of the five public safety offi-

cers, facing various criminal charges for alleged misconduct — including alleged illegal drug activities involving juveniles — while assigned to the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) in Tafuna. The defendants in this case were charged earlier this year in April. White said that after having a chance to thoroughly review the case, including documentation on the charges against Letuli and Wilson, specific details emerged including the names of the juveniles who were housed at the JDC at the time of the allegedly misconduct.

He said many of these same juveniles, who are now witnesses in the case and have given statements to police, are the same ones he has represented in court. Because of a possible conflict of interest, he has requested the court to allow him to withdraw from representing Letuli and Wilson, and for the court to appoint new attorneys for the defendants as the case moves forward.

It's unclear when the court will render a decision on White's request. Meanwhile, Letuli and Wilson remain in custody, unable to post bail.

(Original Samoan stories were published in the July 27 Lali section of Samoa News and Samoa News online July 28.)



Mrs. Lela, a local weaver who was one of the instructors for the Children's Cultural Maintenance Summer Program which closed last Friday, posing with one of the program participants after he was presented a woven ato full of goodies that were produced by him, during the three-week program.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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Lagolagoina le fa'amamaina o matafaga

ASEPA

Aso o le Fa'asalalauga: July 26, 2017
Fa'afeso'ota'i: AS-EPA Polokalama a le Vai – 633-2304

Fa'asilasilaga mai le Ofisa o le Puipuiga o le Si'osi'omaga mo le mamalu o le atunu'u: sa faia su'esu'ega o gataifale ia July 25, 2017, ma fa'amaonia ai le i ai o siana (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

- Aua Stream Mouth
- Masausi Beach
- Masefau Stream Mouth
- Aoa Beach
- Vatia Stream Mouth
- Afono Stream Mouth
- Fagasa-Fagale'a Stream Mouth
- Fagaalu Beach
- Nuuuli Coconut Point
- Leone Pala

E fautuaina le mamalu o le atunu'u o lo'o fa'aogaina ia ogasami mo ta'elega ma fagotaga: talu ai ona o su'esu'ega o ia vaega o ogasami sa faia i le vaiaso ua mavae, sa molimauina ai le mauuluga o le faitau aofa'i o siana (Enterococci) mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina i le tulafono i ia vaega o ogasami. O nei siana e afua mai otaota po'o suavai lafoa'i o tagata ma meaola. Afai ae o'o atu le faitau aofa'i o siana mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina, o lona uiga, e i ai le avanoa e ono afaina ai lou soifua maloloina ini fa'ama'i e pei o le manava-tata, o fofoga fa'apea fo'i ma manu'a o le tino pe a sao i ai le siana. Mo lou saogalemu: 'aua le invina le suasami, ia fa'alaniu lelei, ma fa'amalu pe a mae'a ta'elega. O le fautuaga mai le Ofisa o le AS-EPA, fa'afeso'ota'i muamua se foma'i, a'o le'i fa'aogaina ia ogasami, auā le puipuiga o lou soifua maloloina.

Fa'amolemole, fa'autagia mai nei fautuaga. O le a toe maua atu se isi ripoti, pe a mae'a nisi o su'esu'ega mai le Potu Su'esu'e a le AS-EPA i le vaiaso fou. O lo'o i lalo o le va'ava'aiga a le AS-EPA matafaga mo tafaoga e 44 i le motu o Tutuila, e 5 i Manua ma le uafu i Aunu'u. O fa'asalalauga mo fautuaga mo le motu o Tutuila o lo'o auina atu i vaiaso ta'itasi, ae o Manu'a ma Aunu'u e fa'asalalau atu i masina ta'itasi. Mo ni fesili pe fia malamalama atili, fa'amolemole, vala'au mai i le telefoni (684) 633-2304.



Le afioga i le ali'i faipule ia Vesi Talalelei Fautanu Jr

[ata AF]

⊗ Fa'asea fitafita tuai...

Mai itulau 1

tupe e totogi e le Falema'i mo le taumafataga i le aso.

Ua lata i le 3 masina o i ai le afioga i le ali'i faipule ia Vesi i Hawai'i mo ana talavai ma ni isi o fonotaga, ma ua fa'amoemoe e toe talii mai i le atunu'u i se taimi o le masina lenei o Aokuso.

“O se tasi o fa'afitauli lea ua a'afia ai nai Fitafita Tuai mai Amerika Samoa e malaga mai i Hawai'i mo a latou talavai, ua le toe taliaina e le Falema'i o Fitafita Tuai le polokalame sa latou totogiina ai le pasese o se tagata e malaga mai ma le Fitafita Tuai mo ana talavai, ma fesoasoani i le fa'ainuina o fualaau ma isi lava tulaga e mana'omia, pe afai o le Fitafita Tuai o se tagata e matua tulaga fa'aletonu lava lona malosi, ma ua mana'omia ai lona faletua poo se isi o le fanau e to'alua ma le tagata ma'i, o le isi tulaga faigata lena o lo o tula'i mai i le taimi nei, e leai se tagata malosi e fesoasoani i le tagata ma'i o lo o malaga mai mo le fa'atinoina o soo se mea e mana'o i ai”, o le saunoaga lea a Vesi mai le telefoni i Hawai'i.

O le to'atele o nai Fitafita Tuai o lo o malaga i Hawai'i mo a latou talavai, e le tele ni vaega tupe latou te maua, se'i vagana lava le litaea mai le malo tele, e le lava fo'i ni tupe e totogi ai ni ta'avale e feoa'i ai, o le mafua'aga lena e pu'e ai le pasi e o ai i a latou talavai, ae afai la e mamao le nofoaga lea o lo o i ai le fale talimalo o lo o nonofo ai latou, ae tau pu'e le pasi i le vaveao e malaga atu ai i le talavai, o ni isi o i latou e taunu'u atu ua te'a mamao le

taimi o le talavai, ma i'u ai lava ina le fa'ataunu'uina, ma ua aveai ai ma tulaga ua fa'aletonu ai ma a latou fa'amaumaga i tulaga o talavai.

“E lagona le fa'anoanoa pe a vaavaai atu i le tulaga o lo o ofo atu ai le tautua a le Falema'i o Fitafita Tuai i Hawai'i nei i nai o tatou Tama ma Tina mai Amerika Samoa, ma ua fesiligia ai le mafua'aga ua fa'apea ai ona fa'atino la latou tautua”, o le saunoaga lea a Vesi, ma ia taua ai lana fuafuaga i le valaauina lea o se iloilogaga ma le Ta'ita'i o le Ofisa o Fitafita Tuai i le atunu'u pe a taunu'u mai, se'i fesiligia i se fesoasoani a le Ofisa mo Fitafita Tuai a le atunu'u o lo o malaga atu i fafo mo a latou talavai”, o le saunoaga lea a Vesi.

