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There will be a ASHSAA football post season playoffs and ... B1

American Samoa's Scheyenne Sanitoa, a Samoana High School graduate, joins his University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors teammates in a pre-game Haka. San Diego State University defeated the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors 28-7, at Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, Hawaii in a Mountain West Conference football game.

Locally, the Samoana High School football team won all its games in Week #8 of ASHSAA football, against the Tafuna Warriors, which opens the door to a playoff season and final championship game.

[photo: Barry Markowitz, 10/28/17, 6:10pm]



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MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017

\$1.00

Governor says he will veto some of the rev measures passed by Fono

DOES NOT SAY WHICH ONES EXACTLY...

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga informed his cabinet during a meeting last week that he's going to veto some of the revenue measures that were passed by the Fono, because he feels a lot of changes need to be made before they are resubmitted to the Fono next year.

The relationship between the Fono and the administration, and the way cost containment measures were handled by senators and faipule, were some of the many issues discussed during the cabinet meeting held at the Department of Agriculture conference room last Friday morning.

Lolo informed cabinet members that they have already met with Fono leaders regarding the revenue measures that were passed by the Fono, as well as those that didn't make it through when the 2nd Regular Session of the 35th Legislature closed earlier this month.

Lolo said that following a meeting with Fono leaders, it appears the Legislature had a difference of opinion and because of that, some measures passed while others were tabled in committee.

He went further to say that the Task Force and the administration failed to do their part when they submitted several revenue measures, which resulted in the Fono having a hard time reviewing them and making a decision.

Lolo said there was strong belief that the Fono would act on the proposed 7% sales tax but "that was not the case."

"Senators and faipule have a different view of what they feel is good for our government," Lolo said.

He told the cabinet not to

blame the Fono and revealed that there are revenue measures he's going to veto, and they will be amended and resubmitted to the Fono in January 2018 when the Fono reconvenes. (It is unclear which revenue measures Lolo is referring to).

He indicated that he intends to sign only one revenue measure into law, while the rest will be vetoed and sent back to the Fono.

Samoa News points out that the revenue measures the Fono has already passed include the bill to increase port fees and charges, and the bill that establishes the 1% alternative minimum business tax (AMBT).

Lolo said they will work together with the Revenue Task Force on all the revenue measures that he's going to veto, to ensure the amendments will make it easier for the Fono to review.

"As you all know, the first four months of this Fiscal Year's first quarter is not an easy time for our government. We can see that we're still facing financial hardships in every corner of our government and also the business sector. But we have to work hard and work together with the Fono and also the feds, to make sure our government still moves forward, and to avoid any difficulties in the future," Lolo said, adding that he's already requesting the Department of Interior to advance American Samoa's allocation for the first quarter of this fiscal year, to make it easier for the government to fulfill its obligations to the people and the community.

"We all know that StarKist Samoa is now closed for five weeks, and we are going to experience some problems

(Continued on page 8)



Non-profit organization, God Restores and Saves Precious People (GRASPP) donated along with Panamex and Anchor Milk, last Thursday, items and food to employees of Talofa Systems American Samoa Inc., the Satala can plant whose workers are affected by the 5-week StarKist Samoa shut-down. CEO and founder Flo Pereira (left) is pictured here with a Talofa Systems employee who expressed appreciation to the nonprofit organization for the generous donation.

[photo: courtesy]



Joseph and Leuila Ioane, the creative minds behind Exclusive by Off Da Rock, represented American Samoa well at the 2017 Pacific International Runway Fashion Show in Sydney, Australia on Oct. 21st. In its sixth year, the PIR is Australia's largest Pacific Fashion Show, where designers from New Zealand, Australia, and other Pacific nations come out to showcase their latest designs.

[photo: courtesy]



Zoning Board Public Notice

Zoning Board public hearing for November 9th, 2017. The notice is hereby given the Zoning Board has received zoning variance applications from the following:

APPLICANT(S)	BUSINESS	LOCATION
Epifania Solofa	Auto Shop	Ilili
Pati & Iokapeta Jennings	Auto Shop & Used car dealer	Malaeimi
Hong Li	Car Wash	Tafuna
Niu -2_You c/o Valo Pulemau	Retail Store	Leone/Puapua
Julia's Heart c/o Julia Shimasaki	Sewing Shop & Restaurant	Nu'uuli
Tamauli Moevao Jr.	Retail Store	Malaeloa

Public comments and request to speak during public hearing must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7th, 2017. Interested individuals are also invited to attend the Zoning Board hearing on November 9th, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in the Department of Commerce conference room located on the second floor of the Executive Office Building in Utulei.

For further information, please contact Aokusotino Mao or Tuulalo Farani at the Department of Commerce, during normal working hours at 633-5155.



5825 Fa'atamali'i Center, Suite 2B
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Office Phone: (684) 699-7923

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FULL TIME PROJECT MANAGER

The Empowering Pacific Island Communities, Inc. (EPIC) is seeking a qualified candidate to serve as a full time Project Manager for the American Samoa Youth Offender Reentry Program. EPIC is offering a two year contract (renewable after one year) for a local non-profit organization awarded to provide free civil legal services, behavioral health and transitional support services for youth offenders reintegrating into our community.

Summary:

The Project Manager is responsible for directing, organizing, and coordinating the daily activities of the federally funded project in accordance with its goals, objectives and timeline. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Project Manager ensures that all milestones are being met in accordance with the Management Plan and is responsible for the preparation of programmatic and financial reports to be submitted to the Executive Director at the end of every quarter and fiscal year.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Conducts client intake and assessment, creates a client profile and works closely with behavioral health services provider(s) to develop and monitor an individualized service plan for all project participants
- Coordinates identified services with health, education, social services, law enforcement, probation officials and other service providers in the community to ensure all participants have access to services and are able to navigate the various service systems
- Maintains and monitors Partnership Agreements with service providers and serves as a liaison with consultants/trainers
- Provides staff support for and coordination of the Multidisciplinary Team and its tasks related to case management, follow up and interagency referrals
- Plans, coordinates and directs all community outreach and education to raise awareness about the project and services available for youth offenders and their families
- Ensures proper tracking, filing, and maintenance of organizational records, both hard copy and electronic
- Administers and coordinates the collection of data, research, analytical studies directly related to the project
- Attends all professional development trainings and/or technical assistance meetings as required

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Excellent management, organizational, communication, project coordination and interpersonal skills including the ability to research and problem solve
- Knowledge and understanding of best practices in case management, care coordination and integrated service planning for at-risk youth and/or youth offender reentry services
- Knowledge of how to ensure all services are culturally responsive to the needs of very low income individuals and families
- Strong technology skills, including use of word-processing, e-mail, database, spreadsheets and power point presentation software
- A high degree of confidentiality, adherence to deadlines and timelines, attention to detail, and flexibility to adapt to change
- Fluent in both English and Samoan
- Inspires, motivates, and guides others toward accomplishing goals. Consistently develops and sustains cooperative working relationships and encourages and facilitates cooperation among partners from the public and private sector

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work or Management or equivalent work experience
- At least three (3) years minimum of supervisory and management capacity or experience

Applications: The deadline for applications is October 30, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. although applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Interested candidates should submit the following via email to epic.samoa@gmail.com in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Hard copy submissions will also be accepted at our office located at the Fa'atamalii Center, Suite 2B (2nd Floor).

Application requirements:

- Cover Letter addressed to: Toetasi Fue Tuiteleleapaga, Executive Director.
- Completed Employment Application (request by email to epic.samoa@gmail.com)
- Resume
- Essay (250 words or less). The essay should describe why you feel you are an ideal candidate for this position and what skills and/or work experience you can provide that will benefit the youth and families we serve.

For more information, please contact our office at 699-7923 or via email at epic.samoa@gmail.com.

EPIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Man who attempted to touch a 12-year-old girl sexually is released

THE 24 MONTHS SPENT IN PRETRIAL CONFINEMENT CREDITED TOWARDS SENTENCE

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

A 42-year-old man who was convicted by the High Court for attempted felonious restraint is ordered to serve 20 months behind bars, as part of a 5-year probation sentence.

Isaia Osa was initially charged with attempted rape, first degree sexual abuse, and attempted felonious restraint — all felonies. However, under a plea agreement with the government, the defendant pled guilty to attempted felonious restraint, and the remaining charges were dismissed.

According to the government, the victim is a 12-year-old girl whose family rents the same apartment where the defendant and his family live. The victim and the defendant's family share the same bathroom and kitchen.

Sometime in the beginning of 2015 when the victim went to the bathroom, the defendant followed her and tried to touch her in a sexual manner. He also attempted to restrain her in an unlawful way, in order for him to have his way.

During sentencing, Osa apologized to the Court for his actions and begged for a second chance to return home to care for his family. He told the Court that he is truly remorseful for what he did, and he assured the judge that he will never break any laws again, adding that if he is given another chance, he will do everything he can to change his life and look for a job, so he can pay restitution.

Defense attorney, Michael White told the Court that he believes his client is truly remorseful and added that everyone is affected by his client's action, not only the victim and her family, but his family as well. He asked the court to sentence Osa to a probated sentence, and use the 24 months he

has already served in pretrial confinement as his sentence in this case.

