

Amata asking Court to consider using Starkist Agreement Funds... 2

2% COLA hike for Social Security recipients 3

Warrior Nation crushes Faga'itua's hope of a postseason B1

Tapunia aloaia galuega a le Fono Faitulafono mo lenei ... Lali - 7

Now that's what you call a BIG CATCH... A local reader sent this photo to Samoa News and said this 55-gallon cooler was full of palolo that was caught in Ofu, Manu'a, last Friday.

Over the years, Manu'a residents have been known to send frozen palolo to family and friends in Tutuila, via ice cream containers and ziploc bags, as the worm shows up more often — and in greater quantities — in Manua, than here.

Palolo also showed up in Samoa in certain areas.

DMWR predicts that the next palolo rising will be Nov. 11th — hopefully this time in Tutuila as well.

[photo: courtesy]

ONLINE @ SAMOANEWS.COM



samoa news

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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017

\$1.00

Certain cops — and the Commish — are now carrying guns

REP. GAFATASI SAYS IT ISN'T A JOKE... LOCALS MIGHT THINK THEY SHOULD CARRY WEAPONS TOO

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

There are a lot of concerns from Fono members — and also complaints from the community — in seeing some police officers, including the Police Commissioner, carrying weapons while performing their duties; but Senator Fa'amausili Mau Jr. supports the move by Le'i to arm police.

"It's in the law," Fa'amausili told Samoa News. "The law is clear. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall establish a training and certification program for the use of arms and other weapons by the territory's law enforcement officers before the issuance of these arms and weapons to law enforcement officers."

Fa'amausili, a retired police Commander, said that as long as police officers receive good training and they are certified to carry weapons, he has no problem with it. He said many senators have asked him to set a hearing on the issue of arming police officers, because some senators have concerns about the safety of the community and also police officers.

"I told them the Fono has nothing to do with the issue because the law is clear. The Commissioner has a duty under the law to carry out training. The Commissioner should also submit a training and certification program on the use of weapons to the governor to view before implementing it," Fa'amausili said.

(Samoa News should point out that Le'i has continuously reiterated that the arms training & certification has strictly followed the law.)

The arming of police officers was also one of the topics of discussion in the House last week before the close of the Fono's second regular session.

While some faipule said they are not against the Commissioner's decision to arm police officers and himself, they believe the issue is something the Fono should consider first, before it is put into action.

"I'm not opposed to the arming of our local police officers, but my only concern is the lack of communication between the Commissioner and Fono leaders. This issue must be discussed by the Fono first before any action is taken," Rep. Vesi Talalelei Fautanu Jr. shared.

Rep. Kitara Vaiau said he doesn't want to see a cop carrying a gun in his village. As a military retiree, Vaiau reflected on the old days when leaders would sit down face to face and discuss

ways to get to a solid decision for the safety of the whole village.

Vice Speaker Fetu Fetui Jr. told House members that he was shocked to learn that the Commissioner and other cops are now carrying weapons while performing their duties. The former police officer said the issue concerns him and the Fono needs to carry out research on how to stop this from continuing.

"I strongly believe Fono leaders should be consulted regarding such a drastic move. We shouldn't take this lightly and we lawmakers should consider how the community will react towards the issue of arming police officers," Fetui said.

"I understand the Commissioner has the authority under the law to arm police officers, and I also know why our local police department feels that it's necessary to arm police officers; but there must be some serious issues such as threats to the police force or the community to justify the arming of police officers", Fetui continued.

Leasina/ Atiulagi faipule, Rep. Gafatasi Afa-lava said he is very concerned with the Commissioner's move to arm himself and police officers. He said this is not a joke, and the Commissioner needs to understand that if DPS is willing to carry weapons, the community will think they should too.

Tualauta faipule, Rep. Samuel Ioka Ale Mel-eisea supports the Commissioner's recent decision to re-establish the Vice and Narcotics Unit to combat the drug problem in the territory, but says, "While I support the move to protect the safety of our community ... seeing police officers walking around with guns does concern me."

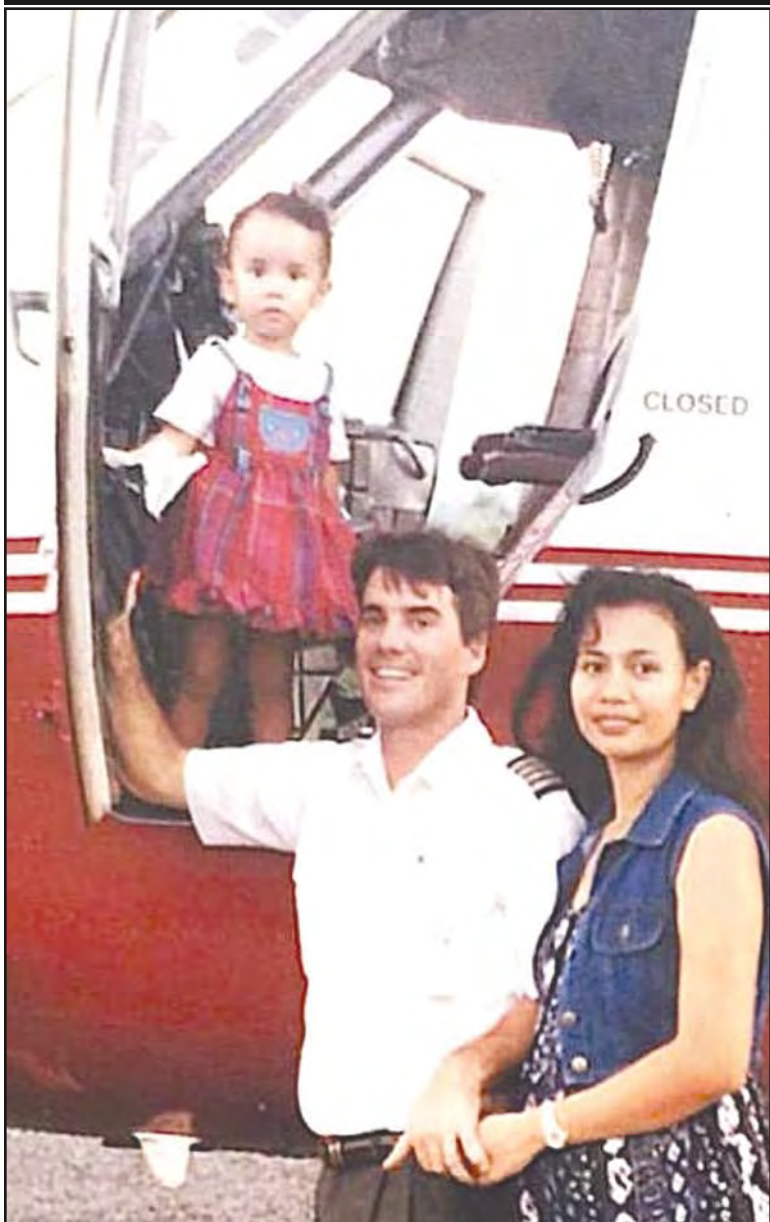
Speaker of the House, Savali Talavou Ale asked the Chairman of the House Public Safety Committee, Rep. Manumaua W. Wilson to schedule a hearing with the Commissioner to discuss some of the concerns raised by faipule.

Some members of the community contacted Samoa News last week to voice how they felt, after seeing the commissioner and certain police officers carrying weapons around the island.

One local resident told Samoa news he was shocked to see the Commissioner with a gun at the Office of the Motor Vehicles (OMV) at Tafuna last week.

"I don't understand why the Commissioner needs to be armed. If he believes he has the

(Continued on page 4)



Audrey English, who was born at the LBJ Medical Center in Fagaalu, discovered her love of music at a young age. While living in Maui, HI, she started writing and recording music in her bedroom. She and her family have since relocated to Las Vegas, NV.