Sa ia taua fo'i le tatau lea ona i ai se tagata faigaluega se to'atasi e galue i Hawai'i, ina ia fesoasoani i Tama ma Tina matutua o lo o aga'i atu mo le fa'atinoina o a latou talavai, ina ia taofia ai le toe tula'i mai o lenei fa'afitauli i le lumana'i.

“Ou te talitonu le agaga o le Kovana e fia fesoasoani i Fitafita Tuai, ae foliga mai i le tulaga lea ua i ai le tautua a le Falema'i o Fitafita Tuai i Hawai'i nei, ua amata ona le toe fa'atauaina le auauaga sa ofoina atu e tautua ma puipuia ai le filemu i totonu o le malo tele i tausaga ua mavae, ona o lea ua vaavaai atu, ua sona fetulina'i solo nai o tatou tagata e saili ni nofoaga e nonofo ma fa'amautu ai, ae ua le fa'ataunu'uina la latou tiute e tatau ona faia”, o le saunoaga lea a Vesi.

► To serve in the military...

Continued from page 1

community. Being young and foolish makes one think such.

As I got older, the NEED and WANT to serve grew stronger. As I grew older, I had more reasons to want to join the Army and do what I needed to progress in life. There was no other option for me to get where I needed to be, but to join the ARMY. There was no other branch. Not the Navy, Not the Air Force, definitely not the Marines, but the ARMY. I wanted to be like my Uncle Ed Custodio Jr. A retired 1st Sgt. with the U.S. Army. I wanted to be where my sister, Nafanua Connie Auvaa Tilei, was. She served her country honorably. My cousins, who are like siblings to me, Utumoeaau Stephen Tuimalealii-fano and Priscilla Kazaka, served their country proudly too.

My Great Grandfather Anthony Custodio is a war veteran. My grandfather Ed Custodio is a Navy Veteran. My Late Uncle Alaipalelei Moreli is a war veteran. My first cousin Christian Auva'a proudly serves in the Air Force and so many more of my family members, my flesh and blood, have served this country and many more are still serving this country. My friends, my classmates from kindergarten, elementary school, to high school & college are all in the ranks as military members. My brothers and sisters of my childhood. My brothers and sisters of my CHURCH. My brothers and sisters of my village and my island paradise are all in the ranks serving the PEOPLE of the United States of America and “Why not me?” I kept asking myself “why can't I do it? Why am I not serving? So I took the test, & I joined the ARMY.

I did the unimaginable. At the age of 30, to the surprise of my parents, family, friends, the BLONDE actress of American Samoa, a pageant hostess, an event Emcee, and a child of the night life, joined the ranks.

And here I am today, a Proud soldier. I've never felt complete in my life than with what I am doing today. After 10 weeks of brutal training in BCT and an exhausting 14 weeks of AIT, bald headed, and 30 lbs lighter, I, Haserotu Edward Auva'a Jr, better known as Princess Arrianna “Sese” Auva'a, the Fa'afafine son of Terry Custodio Auva'a and Haserotu Auva'a of Malaeloa became an American Soldier.

Was it easy to leave home? No. It was heart-wrenching to see my parents, my family, my friends, my village, my community cry as we bid farewell. They weren't crying for the transgender person who was leaving them. They were crying for the American soldier that they just might never see again.

It wasn't an easy transition, I wasn't the best trainee, but I made it. Thirteen (13) months and a few weeks later, I am still standing strong.

I'll never forget my Drill SERGEANTS. I'll never forget my battles from basic to AIT, and those who are now standing with me not just as soldiers or battle buddies, but as friends that share a common interest of values, & to serve. I have come to love what I am doing here in the ARMY. I have come to love being in the ARMY. I have come to love the ARMY. I am living my truth.

I am more than just a SOLDIER. I am a transgender soldier. It does not make me special. It doesn't make me any different. It doesn't make me better than the next soldier that will follow. It doesn't make me any less of a soldier from the ones I follow.

I am treated the same way as every other soldier, whether Straight, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Tri-sexual, or Closeted. The ARMY and my leadership do not look at me and treat me any differently because I am a transitioning soldier.

They do not see me for my choices in regards to my sexual identity.

They do not look at me and see the color of my skin. The only colors they see on a soldier are the ARMY colors. They see the Soldier. They treat the Soldier as the Soldier performs! There is no color, there is no specific religion, no specific culture, None. The ARMY is an assimilation of people. From what I have come to learn, the ARMY is a melting pot of people. ALL kinds of people, from ALL different walks of life on this earth.

I am a soldier. I am a transgender. I am proud of who I am. I am proud of where I am at, and what I do. To serve. To protect. It brings me contentment and happiness that I give my family honor. I've made my FATHER proud of me. My grandparents. My family.

The ARMY says It doesn't matter that I am transgender. It doesn't matter that anyone is transgender. From male to female, and female to male, It does not matter. Who we are as individuals does not matter. What matters is that we stand in UNIFORM, TOGETHER. We are ONE team. We fight ONE fight.

Reading the President's Tweet was devastating. Threatening to take away something I have come to love is utterly disheartening. This heartbreaking news besmirches us, what we have sacrificed to serve our country and what we want to do for our country. I have sisters and brothers who have served in days past. I have brothers and sisters who will serve still. Serving to protect this LAND OF THE FREE, or so I thought — and yet hope, it still is.

I pray for better days. Not just for the #Trans-Soldiers but for all soldiers. For all military personnel serving. Days of darkness lie ahead of us; we are already divided by hatred and misunderstanding, having forgotten that unity is our strength.

Do not discredit our Service. Let us continue to Serve. Let us continue to Protect. Do not tell me I am not worth it to fight. Do not tell me I am not fit to fight. Join me on the PT field and then tell me if I'm not worth it. Face me one on one in combat training, then tweet if I am worth it or not!

How I want to serve will not deter how well I will carry my weapon, how I will aim that weapon, and how I will shoot that weapon. My gender will not affect how I will fight the enemy. I will fight the enemy regardless of my gender identity. I will fight for my country and my people alongside my battle buddies, and die if I must, as an American Soldier.

The enemy will not know what my gender identity is when I'm on the battle field. The enemy will not pick or choose who to kill based on sexual preference. The enemy will only KNOW that there are American soldiers in the war zone. American heroes who will DIE in combat, fighting to protect ALL Americans and the land of the free.