Prosecutor Christy Dunn agreed with White, saying Osa is a suitable candidate for probation; however, she reminded the court about the seriousness of the defendant's actions.

Dunn said the victim was lucky that nothing more serious happened that day. She reminded the court that Osa must be ordered to stay away from the victim and not try to contact her or her family at any time.

Acting Associate Justice Elvis Patea said that upon review of the recommendations from both attorneys, the statement from the defendant, and also the report from the Probation Office, the court feels that Osa is a suitable candidate for a probated sentence.

Patea told Osa that the court will never take lightly any cases that involve minor children, especially when they are sexually assaulted. He noted that although this was Osa's first conviction in the High Court, he has a criminal record in the District Court, of convictions on misdemeanor charges.

Osa was sentenced to five years in jail; however, execution of sentence was suspended and the defendant is placed on five years probation on the condition that he serves 20 months at the TCF. He was credited for the 24 months he has already served while awaiting sentencing, so he was released last week.

He was ordered to register as a sex offender and submit himself to an HIV test, as required by law. He is not to make any contact with the victim and her family, nor is he to confront her at any time or place.

He is also not to congregate with children under 12 years old.

Philippine leader says someone should talk to Kim Jong Un

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte says someone should talk to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to convince him nobody is out to remove him or destroy his country.

Duterte departed Monday for Japan where he says he will discuss North Korea's nuclear threats with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He said in his remarks Sunday that he would also discuss how to deal with

North Korea when he meets with President Donald Trump in Manila next month.

Duterte says "a nuclear war is totally unacceptable" and "somebody has to talk to Kim Jong Un." He suggested the U.S., Japan, South Korea, and others assure Kim nobody is threatening him and to ask him to stop threatening a nuclear attack. Duterte says China is the best country that can calm down Kim.



Bags and boxes of food items were distributed Thursday to employees of the Satala can plant, Talofa Systems American Samoa Inc., thanks to the generosity of Panamex and nonprofit organization God Restores and Saves Precious People (GRASPP).

[photo courtesy]

Company looking to fill positions in Honolulu with US Nationals

SPECIFICALLY THOSE WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING AT THE LOCAL CANNERIES

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

United Fishing Agency Ltd. is looking at American Samoa’s labor force, especially cannery workers, to recruit for its Honolulu-based operation, as the company is “sympathetic to the plights” of unemployment in the territory following the closure last December of Samoa Tuna Processors Inc.

As word spread last week that the ASG Department of Human Resources is assisting United Fishing Agency with local applicants, many StarKist Samoa workers, who are now without a paycheck for 5 weeks due to the shut-down of the Atu’u cannery plant, also showed interest in such jobs in Honolulu.

When asked about the types of jobs United Fishing Agency is trying to fill, the company’s assistant vice president and action manager, Michael K. Goto said they are primarily looking for workers to fill positions in its vessel Unloading and Receiving sections of operation.

“These would involve the direct handling of fresh fish unloaded from docked longline vessels which is then received directly into our facility to be weighed, temperatured, tagged, and iced prior to sale,” said Goto last Friday from Honolulu.

“For the long term, there is no cap on the number of workers we are willing to hire as trainees in this program,” he said when asked how many workers they are looking to hire from American Samoa. “However, relocation and residential costs may limit our yearly maximum to 4 workers. Once they are situated, we can begin the next cycle of applicants the following year.”

Regarding some of the specific qualifications the company is looking for at this time, Goto explained that the “only prerequisites we require at this time are that any applicants have some experience working in the American Samoa canneries.”

“These former cannery workers, especially those with dockside experience, have many of the qualifications that we are looking for including fish handling and forklift operation.

Additionally, we are only able to hire US nationals at this time,” said Goto who is one of the Hawai’i members of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

He said the company looked at American Samoa’s labor force because of the experience of former cannery workers.

“These are qualifications and intangibles that are very difficult to find locally in Hawa’ii,” he shared. “Additionally, as a fellow seafood business, we are very sympathetic to the plights that are arising from the closure of the Samoa Tuna Processors cannery and the subsequent unemployment to the American Samoan community.”

A Council report in March this year explained that United Fishing Agency had reached out to STP last year to look into the possibility of transitioning workers from STP to the Fish Auction at Pier 38 in Honolulu. United Fishing Agency has been in constant contact with STP providing job descriptions and helping to facilitate potential transfers.

When asked for an update and if the company has hired any former STP workers, Goto said last Friday that they are still in the process of recruitment “but have many applicants from the canneries interested.”

Meanwhile, the Monti, Utah-based publication, Sanpete Messenger, reports that former STP cannery workers are now working at the Norbest turkey processing plant in Moroni, Utah.

The Oct. 6 article noted with the closure of STP last December, Norbest saw an opportunity to hire workers with experience in meat processing. The company started recruiting in the territory and was flooded with applications.

Beginning June 30 this year, about 50 workers started arriving in Sanpete County in groups of 10-12. Norbest paid their travel expenses and located housing for them.

According to the Sanpete Messenger, about 90 residents of American Samoa, ranging in age from 18 to 50, have moved to Sanpete County since July to take jobs at the Norbest plant. (see www.sanpetemessenger.com for details.)



HIGH COURT OF
AMERICAN SAMOA
Post Office Box 309
Pago Pago American Samoa 96799
Phone: (684) 633-4131
Fax: (684) 633-1318

The deadline for filing complaints for the October 24th special election is October 31st. The High Court will remain open from 7:30am through 4:30pm for the purpose of receiving and filing any complaints pertaining to the October 24th special election.

Thank You,

Terry S. Fielding
Clerk of Courts



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Samoa Marketing at 699-5151/699-5152

Letter to the Editor

"PAROLE BOARD MEMBER SAYS THANK YOU..."

Dear Editor,

It is with joy and profound gratitude that I acknowledge former Gov. Togiola Tulafono for appointing me to serve on his Parole Board in 2012 and Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga for allowing me to serve on his until last week.

Be it as it may on my appointment, I believe I have served the interest of the people of American Samoa to the best of my ability.

The experience alone has confirmed the horrendous crimes committed by sadistic sexual and incestuous predators, lawless induced crimes from greed, alcohol and substance abuse, and reckless white collar criminal activities.

We, the Board Members, have witnessed the prevalence and sophisticated methods used to traffic drugs into the country and the increase of domestic violence. Worst of all are the increase of sex offenders who wouldn't have stopped the sexual rape of children until they were caught and prosecuted.

My only concern then, was "will the community be safe when a person is paroled?"

As a parole board member, our reality is eventually the inmate will come out after serving their time.

For the safety of our community, what are we doing about it?

These are my own personal thoughts prompted through my observations from serving on the board.

I recognize a serious enough need for the Dept. Human Social Services to step up to the plate to assist a very serious ongoing issue with the inmates. The need for Rehabilitation efforts.

I also offer a few suggestions with the following:

1 - Need for transitioning programs to help inmates re-enter society

2 - I hear loose talk on family reunification, but I do not believe there is a coordinated attempt by professionals from DHSS, NGOs and faith-based to help families receive hard core criminals.

3 - Need certified and credible counselors for sex offenders. Need ongoing counseling by credentialed and certified counselors or social workers. (Counselors are needed while the inmates are incarcerated, not after they are released)

4 - With public knowledge and testimonies of drug trafficking within TCF, there is a need for monthly or quarterly drug testing.

5 - No inmate or those out on parole, requesting for a PARDON or PAROLE hearing, is to approach the Board unless drug tested within 2-3 wks prior. The inmate may or may not choose to submit to a drug test. But unless drug tested, they forfeit their rights for a hearing.

6 - Overcrowding and lack of funding to perform drug testing is not the Board's problem to resolve. It is the Territory's responsibility to find solutions to secure TCF with this ongoing issue.

7 - This is the only Governor's high risk, unemployed, appointed board that doesn't receive a stipend for their time or safety. I sincerely hope they will be considered in the CJP budget in the future.

The reality of our role as Parole Board members, no matter what we decide or collectively agree upon, the Governor makes the final decisions for Pardon Hearings and, the majority rules on Parole Board decisions.

I have had the rare honor to proudly serve with men of integrity and whose respected service to our country were undisputed, before they were appointed to serve on the Parole Board. They also are deep rooted men of faith.

Chairman Father Vaiula Iulio, retired US Marine Corps HC Tauaifaiva Suiuaunua and retired US Army, HC Uso Lagoo.

We feared God, understood the politics and we didn't defer to it. We served our people. Thank you for your wisdom, support, guidance and leadership.

To our supporting staff Mrs. Divine Faleniko and Mr. Mitchel Veavea, thank you for keeping up with our demands. You have been serving at the cutting edge of a new dimension of your work as officers of the Parole Board.

To be replaced by the current TCF pastor Rev. Faafetai Fui-maono, Rev. Sam Tinae and the spouse of Rev. Elder Saifoloi Mina, is a privilege.

As for me, I serve at Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga's leisure and am proud to have been given the opportunity to serve him with honor, integrity and transparency.

To God be the glory to be of service for American Samoa.