Audrey's mother Ane, told Samoa News last week that world famous singing competitions like American Idol and The Voice have invited Audrey to compete on stage and share her talent during the live stream programs; but Audrey is currently tied up, writing and recording albums under contract with music companies in New York and Los Angeles.

Samoa News understands that music companies from London and Paris are also trying to get a hold of Audrey, whose song from her first album entitled "Autumn" is being used by Dubai Television for a show called "Fortitude 1."

Audrey is mentored by her mother Ane Ah Foon English, a former Samoa News reporter. Her father John English, is a former Samoa Air pilot.

Audrey's songs can be accessed and viewed on YouTube. She is pictured standing in the cockpit of a Samoa Air aircraft with her parents many moons ago, when she was a toddler living in the territory.

See today's Lali section for complete details.

[photo: courtesy]





American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
RFQ-003-2018

Issuance Date: October 16, 2017
Date & Time Due: November 2, 2017
No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Qualification (RFQ) from qualified firms to provide:

“Pago Pago International Airport Apron Rehabilitation - Construction Management Services”

Submission

Original and five copies of the Qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFQ: Pago Pago International Airport Runway 5-23 Rehabilitation - Design Services.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), November 2, 2017:

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

Any qualifications 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 Scope of Work outlining the qualification requirements is available at the Office of Procurement, Tafuna, American Samoa, during normal working hours.

Review

Request for Qualification data will be thoroughly reviewed by an appointed Source Evaluation Board under the auspices of the Chief Procurement, 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 as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



American Samoa Government
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DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

Amata asking Court to consider
using Starkist Agreement Funds
for affected cannery workers

Washington, D.C. — Friday, October 13, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata released a Public Comment letter to the U.S. Department of Justice and the overseeing judge, to urge them to strongly consider legal precedents potentially allowing parties to the DOJ-Starkist Consent Decree to agree to set aside funds to the benefit of the affected workers.

“I am urging the agencies involved, under the supervision of the judge, to strongly consider all possibilities for allocating money to benefit the workers who are losing paychecks,” Amata said. “This is an agreement, so there’s nothing preventing these agencies from also agreeing to apportion funds to help the workers who are hurt the most by this process.

“Also, my letter highlights the special legal circumstances of American Samoa based upon the Deeds of Cession and respect for ‘Fa’a Samoa.’ Although I do not have legal standing to go beyond a Public Comment in court, I believe there is adequate legal precedent to consider, and brought these facts in detail to the attention of the Judge and the Department of Justice.”

The Congresswoman’s letter is addressed to the presiding Judge in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Federal Court, where Starkist is based, and to the U.S. Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice. The Public Comment period closes October 18, but anyone can also still comment until then at publiccomment-ees-enrd@usdoj.gov.

The Congresswoman’s complete letter is four pages in length, but a few key excerpts are below:

As you can see, this is not a normal case with normal side effects — it is an extraordinary

case with extraordinary negative effects to an entire community largely dependent upon a sole core business which the local economy thoroughly revolves...

The Consent Decree calls for the collection of \$6.3 million in penalties to go to Washington bureaucrats and not to the cannery workers, some of whom are Veterans; as well as those integral vendors in the supply chain effected such as the fishermen, suppliers and support service providers to the tuna industry; and to the essential government services, like the maintenance-starved Veterans clinic and LBJ Hospital, all of which will suffer direct harm. But none of that \$6.3 million appears to be directed to any of them... Otherwise the only penalty being imposed is on the people of American Samoa.

It is clear that the Deed of Cession contemplated such economic disruptions in 1900 and the Congress some 29 years in 48 U.S.C. Section 1661 Statute, not only contemplated but codified that realization of the inevitable growing pains from the integration of such a small fragile economy into the larger fabric of the existing United States and intended to compensate the “islands of eastern Samoa” [American Samoa] for such disruptions...

The people of American Samoa have always shown supreme concern for the preservation of “Fa’a Samoa,” the Samoan way of life, which the District Court of Hawaii recognized and we ask the Department of Justice and Court to do so here.

(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata Office, Washington D.C.)

Some villages in
Vietnam still isolated
by flooding damage

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Some villages in Vietnam are still isolated by landslides and destroyed bridges after a tropical depression last week that has become one of the country’s worst natural disasters in years.

The Vietnam Disaster Management Authority said in a statement Monday the death toll has risen to 72 with 30 people still missing.

The depression hit the central coast last Tuesday and damaged infrastructure and crops mainly in the central and northern regions.

The disasters also injured 33 people, it added.

Disaster official Nguyen Thi Lien in northern Yen Bai province, where 15 people have

died, said some 4,000 soldiers, policemen, militiamen and villagers were mobilized to search for 13 people still missing.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Khanun is expected to weaken to a tropical depression in the Tonkin Gulf later Monday and heavy rains are forecast in northeastern Vietnam.

Vietnam is ranked the seventh most disaster-prone country in the world, and disasters over the past two decades have caused more than 13,000 deaths and property damage in excess of \$6.4 billion, according to Achim Fock, acting country director for the World Bank in Vietnam.

2% COLA hike for Social Security recipients

MEANWHILE, THERE IS STILL A FREEZE ON COLA INCREASES FOR ASG RETIREES

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

While ASG retirees are still awaiting news of any possible increase in the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in the near future, the US Social Security Administration (SSA) announced a 2% COLA hike for its recipients last Friday morning.

“Such great news, great news,” said one local beneficiary, when contacted Friday after Samoa News received the official SSA announcement. “This is something to look forward to in the New Year.”

Another local beneficiary, also contacted Friday, first asked Samoa News, “How about the COLA for ASG retirees? I guess there is nothing for 2018 from the ASG Retirement Fund, while the government is proposing all these new taxes for businesses, who will pass on the cost to consumers.”

“But thank you Social Security for the extra income for the new year,” said one recipient who spent 45 years working for ASG and 15 years working in the US.

Two other SSA beneficiaries contacted by Samoa News over the weekend also voiced appreciation of the increase in the monthly SSA benefits, but they both noted — during separate phone interviews — that the 2.0% increase “is going to

be eaten up by new ASG taxes” passed by the Fono.

ASG Employees’ Retirement Fund officials testified at a House Retirement Committee hearing early this month that there is still a freeze on the COLA until the funded status of the Retirement Fund improves to at least 60%. (See Samoa News Oct. 5th edition for details).

Similar testimonies were made during a Senate Retirement Committee hearing more than a week ago, with Retirement board chairman Va’anatiu Iafeta Tofala saying that the Board has held off on a COLA hike at this point based on current status of the Fund.

Senators have urged the Board to make a COLA hike a priority for next year.

In a national news release, SSA said that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 66 million Americans will increase 2.0% in 2018, and the 2.0% COLA will begin with benefits payable to more than 61 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2018.

An SSA fact sheet states that the 2018 COLA hike is based on the increase in the federal Consumer Price Index from the third quarter of 2016 through the third quarter of 2017. It also shows how much current benefits Social Security recipi-

ents receive and when the new COLA goes into effect.

For example, all retired workers, currently receive about \$1,377 a month; but under the new COLA hike, the monthly payment will be \$1,404, according to the fact sheet, which also provides average monthly payments for other recipients, including disabled workers.

According to SSA, the Old-Age (retirement), Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) — popularly referred to as Social Security — provides monthly benefits to an eligible worker and family members when the worker elects to start receiving retirement benefits or when the worker dies or becomes disabled. A worker’s lifetime covered earnings largely determine the amount of benefits received.

SSA’s Congressional Statistics 2016 on American Samoa notes that as of December 2016, there were a total of 6,175 beneficiaries.

For retired workers, there were 2,370 beneficiaries in 2016, with an average monthly total payout of \$2,078.

Although the January 2018 COLA hike includes SSI benefits — monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, or disabled persons — the program does not cover American Samoa.