An Active duty friend of mine and transgender sister serving in Germany, Mimi Pereira, has said to ME, “this “Ban on Transgenders” will not stop me from serving. I will continue on with my transition, whether the ARMY pays for it or not, and I will continue to do what I have pledged to do. To serve.”

To quote another fellow soldier, “I am proud to be part of the legacy of the LGBTQ community who have served and are serving to protect this great nation. Despite the ignorance and hate of those who we protect. Shame on you for thinking we are any less” Cassidy Laolagi Richards- U.S Navy retiree.

I humbly ask you, to SPEAK for us. You, my friends, my family, my village, my people. Help us be seen and help us be heard. Join our voices! Join my voice even if it be muffled by hatred and bigotry. Speak for me. Speak for us. I cry out to our leaders, fight for us. This is something bigger than us, and we are reaching out to you to speak for us. Alone, we cannot be heard, together, we will prevail.

America the Great, is under threat from so many countries and it saddens the heart to know that we can be threatened from within by our own leaders and people.

I do not know what will become of us, transgender soldiers. Will we be removed or do we continue to fight? Will other trans people be given the same privilege to join us in the ranks and serve with us? We do not know.

All we know now is, our leader, the Commander in Chief does not see us fit to defend this country, and to protect him. But yet, here we are, trained and ready, willing to let our blood spill, the same blood we all carry in our veins, ready to lose a limb, ready to lose our lives, to serve and

(Continued on page 6)





CAPITAL ACCESS WORKSHOP OFFERS ONE-STOP SHOPPING FOR POSSIBLE FUNDING

Last week the Department of Commerce hosted a Capital Access Workshop, which brought under one roof, banks, federal and local agencies that serve businesses by providing training, technical assistance and funding sources to help existing business owners and individuals who want to start a business. It was held at the Gov. H.Rex Lee Auditorium and attracted a nice cross section of business owners and entrepreneurs looking for a step forward.

Michael McDonald, a consultant with the DOC, lead the workshop, and noted that the American Samoa State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) that was re-launched by the DOC in January, under the name of American Samoa Venture Fund, is one of the current local financial sources available for local business development and expansion. The program provides 50% of the financing with remaining funds to come from other sources, including local banks or self-investment. The ventures must create jobs and be in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, light manufacturing, technology and medical services. Presentations were also made by ANZ Bank, the American Samoa Development Bank and USDA for financing of Agriculture and Rural development projects. All presentations focused on not only availability of funds, but on the vital need for a Business Plan, financial statement, and for the applicant to meet other criteria laid out by the particular lenders or organizations. As McDonald said during the workshop, business plans must be air tight, financial statements well developed and realistic — “Go into business to make money, not to lose money.”

Part of the workshop also introduced successful entrepreneurs, and their stories of how they came into their own after struggling to bring their ideas to the market — promoting the spirit of small businesses in the territory. Entrepreneurs such as one of the owners of All Star Signs in Nuuuuli, Tuai Auvaa Mua and the owners of a private dental clinic Semalama Sipeli'i and her husband Dr. Sipeli'i. Booths or tables were set up for participants to visit with the various entities offering help.

[photo: Sabrina Amosa]

Important Legal Notice from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida

If you are a current or former owner or lessee of certain BMW, Mazda, Subaru, and Toyota vehicles, you could get cash and other benefits from a class action settlement.

Si desea recibir esta notificación en español, llámenos o visite nuestra página web.

Settlements have been reached in a class action lawsuit alleging that consumers sustained economic losses because they purchased or leased vehicles from various auto companies that manufactured, distributed, or sold vehicles containing allegedly defective airbags manufactured by Takata Corporation and its affiliates. The Settlements include certain vehicles made by BMW, Mazda, Subaru, and Toyota (the “Subject Vehicles”). BMW, Mazda, Subaru, and Toyota deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing and the Court has not decided who is right.

If you have already received a separate recall notice for your BMW, Mazda, Subaru, or Toyota vehicle requesting that you bring it to your local retailer to have the Takata airbags repaired and have not yet done so, you should contact your local retailer to make an appointment for this repair as soon as possible. Some vehicles will be recalled for repair at a later date, and some vehicles may not be recalled. When recalled Takata airbags deploy, they may spray metal debris toward vehicle occupants and may cause serious injury. Please see your original recall notices and www.AirBagRecall.com for further details.

Am I included in the proposed Settlements? The Settlements include the following persons and entities:

- Owners or lessees, as of June 9, 2017, of a Subject Vehicle that was distributed for sale or lease in the United States or any of its territories or possessions, and
- Former owners or lessees of a Subject Vehicle that was distributed for sale or lease in the United States or any of its territories or possessions, who, between April 11, 2013 and June 9, 2017, sold or returned pursuant to a lease, a Subject Vehicle that was recalled before June 9, 2017.

A full list of the Subject Vehicles can be found at www.AutoAirbagSettlement.com. The Settlements do not involve claims of personal injury or property damage to any property other than the Subject Vehicles.

What do the Settlements provide? BMW, Mazda, Subaru, and Toyota have agreed to Settlements with a combined value of approximately \$553 million, including a 10% credit for Rental Car/Loaner Programs. The Settlement Funds will be used to pay for Settlement benefits and cover the costs of the Settlements over an approximately four-year period.

The Settlements offer several benefits for Class Members, including, (1) payments for certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred related to a Takata airbag recall of a Subject Vehicle, (2) a Rental Car/Loaner Program while certain Subject Vehicles are awaiting repair, (3) an Outreach Program to maximize completion of the recall remedy, (4) additional cash payments to Class Members from residual settlement funds, if any remain, and (5) a Customer Support Program to help with repairs associated with affected Takata airbag inflators and their replacements. The Settlement website explains each of these benefits in detail.

How can I get a Payment? You must file a claim to receive a payment during the first four years of the Settlements. If you still own or lease a Subject Vehicle, you must also bring it to an authorized dealership for the recall remedy, as directed by a recall notice, if you have not already done so. Visit the website and file a claim online or download one and file by mail. The deadline to file a claim will be at least one year from the date the Settlements are finalized and will be posted on the website when it’s known.

What are my other options? If you do not want to be legally bound by the Settlements, you must exclude yourself by September 25, 2017. If you do not exclude yourself, you will release any claims you may have against BMW, Mazda, Subaru, and Toyota, in exchange for certain settlement benefits. The potential available benefits are more fully described in the Settlements, available at the settlement website. You may object to the Settlements by September 25, 2017. You cannot both exclude yourself from, and object to, the Settlements. The Long Form Notices for each Settlement available on the website listed below explains how to exclude yourself or object. The Court will hold a fairness hearing on October 25, 2017 to consider whether to finally approve the Settlements and a request for attorneys’ fees of up to 30% of the total Settlement Amount and incentive awards of \$5,000 for each of the Class Representatives. You may appear at the fairness hearing, either by yourself or through an attorney hired by you, but you don’t have to. For more information, including the relief, eligibility and release of claims (excluding certain personal injury or property damage claims), in English or Spanish, call or visit the website below.