Ipu Avegalio Lefiti

RET. US Army

Victim advocate



Uelese Petaia, actor and performing arts activist gave acting tips to youngsters of the Silipas Playhouse, as it prepares to stage "Twinderella". Petaia can be currently seen in "1000 Ropes" — a Samoan-language drama film from the writer and director of the Orator, Tusi Tamasese. Tickets are on sale for \$10 for Twinderella, set to be performed this week - on Wednesday and Thursday. Children below 10 years are free. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. [Courtesy photo]

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

compiled by Samoa News Staff

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS) APPROVES EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER FOR AMERICAN SAMOA

Utulei, American Samoa – October 29, 2017 – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security USCIS has approved the application for a Regional Center under the Immigrant Investor Program for American Samoa.

The Fairhaven Capital Advisors American Samoa Regional Center Corp., a collaborative effort between Fairhaven Capital of Washington State and ASG Dept. of Commerce, was given the official approval effective October 12, 2017.

"The EB-5 Regional Center is a key funding initiative of Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga's Economic Development Implementation Plan (EDIP) 2014-2017, and its approval by the USCIS is great news for American Samoa," stated Department of Commerce Director Keniseli Lafaele.

"At this moment, the EB-5 program is set to sunset on December 8th unless extended by Congress, so we will still have to wait and see how things develop. However, we are confident that Congress will come together to make the needed improvements to the program, some of which would stand to benefit American Samoa, and extend it well into the foreseeable future."

Congress created the EB-5 Program in 1990 to stimulate the U.S. economy through job creation and capital investment by foreign investors.

In 1992, Congress created the Immigrant Investor Program, also known as the Regional Center Program.

This sets aside EB-5 visas for participants who invest in commercial enterprises associated with regional centers approved by USCIS based on proposals for promoting economic growth.

Entrepreneurs and investors are then eligible to apply for a green card (permanent residence) in the United States if they make the necessary investment in a commercial enterprise in the United States and plan to create or preserve 10 permanent jobs for full-time for qualified U.S. workers.

For more information regarding the EB-5 Program, contact the Department of Commerce at 633-5155.

(Source: Department of Commerce- ASG)

ACTOR UELESE PETAIYA INSPIRES CHILDREN AT SILIPAS PLAYHOUSE

Press Release — October 27, 2017 — Film star and performing arts activist Uelese Petaia has been giving acting tips to young children of Silipas Playhouse as it prepares to stage "Twinderella, The Musical" this week — Nov. 1 & Nov. 2 (Wed. & Thurs.) at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium.

According to Poe Mageo, director of the Dancing Fingers Learning Center at the Tafuna Industrial Park, "Petaia brought new ideas about vocal amplification, facial expression, and tonal balance.

"In addition, the famed Samoan actor shared his passion about stage work and encouraged the young children to become professional actors in the future if they so desired.

"He recommended that the cast should have fun as they communicate with each other as well as the audience," Mageo said.

The concept of a children's theatre was piloted six months ago.

"During the summer, I get a lot of phone calls about private piano lessons, but I couldn't enroll any new student because I don't have any slots available," said Mageo.

Now, the children's theatre is an on-going program at the Center for students who have been on a waiting list for private music lessons. With theatre work, Mageo helps out with the students reading and acting skills.

Modeled after a literature-based concept, Mageo used Twinderella to teach basic elements in literature such as character, tone, personality, dialogue, irony, plot, theme, and conflict. "I shared with my students the concept of the Samoan faagogo, which has almost the same universal elements found in Western fiction."

During the dedication of its new administrative building, the local American Red Cross acknowledged Dancing Fingers as an official Third-Party Donor after a successful "A Night at the Opera" fundraiser where more than 20K was raised to complete the new building.

In the same way, part of the proceeds from Twinderella will go directly to the local American Red Cross disaster fund.

Tickets are on sale for \$10. Children below

(Continued on page 9)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email news.room@samoatelco.com

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American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, American Samoa recognizes that it has a vital role in identifying, protecting, and responding to cyber threats that may have significant impact to our individual and collective security and privacy; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize the vital role that technology plays in our daily lives and in the future of our Territory and Nation, whereby today many citizens, schools, libraries, churches, businesses and other organizations use the Internet for a variety of tasks, including keeping in contact with family and friends, managing personal finances, performing research, enhancing education and conducting business; and,

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure sectors are increasingly reliant on information systems to support financial services, energy, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, health care, distance learning and emergency response systems; and,

WHEREAS, the use of the Internet at the primary and secondary school levels in American Samoa enhances the education of our youth by providing them access to online educational research materials; and at institutions of higher education, the use of information technology is integral to teaching and learning, research, and outreach and service; and,

WHEREAS, Internet users and our information infrastructure face an increasing threat of malicious cyber attack, loss of privacy from spyware and adware and significant financial and personal privacy losses due to identity theft and fraud; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has established the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications and has devoted resources within it solely to support the strengthening and securing of the country's cyber infrastructure at the state, local, tribal, and territorial levels; and,

WHEREAS, the Stop.Think.Connect.™ Campaign (www.stopthinkconnect.org or www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect) is a national effort coordinated by a coalition of private companies nonprofits and government organizations to raise awareness about cyber security among all digital citizens, helping them stay safer and more secure online; and,

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework and DHS's Critical Infrastructure Cyber Community (C3) Voluntary Program have been developed as free resources to help organizations (large and small, both public and private) implement the Cybersecurity Framework and improve their cyber practices through a practical approach to addressing evolving threats and challenges; and,

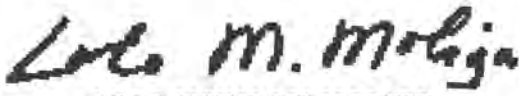
WHEREAS, in support of the Cybersecurity Framework and to better assist business and government entities in addressing cyber threats, the Center for Internet Security/Multi-State ISAC, the Council on CyberSecurity, the Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council, and public and private sector entities have developed an effort to promote good cyber hygiene through actionable guidance for government and businesses, and to promote innovation, strengthen cybersecurity investment and enhance resilience across all sectors; and,

WHEREAS, maintaining the security of cyberspace is a shared responsibility in which each of us has a critical role, and awareness of computer security essentials will improve the security of American Samoa's information infrastructure economy; and,

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (www.dhs.gov/cyber), the CIS/Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac), the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (www.nascio.org), the Council on CyberSecurity (www.counciloncybersecurity.org), the National Cyber Security Alliance (www.staysafeonline.org) and the Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign website (www.stopthinkconnect.org or www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect) have declared October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month; and all Citizens are encouraged to visit these sites, to learn from the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security as it provides outreach to teach about cyber security; and to put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces, churches and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE I, LOLO MATALASI MOLIGA, Governor of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2017, to be the **NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH** in American Samoa.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature and the Seal of my Office on this 11th day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.


LOLO MATALASI MOLIGA
Governor of American Samoa



Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C. looks at pictures of the soldiers killed this century based in Camp Lejeune along a hallway leading to his office on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017, in Washington. As President Trump argued about what he said to the family of a soldier killed in Niger, a North Carolina congressman was quietly doing what he's done more than 11,000 times: signing a condolence letter to that family and others. Republican Rep. Walter Jones began signing the letters to families in 2003 as penance for his 2002 vote supporting war in Iraq. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

‘Penance’: NC congressman writes to families of dead troops

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — On a SUNDAY morning more than two weeks after four U.S. soldiers were ambushed and killed in Niger, Rep. Walter Jones sat at the desk in his North Carolina office, doing what he’s done more than 11,000 times in 14 years: signing letters to families of the dead troops.

“My heart aches as I write this letter for I realize you are suffering a great loss,” the letter begins.

It’s a form letter, but the Republican congressman signs each one personally — penance, he says, for voting yes for the Iraq war in 2002.

“For me, it’s a sacred responsibility that I have to communicate my condolences to a family,” Jones said in a telephone interview. “And it’s very special to me because it goes back to my regretting that I voted to go into the Iraq war.”

While President Donald Trump and his staff feuded publicly this month with a congresswoman and the pregnant widow of a soldier killed Oct. 4 in Niger, Jones was quietly continuing his letter writing.

He gets permission from a military liaison who makes sure that family members want condolences from a congressman they likely never heard of. Then, from a desk drawer in his office in Greenville, he retrieves the same black ink fountain pen that he’s used since he began this ritual years ago. In some cases, he sends letters to multiple relatives of a single soldier.

Jones’ letter-writing began in 2003 after he attended the funeral of Marine Sgt. Michael Bitz, who was killed in March 2003, not long after the Iraq war began.

He sat with Bitz’s widow, Janina, and watched as her young son played with a toy nearby during the service at Camp Lejeune, which is part of Jones’ district.

“And I felt the guilt, but also the pain of voting to send her husband as well as thousands of other military to a war that was unnecessary,” he said. “Obviously, the majority of these families will never know me and vice versa. But I want them to know that my heart aches as their heart aches.”

The Iraq war has been followed by a succession of deadly conflicts with Al Qaida, the Islamic State and their kindred terrorist groups in the Middle East, Asia and now Africa.

On Sunday, Oct. 21, Jones signed letters to the families of Sgt. La David Johnson and three other soldiers killed in a firefight with militants tied to the Islamic State group in Niger. He signed a total of eight letters that day, followed by evening Mass.