Bank of Hawaii

As required by Title 28 Chapter 16 of the American Samoa Code Annotated: “Notice of the names of persons appearing as the owners of unclaimed amounts held by Bank of Hawaii”

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * David A. Deprin | * Anthony John Pereira |
| * Moana K. Eneli | * Florence Gail Poysky |
| * Ex L M S Fellowship | * Claire Sekai |
| * Army T. Fiamé | * Lologo Palata Tafua |
| * Ian Holt | * Trisha Marie Tufele |
| * George Misaalefua | * Pago Pago Catholic Church |
| * Christopher I. Oliver | * Pamamao Tunupopo |

Claims must be made in person before December 20, 2017 at the Bank of Hawaii branch located in the Senator Daniel K. Inouye Industrial Park Village of Tafuna, American Samoa 96799

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Philippines: Last leaders of IS-tied siege killed in Marawi

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The two final surviving leaders of a deadly siege in the southern Philippines, including a top Asian terror suspect, were killed Monday in one of the final battles by thousands of troops to retake the last area in Marawi city held by pro-Islamic State group militants, the defense chief and other top security officials said.

Four military and police officials told The Associated Press that Isnilon Hapilon, who is listed among the FBI’s most-wanted terror suspects, and Omarkhayam Maute were killed in a gunbattle and their bodies were found Monday in Marawi. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to make a public announcement yet of the latest developments in Marawi, a mosque-studded center of Islamic faith in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. Defense Secretary Lorenzana later confirmed the militant deaths.

“Yes, they are confirmed dead,” Lorenzana said, adding DNA tests would be done on the remains of the two militant leaders to pave the way for the payment of huge U.S. and Philippine bounties offered for the two. A top Malaysian militant, Mahmud bin Ahmad, who uses the nom de guerre Abu Han-

dzalah and is a close associate of Hapilon, has not been found and was among the remaining militants being hunted by troops, he said.

The U.S. State Department has offered a reward of up to \$5 million for Hapilon, whom Washington blames for ransom kidnappings of several Americans, one of whom was beheaded in 2001 in southern Basilan province. Hapilon had been indicted in the District of Columbia for his alleged involvement in terrorist acts against U.S. nationals and other foreigners. Military leaders had said last month that three leaders of the militants who began the siege of the lakeside city on May 23 were killed in the months of fighting but the two still alive were leading a final stand. More than 1,000 people have been killed in the Marawi violence, including more than 800 militants. Army Col. Romeo Brawner said Sunday about 40 militants were still fighting in a small hilly residential area by Lanao Lake, including 100 relatives of the gunmen and civilian hostages.

On Saturday, troops attempted to rescue several hostages but only snatched a 16-year-old female captive because of intense militant fire, which wounded an army battalion commander.

Medical School Scholarship OPPORTUNITY

LBJTMC in conjunction with ASG is offering a full scholarship to the Fiji School of Medicine at the Fiji National University



Upon graduation, recipient will receive a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree (MBBS)

*Minimum educational requirement is a Bachelor’s Degree.

Application requirements:

- Copy of degree(s) - focus on Sciences
- Copy of degree transcripts
- Curriculum Vitae/Resume
- Two letters of recommendation

Applications must be submitted by November 30, 2017 for 2018 Spring Semester

For more information, please contact LBJ’s CMO’s Office at 633-1222 ext 480 or Email: akenese.nikolao@lbj.as



Letter to the Editor

"ARE THE VICTIMS PROTECTED WHILE THE IP CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE?"

Dear Editor,

It's been three months since the Independent Prosecutor Attorney David Vargas was appointed for one of the government cases involving the Governor's Chief of Staff Fiu John Saelua. (See Samoa News 12/22/16)

A case involving several allegations, including:

- 1- Sexual assaults of the victim by the defendant.
- 2- Domestic assault.
- 3- The involvement of the Immigration officers on false declarations to lure the couple.
- 4- Kidnapping.
- 5- Illegal attempt to deport the victims, which was the straw that forced the victims to seek help.

All this information including names were filed in the police report 12/15/17, finally forwarded to the Attorney General's office. And now we sit and wait.

And, the longer it takes the Independent Prosecutor to do his investigation the easier it becomes for the offender and his supporters to stress out, harass, threaten and breakdown the victims and their family's defenses.

One of the worst possible scenarios used is the 'devalued ifoga method' in order to bring Samoan victims to their knees and exploit the ava fatafata (ultimate respect) to forgive the offender.

Mind you these are exploited, simple immigrants whose futures and livelihoods depend on their sponsors.

We know the IP is working on two high profile cases. So - both can run and drag on for months to years.

My concern is while the IP is performing his investigation to decide whether or not to file charges, does it safeguard these political victims or will the time be used by the offending government against them as an underhanded way to deport them?

Sept. 21, 2017, 1130hrs. I had spoken directly to the Deputy of Immigration Office Mrs. Faga, on my concern since previous sponsor Mrs. Sinuu refused to transfer sponsorship of the victim upon request. Mrs. Faga quoted the law to me, witnessed by Mrs. Regina M.: "No one/ agency can touch the victims until the court case is finished". I asked about the Immigration status, she said, "Only the presiding Judge can render that decision."

It is sad that the victims are now political hostages due to the eminence of the high ranking offender and the involvement of some officers from the Immigration office.

With all this silence and scuttlebutt, it leads me to believe, the will of the Immigration Board and our silent Honorable Governor will manipulate this situation to trump JUSTICE in support of the Governor's Chief of Staff and the Chief of Immigration.

Ipu Avegalio Lefti

Victim advocate

(Editor's Note: Remember the last IP case, back in 2008 — where an IP was assigned to investigate and if deemed necessary to prosecute four AG Office employees for theft — the final case was heard this year, with a \$1K fine and the IP told the judge that it had been so long ago that witnesses were no longer available and he believed that it wasn't fair that only the defendant was charged? ra)



EAST SIDE PARISHES TASKED WITH TAKING OVER OPERATIONS FOR MARIST ST. FRANCIS AND MARY THE MOTHER MONTESSORI SCHOOL - BOTH IN LEPUA

by Blue Chen-Fruean

Samoa News Correspondent

Teachers and students from Marist Saint Francis School in Lepua, posing for a photo during an assembly last week. The school started off as an all-girls institution but later became co-ed when the Marist Brothers all-boys school in Atu'u closed down in the late 80s because there weren't enough Brothers to oversee the operations.

According to Monsignor Viane Etuale, St. Francis School was very popular in the 50s and 60s, as it had a commercial school that taught shorthand and typing (secretarial work), and many of its graduates were hired by the private sector and government — some are still working for ASG today — because of their skills.

Sister Patrick was the most popular nun at the school and a lot of St. Francis alumni remember her. Msgr. Viane told Samoa News that when Marist Brothers closed its doors, enrollment dropped and the boys were shuffled over to St. Francis.

Marist was added to the name, and Marist St. Francis was born.

Today, the school's current enrollment stands at 140 students, and it is still operated by the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago, under the Office of Catholic Education.

"In the meantime, the eastern side of the Diocese — from Faga'alu to Alao — has been tasked by the Bishop to see if they are able to take over the operations of both Marist St. Francis and Mary the Mother Montessori (both in Lepua) in the future," said Msgr. Viane. "There is a transition team made up of members from each of the eight eastern parishes working on this task. To date, a lot has been done by the transition team, including a whole new face-lift of the schools that probably cost over \$10,000."

There are five schools under the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago. They are: Fa'asao Marist High School, St. Theresa's Elementary, Marist St. Francis Elementary, Fatuoaga Montessori School, and Mary the Mother Montessori School in Lepua.

Msgr. Viane is the interim principal of Marist St. Francis, and Akenese Iosefo serves as principal of Mary the Mother Montessori school.

Local Catholics, and non-Catholics who have children that attend Marist St. Francis and Mary the Mother Montessori, are grateful for the members of the east side parishes who have stepped up and answered the call for help, assisting the school through various work that continues to keep the doors of Marist St. Francis open to serve the community.