Meet three of the teachers for this year's Children's Cultural Maintenance Summer Program which concluded last Friday with a Performance Day that highlighted everything the kids learned during the nearly month-long program. The women pictured, taught the kids how to weave items out of dried leaves and produce handicrafts like sei (floral earpieces), fans, and bracelets.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



American Samoa Government
AMERICAN SAMOA
ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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


AMEKO PATO
AS-EPA Director
July 25, 2017

► **To serve in the military...**

Continued from page 4

protect this great nation, our Commander in Chief, & our people — come what may.

As for myself? I will continue to honor the soldiers creed:

I am an American Soldier.

I am a warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy, the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

I am an AMERICAN SOLDIER. I am TRANSGENDER. I am HUMAN. I am READY & WILLING to serve. I want to be ALL I CAN BE.

#ARMYSTRONG #HOOAH



NEW AHEC LOGO

The American Samoa Area Health Education Center (ASAHEC), under the umbrella of the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), aims to inspire the youth to seek careers in the health field, and the mission is to improve the health of the local community through education and health workforce development, because says ASAHEC, we are capable of “Growing Our Own Healers” in the territory. With that in mind, AHEC coordinator Monica Taumulioali’i Afalava wanted to create a new logo that embodied the true spirit of what Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is about. The new logo, which was proposed and has received approval from the ASAHEC Community Advisory Board is now the official logo for the program. (Pictured side by side are images of the old logo and the new one.)

Afalava explained that her new logo has four key components. The figure with stretched arms represents youth and outreach. The snake is a symbol of medicine, inspired by Moses and the bronze serpent in the Bible.

The leaves are a symbol of healing. “I chose to use taro leaves, because of its significance in American Samoa,” Afalava told Samoa News over the weekend. “In 1993, our people suffered from a taro blight, and we are still unable to grow our native taro due to its impact. The effects of the blight represent our fight for optimum health.

“The fourth and final component is the braid/ afa which represents the importance of community — how we are all intertwined and must work together in order to accomplish our goals. “After reading the bylaws, I wanted to create something that represented the program more accurately,” she said.

Currently, the ASAHEC program is hosting a free two-week event called the 2017 Summer Health Academy, “designed to expose students to various careers in the health field, while also educating them about how to lead healthy lifestyles, in hopes that they would be interested in pursuing a career in the health field,” said Afalava.

[photo: courtesy]



Van plows into diners on Los Angeles sidewalk, 8 hurt

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The driver of a van that plowed into a group of people dining on a Los Angeles sidewalk, striking and injuring at least eight people, was arrested Sunday on suspicion of hit-and-run, authorities said.

A witness told The Associated Press the van jumped a curb and careened into a group of people eating outside The Fish Spot restaurant in the city’s Mid-Wilshire neighborhood. The vehicle knocked down a white picket fence that served as a barrier between diners and pedestrians on the sidewalk.

“Everyone was eating, enjoying life and out of nowhere this van ran them over,” Courtney Crump said.

He said several victims were pinned under the van as panicked witnesses rush to pull them out.

A man who was the first person struck by van had severe head injuries, Crump said.

“I heard loud, agonizing screams. I’m shook up,” he said.

The victims included a 44-year-old man who suffered critical injuries, three who were seriously hurt and four others who were taken to the hospital in fair condition, Los Angeles Fire Department spokeswoman Margaret Stewart said.

A preliminary investigation indicates the driver ran a red light and collided with another car, police Sgt. C. Barlow said. The impact of the crash caused the van to run off the road and onto the sidewalk.



American Samoa Power Authority

July 26, 2017

Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

The American Samoa Power Authority is informing its customers about the monthly fuel surcharge rate, which is the direct cost of fuel to generate electricity. The charge for each kilowatt hour (kWh) comprises the “base rate” and the “fuel surcharge rate.”

The base rate, which remains the same monthly for all electric customer classes, pays for ASPA’s operating costs and for infrastructure upgrades needed to get power to your home and business.

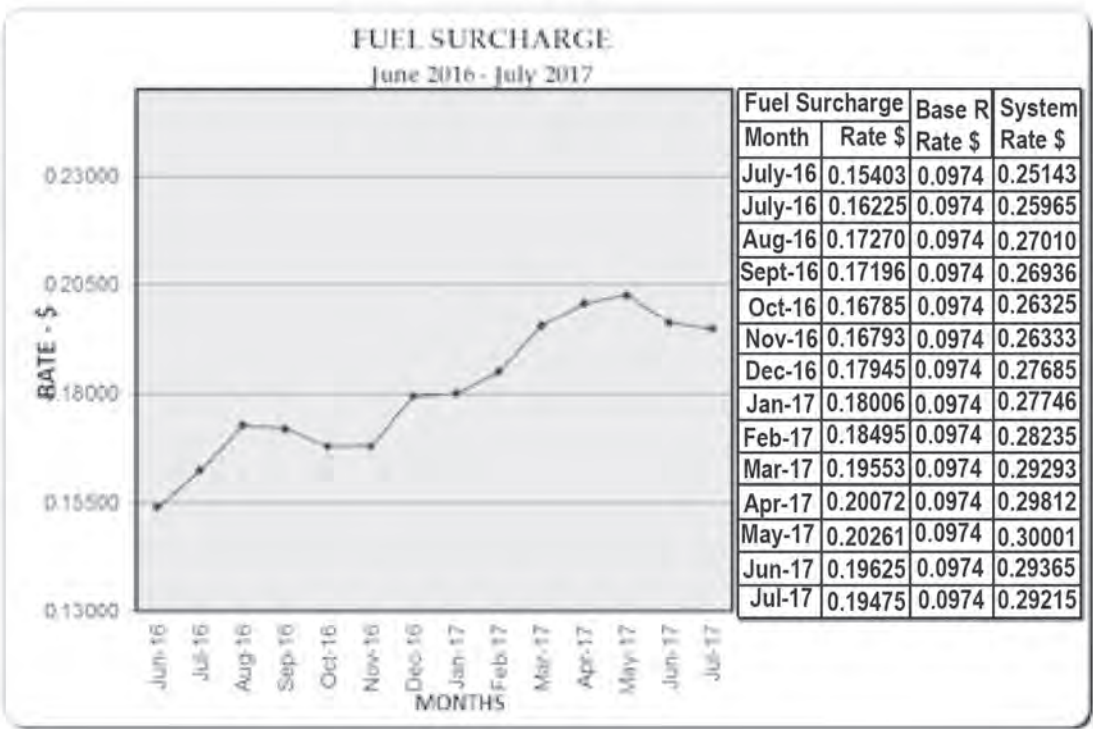
The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating

fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a “pass-through” revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.