Days earlier, Trump became embroiled in a public dispute

with Rep. Frederica Wilson, who had been in the car with Johnson’s widow when Trump called to offer condolences. Wilson called Trump’s comments insensitive and hurtful — assertions seconded by the widow, Myeshia Johnson, and her mother-in-law. Trump blasted back on Twitter.

It came about after Trump had been silent about the four deaths for more than a week.

The president’s best course of action would have been to “just let it go,” Jones said. “After the call he made, it was misunderstood, maybe he could have called back and said, ‘I’m sorry you misunderstood me, but my deepest sympathies with you and your family.’”

Janina Bitz-Vasquez, the widow of the Marine whose funeral triggered Jones’ epiphany, won’t say if she supports Jones’ stance on the war. She said she’s honored that he continues to honor the families of dead service members.

“He may not be able to stop the war because of it,” she said in an interview from Hobart, Tasmania, in Australia, where she lives with her second husband, a retired U.S. Marine, and four children — three by her first husband and one by her second. “But it’s honoring to the spouses. It’s honoring to the children. It’s honoring to the service members.”

More importantly, she said, it “sets a standard for taking personal responsibility and accountability” for other political and military leaders.

Jones, 74, was first elected to the House in 1994. He estimates that 70,000 or so veterans lived in his district in 2002. Most, Jones said, believed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, as President George W. Bush and his administration told the public — a belief that turned out to be unfounded.


Jones still blames himself for his vote, even though he alone couldn’t have altered the 296-133 decision.

“I will never forget my mistake because people died because of my mistake,” he said. “I bought into believing that President Bush didn’t really want to go to war. That’s how naive I was at the time. ... I could have voted no, and I didn’t.”

Each day, Jones walks past a memorial in the hallway outside his office in the Rayburn Building showing the faces of about 580 Marines who were stationed at Camp Lejeune and who died in war. They include Bitz, whose death spurred Jones’ search for penance.

Those who pass by “may not stop, but they’re going to look at those faces,” Jones said. “They might keep walking, but they’re going to see those faces.”





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PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	Operator I	Posting Date	October 30, 2017
Department	Engineering	Deadline	November 10, 2017, 4:00 pm
Division	Environmental Services Division	Starting Rate	\$7.28/hr
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation		
Reports To	Water Distribution Supervisor	Job Grade/Status	D/1/A, Non-Exempt

Major Duties & Responsibilities

his position is an entry level/trainee position within the Water Distribution Operator series. Will assist in the maintenance, repair, and construction work on the potable water treatment and distribution system of the Water Division; will assist in operating maintenance and construction tools and equipment; assist in a variety of maintenance tasks relative to water distribution and treatment. We are looking for a thorough worker that will have good attendance and is resourceful in completing assignments.

Minimum Requirements

Education	1-year vocational certificate or 2-year associate's degree
Experience	Detail-oriented; able to work with data, make decisions, understand mechanics. Previous experience in related work environment. Fluently speaks and writes in English. Basic computer knowledge and word processing skills. Ability to obtain a Water Distribution System Operator Level 1 certification within 12 months of hire.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assists in handling water quality and low pressure complaints. Assist in completing service orders assigned to complaints, or provide necessary information to request further work to another branch of division if solution cannot be completed under his/her scope.Participates in all phases of water supply, treatment, distribution, such as pumps, controls, valves, addition of chemicals, inspection of water surface elevation; determination of loss of head, meter and gauge readings; repairing feed equipment and valves;Assists Level I, Level II, Level III and Level IV operators in guaranteeing the adequate production, treatment and delivery to the water distribution system a potable water in substantial quantities and high quality;Assists with establishing maintenance schedules with routine daily lubrication of equipment;Assists Level I, Level II, Level III and Level IV operators in normal and emergency service situations;Assists in conducting field laboratory tests, and sampling required to assure efficient operation of the water supply and treatment;Learn how to identify service and main leaks; and assist in operating pipe locatorLearn to read and update water distribution maps and as-built plans and blueprints.Assist in repairs, maintenance and installation of water meters and related service lines; read meters; turn services off and on as necessary.Assist in underground service alert locating, marking and notification.Assists other personnel as necessary under the direction of the Chief Operator;Ability to communicate orally with co-workers is important and be able to write and converse fluently in both English and Samoan languages.Demonstrates the ability and willingness to work in a team environment in the course of daily activities.Good manual dexterity for the use of common tools is required. Standing for extended periods is common. Hearing and vision within normal ranges is important.Lifting of up to 50lbs. is required.Enters and works in a confined space;Be available to work after hours and on weekends, holidays, whenever necessary.

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Undated photo of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. A Maltese investigative journalist, who had exposed her island nation, Æs links with the so-called Panama Papers, was killed on Monday when a bomb destroyed her car as she was driving near her home, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said. Daphne Caruana Galizia, 53, had just driven away from her home in Mosta, a town outside Valletta when the blast occurred, sending the vehicle, Æs wreckage spiraling over a wall and into a field.

(The Malta Independent via AP)

Killing of Maltese journalist silences anti-corruption voice

BIDNIJA, Malta (AP) — A few hundred meters from the home of Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, in the field where the flaming wreckage of her car landed after being blown off the road by an assassin’s bomb, a plastic pen is stuck into the ground near a Maltese flag.

A hand-written note among bunches of flowers nearby reads: “What you wrote and what you uncovered cannot be blown away.” Grief and anger are still palpable in this tiny Mediterranean nation, where Caruana Galizia’s website, “Running Commentary,” was essential reading in cafes, corridors of power, boardrooms and newsrooms. “You wouldn’t sleep at night if you hadn’t read Daphne,” said Rachel Attard, news editor at the Malta Independent, which published a twice-weekly column by Caruana Galizia.

Nearly two weeks after the journalist’s brutal death, police have said almost nothing about their investigation or the prospect of identifying suspects. There have been six car bombings in Malta over the past two years, including Caruana Galizia’s. None have been solved.

Caruana Galizia, 53, was educated at Catholic schools before starting work as a journalist in 1987. She cited her parents as her inspiration, saying in one of her posts that they faced challenges “with dignity, correctly and without moral compromise” from 1971-87, when Malta was ruled by the Labor Party and gripped by political turmoil. She set up her blog in 2008 with the same absence of moral compromise. Fed by a network of sources who tipped her off about stories, Caruana Galizia turned into a headline machine that could set the nation’s news agenda on any given day. “She received so many stories from her sources, she was struggling to keep up,” her son Andrew told The Associated Press at the family home.

She targeted both sides of politics with the same sense of moral outrage, accusing the country’s leaders of corruption and undermining its democratic institutions.

Her sons, in a Facebook post after her Oct. 16 death, took up where she left off, calling on Maltese Prime Minister Joseph

Muscat to resign “for watching over the birth of a society dominated by fear, mistrust, crime and corruption.”

Caruana Galizia also followed up on the Maltese content in the Panama Papers offshore accounts leaks in 2016. She alleged earlier this year that documents provided by a whistleblower showed that the wife of Prime Minister Joseph Muscat had an offshore holding in Panama to receive money from Azerbaijan. Muscat and his wife, Michelle, denied that they had companies in Panama.

Meanwhile, opposition leader Adrian Delia sued her over stories linking him to a prostitution racket in London. He dropped the case after her death. Despite her hard-hitting reporting, in private the journalist was gentle and reserved, said a lawyer who defended her in some libel cases.

“In person, she was very timid, docile, she was almost shy. It was the opposite of what one would think if you were to read her blogs, her posts, her articles,” said Roberto Montalto. Her life was not totally dominated by her hard-hitting investigations of corruption. She also edited a glossy, monthly lifestyle magazine called Taste&Flair, which was distributed free of charge with the Malta Independent on Sunday. Caruana Galizia would unwind at her home, driving into the hills, along narrow country lanes lined by trees and dusty cactus plants to a house built from limestone blocks quarried in Malta that stands, shaded by trees, at the end of a long dirt track.

“She created a paradise at home for herself that was an escape from everything she saw in her journalism,” said Matthew, another of her three sons and a member of The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists that won a Pulitzer Prize for its reporting on the Panama Paper revelations. When protesters camped out outside Muscat’s office in the capital, Valletta, in a show of support for the slain journalist and to call for the resignations of the country’s police chief and attorney general, the sons sent them pizza and branches of bay laurel from the garden, calling them symbols of courage and strength.

Army supporters, Buddhist nationalists march in Myanmar city

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — People marched in Myanmar’s largest city on Sunday to support the military, which has come under heavy criticism over violence that has driven hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

More than 2,000 army supporters, including Buddhist nationalists and monks, took part in the march.

“I want to urge you to support the military. Only if the military is strengthened will our sovereignty will be secured,” a senior Buddhist nationalist monk, Zagara, told the crowd.

More than 600,000 Rohingya from northern Rakhine state have fled to Bangladesh since Aug. 25, when Myanmar security forces began a scorched-earth campaign against Rohingya villages. Myanmar’s government has said it was responding to attacks on police

outposts by insurgents, but the United Nations and others have said the response was disproportionate.