[Courtesy photo]



Peta Siulepa, director of Samoana Jazz & Arts Festival and Rexxy Siuleo, a member of Banned from the Sun band, were among the female artists that performed a week ago Saturday during the final fundraiser of the year for this year's Samoana Jazz & Arts Festival held at the Oasis Nite Club.

This year's fundraisers showcased live music performed by musicians of both Samoas. With special guest artists, and new and emerging talent, "the best of 2Samoas" on display.

Sponsors of the fundraisers were: Samoa Sportex- Oasis Nite Club, South Pacific Distributors, Lalelei Boutique, Pago Print Shop, Calument Services, Southseas Broadcasting Inc., Chande Drabble, FA Designs, SOPAC, and Samoa News.

"The Samoana Festival supports and promotes Samoan musicians and artists," Peta said.

The main event — the Samoana Jazz & Arts Festival — is currently slated to open in American Samoa on Thursday, Nov. 3 thru Sunday, Nov. 6 — and closes in Samoa Friday, Nov. 11 thru Sunday, Nov. 13. Celebrate the best of live music in the 2Samoas — 'It's a plan...'

[Courtesy photos]



► Certain cops...

Continued from page 1

authority to conduct training for police officers in order for them to be trained and certified, then let the police officers carry weapons — not the Commissioner."

Another local wanted to know how many police officers will be carrying guns, whether the number includes those who have been convicted of crimes before and were sent to prison,

but are still serving as cops.

"If the Commissioner says he's following the law, he should stay clear of those police officers who have criminal records, but are still serving as police officers," said the concerned citizen.

In an interview with Samoa News last week, Le'i said that while he is very confident that the men and women at DPS

are ready to be armed, he's not going to arm all police officers, only those who are certified to use weapons and deadly force.

The Commissioner said the Tactical Support Team, which is part of the Vice & Narcotics Unit, will be armed 24-7, together with his immediate staff, individuals who are commanders, captains lieutenants, sergeants, and others.



Compiled by Samoa News staff
**A.S. AND SAMOA IN
TALKS TO SOLVE BROAD-
BAND PROBLEMS**

A pro-active approach and a co-operative response to solve a telecommunication problem has resulted in a positive relationship between the two Samoas.

Network interference originating from the telecommunication companies in American Samoa led Samoa's Regulator Lefaoali'i Unutoa Auelua Fonoti to pay a visit to the Territory. This was confirmed in response to questions sent to the Regulator.

"Yes I can confirm that I am here to discuss with the A.S. telecom companies a possible solution to an interference problem originating from American Samoa that is affecting our local network at the eastern part of Upolu (Aleipata Area)," she said. The Regulator said the interference had affected the mobile broadband service of Bluesky Samoa and it was a possibility that it was affecting other providers as well.

American Samoa's Regulator, which is the Federal Communication's Commissioner, is based in America and according to Lefaoali'i she had contacted them via email in May when they first detected the interference.

"After waiting for six months with no response, I made a decision to come to American Samoa to discuss the issue with the two service providers in order to come up with solutions to rectify the problem," said Unutoa. I was looking more at solving the issue the Samoan way of soalaupule and helping each other instead of going through other avenues given the different arrangements within the two countries."

Lefaoali'i says the meeting has been fruitful discussions with Acting Country Manager of Bluesky AS Raj Deo and C.E.O. of American Samoa Telecommunications Authority, Pulelei'ite Li'amatua Tufele.

"And as a result of those meetings we agreed that we will all work together to eliminate the interference.

"The agreement is based on coordination approaches where my technical team will work together with their technical teams to rectify the problem and because it's a crucial issue, they agreed to my request to have the initial work start this weekend."

The Regulator commended the assistance provided by the two Chief Executive Officers for taking their time out from their busy schedules to meet and discuss the important issue.

"And especially their willingness to work together with us on this matter despite us being under two different jurisdictions," said Lefaoali'i.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

**SAMOA RUGBY UNION
TO ASK FOR HALF A MIL-
LION – REPORT SAYS**

The Samoa Rugby Union (S.R.U) will ask England for £160,000 (\$T534,000) cut of next month's £10million (\$T32million) Test against England. The Daily Mail reported that Chief Executive Officer, Faleomavaega Vincent Fepulea'i, is personally contacting his counterpart, Steve Brown, for the amount.

It follows a story on The Mail on Sunday which revealed Samoa will earn £650 (\$T2,100) each for the week - in contrast to a £22,000 (\$T72,100) match fee for England stars.

Samoa's pay packet breaks down to just £95 (\$T316) per day for their biggest game of the year, prompting World Rugby vice-chairman Gus Pichot to call for widespread financial reform.

"The whole economic equation in rugby is wrong at the moment," Pichot told The MoS. "I can't bull**** you and say it's all fine, because it is a massive issue. We need a long-term plan." World Rugby are under pressure to introduce a revenue-share model. There is currently no onus on the hosts to split the revenue with their opponents, which is stunting the growth of cash-strapped tier two nations who lack the infrastructure to stage major Test matches.

"The revenue share model has been discussed," said Pichot. "But the tier one countries decided that wouldn't sustain their economies. England can say they built their stadium to generate profit. Scotland can argue they would be broke if they had to revenue share.

"New Zealand can say they need a turnover of 150 million to break even. You could take the view that is selfish, but it's their right to make those points.

"I'm not a great supporter of making the rich richer but I was in those meetings and it's tough. Someone has £200m and they want £220m. I'm looking for a fair growth of the game."

Pichot believes the Argentina model should provide the blueprint for tier two nations. They set up their own franchise, the Jaguares, and only select home-based players.

"The Argentinian system is the way forward," said Pichot. "Our guys are living in Argentina and making good money relative to our economy. Yes, they can make more money in Europe but at least they have the option to stay at home. There is no revenue share there.

"There are talks of Fiji joining Super Rugby and new competitions in new territories in the Islands. The Fiji CEO invited us to tour there. We are pushing the big nations to travel to the Pacific Islands. We have never pushed so hard. Every meeting it's on the agenda."

(Continued on page 6)



HEALTH SURVEY 2017

The Department of Human and Social Services and the Department of Health are working together to conduct a very important survey in the community.

This entails surveying a selection of adults ages 18 and older from each county. Adults will be selected based upon a random sample of electric meters of households throughout the island.

Representatives in blue will be out to identify electric meters, collect vitals signs and other information that relate to general and mental health.

By taking this survey, you are helping to paint a picture of health for our people.

If you are selected to participate, please help us to address the health needs of American Samoa by consenting to take part in the survey. For more information contact DHSS at 633-1157 or DOH at 633-1602.

Villages to be surveyed: Fagatogo, Utulei, Gataivai, Fagaalu, Malaeimi, Mapusaga, Mesepe.



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10/01/2017 to 10/31/2017

► Pacific briefs...

Continued from page 5

(Source: Samoa Observer)

MEDIA WATCHDOG ADDS VOICE TO TONGA DISPUTE

A regional media watchdog says Tonga’s government needs to stop using so-called losses as an excuse to gag Tonga’s public broadcaster.

The Pacific Freedom Forum (PFF) is among those raising concerns in the wake of the latest management changes at the Tonga Broadcasting Commission (TBC).

News Manager Viola Ulukai and Editor Laumanu Petelo have been moved out of the newsroom and into sales.

The new chairman of the TBC board, Dr Tu’i Uata, told Kaniva News the change had to occur as the commission faced being shut down within two months because it was running at a loss.

PFF Chair Monica Miller said Pacific media colleagues were dismayed at the treatment of two women who had done nothing but be journalists.

“Government needs to stop using so-called losses as an excuse to apply punitive changes aimed at gagging newsroom and management in a leading public broadcaster of the region”, said Miller.

Miller said state broadcasters were not faced with the same pressures as commercial broadcasters and had a key role to inform people about what is happening with their own tax dollars.