The fuel surcharge rate also includes the “Renewable Reduction” from electricity produced by the ASPA Photo Voltaic panels. The avoided fuel costs or fuel being saved from producing electricity through the Photo Voltaic panels, is passed on to customers as the “Renewable

Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for July 2017			
Rate \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.19924	0.19924	0.19924
Renewable Reduction	-0.00449	-0.00449	-0.00449
Fuel Surcharge	0.19475	0.19475	0.19475
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.09740	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.29215	0.29215	0.28435

Reduction” savings. There are six active sites, with more sites in progress to increase ASPA’s renewable energy portfolio. As ASPA increases renewable energy capacity, more savings will be realized and passed on to customers.



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Luggage screening intensified after Australia airplane plot

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Security remained heightened in airports around Australia with more intense screening of luggage after law enforcement officials thwarted what a police chief described on Monday as a “credible attempt to attack an aircraft.”

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton declined to comment on newspaper reports that Islamist extremists planned to kill the occupants of a plane with poison gas and that a homemade bomb was to be disguised as a kitchen mincer.

“Police will allege they had the intent and were developing the capability,” Turnbull told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Turnbull announced on Sunday that “a terrorist plot to bring down an airplane” had been disrupted, but revealed few details.

Four men arrested in raids in Sydney late Saturday — two Lebanese-Australian fathers

and their sons — had yet to be charged.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin said a court ruled Monday that the four could be detained without charge for seven days from their arrest under counter-terrorism laws.

“We believe we have disrupted a legitimate and credible attempt to attack an aircraft,” Colvin told reporters without elaborating.

Colvin and the government will not comment on media reports that the suspects were not previously known to Australian security officials and that their arrests followed a tip from a foreign intelligence agency.

“Australians can be assured that we have very fine intelligence services and we moved extremely quickly on this one and, as you can see, with the right outcomes,” Turnbull said.

The Australian newspaper cited multiple anonymous sources saying that the plotters were constructing a “non-traditional” explosive device that could have emitted a toxic, sulfur-based gas to kill or immobilize everyone on the aircraft.

Sydney’s The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported that the plotters planned to make a bomb from wood shavings and explosive material inside a piece of kitchen equipment such as a mincing machine.

Police raided five homes Saturday and removed a domestic grinder and a mincer used to make sausage, the newspaper said. The plot involved smuggling the device on a flight from Sydney to the Middle East, possibly Dubai, as carry-on luggage, the newspaper said.

Fairfax Media reported the bomb was found in a home in inner-city suburb of Surry Hills, a few doors from the local mosque.

Turnbull declined to say whether the group was guided by someone overseas.

“It’ll be alleged that that this was an Islamist extremist, terrorist motivation,” Turnbull said.

Dutton urged travelers to arrive at Australian airports two hours before domestic flights and three hours before international flights to allow time for more screening. Luggage should be kept to a minimum and those accompanying travelers should not enter secured parts of terminals.

He declined to detail the threat that the security staff were searching for.

“There’ll be lots of speculation around what the intent was ... but I don’t want to add to that,” Dutton told Nine Network television. “Our focus now really is making sure that people who are planning a terrorist attack are thwarted,” he added. Security has been increased at Sydney Airport since Thursday because of the plot and has since been increased in all major Australian international and domestic terminals.



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PBS CEO warns that federal cuts will sink some stations

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The chief executive for PBS is sounding the alarm about public broadcasting’s future if federal funding is axed as called for by President Donald Trump.

“PBS will not go away, but a number of our stations will,” CEO Paula Kerger said Sunday. “There is no Plan B for that.”

PBS’ share of the roughly \$450 million in federal funds allocated for public TV and radio goes largely to support public TV stations nationwide, a number of which rely on it for up to 50 percent of their budgets and can’t survive without it, Kerger told a TV critics’ meeting. Many of those stations are in rural and underserved areas, she said, with residents who either don’t have access to cable or satellite or can’t afford it and who rely on over-the-air broadcasting. Kerger, who addressed the issue at a TV critics’ meeting, said observers have speculated, hopefully, that because PBS has survived previous funding threats, “‘you’ll be OK, right?’ “ But she’s forced to assume that anything can happen in what has been “an extraordinary year on so many levels,” Kerger said. “We need to be quite vigilant as Congress debates our funding that we don’t assume people remember the impacts we have on communities.” There’s an irony that this potential existential crisis for some public TV stations comes as the 50th anniversary of the Public Broadcasting Act approaches in November, Kerger said. “The 1967 act created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provides grants to about 1,500 locally owned-and-operated public TV and radio stations nationwide. She’s taking the threat seriously and that others in public media, which includes National Public Radio, are linking arms “to try to make an effective case” for federal funding, Kerger said.

But other voices need to be heard as Congress weighs Trump’s proposed spending plan that would trigger a move toward elimination of all federal support, she said. “At the end of the day, “what legislators most care about is impact on their own communities,” Kerger said, encouraging people nationwide who care about public broadcasting to let their representatives know. Trump’s 2018 budget proposal isn’t the first to try to cut funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

But it is the first to also propose gutting money for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The three agencies combined receive about \$740 million annually in tax dollars. That’s a sliver of the current \$4 trillion federal budget, But the federal funding for the agencies carries outsized importance in political symbolism and, both supporters and detractors say, economic impact because of the private dollars it attracts.



ASCC

AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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2017 FALL SEMESTER DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Session	
Placement Test	August 7 - 8
Late Placement Test	August 10
Registration (New Students)	August 16
Registration (Continuing & Returning)	August 17 - 18
Instruction Begins	August 21
New Student Orientation	August 23
TED Session	
Registration	August 29 - 31
Instruction Begins	September 5

For more information regarding 2017 Fall semester dates, call 699-9155 ext. 333, 380 or 313, email info@amsamoa.edu, or visit www.amsamoa.edu online.