The exodus of the Rohingya has become a major humanitarian crisis and sparked international condemnation of Myanmar. Nyunt Yi, a 70-year-old retired military soldier who served in the army for more than 40 years, said Sunday that


“only the army can protect the national security and stop the illegal intruders,” referring to the Rohingya.

Myanmar’s Buddhist majority denies that Rohingya are a separate ethnic group and regards them as having migrated illegally from Bangladesh, although they have lived in Myanmar for generations.



Bangladeshi labors build a tube well in Kutupalong extension Rohingya refugee camp, in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, Sunday, Oct. 29 2017. More than 600,000 Rohingya from and others have said the response was disproportionate.

(AP Photo/Bernat Armangué)



AMERICAN SAMOA
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PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	ICT Supervisor	Posting Date	October 30, 2017
Department	ICT	Deadline	November 10, 2017, 4:00 pm
Division	Support Services	Starting Rate	\$24.17/hr - \$29.49/hr
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation		
Reports To	ICT Manager	Job Grade/Status	M/3/C – M/8/C, Exempt

Major Duties & Responsibilities

The primary objective of the position is to ensure proper functioning of the organization’s information systems and make upgrades as necessary. Helps assists and trains all divisions/departments on how to utilize the organization’s information systems to improve their efficiency. ICT Supervisor is responsible for maintaining all computer equipment, hardware, and software updated to meet organizational needs. ICT Supervisor is to follow appropriate programming procedures and guidelines for system support. Incumbent supervises all employees of the Information Communication Technology department in accordance with organizational policies and goals. This position directly reports to the ICT Manager.

Minimum Requirements

Education	Bachelor’s degree in MIS, Computer Science, Information System Management or related field. Master’s degree in MIS, Computer Science, Information System Management or related field preferred.
Experience	1. Five (5) years of related experience in information technology AND 2. Two (2) years’ experience working in a managerial/supervisory role
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supervises staff performing information technology tasks, and directing teams and projects to successfully meet information technology goals and initiatives of the organization.Selects, trains, mentors/guides, and evaluates information technology staff; provides recommendations for disciplinary actions and/or grievance resolutions; and oversees time management.Exercises considerable independence, judgment, and initiative in supervising activities within assigned area(s) and the performance of other duties assigned; receives general administrative direction.Provide weekly reports based on activities of projects, problems and functions of ICT staff.Evaluating and verifying employee performances through performance evaluation techniques.Researches information technology trends and operational best practices; monitors the progress and attainment of initiatives and goals, and effectiveness of organizational services.Provides organizational oversight and strategic guidance in determining business system requirements, and protecting and defending information/assets.Prioritizes and assigns projects and maintenance/enhancements relating to applications, current database and configuration, hardware/software upgrades and technical support for internal/external systems, communication/network systems, servers and associated storage devices, and design/functionality of web environments.Provides organizational oversight in the preparation of project assessment quotation/bid specifications; reviews vendor proposals.Implement improvements and processes for the whole organization.Provides training and awareness to all divisions/departments on system updates and maximum use of software.Performs other related work as assigned.

Qualified applicants: Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA (address listed above) by the deadline listed above. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on employment drug test. ASPA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary.

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Gov. Lolo M. Moliga, with Lt. Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga, addressing the cabinet during a meeting last week. The governor says he is going to veto some of the revenue measures that were passed by the Fono. See story for details.

[photo: AF]

► Governor says...

Continued from page 1

because of the cannery shut-down. I guarantee all of you that nothing is going to change in the way our government is run. We already laid down our plan for this year, the way that we're going to collect more revenue, and how are we going to serve our people," Lolo said.

The governor advised all directors to base their spending on the amount of revenue they have, adding that the government shouldn't try to do new things if they feel that collection is very low.

"The good future of our government is in your hands. You are the director, you should know every movement inside your department. You must know your budget and every single action by your employees. You were chosen to be the leader because we trust

you and have full confidence that you can make a difference. All of us need to work together, meaning share your thoughts and give us your advice on what we should do to strengthen our government," Lolo said.

Before the end of the 2nd Regular Session of the 35th Legislature, both the Senate and the House endorsed two revenue measures from the Administration. The Fono also passed the Administration's FY 2018 supplemental budget.

The House deleted the proposed sales tax as one of the five revenue measures to fund the supplemental budget, and both the Senate and House have opted not to move forward the 7% sales tax, which the administration was looking to collect about \$24 million annually from.

Asian markets mixed as market awaits Trump Fed decision

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets were mixed Monday as investors waited to find out who U.S. President Donald Trump will pick to head the Federal Reserve.

KEEPING SCORE: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.1 percent to 21,995.15 and the Shanghai Composite Index shed 0.7 percent to 3,392.03. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was flat at 28,448.81. Australia's S&P-ASX 200 rose 0.3 percent to 5,922.20. Seoul's Kospi advanced 0.3 percent to 2,502.59 and benchmarks in New Zealand, Taiwan and Jakarta also rose. Singapore declined.FED WATCH: Investors expect Trump to announce his choice for Fed chair as early as Monday. News reports Friday suggested Trump most likely would not offer Janet Yellen a second term and was instead leaning toward Jay Powell, a Fed board member who until recently was the only Republican on the board. Analysts see Powell as a safe choice who would follow Yellen's monetary strategy. ANALYST'S TAKE: "President Trump should announce who the new Fed Chair will be after keeping us on tenterhooks for the last few months. The market favorite is continuity candidate Jerome Powell (though with President Trump, you never know until the ink on the contract has dried)," said Rob Carnell of ING in a report. "This may make for an interesting (awkward) FOMC meeting on 1 November, though besides teeing the market up for a December rate hike, no one is expecting much from this."

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks set new records on Friday as Microsoft and Alphabet soared following strong third-quarter reports, as did online retail giant Amazon. Intel made its biggest gains in three years, while Microsoft had its biggest jump in two years.

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Congresswoman Amata with Mr. Pascua in Washington, D.C. for the ceremony honoring Filipino veterans.

[Courtesy photo]

Trump comes ahead with fresh criticism of Russia inquiry

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump expressed renewed frustration Sunday over the investigations into alleged ties between his campaign associates and Russian government officials, saying on Twitter that the “facts are pouring out” about links to Russia by his former presidential opponent, Hillary Clinton. “DO SOMETHING!” Trump urged in one of five morning tweets. Trump’s tweets followed a CNN report late Friday that a federal grand jury in Washington has approved the first charges in a criminal investigation into Russia ties led by special counsel Robert Mueller.

The Associated Press has not confirmed the CNN report.

Ty Cobb, a member of Trump’s

legal team, said the president was not referring to CNN’s reporting.

“Contrary to what many have suggested, the president’s comments today are unrelated to the activities of the special counsel, with whom he continues to cooperate,” Cobb said in a statement. Trump and the White House insist there was no collusion between his presidential campaign and Russia. Both have pointed a finger at Clinton and have suggested that the real story of collusion with Russia is the sale of uranium to Moscow when Clinton was secretary of state. U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia interfered with the election to benefit Trump, a finding that Trump has not fully accepted.

Community...

Continued from page 4

10 years are free. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. (Source: Dancing Fingers Learning Center)

AMATA WELCOMES CONGRESS’ HIGHEST HONOR FOR WWII FILIPINO VETERANS

Washington, D.C. — October 27, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata welcomed and attended this week’s special ceremony and Congressional Gold Medal presentation to Filipino World War II veterans who fought under the flag of the United States.

“It was special to be there in honor of these veterans and their courageous service, along with members of both parties and an audience of 650 people in beautiful Emancipation Hall, to witness this moving ceremony,” said Aumua Amata. “The Congressional Gold Medal is Congress’s highest honor, and this presentation will preserve the history of their heroic service for generations to follow.”

In World War II, about 260,000 Filipino soldiers fought under the flag of the U.S., and 57,000 Filipino troops died. Many of the surviving soldiers became U.S. citizens, and since the Philippines at that time was a U.S. commonwealth, all of them were U.S. Nationals. Sadly, they were not provided the same benefits and recognitions as the rest of the U.S. military in the decades following the war. More than 70 years after the end of the war, their service was honored this week in the U.S. Capitol, and will never be forgotten. The Gold Medals were struck by the United States Mint and specially inscribed with the names of prominent battle areas in which they served.

“All of us should be deeply appreciative to see this honor bestowed on behalf of those who fought for freedom,” continued Congresswoman Amata. “I’m especially pleased to know that children and young

people from the Filipino community here in American Samoa, and all over the United States, will learn more about this heritage of bravery and service, and know that their sacrifices were for a great purpose.”

(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata’s Office- Washington D.C.)

\$200,000 TRANSFERRED FROM ASG TO ALLEGED WRONG ACCOUNT

KHJ News has learned that the erroneous transfer of \$200,000 occurred earlier this month to a company called Advance Solution Inc., which is a vendor of the department, but apparently the account number the money was sent to, was not the same as the one ‘on record’.

Treasurer Ueligitone Tonumaip’e is off island and several calls to deputy Treasurer Tina Vaa were not answered.

Two officials in Treasury have confirmed that Treasury wire transferred the \$200,000 as a payment to an off island vendor which provides services for the Department of Human and Social Services. However, the account to which the money was wired allegedly does not belong to the vendor.