She said Tonga should show regional leadership and urged the government to enter into talks with Tonga’s media overseen by independent monitors.

The staff transfer at TBC follows months of complaints from the Prime Minister Akilisi Pohiva over what he claimed was unfair, unethical reporting.

The dispute came to a head in May this year, after a minister declared “void” the automatic renewal of former general manager, Nanis Fifita.

She took the government to court but a judge ruled against her.

“We urge Tonga’s leadership to take their grievances and allegations over breaches of ethics or standards by any journalist, to the national media body or to bring them to our attention where a mediated and objective report can be made possible,” said Miller.

(Source: RNZ)

JUDGE FITI SUNIA TELLS WEAPON CARRYING OFFICER TO LEAVE

KHJ News reported last week that District Court Judge Fiti Sunia ordered an officer who entered his courtroom this morning carrying a weapon to remove himself and his gun.

However, KHJ later noted that “upon further investigation KHJ News learned that the officer walked into the court house with the weapon strapped in his holster when Judge Fiti Sunia was at the courthouse window. That is when the judge said no guns are allowed in his court room and that the officer remove the weapon.”

KHJ News had reported that this is believed to be the first time since police officers were certified in a department of Public Safety weapons training that a policeman has brought a firearm into the court room.

(Source: KHJ News)



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samoa news

Tapunia aloaia galuega a le Fono Faitulafono mo lenei tausaga

tusia Ausage Fausia

O le aso Faraile o le vaiaso na te'a nei na tapunia aloaia ai galuega a le Fono Faitulafono mo lenei tausaga, i le mae'a ai lea o aso fono e 90 e pei ona fa'atulaga mai e le Fa'avae, tusa lea e ta'i 45 aso i le tauaofiaga e tasi.

O le galuega mulimuli lava na galulue i ai afioga i Senatoa ma Faipule, o le pasiaina lea o le Paketi Faaopoopo a le faigamalo e \$11,013,000 e pei ona fuafua le faigmalo e fa'atupe ai isi vaega o le paketi o le tausaga tupe fou lenei 2018.

Na palota fulisia le maota maualuga e pasia ai le pili o le paketi faaopoopo a le maota o sui. E fa'apena fo'i i le maota o sui, o le palota fulisia fo'i na latou pasia ai le latou pili o le paketi faaopoopo a le kovana fa'atasi ai ma suiga, ma ua tuuina atu nei lenei tulafono mo se finagalo o le afioga i le ali'i kovana.

Ae pei ona manino i le agaga o le tulafono o le peketi faaopoopo, o lenei tulafono o lo'o fa'amoeoe e fa'atupe mai i pili tupe sa tuuina atu e le faigamalo i le Fono Faitulafono e pasia. Ae le o pili tupe uma na tuuina atu i le Fono lea ua pasia. O se tasi o tulafono e le i faia i ai se finagalo o maota e lua, o le pili e faaoo ai le lafoga i oloa e 7%.

I le tapunia ai o galuega a le maota maualuga, na fa'afetaia ai e le afioga i le alii Peresetene o le maota, afioga Gaoteote Tofau Palaie afioga i Senatoa e tusa ai o le galuega sa latou fita i tuga i ai i lenei tausaga atoa.

"E le faigofie la outou faiva, ae sa outou galulue punoua'i ona o le manatu ia i ai so outou sao mo le atina'e o le malo ma le atunu'u. O outou o Tama ma Tina e tua i ai le faigamalo ma le atunu'u," o le saunoaga lea a Gaoteote i afioga i Senatoa.

Sa ia faamalulu fo'i ona o tulaga i le fa'atinoina o galuega, peita'i i lona talitonuga, e mafua ona eseese lagona i le tele o taimi e saili ai le tofa, ona o le naunau lava ina ia manuia le atunu'u ma le faigamalo.

O le afioga i le ali'i senatoa ia Tuiagamoia Tavai na fai ma sui o afioga i Senatoa e fa'afetaia ai Gaoteote e tusa ai o le ta'ita'iina o le maota. Saunoa Tuiagamoia e fa'apea, e ui i le to'atele o afioga i Senatoa ua sinasina o latou lauao, ae vaaia lava lo latou fa'aaloalo i le ta'ita'i o le maota, ona o le tofa fa'a tagata matua sa ia fa'atautaia ai le galuega.

I le maota o sui, na fa'afetaia ai e le afioga i le Fofoga Fetalaia Savali Talavou Ale afioga i Faipule e tusa ai o le galuega sa alo atu i ai komiti eseese, i le sailiina lea o se 'ai mo le manuia o le atunu'u, aemaise lava i pili tupe sa tuuina atu e le faigamalo latou te galulue i ai.

Saunoa Savali e fa'apea, e ui lava i le faigata i le filifiliga, ae sa vaaia lava le naunau o

afioga i Faipule e fai le mea sili e fesoasoani ai i le malo. Sa ia fa'afetaia le maota atoa e tusa ai o le galuega ua mae'a.

Na fa'afetaia e le afioga i le taitaifono o le Komiti o le Paketi a le maota o sui, afioga Vailiuta S. Leasiolagi afioga i Faipule ona o le galuega sa alo atu i ai le Komiti mo le tele o vaiaso. Saunoa Vailiutama e fa'apea, e ui lava i le faigata o le tulaga sa i ai le galuega, ae ua molimauina lava le galulue fa'atasi o le maota.

O le aso Lua o le vaiaso nei i le itula e 8:00 i le taeao, ua fa'atulaga e faia ai le iloiloga a le maota o sui ma le Fa'atonusili o Aoga a le malo, atoa ai ma sui o le Komiti o le Sikolasipi a le malo, ona o le mataupu e fa'atatau i fa'aletonu o lo'o a'afia ai ni isi o fanau aoga i fafo, i le tuai lea ona maua a latou siaki mai le malo.



O ai a le fia maua lenei fa'amanuiaga. O le tataga lea o le palolo i Malie i Samoa. Fa'ailoa mai e le o lo'o fa'afulisaina lenei tele o le palolo i Samoa lea na ta i le faaiuga o le vaiaso.

[ata: foa'i]

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	10am-3pm	Litani's Building
	10am-3pm	Kiosk
10.17	10am-3pm	Laufou Hallway
	10am-3pm	Litani's Building
	10am-3pm	Kiosk
10.18	10am-3pm	Laufou Hallway
	10am-3pm	Litani's Building
	10am-3pm	Kiosk
10.19	10am-3pm	Laufou Hallway
	10am-3pm	Kiosk
10.20	10am-3pm	Laufou Hallway
	10am-3pm	Litani's Building
	10am-3pm	Kiosk
10.21	9am-1pm	Laufou Hallway
	9am-1pm	Kiosk

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Public Notice Announcing the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

American Samoa Telecommunications Authority: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (AST-CA) of Pago Pago, American Samoa. The proposal is for the installation and operation of a 402-kilo-meter (250-mile) long submarine fiber optic branch cable and associated infrastructure to provide improved and more affordable broadband services to American Samoa. The “branch cable” would connect American Samoa to the Hawaiiki Submarine Cable System “trunk” cable spanning approximately 14,988 kilometers (9,313 miles) from Pacific City, Oregon, USA to Coogee, Australia. The American Samoa Branch Cable consists of optical fibers and an electrical conductor designed to transmit voice and data communications at approximately 1.06 terabits/second. All impacts to land, water and cultural resources or to ambient noise levels or existing air quality from the project are expected to be less than significant with implementation of identified mitigation measures and best management practices (BMPs). ASTCA will submit an application to RUS for funding of the proposed project under the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Polacek, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1510, Rm 5135, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-1510, 202-205-9805, Steve.Polacek@wdc.usda.gov.