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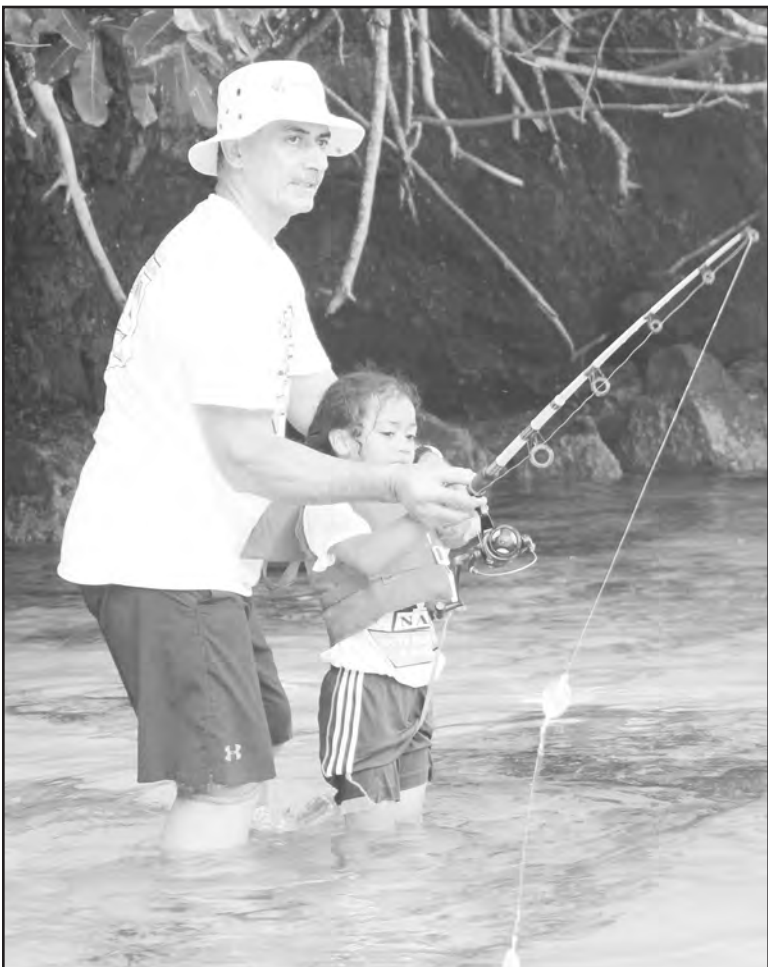
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One of the youngest participants in this year's Sanctuary Summer Science in the Village (SSSV) program, learning how to properly use a fishing pole during one of four Tautai Fagota Fishing Derbies hosted by the NMSAS and local sponsor SOPAC/Aloha Maid.

[photo: BC]

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

compiled by Samoa News Staff SSSV PROGRAMS CLOSE WITH FUN FILLED FISHING DERBIES

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS) and major sponsor South Pacific (SOPAC) Distributors/Aloha Maid held four Tautai Fagota Fishing Derbies in Ta'u, Leone, Aunu'u and Vaitogi. The derbies were the culmination of the Sanctuary Summer Science in the Village (SSSV) programs in each of the sanctuary villages.

The SSSV offered hands-on science-based activities and learning opportunities for local students from around villages adjacent to sanctuary areas. Students received free Aloha Maid drinks, Tautai Fagota Fishing Derby t-shirts, and a chance to

win either a fishing rod, boogie board, or a snorkel set. This is the second year for the series of fishing derbies, to encourage responsible ocean recreation activities and raise awareness about fishing in the sanctuary, particularly allowable non-destructive fishing practices.

For many, this was their first fishing experience and they absolutely loved it.

The program hosted close to 150 participants.

BOH DONATES TO BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

For the fifth straight year, Bank of Hawaii has donated to the Boys and Girls Club of American Samoa.

The \$10,000 monetary donation was presented by Hobbs Lowson, BOH vice president of the West Hawaii-Kona Market, along with Jon Murakami, vice president and Branch and Community Banking Division Manager; and vice president of BoH American Samoa, EJ Tyler Ozu last week.

Lisa Tuatoo spoke on behalf of the BGCAS and thanked BoH for their continuous support of the BGCAS.

She said one of BoH's goals is to support educational programs and last week's donation was a true testament of that.

The BGCAS has become a favorite spot for young kids - and parents - thanks to the after school programs it offers, that continue to keep kids safe and at the same time, help working families and inspire leaning. The programs provide opportunities to help young people develop into successful adults.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of

American Samoa provides the youth of American Samoa ages 6 to 18 development programs focused on Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship and Healthy Lifestyles. The BGCAS Clubhouse operates during after school hours from 2-6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

"COUPLES FOR CHRIST" HOSTS FAMILY DAY

Couples for Christ, or CFC, is a family-based group that revolves itself around God and His will. The group's mission is to form bonds amongst each other through means of fellowship and at the same time, evangelize and spread the Gospel.

The group was made for people to grow with each other through God's love.

CFC is the main branch of a bigger organization which includes: YFC (Youth for Christ); KFC (Kids for Christ); HOL (Handmaids of the Lord); SOL (Servants of the Lord); and SFC (Singles for Christ).

This past Saturday, the group's annual family day was hosted at the South Pacific Academy gymnasium.

The event is conducted every year — and funded by all the ministries — to keep the spirit of family alive within the organization.

The theme for the CFC family fun day was: "A family that prays and plays together, stays together."

An estimated 150 people showed up for family day, which started off with a worship service, followed by activities and games, and ending with dinner and fellowship.



NMSAS education and outreach coordinator Isabel Gaoteote presents a fishing rod to one of the winners of this year's Tautai Fagota Fishing Derby in Vaitogi. See story for full details.

[photo: BC]

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Position: Grant Writer (re-advertised)

Responsibilities:

- Research and explore US Federal grants and funding sources available to the bank either directly or through the American Samoa Government.
- Develop and prepare proposals and grant applications and perform professional and administrative work in researching, identifying, developing and comply with all follow up grants reporting as required by the funding agencies.
- Develop and monitor procedures for complying with grant requirements, guidelines, and regulations of funding programs.
- Work closely with the staff in developing and transforming ideas into grant proposals
- Assist with the management of grant programs and submit required monthly, quarterly or annual financial reports as mandated by the funding agencies.
- Maintain a calendar to ensure timely submission of letters of inquiry, proposal deadlines and reports.
- Prioritize projects to keep multiple proposals moving in a timely manner, meet deadlines and manage material required for proposals
- Establish and maintain relationships with the funding agencies and program officers.
- Function as a point of contact for DBAS with the funding agencies and establish working relationship with their designated officials.
- Develop and monitor budget for grants and funded programs.
- Prepare quarterly and annual reports and submit to the President and Board of Directors summarizing the evaluation of all grants and funded programs.
- Organize training programs for DBAS staff prior to implementation of new grant or funded programs.
- Liaison with agencies or departments of ASG to implement and administer "pass through" funding programs.
- Maintain a database of various funding agencies and grant programs for the bank.
- Assume any other duties as assigned by the President.