Director of Human and Social Services Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Solomon told KHJ News an investigation of the erroneous transfer is ongoing.

How did it happen? Apparently, an employee of DHSS was sent an email purporting to be from the vendor asking for payment. The sender provided a bank account number; and the employee forwarded the email to the DHSS finance division; the email then found its way to Treasury with a request to pay.

Treasury later wire transferred the payment of \$200,000 to the account number given in the email.

It’s not known how the error was discovered, but KHJ News understands that it took several days before those involved realized the transfer was a mistake.

(Source: talanei.com)

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In this Friday, Oct. 27, 2017 photo, good samaritans of the town of Isabela make a circle of prayer with the residents of Rio Abajo in Utuado as recovery efforts from Hurricane Maria continue in Puerto Rico.

(David Santiago/Miami Herald via AP)



American Samoa Shipyard Services Authority (ASSSA)

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PROCUREMENT OFFICER

The American Samoa Shipyard Services Authority (ASSSA) is a semi-autonomous and public Authority, which provides direct services in support of our local fishing and maritime industries via repairs and maintenance of vessels. In that regards, ASSSA represents a critical link to the local economy, which embodies two-thirds of the Territory's private sector economic activities. Thus, ASSSA is seeking to hire a full time Procurement Officer, who will exercise management and control over purchases and required service contracts for the Shipyard.

Working Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30am – 4:00pm

Full time position and salary commensurate with education level, years of experience and credentials specific in the field.

Essential Duties:

- Contact vendors, local or off-island for purchasing
- Provide quotes from vendors for pending purchases
- Create Purchase Orders, make Statements
- Reconcile Purchase Orders, receipts, invoices for payment
- Receive & log merchandise information into computer
- Assist in Collection calls and collections log management
- Managing incoming and outgoing mail
- Inventory checks and accountability
- Ability to write bidding specs & contracts for Professional Services
- Other general office duties

Job Requirements

- At least 2 years' experience in Procurement, knowledge of basic concepts, practices and procedures
- Associates or Bachelor's degree in business related field
- Candidate must be proficient with Quickbooks Enterprise 14.0
- Knowledge of modern office practices, administrative and clerical procedures, excellent interpersonal skills and good oral and written communication skills.
- Proficient in Word and Excel
- Accuracy and attention to detail.
- Aptitude with numbers and well organized

Interested Applicants can contact Adrian Alama Povalu , Human Resource Consultant @ 684-644-4123 for details.

Deadline: "Continuous recruitment until a sufficient applicant is found."

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Puerto Rico utility moves to scrap \$300M Whitefish contract

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The head of Puerto Rico's power company said Sunday the agency is cancelling its \$300 million contract with Whitefish Energy Holdings amid scrutiny of the tiny Montana company's role in restoring the island's power system.

The announcement by Ricardo Ramos came hours after Gov. Ricardo Rossello urged the utility to scrap the deal for Whitefish's help in rebuilding the electrical system from the damage inflicted by Hurricane Maria.

"It's an enormous distraction," Ramos said of the controversy over the contract. "This was negatively impacting the work we're already doing."

The current work by Whitefish teams will not be affected by the cancellation and that work will be completed in November, Ramos said. He said the cancellation will delay pending work by 10 to 12 weeks if no alternatives are found.

Ramos said he had not talked with Whitefish executives about his announcement. "A lawsuit could be forthcoming," he warned.

Whitefish spokesman Chris Chiamas told The Associated Press that the company was "very disappointed" in the governor's decision, and said it would only delay efforts to restore power.

He said Whitefish brought 350 workers to Puerto Rico in less than a month and it expected to have a total of 500 this week. Chiamas said the company completed critical work, including a project that will soon lead to a half million people in San Juan getting power. "We will certainly finish any work that (the power company) wants us to complete and stand by our commitments," he said. Roughly 70 percent of the U.S. territory remains without power more than a month after Maria struck on Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm with winds of up to 154 mph (245 kph). Ramos said Sunday that the total of cost of restoring the system would come to \$1.2 billion. The cancellation is not official until approved by the utility's board. Ramos said it would take effect 30 days after that.

Ramos said the company already has paid Whitefish \$10.9 million to bring its workers and heavy equipment to Puerto Rico and has a \$9.8 million payment pending for work done so far.

Ramos said cancellation of the contract will not lead to a penalty, but it's likely the government will pay at least \$11 million for the company to go home early, including all costs incurred in the month after the cancellation.

Federal investigators have been looking into the contract awarded to the small company from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown and the deal is being audited at the local and federal level.

Ramos said the company contacted Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority two days before the storm hit, at a time when it was becoming clear the hurricane could cause massive damage. Ramos earlier said he had spoken with at least five other companies that demanded rates similar to those of Whitefish, but also wanted a down payment the agency did not have. He said Sunday he hadn't consulted with anyone else about signing the deal and didn't notify the governor's office for a week. He again praised Whitefish's work.

"They're doing an excellent job," he said.

"There's nothing illegal here ... Of that, we're sure," he said, adding that he welcomes a federal investigation. "The process was done according to the law."

Ramos said his agency at first believed the Federal Emergency Management Agency pre-approved contracts, something the agency has denied.

FEMA said it has not approved any reimbursement requests from the power company for money to cover repairs to the island's electrical system. The contract said the utility would not pay costs unallowable under FEMA grants, but it also said, "The federal government is not a party to this contract." FEMA has raised concerns about how Whitefish got the deal and whether the contracted prices were reasonable. The 2-year-old company had just two full-time employees when the storm hit, but it has since hired more than 300 workers. The White House had no comment Sunday. Last week, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the federal government had no role in the process that led to awarding the contract.

"This was something solely determined by the Puerto Rican government," she said Friday.

Rossello said he has requested that crews from New York and Florida come help restore power in Puerto Rico as he criticized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for not meeting its goals. The agency could not be immediately reached for comment.

The governor also announced the appointment of an outside coordinator to oversee the power company's purchase and contracting division.

"If something illegal was done, once again, the officials involved in that process will feel the full weight of the law, and I will take administrative actions," Rossello said.

A Whitefish contract obtained by The Associated Press found that the deal included \$20,277 an hour for a heavy lift Chinook helicopter, \$650 an hour for a large crane truck, \$322 an hour for a foreman of a power line crew, \$319 an hour for a journeyman lineman and \$286 an hour for a mechanic.



FILE- In this Friday, Oct. 27, 2017 file photo, Catalan President Carles Puigdemont sings the Catalan anthem inside the parliament after a vote on independence in Barcelona, Spain. Pro-independence Catalans are cheering the regional parliament's declaration of secession from Spain, a country they don't regard as their own.

(AP Photo/Manu Fernandez, File)

Pro-independence Catalans: 'I've never felt Spanish'

GIRONA, Spain (AP) — To sense the conflicting currents of identity that have led Spain to the edge of a constitutional cliff, look no farther than Girona, some 60 miles (100 kilometers) northeast of Barcelona. Maps and world governments say it's in Spain — but many residents consider it part of an independent republic of Catalonia.

Amid the party atmosphere of a festival weekend, many in this secessionist stronghold cheered the Catalan parliament's declaration of independence from Spain, a country they don't regard as their own.

"I've never felt Spanish in my life," said graphic designer Anna Faure as Girona celebrated the annual festival of its patron saint with food, music, a carnival and displays of the gravity-defying sport of human towers, known as castells.

Faure says castells is a true Catalan tradition, a view she doesn't hold about Spanish icons such as bullfighting, which Catalan authorities have tried to ban, or Flamenco, an import from Andalucia in southern Spain.

Flamenco is fine, she said, but "it's not mine."

Many people in this north-eastern region of 7.5 million believe Catalonia's language, history and cultural traditions — even Catalans' ironic sense of humor — set it apart from the rest of Spain. That feeling of separateness has mixed with a volatile blend of wounded pride, economic pain and political animosity to create a crisis that could break up Spain. The country has been in constitutional turmoil since Catalans backed independence in an Oct. 1 referendum that was dismissed as illegal by Spain. When the regional parliament voted Friday to declare independence, Madrid fired the Catalan government and called a new election. No one knows how the crisis will end, but many Catalans feel it has been a long time coming.

"We wouldn't have arrived at this point if they had treated us well for many years," said illustrator Judit Alguero, expressing a common feeling that the authorities in Madrid are at best neglectful and at worst hostile to Catalan aspirations.

The seeds of that feeling, and of Catalonia's modern independence movement, germinated during the authoritarian regime of Francisco Franco between 1939 and 1975. Franco banned the official use of the Catalan language and executed or imprisoned opposition politicians and activists.

Stories of that repressive era are part of the lore of many Catalan families. Primary school teacher Ariadna Piferrer, whose grandmother told of being beaten for speaking Catalan at school, said that by declaring independence, "we are living the dream of our grandparents. And I think that's so important for us." After Franco's death, Spain became a democracy, and Catalonia was granted a degree of autonomy, with a regional government, its own police force and control over education. Public schools now teach primarily in Catalan, and national symbols are flown with pride. While Catalan nationalism has flourished, support for outright independence was not widespread in the decades after Franco's death. In the early 2000s, polls suggested only about 15 percent of Catalans wanted to break from Spain.