Ted Leiato, Submarine Cable Project Manager, American Samoa Telecommunications Authority, P.O. Box M, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799, 684-699-1121, ted.leiato@astca.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: ASTCA proposes laying the American Samoa Branch Cable from Branch Unit 1 on the Hawaiiki trunk cable, through the independent Samoa Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) passing between the islands of Samoa and American Samoa, into the American Samoa EEZ where it will make landfall at Fogagogo located on the southeast coast of the Island of Tutuila. Approximately 105 kilometers (65 miles) of the branch cable is proposed to be located in the American Samoa territorial waters and EEZ, with the remaining 297 kilometers (185 miles) in the Samoan EEZ. The cable will be laid using a specialized cable-laying vessel along a predetermined engineered route. The majority of the cable would occur in water depths between approximately 1,000 to 4,000 meters (3,300 to 13,000 feet). As the cable approaches the shoreline of Tutuila at Fogagogo, it will traverse a shallow reef surf-zone and land on a rocky shoreline near an existing telecommunications conduit currently used to house an existing fiber optic cable. The American Samoa Branch Cable would be installed into a new 102-millimeter (4-inch) steel conduit laid in a trench pipe in volcanic rock parallel to the existing fiber optic steel. The trench would run from the shoreline to an existing beach manhole ([BMH] a concrete chamber situated below ground and above high water) over a distance of approximately 49 m (160 ft). From the BMH, the branch cable would be installed in an existing underground conduit terminating at the existing Iliili Operations Center located on land leased by ASTCA on the Iliili Golf Course. The Center would house the submarine line terminal equipment and the branch cable monitoring system.

The cable laying ship would operate for approximately 5 days. Cable installation is currently scheduled to commence in early 2018, with the project scheduled to start delivering broadband services to American Samoa by the end of June 2018.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Honolulu District has assumed the role of lead federal agency for the proposed project as the project requires a permit from USACE pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 401 et seq.). USACE will initiate consultation with NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office pursuant to Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as amended ((16 United States Code [USC] § 1536 [c])), and the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) provision of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act (MSA) (16 USC §1855 (b) (2)). A Biological Assessment and EFH Assessment have been prepared to address potential project impacts to federally listed ESA species and EFH. Inclusive in these document are recommended best management practices, as recommended by NOAA Fisheries to mitigate impacts to ESA protected species and EFH. The outcome of the ESA consultation is expected to be a no effect determination, and the outcome of the EFH consultation is expected to be a no to minimal adverse effect to EFH determination. The USACE will also initiate consultation with the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 USC § 306108) and USACE Procedures for the Protection of Historic Properties (33 CFR 325 Appendix C) to determine if the project has the potential to cause effects to historic properties. Based on desktop analyses in both the onshore and offshore environments, no cultural or historic resources were found. USACE consultations with NOAA Fisheries and ASHPO are intended to be comprehensive and satisfy the Section 7, EFH and Section 106 consultation obligations for both USACE and RUS.

The Draft EA, prepared by ASTCA’s environmental consultant, Tetra Tech, Inc., provides a description of the project, the need for the project, alternatives to the project, an analysis of the affected environment and potential effects to the natural and human environments, mitigation measures, and supporting materials. In accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, this notice also serves to inform the public of proposed construction within the floodplain and request comments concerning the proposal, alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts. The EA also describes the public involvement process, including governments, organizations, and agencies consulted during the preparation of the EA. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the EA and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

A hardcopy of the EA will be available at ASTCA’s Aleki Sene Sr. Telecommunications Center, P.O. Box M, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799 and electronic copies of the EA are available upon request. Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided (email preferred). RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below. Dated: Monday, October 16, 2017



tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

ALO O AMERIKA SAMOA I MUSIKA FA’AAOGA ATA TIFAGA

O le tama’ita’i o Audrey English, o le alo o Ane Ah Foon ma le ali’i Pailate o John English, ua o’o nei ana taumafaiga i le musika e fa’aaogaina ana pese i ata tifaga, ma ua tele fo’i ona CD pese ua mae’a tapu’eina ma fa’atau i maketi i fafo ae maise i le teritori.

O ia o le ulumatua o le fanau a Ane Ah Foon, sa tusitala i le Samoa News, ma fa’aipoipo ia John English i le vaitausaga 1990.

Na soifua a’e o ia ma sa masi’i lona aiga ona o galuega a le tama, ma e tele fo’i se vaitau o lona soifua talavou sa ola a’e ai i Guam, lea sa fa’amautu ai lona aiga aua sa Pailate si ona tama i le Kamupani Va’alele a le Continental Airlines.

Na soifua fo’i i latou i sina vaitau i Hawaii ona o galuega lava a John English.

O lana pese muamua sa pu’ea e Audrey i lona potu moe ma na fa’aigoaina o le “Autumn” ma ua fa’aaogaina nei e le Kamupani Televisi a le Dubai One i le latou polokalama o le “Fortitude 1” ma ua fa’asalalauina fa’ala’uaitale fo’i i le Iunaite Setete pe afai e te su’ea i le YouTube.

O le taimi nei, ua fa’afeso’ota’ia o ia e le “American Idol” ma le “The Voice” peita’i, o lo’o pisi Audrey e talanoa ma le tele o le au faipisinisi Pese. E le’i faia e Audrey sana fa’ai’uga, pe mata e tauva i nei so’otaga ua o’o atu.

I le taimi nei o lo’o tusia ma pu’e pese a Audrey mo nisi o Fapisinisi Pese i New York ma Los Angeles, ua i ai fo’i ma isi ana pese ua tapena mo ana feso’ota’iga ma nisi iloga i le Musika ma Pese mai Lonetona ma Paris, Falani.

Ua fa’ailoa mai e le tina, Ane, “Ou te mautinoa na tu’uina fa’apitoe a le Atua lea taleni pese mo Audrey, ua ia tatalaina fo’i faitoto’a mo ia i avanoa ua ia filifilia e na te gafatia ona fa’atautaia ma ola ai. O le fa’afetai lena e si’itia pea i le Atua, mo lana foa’i taua i le afafine.” Ua le gata i Audrey le fa’atonu a le tina Samoa i lana fanau teine e to’atolu: “Ia outou manatua le fa’amuamua e ave i le Atua, aua e le mafai ona e aga’i i luma ma maua ou mana’oga ma taleni pe afai e te le toe fa’afo’i le fa’afetai i le Atua i mea uma. O le olaga lena sa ola a’e ai lo outou tina, ma e fa’aauu pea se’ia o’o ina outou matutua ma fai fo’i tou aiga.”

E le gata i lea, sa fa’atepa pea e Ane nai ona alo tama’ita’i i le olaga sa ola a’e ai, na’o le kitara e ta e si ona tama faifa’ato’aga i Leulumoegauta, e nonofo uma ai, e leai se eletise ma se paipa

o le suavai e o’o i ai, ae fa’atali le timu i kalona ma tane vai. O le kitara lea e ta e lona tama o Sonny Ah Foon ae pepese uma i ai i latou ma si o latou tina Rona Apulu Ah Foon.

“O pese e le mafai ona galo, Le Manutagi e,...Manu o le vaveao, o na pese e le taitai ona galo upu, ae o le fiafia latou e usu. Fa’afetai i le Atua ona o le fa’asoa o lenei taleni i le fanau. O taimi fo’i na o’o atu ai tamaiti e asiasi i nai o’u matua, ua te’i si toeaina i le fesili i ai o teneiti e fia fa’alogo i Le Manutagi e.”

“O lenei teine pese o Audrey, e fiafia tele i le Palusami ma le talo, ae maise le Koko Samoa ma ua matua maua lelei fo’i e ia le fati ma upu o le “Le Manutagi e.” O sana tala mai, “O le pese lea, ua ou taumafai ia maua lelei, ina ne’i galo ia te a’u, le olaga sa soifua a’e ai si ou tina, ma ou te fiafia tele e fa’ailoa o a’u o le teine Samoa moni lava!”