Qualifications:

Education/Experience/Qualification:

Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Finance, Management or related field with a minimum of 2 years grant writing experience.

Skills/Abilities:

Professional appearance and attitude.

Excellent writing, analytical and research skills are essential.

Highly level computer literacy required with excellent Microsoft office application use.

Must be self motivated, detail oriented, highly organized, and have experience using online Database.

Be proficient in research, interpreting and analyzing diverse data and posses the ability to work collaboratively and independently to achieve stated goals.

Must have solid knowledge of creating budgets as they relate to the proposals and grants.

Ability to maintain confidentiality.

Please submit your Resume & Application to the Development Bank of American Samoa located in Pago Pago - 2nd floor. This job posting will expire Thursday – August 3, 2017.

Son of Nashville mayor dies of apparent drug overdose

The only son of Nashville Mayor Megan Barry - whom her office described as “a kind soul full of life” - has died of an apparent drug overdose, and she asked for privacy as she and her husband face life “without his laughter and love.”

The office released a statement Sunday from Barry and her husband, Bruce, saying 22-year-old Max Barry died Saturday night in Denver.

“Early this morning, we received news that no parents should ever have to hear,” the couple said. “Our son Max suffered from an overdose and passed away. We cannot begin to describe the pain and heart-break that comes with losing our only child. Our son was a kind soul full of life and love for his family and friends.”

Max Barry graduated in June from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

“Our family would greatly appreciate your thoughts and prayers, and would respectfully ask for privacy as we mourn the loss of our child and begin to understand a world without his laughter and love in our lives,” the statement said.

Funeral arrangements are pending. The Tennessean reported a visitation is set for Monday evening at Vanderbilt University’s Blair School of Music, and a memorial service is scheduled for Tuesday morning at the Belcourt Theatre in Nashville. Denver police spokeswoman Raquel Lopez declined to search the department’s records and logs for the police report of Barry’s death, saying that would violate the department’s policy of not identifying victims.

Investigator Melinda Rose of the Jefferson County Coroner’s Office in Denver told the newspaper that an official cause or manner of death would not be declared until after the results of an autopsy, which was planned for Sunday. The newspaper reported Max Barry had recently moved to Denver. Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office spokeswoman Jenny Fulton told The Denver Post that Barry died at a private residence in the county. Fulton added the death is not considered suspicious.

Megan Barry was sworn in as Nashville’s first female mayor in September 2015 with her husband and son by her side. Max Barry bear-hugged his mom after the oath of office, sat just to her right as she gave her inaugural speech and kissed her afterward. Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Richard H. Dinkins, who issued the oath, said his son and Max Barry started school together in kindergarten and the judge coached both on youth basketball and baseball teams.

Dinkins said the Barry family would host an annual holiday party with a houseful of kids. Max Barry “had a loving environment,” Dinkins said in a telephone interview Sunday.

“He was not pampered and spoiled. He was very grounded, had a very happy childhood.”

Metro Council Member Fabian Bedne said Barry attended the same high school as his son, and saw him often.

“He seemed like a good kid, nice friendly attitude,” Bedne said in a Facebook message Sunday. “When I served with the Mayor in the Council and visited her home they seemed to have a great relationship at home as well. It is a devastating loss to all of Nashville, we love our Mayor and her family.”

Condolences for the Barry family poured in on social media. “No parent should ever live to see the passing of a child,” Nashville Sheriff Daron Hall said on Twitter.

The Tennessee Titans posted a statement of sympathy on its website.

“Our organization’s thoughts and prayers are with Mayor Barry and her family during this



PUBLIC HEARING

This is to inform the public of American Samoa that the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) will exercise its powers under American Samoa Code, Sections 16.2002 (12) to implement the following new fees:

Course Administration Fee	\$25.00 per course
300/400 Level Courses	\$175 Tuition Per Credit
300/400 Level Courses	\$8 Technology Fee per credit
Lab Fees	(available at Public Hearing)

The proposed new Fees are scheduled to be implemented Fall 2017.

The proposed new Fees Public Hearing is to take place on Monday, August 7, 2017 – 4:00p.m. Local Time at the ASCC Lecture Hall.

If any organization or individual wishes to have an oral hearing in accordance to American Samoa Code 16.1005, please send your request to the American Samoa Community College President’s Office by July 31, 2017:

PO Box 2609, Pago Pago AS 96799, or hand deliver it to the President’s Office at American Samoa Community College campus, in the village of Mapusaga.

Respectfully,
Dr. Rosevonne M. Pato
President
American Samoa Community College (ASCC)

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(Photos: Maelyn)



Seventy local kids participated in this year's Children's Cultural Maintenance Summer Program, held at the Jean P. Haydon Museum and hosted by the American Samoa Council on Arts and Humanities. Last Friday, the program closed yet another chapter in its 30+ year history. See story for full details.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

Children's Cultural Maintenance Summer Program closes on a high note

By Mark Espiritu
Special to Samoa News

One of our islands' most consistent and valuable summer programs came to a close last Friday, after the participants wowed their parents and teachers with special performances, bringing to life some of the many things they learned over the past month.

The Children's Cultural Maintenance Summer Program is an annual event — the oldest of its kind in the territory — that has been up and running for about three decades. Even some grandparents who participated in the program during their younger years are now dropping off their grandkids to learn the same things they were taught back then.

Program director Rex Yandall told Samoa News that the "main purpose of the program is to maintain the culture of Samoa through the arts."

The program accepts 6-18 year olds and on occasion — even adults — who are interested in learning about the Samoan culture.

Over a span of three weeks, the estimated 70 participants were exposed to various things ranging from ukulele lessons, weaving and drawing, learning how to properly speak and understand the Samoan language, and performing the traditional Samoan siva.

Youngsters also learned about Samoan myths and legends, but perhaps most importantly, they were taught morals and principles based on the Samoan way of life.

This year's program is particularly different from years prior because there was a notable increase in the number of different races and ethnic backgrounds represented.

Samoa News discovered that not only were there kids from the United States, there were also participants from Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

The Children's Cultural Maintenance Summer Program is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington D.C.

This past Friday was the last day for this

year's program; and parents got a treat when the kids came ready and pumped up for performance day, the one chance they get to showcase what they learned during the summer.

The program kicked off at 9 a.m. and included skits, ukulele playing, and even a fire knife dance performance.

The tauluga definitely brought the house down, with screaming that could be heard across the street at the Post Office.

Proud parents, family members, and even the summer program teachers beamed with pride as they witnessed the fruits of their labor.

The kids' love of culture shined through their natural ability to perform and capture the audience.