But in recent years, economic crisis and political hostility between Barcelona and Madrid have left many Catalans feeling wounded, fanning the flames of separatism.

Many here trace their support for independence to the political and legal battle over a 2006 autonomy agreement granting Catalonia the status of a nation within Spain, with tax-raising powers. Parts of the agreement were struck down by Spain's constitutional court in 2010, triggering angry protests

and leading some Catalans to believe they would never get a fair deal from Spain.

That sense of grievance grew stronger after the 2008 global financial crisis hammered Spain, spending unemployment skyrocketing. Catalonia is one of the country's wealthiest regions, and many here feel they pay more into Spanish coffers than they get back. Andrew Dowling, a specialist in Catalan history at Cardiff University in Wales, said that 13,000 businesses in Catalonia went under in 2009, pushing many moderate Catalan nationalists toward independence.

Officials: Police shoot armed suspect outside mall

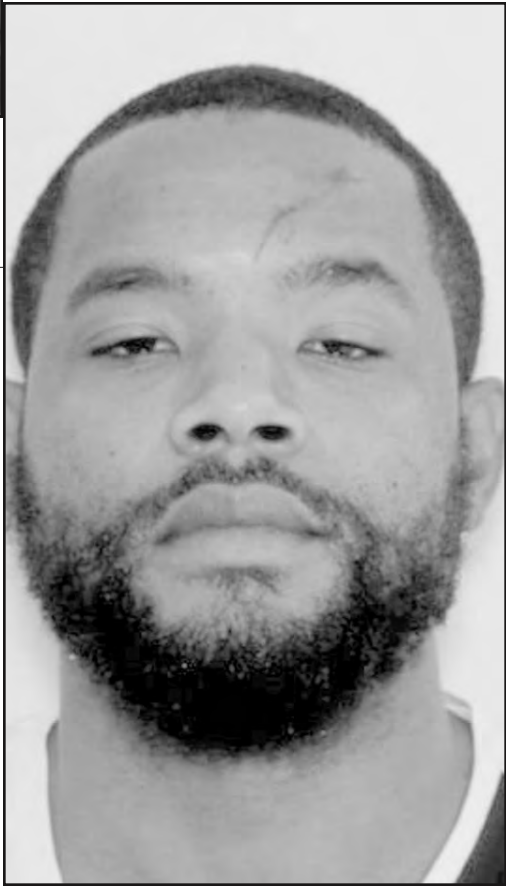
KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. (AP) — Police have shot and wounded an armed suspect in a parking garage at a suburban Philadelphia shopping mall.

Philly.com reports the shooting happened Sunday afternoon outside of the King of Prussia Mall in a parking garage connected to Lord & Taylor and Nordstrom department stores.

Upper Merion police have not said what led to the shooting.

The suspect was taken to a hospital for treatment. His condition was not immediately available. The Montgomery County District Attorney's Office is assisting with the investigation.

In a statement Sunday night, the mall said that due to the "swift action" of Upper Merion police "the situation was contained, the suspect apprehended and no customers or employees were harmed."



This photo provided by the Maryland State Police shows Radee Labeeb Prince. On Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017, authorities say a man showed up for work at a countertop company in Maryland and shot several of his co-workers and then drove to Wilmington, Del., and shot a man he knew at an auto sales and service business. Prince, the suspect in the shootings in Maryland and Delaware is in custody, according to the Harford County Sheriff's Office.

(Maryland State Police via AP)



Feleti Barstow Public Library

Utulei Village • 633-5816 (ph) • 633-5823 (fax)

10 Month Employment Opportunity (November 2017 – September 2018) 2 Full-Time Library Assistants (Polynesian Photo Archives)

DUTIES:

Primarily will be working with Polynesian Photo Archive Collections:

- Sorting, numbering, and scanning photographs.
- Shelves cataloged photos, processes and repairs photos as needed, and participates in inventory of photo collections.
- Works with patron inquiries and assists in locating photos using the OPAC.

May be asked to perform a variety of library support duties as:

- Assists library staff at circulation desk, children's room, computer room, information desk, technical services, or other areas of the library. May travel to schools for outreach programs with Assistant Librarian.
- Shelves library materials, processes and repairs library materials, and participates in shelf reading and inventory of library collection.
- Works with library users and assists in locating materials, implementing programs, using the OPAC, and learning to use the library effectively.
- Provides telephone contact to callers in a pleasant and professional manner, and relays written messages to library staff when needed.
- Reports to Assistant Librarian in charge of immediate area of work, and reports ultimately to Territorial Librarian.
- Other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED:

- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Fluent in both English and Samoan languages.
- Attention to detail.

PREFERRED:

- High school diploma, GED, or combined work experience and education.
- Prior experience in library work.
- Customer service experience.

SALARY RANGE:

ASG GS 5 (\$5.12-\$6.06 / \$10,657-\$12,607)

To Apply:

Pick up Employment Application at Feleti Barstow Public Library. Completed applications and resume must be returned to the library by **November 7, 2017.**



FILE - In this April 1, 2014 file photo, family members whose loved ones died behind the wheel of defective General Motors vehicles, seen in photos behind them, listen to testimony of General Motors CEO Mary Barra on Capitol Hill in Washington before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation. General Motors has agreed to a \$13.9 million settlement with Orange County, Calif., after prosecutors accused the auto giant of concealing serious safety defects to avoid costly recalls and parts replacements. Plaintiffs alleged that GM waited more than a decade after the company knew about defects in its cars to issue recalls, leading to several deaths and injuries.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to ASCA 37.1105, that Development Bank of American Samoa intends to foreclose a mortgage recorded in the Office of the Territorial Registrar in Land Transfer, Volume Number 8, page 347-348, recorded August 6, 2014, and that the property subject to the mortgage will be sold at public auction.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD ON “AS IS BASIS”: All of the mortgagors’ interest in all that certain real property of individually owned land, consisting of approximately 0.26 acres, more or less:

All that certain real property lying in Land Square 31, Unit “B” situated in the village of Ili’ili and Pavaiai, County of Tualauta, Western District, Island of Tutuila, American Samoa, being a portion of land known as “Punalei,” owned by Michael U. Fuiava, recorded in the Land Transfer 726-727 which is more fully described as follows:

Starting at a point which has coordinates of N=284821.95 E=237727.89, American Samoa Datum of 1962.

Thence on azimuth 202° 27’ 28” 125.28 feet to a point

Thence on azimuth 290° 01’ 35” 78.74 feet to a point

Thence on azimuth 33° 23’ 22” 44.63 feet to a point

Thence on azimuth 308° 38’ 03” 29.59 feet to a point

Thence on azimuth 31° 07’ 28” 86.51 feet to a point

Thence on azimuth 118° 26’ 39” 86.06 feet to the point of beginning

Containing an area of 0.26 acres more or less.

Date of Sale: Thursday, December 7th, 2017 at 1:00pm at the property unless postponed or canceled by public announcement.

Location: The property is located at Ili’ili.

Minimum Bid: \$100,000.00

Contact: For more information please contact Tavai Jeremia at Development Bank 633-4031 or email tavai@dbas.as.



GM settles California suit over alleged defects concealment

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — General Motors has agreed to a \$13.9 million settlement with Orange County, California, after prosecutors accused the auto giant of concealing serious safety defects to avoid costly recalls and part replacements.

The lawsuit, filed in 2014, accused GM of deceptive business practices and unfair competition. It alleged the automaker marketed its brand as safe and reliable while failing to disclose defects including power steering, air bag and brake problems. As a result of the failures, at least 124 people died and 275 were injured, according to the Orange County Register.

Earlier this month, GM agreed to pay \$120 million to resolve claims from 49 states and the District of Columbia over faulty ignition switches. The California Attorney General’s Office received \$7 million in the settlement.

In a Friday statement obtained by the Register, the company said: “GM has reached a constructive settlement with Orange County, Calif. to resolve claims filed by the Orange County district attorney regarding the company’s advertising of vehicles that were subject to certain recalls

in 2014, including the ignition-switch recall.”

Prosecutors said GM trained its staff to never use the words “defect” or “stall” and routinely chose the “cheapest part supplier without regard for safety.” The lawsuit said the company also discouraged employees from addressing safety issues, according to the newspaper.

Over five months in 2014, GM was forced to recall 17 million vehicles in 33 recalls for various defects, officials said.

“Since 2014, GM has taken important steps to help ensure the safety of its vehicles, including a new organizational structure dedicated to global vehicle safety and a robust Speak Up for Safety program,” the company’s statement added.

The settlement in Orange County was approved by a judge on Friday. “We must protect our consumers from businesses that put profits over people by keeping cars on roads safe and avoiding preventable accidents,” District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said in a statement. “We must also encourage all businesses to be fair and live up to safety standards, and must not allow those engaging in unfair practices to punish those businesses that don’t cut corners by compromising safety.”

Man faces attempted murder charge in bombing of Greek ex-PM

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek prosecutors say a 29-year-old man arrested in Athens has been charged with attempted murder against former Greek Prime Minister Lucas Papademos.