O lea pese, ua mafai ona ia fa’alauiloaina, “O se pese aualofa ma e fa’ailoa atu ai lo’u agaga alofa tele i o’u matua matutua o Rona ma Sonny Ah Foon o Samoa ma Tafuna. “Po’o fea lava matou te aumau ai ona o le galuega a le tama o le aiga, ae o matou agaga uma lava e o’o ia John, o Samoa lava.”

Ua alaala nei i latou i Las Vegas Nevada ma o lo’o fa’aauau fo’i a’oga a le tama’ita’i pese. O taimi uma lava e malaga ai Audrey ina ia fetala’i ma tauamfai ana konekarate mo ana pese, e malaga fo’i lona tina e ai aiuli i si ana tama.

TAUSIMA’I O LE KUATA - GRACE HOME CARE

O le Tama’ita’i Tausima’i o le Grace Home Care ua ia mauaina le fa’ailoga fa’apitoe e taualoga ai lana auunaga i lenei kuata Iulai - Setema 2017, ua maua lea e Alamoana Maeva.

O ia o se tama’ita’i galue malosi, e le fa’atemeteme pe fa’atamala i ona tiute tau’ave i le tausiga o gasegase ua vala’auina o ia e tausia lelei. Ua matauina lona mata’alia i ona tiute fa’atino ma isi galuega fa’amaumau mo le tausiga sa’o ma le lelei atoatoa o gasegase ua atofa o ia e tausia.

O lenei fa’aea a le Grace Home Care e fili fa’apitoe i ai tama’ita’i ma ali’i tausima’i uma ua mae’a a’otauina e i latou mo nei faiva.

O Alamoana na soifua a’e i Safotu, Savaii ma ua fa’aipoipo atu i le ali’i o Jay Leonard Maeva ma e to’afa o la’ua alo.

“O le isi vaega tele o le galuega e ao ina lava le a’oa’oga, ia malamalama toto’a i le fa’atinoga o tiute ma ia faia galuega uma ma le fiafia, o se vaifofo sili fo’i lea e te avatua i le gasegase, ia fiafia tusa lava po’o a tiga o feagai ma i latou,” o se fa’amatalaga atoatoa lea a Alamoana Maeva.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB-006-2018

Issuance Date: October 10, 2017

Closing Date: October 24, 2017
No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide “Food, Beverages and Supplies for the American Samoa Department of Education (AS-DOE) - School Lunch Program”.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), October 24, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE MEETING

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting for all contractors will be held on October 17, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement - Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the pre-bid meeting.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Scope of Work can be examined or obtained from the Office of Procurement during regular business hours free of charge.

5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.

6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



Le tama'ita'i ua ia umia nei le fa'aailoga o le avea ma Tausima'i o le Kuata Iulai, Aukuso ma Setema 2017 a le Grace Home Care i Tafuna. Malo le faigaluega fa'amaoni i tiute uma.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

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The “red wave” took place Friday, October 6th, from 3 to 4 p.m. in front of the American Samoa Community College. (Courtesy Photos)



Audrey English i lana ulua'i taumafaiga e fa'aalia lana taleni pese e ala i le pu'eina o ana CD pese mo fa'asalalauga. O le taimi fo'i lea ua ia tapu'ea ai lana ulua'i kaseti pese lea ua fa'aaogaina nei e le ata tifaga “Fortitude 1” le Autumn. [ata: foa'i]

Onosa'i I Mea Tiga

Tusia: Akenese Ilalio Zec
VAEGA: 137

Alo maia, o le a toe fa'aauau atu la tatou tala i lenei aso. Se i o tatou asia le Faletua ia Onosa'iimeatiga ma le Fa'afeagaiga ia Peniamina po'o a fo'i mea o tutupu ae po'o fa'apefea mai le galuega a le Atua o lo'o galulue ai.

Fai mai le tala, o le aulotu a Peni ma Tiga, o se aulotu ua matua'i mata'utia ona tagata, na gata lava i le amataga o le galuega foliga lelei ma foliga tusa'afia o tagata, ae ina ua fa'aumiumi le galuega, o lea ua va'aia ai nei e Peni ma Tiga uiga o tagata.

O le tele o aso, e uma ane le aso, pe to'a valu to'a sefulu tagata ua o'o ane i le maota o le Fa'afeagaiga, o le mea ua tupu, o le o'o ane o tagata o le aulotu, ua le iloga le tala e fai ane i le Faifeau ma lona Faletua. E i ai i si Aso Sa, fai mai, e uma le lotu ma le tapua'iga, ae va'ai atu le Fa'afeagaiga ma lona Faletua, o tau vaovao mai misa'aga i fafo o le Falesa.

Fai mai, fa'atoa fa'alogo lea o Onosa'iimeatiga i tala e lafo i lea taimi, o tala leaga uma o le lalolagi nei, o lo'o fai ai tauga

upu i luma o le Falesa, a'o lea fa'atoa tu'ua le lotu. Ua fa'alua ona faia ia tulaga, fa'atolu loa, e le i toe fa'atali ai le Fa'afeagaiga na tu mai loa i luma o le pulela'a ma fa'atonutonu mai ai loa lana aulotu.

“Le paia ma le mamalu o le Ekalesia, ua lagona lava lo'u fa'anoanoa tele, e le gata ia te a'u, ae ua fa'apea fo'i le Fal-etua, ona o le fai so'o o uiga mataga ma uiga le a'oa'ia, o le a le aoga o le tou o mai i le lotu i Aso Sa uma, sa sili ai ona nonofo i le fale,

“O le a le manatu o outou i isi Ekalesia, na o le o mai ma talie mai, fa'atoa ou va'ai lea i se aulotu ua fa'apenei uiga o tagata, afai, o le faiga lea, o le a ave la'u tusi i le Puleaga, ia 'aue ne i toe au maia se Faifeau i le tou nu'u, pe afai o le faiga lea o outou,

“O outou tina, ua sili atu ona faigata outou, tu'u lalo o le isu, e le o se mea lelei, tu'u fai fua e le isi tina o tala a le isi tina e le o se mea lelei, o lea lava ou te pese atu pea i luga o le pulela'a ia outou nonofo fealofani ma maua le loto gatasi ia te outou tina, a'o lea, e tau solomua ia te outou le fa'aleaga o le galuega,

“O tina, ua outou mala-malama i le tala, a leai se Atua, a'o lena o lo'o i ai le tina, aua o tina, o pae ma le auli i totonu o aiga, nu'u ma Ekalesia, a'o tina ia e maua i le aulotu lenei, se le o ni tina atoatoa, ua na o fasi tina, mea ia ou te va'ai atu i ai, ua leai se tofa po'o se fa'auta ia te outou, afai e fa'apea outou, e fa'apea fo'i tulaga e o'o i ai tama o le aulotu lenei.”

Fai mai, ua leai se mea e toe ga se i lea taimi, ae ua le tao-fiofia lava le Fa'afeagaiga i lea taimi, o tiga ma mafatiaga sa nonofo ma la'ua ma talatalanoa ai, o lea ua folasia nei i malae e ala i apoapoa'iga ma timaiga ua tu'u atu nei i le itupa vaivai.

O le taimi lea, ua na o le punou o Onosa'iimeatiga ma fogifogi lona isu, ua a'apa ane nei i ai si ana tama, lea o lo'o la nonofo fa'atasi. Ae ua na o le maligi ifo o loimata o le Faletua i lea taimi. A alu alu le tagi a le Faletua, fa'apea ifo ona mafau-fauga, “Se ua ta fia pa'i atu lava i se lo'omatua, na o le numinumi lava ma momono i lalo o se ma'a, ua ta le lava onosa'i nei faiga e fai mai.”

E faia pea...

Passengers describe terror aboard Indonesia AirAsia flight

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Passengers on an Indonesia AirAsia flight from Australia to the holiday island of Bali described a panicked flight crew announcing an emergency and oxygen masks dropping from the ceiling after their airliner lost cabin air pressure and rapidly descended.

Flight QZ535 returned safely on Sunday to the airport at Perth city where many of the 145 passengers spoke to media about the fear and confusion on board.