Proud father Ernie Seva'aetasi told Samoa News that his daughter has been in the program from three years now and she really enjoys it. He said his daughter has learned a lot and he enjoys listening to her play the ukulele everyday.

The teachers who work for the cultural program are seasonal volunteers. Most of them are elderly women who weave and produce handcraft items at the Fale Samoa in front of the Museum.

Perhaps the only thing better than the kids learning new things during the summer program, is the bond they have created with others and the many new friendships that have been formed.

Most of the kids told Samoa News that they look forward to coming back next summer.

"I really like it here because everybody is nice," said Ulutaumamao F., one of the program participants. "The program really turned out good for me, and my favorite classes are Ukulele, Samoan Culture, and Carving. I really do like it here." The Children's Cultural Maintenance Summer Program has been one of the best and most successful programs this year because of the significance and value of what is taught to the kids and the impact it has in their lives.



The Tafuna 3rd Ward Young Women of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, dressed in early pioneer outfits, with their banner as they prepared to make the one hour trek from the LDS Malaeimi Stake Center to the LDS Ottoville Stake Center, early Saturday morning. The trek commemorated the 170th year since the arrival of the first group of Mormon Pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847; and also honored early Mormon pioneers of both Samoa and American Samoa.

[photo: ET]

Downed plane found in Southern California mountain

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP) — A San Bernardino County sheriff’s deputy was identified Sunday as one of two people killed when a small plane crashed into a Southern California mountain. The bodies of Rebecca Joan Raymond, 28, and an unidentified man were found Sunday morning after searchers found a downed plane in a remote part of Big Bear Mountain, about 95 miles northeast of Los Angeles, the sheriff’s department said in a statement. A helicopter crew had been looking for the pair after authorities received a call Saturday that they didn’t reach their destination at Apple Valley Airport. The two were aboard a Cessna 172 Skyhawk that had taken off from Big Bear City Airport and crashed under unknown circumstances, FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said. Raymond had been with the department for almost a year and was assigned to the sheriff’s station in Barstow. “It’s a tragic and sad day for all of us,” the department said. “May God watch over her parents.” The man’s name has not been released pending notification of next of kin. A friend told KABC-TV he was Raymond’s boyfriend. Debbie Payne told the station the couple had rented a plane for the weekend to go to Big Bear to celebrate their anniversary, and he had proposed to her.

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Last week, he removed Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument from the list under review. He previously dropped two others, one in Idaho and one in Washington state. A full report is due next month.

White House to Senate: Pass health bill now or else

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House stepped up demands Sunday for revived congressional efforts on health care and suggested senators cancel their entire summer break, if needed, to pass legislation after failed votes last week.

Aides said President Donald Trump is prepared in the coming days to end required payments to insurers under the Affordable Care Act as part of a bid to let “Obamacare implode” and force the Senate to act.

It was all part of a weekend flurry of Trump tweets and other statements insisting the seven-year GOP quest to repeal former President Barack Obama’s signature legislative achievement was not over.

“The president will not accept those who said it’s, quote, ‘Time to move on,’” White House adviser Kellyanne Conway said. Those were the words used by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., after the early Friday morning defeat of the GOP proposal.

Conway said Trump was deciding whether to act on his threat to end cost-sharing reduction payments, which are aimed at trimming out-of-pocket costs for lower-income people. “He’s going to make that decision this week, and that’s a decision that only he can make,” Conway said.

For seven years, Republicans have promised that once they took power, they would scrap Obama’s overhaul and pass a replacement. But that effort crashed most recently in the Senate Friday, and that’s when McConnell said it was time to focus on other policy matters.

Republicans hold a 52-48 majority in the Senate, where no Democrats voted for the GOP bill and three Republicans defected in the final vote Friday. One of the GOP defectors, Sen. John McCain, has since returned to Arizona for treatment for brain cancer.

“Don’t give up Republican senators, the World is watching: Repeal & Replace,” Trump said in a tweet.

White House budget director Mick Mulvaney, when asked Sunday if no other legislative business should be taken up until the Senate acts again on health care, responded “yes.”

While the House has begun a five-week recess, the Senate is scheduled to work two more weeks before a summer break. McConnell has said the unfinished business includes addressing a backlog of executive and judicial nominations, coming ahead of a busy agenda in September that involves passing a defense spending bill and raising the government’s borrowing limit.

“In the White House’s view, they can’t move on in the Senate,” Mulvaney said, referring to health legislation. “They need to stay, they need to work,

they need to pass something.”

Trump warned over the weekend that he would end federal subsidies for health care insurance for Congress and the rest of the country if the Senate didn’t act soon. He was referring in part to a federal contribution for lawmakers and their staffs, who were moved onto Obamacare insurance exchanges as part of the 2010 law.

“If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!” Trump tweeted.

The subsidies, totaling about \$7 billion a year, help reduce deductibles and copayments for consumers with modest incomes. The Obama administration used its rule-making authority to set direct payments to insurers to help offset these costs. Trump inherited the payment structure, but he also has the power to end them.



The Tafuna 2nd Ward Young Men of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, pulling a handcart in commemoration of the 170 years since the arrival of the first group of Mormon pioneers in Salt Lake Valley in 1847. Close to 200 members of the Tafuna 1st, 2nd and 3rd Wards followed closely behind, early Saturday morning, in the re-enactment of the long and difficult trek taken by the early Mormon pioneers, which also honored early Mormon pioneers of both Samoa and American Samoa.

[photo: ET]



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Tile Talamoa Tuala-Tamaalelagi is one of the local artists at the Jean P. Haydon Museum who helped out with the Children’s Cultural Maintenance Summer Program that closed last Friday.

When asked about his experience working with the children this year, Tuala-Tamaalelagi told Samoa News that one of challenges he faced was the diversity of the group.

“The kids were from all over,” he said, adding that with the young ones, he couldn’t just throw them a carving project and expect them to complete the task, especially considering the tools needed to carry out the job, and the concern that the kids might get hurt.

Tuala-Tamaalelagi then came up with the great idea of having the little ones learn the Haka, or Samoan war dance, while the older kids were assigned to tackle carving projects.

He said he was confident that the kids would absorb everything they were taught and once the summer program was over, they would have gained a deeper appreciation for Samoan art and what it’s all about.

He shared that he himself was once an art student, trained under his role model and mentor, Sven Ortquist, a master carver and renown throughout the Samoan Islands — his work resonates the legends of Samoa and the Pacific.

Ortquist passed away in 2013 and left some of his work behind with the museum, where he worked for many years. Tuala-Tamaalelagi is working on restoring one of those pieces, ‘the turtle and the shark’ (pictured) in an effort to put it on display and share it with the community once again, especially the children.

[photo: Sabrina Amosa]

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