“The panic was escalated because of the behavior of staff who were screaming, looked tearful and shocked,” passenger Clare Askew told reporters.

“Now, I get it, but we looked to them for reassurance and we didn’t get any, we were more worried because of how panicked they were,” Askew added.

The budget Indonesian airline said in a statement the pilot turned back “following a technical issue to ensure the safety of passengers.”

“We commend our pilots for landing the aircraft safely and complying with standard operating procedure,” AirAsia Group head of safety Captain Ling Liong Tien said.

“We are fully committed to the safety of our guests and crew and we will continue to ensure that we adhere to the highest safety standards,” he added.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau, an accident investigator, said it was investigating the airliner’s depressurization at 34,000 feet (10,363 meters).

The plane rapidly descended to around 10,000 feet (3,048 meters), an altitude to which cabins are pressurized and at which oxygen masks are no longer needed.

Data from FlightRadar, a website which tracks flights globally using GPS, shows the plane descended 23,800 feet (7,250 meters) in the space of nine minutes.

Perth Airport said in a statement that emergency services were on hand when the plane landed 78 minutes after it took off.

A passenger named Leah told Nine Network television: “I actually picked up my phone and sent a text message to my family, just hoping that they would get it.”

“We were all pretty much saying goodbye to each other. It was really upsetting,” she added.

Passenger Mark Bailey told Seven Network television: “Hostesses started screaming: ‘Emergency, emergency.’ They just went hysterical.”

“There was no real panic before that, then everyone panicked,” Bailey added.

Passenger Norman Pearce told Seven the flight crew said: “Emergency. Crash positions and that was it. Nothing for about five minutes and then the oxygen fell down.”

Peter Gibson, spokesman for Civil Aviation Safety Authority, the Australian industry regulator, said the airline had been asked for information on what occurred on board.

“Our job as the regulator is to gather information on these sorts of events and review that to see whether we’re satisfied

that everything was managed properly and determine whether we should dig any deeper,” Gibson said.

A Malaysia-based AirAsia X flight from Perth to Kuala Lumpur turned back in June after one of the Airbus 330’s engines failed. An aircrew member was criticized for suggesting that passengers pray.

In December 2014, an AirAsia flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the Java Sea, killing all 162 passengers and crew on board.

Indonesia AirAsia said passengers on the Sunday’s aborted flight had been transferred to the next available flight and “provided with all necessary assistance.”

“The safety of passengers and crew is our priority,” the airline said. “AirAsia apologizes to passengers for any inconvenience caused.”

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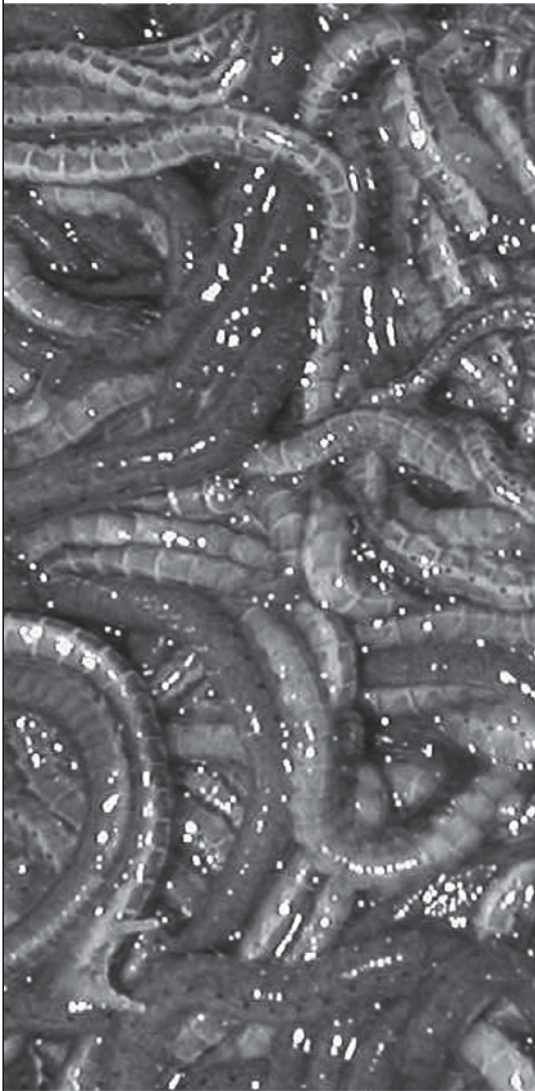
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LOCAL COMMUNITIES LOOKING FORWARD TO PALOLO RISING THIS MONTH



October and November is the period of the annual rising/swarming of the *palolo* worm. As usual, local communities are expecting a harvest and an event for celebration. During the rising, many residents make their way to the reef early in the morning to await the spawning of *palolo* worms. Although it may vary, *palolo* rising usually occurs around the third-quarter moon in October and/or November or seven days after the full moon. This would put the *palolo* rising around Oct. 12 and Nov. 11.

The *palolo* worm is considered a seafood delicacy in the Samoan culture, and during the rising people come together to harvest and feast. During this period, the worms usually back up from their burrows and release their reproductive segments or ‘epitoke’ that contain their gametes into the water column. The epitoke is what actually is referred to as *palolo*. The epitoke upon release from the worms twirls upward to the water surface like a dancing noodle. It ‘swims’ upwards as it is attracted to light through its own sensor. As it rises to the water surface, it is collected in buckets and baskets using hand nets by the local communities. Blue-green epitoke indicates female and brown epitoke signifies male. As day breaks, the epitoke disintegrates and it releases the male and the female gametes. It is advised that people go out to the reef two to three nights before peak harvest dates (Oct. 12th and Nov. 11th) to check for early signs of *palolo* spawning.

The *palolo* rising is a classic example of synchronous (same time) mass spawning of a marine organism. The timing of the rising/swarming varies and suggests that other factors are involved than the lunar cycle. Other factors that may play a role in spawning include sea water temperature, tides, and wind. It is not known whether the quality or integrity of the coral reef habitat affects *palolo* rising. During the *palolo* rising, assigned staff of the Department of Marine and Wildlife will be conducting surveys and interviews on weight of catch per person to track annual trends in the amount of *palolo* released.

We kindly ask the public to please call Maria Vaofanua (mariavaofanua@hotmail.com) at 633-4465 ext. 241 to report any sightings of *palolo*.

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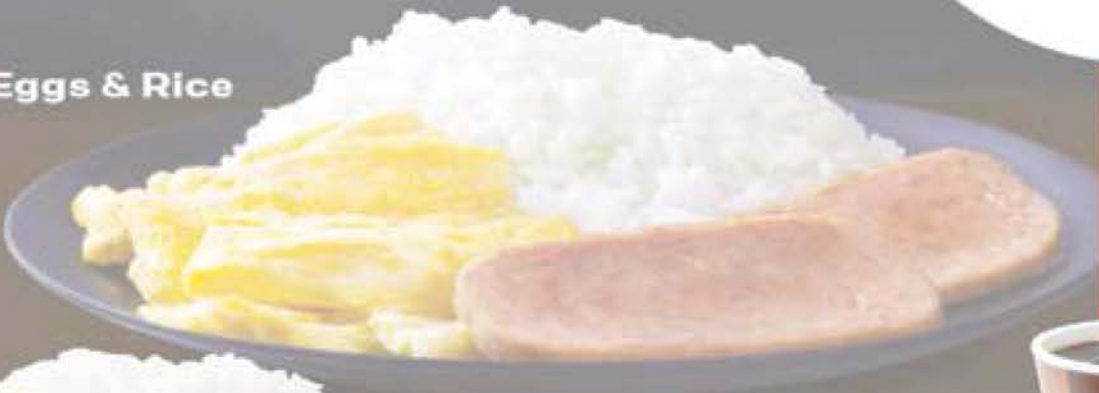
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