The suspect was charged Sunday with joining a terrorist group, Conspiracy Cells of Fire, assembling and posting a letter bomb to Papademos with the intention of killing him.

Also, based on what police found in his apartment — firearms, bullets, detonators,

explosives, timers, fake IDs and hashish — he was charged with possession of firearms and explosives in order to commit terrorist acts and supply terrorist groups, forgery, theft and drug possession.

Papademos, 70, the prime minister in 2011-12 and the deputy governor of the European Central Bank from 2002-2010, was seriously injured on May 25 when he opened a letter bomb.

He was hospitalized for over a month.



Greek policemen in plain clothes escort suspects to a prosecutor’s office in Athens, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017. Greek police arrested a 29-year-old suspect Saturday in a bomb attack last May on one of the country’s former prime ministers.

(AP Photo)

Confusion coming with California's legal marijuana

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ready or not, California kicks off recreational marijuana sales on Jan. 1. And, mostly, it's not.

Los Angeles and San Francisco are among many cities still struggling to fashion local rules for pot shops and growers. Without the regulations, there could be limited options in many places for consumers eager to ring in the new year with a legal pot purchase.

"The bulk of folks probably are not going to be ready Jan. 1," conceded Cara Martinson of the California State Association of Counties.

In general, California will treat cannabis like alcohol, allowing people 21 and older to legally possess up to an ounce and grow six marijuana plants at home. Come January, the newly legalized recreational sales will be merged with the state's two-decade-old medical marijuana market, which is also coming under much stronger regulation.

But big gaps loom in the system intended to move cannabis from the field to distribution centers, then to testing labs and eventually retail shops.

The state intends to issue only temporary licenses starting in January, and it has yet to release its plan to govern the estimated \$7 billion marketplace, the nation's largest legal pot economy.

If businesses aren't licensed and operating in the legal market, governments aren't collecting their slice of revenue from sales. The state alone estimates it could see as much as \$1 billion roll in within several years.

Operators have complained about what they see as potential conflicts in various laws and rules, or seemingly contradictory plans.

The state expects businesses that receive licenses will only work with others that hold them. But that has alarmed operators who wonder what will happen if their supplier, for instance, decides not to join the new legal market.

Others say it's not clear what could happen in cities that don't enact pot laws, which they warn could open a loophole for businesses to set up shop. Some communities have banned recreational sales completely.

Most banks continue to refuse to do business with marijuana operators - pot remains illegal under federal law - and there are also problems obtaining insurance.

With recreational legalization fast approaching, "we don't have enough of anything," lamented Hezekiah Allen, executive director of the California Growers Association, a marijuana industry group.

The route to legalization began last year when voters approved Proposition 64, which opened the way for recreational

pot sales to adults in the nation's most populous state.

Unlike the state, cities and counties face no deadline to act. However, the concern is that confusion and a patchwork of local rules could discourage operators from entering the legal economy, feeding a black market that could undercut the legitimate one.

Local regulation is a foundation block of the emerging pot economy: A grower or retailer needs a local permit first, which is a steppingstone to obtaining a state license to operate.

But those rules remain in limbo in many places.

San Jose, the state's third-largest city, has a temporary ban on sales other than medical pot but officials this week proposed hearings to take another look at how to regulate the local industry.

Kern County, home to nearly

900,000 people, has banned the sale of marijuana even as California legalizes it. Supervisors said they see it as a danger to citizens and also voted to phase out more than two dozen medical marijuana dispensaries.

In Los Angeles, which by some estimates could be a \$1 billion marketplace, voters have been strongly supportive of legal pot. But its proposed regulations hit snags, including a dispute over a proposal for so-called certificates of compliance, which operators feared would not meet qualification requirements for state licenses.

Adam Spiker, executive director of the Southern California Coalition, an industry group, warned last month that L.A.'s draft rules could upend the emerging industry by failing to provide a prompt way to license suppliers, potentially forcing them to shut down.



FILE - In this April 23, 2017, file photo, large jars of marijuana are on display for sale at the Cali Gold Genetics booth during the High Times Cannabis Cup in San Bernardino, Calif. California is kicking off recreational marijuana sales on Jan. 1, 2018, but there will be plenty of confusion as the new market takes shape. Some places are banning sales, while only a small number appear ready to issue licenses.

(AP Photo/Richard Vogel, File)



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

P.O. BOX 9, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163.

Website: www.dbas.as

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Approved to issuance by: Ruth Matagi-Fa'atili; DBAS President
Date of issuance: August 16, 2017
Date & Time Due: October 30, 2017
No later than 2:00 pm local time

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

DOCUMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submission: Proposals must be received by DBAS no later than 2:00pm local time on October 30, 2017. They may be mailed or hand delivered in a sealed envelope to:

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

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



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



FILE - In this Sept. 6, 2017, file photo, Sen. Bob Menendez arrives to court for his federal corruption trial in Newark, N.J. When the government rests its bribery case against Menendez, the judge will make a crucial ruling on the New Jersey Democrat's motion to dismiss the charges.
(AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File)

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — The judge in the bribery trial of U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez and a wealthy friend is facing a decision on a motion for a mistrial.

Attorneys for both defendants filed papers with the court on Sunday. They alleged that U.S. District Judge William Walls has abused his discretion by stopping them from calling certain witnesses or introducing certain evidence they feel would let them adequately present their case, while allowing prosecutors more leeway.

“The Court’s evidentiary rulings and comments throughout this trial evince a cumulative abuse of discretion that has deprived Defendants of their

Menendez attorneys file for mistrial over judge’s rulings

Fifth and Sixth Amendments rights to a fair trial, to an adequate defense, and to confront the witnesses against them,” they wrote.

Walls already has denied previous motions to have the case thrown out, most recently two weeks ago when defense attorneys alleged prosecutors hadn’t proved evidence of bribery under a narrowed definition of the crime stemming from a U.S. Supreme Court decision last year.

Menendez is charged with accepting free flights on a private jet and other gifts from Florida eye doctor Salomon Melgen in exchange for political influence. One of the central charges is that Menendez pressured executive branch officials to try and resolve an \$8.9 million Medicare reimbursement dispute Melgen was embroiled in.

Both men have denied any such arrangement. In Sunday’s filing, attorneys wrote that they should have been allowed to introduce information, including a document from the official Medicare website, that would have buttressed their contention that Menendez’s meetings with health officials were focused on confusing and inconsistent Medicare reimbursement policies, and not on Melgen’s specific case as the indictment alleges.

They also contend Walls should have allowed testimony from Marc Elias, an attorney who represented Menendez in late 2012 and early 2013 when Menendez was being investigated by a Senate ethics committee over the flights on Melgen’s plane.

Elias, who was scheduled to testify Thursday but didn’t, would have told jurors he sent a letter to ethics investigators saying the flights were being reviewed — a point defense attorneys say could cast doubt on the prosecution’s theory that Menendez was trying to conceal his involvement with Melgen.

In contrast, defense attorneys said in court on Thursday that Walls allowed prosecutors to present evidence including pictures of a luxury hotel where Menendez stayed in Paris that was allegedly part of the bribery scheme, and testimony from the manager of the Dominican Republic resort — where Menendez visited Melgen — about the resort’s various amenities.

The trial is entering its ninth week, with the defense expected to rest its case in the next day or two. Defense attorneys have clashed with Walls repeatedly over his limiting of some of their questioning of witnesses and his rulings on what evidence they can present.

In Sunday’s filing they referred to an offhand comment Walls made at the end of Thursday’s hearing.

“Defendants’ concerns are typified by the Court’s parting words at the hearing: ‘Life is not fair and so too is judicial discretion,’” they wrote. “Despite the light-hearted nature of the Court’s comment, the fact remains that judicial discretion must be exercised fairly, otherwise, by definition, it is an abuse of discretion.”

Corporate deal-making driven by fast technological change

LONDON (AP) — The appetite for mergers and acquisitions remains near a record high as firms try to adapt to fast technological changes and despite a welter of geopolitical concerns, a survey of executives found Monday.

In its half-yearly report of mergers and acquisitions, or M&A, consulting firm EY found that 56 percent of firms are planning a deal within the next 12 months. That’s unchanged from the previous survey in April but way above the survey’s long-run average.

The survey shows that the high degree of potential M&A activity runs parallel to rising expectations over the state of the world economy, with all major economies growing in sync. A staggering 99 percent of global executives believe the M&A market will improve or remain stable this year.

Since the lull following the global financial crisis, when firms opted for a safety-first approach, M&A has become increasingly popular, with

many companies opting to use their cash reserves to make deals, particularly in the field of financial technology.

Among the big deals announced this year are Johnson & Johnson’s \$30 billion takeover of Swiss pharmaceutical firm Actelion and United Technologies’ plan to buy Rockwell Collins for about \$23 billion. Other high-profile deals include Amazon’s \$14 billion takeover of Whole Foods and Gilead’s \$12 billion acquisition of Kite Pharma. One particularly bright spot in both the global economy and in M&A is the 19-country eurozone, where the economy has gained momentum as concerns waned over the bloc’s future following years of crisis.

Steve Krouskos, EY’s global head of transactions, said the main motivation behind the high interest in deals is the need for firms to equip themselves for the future, particularly in digital technologies, which are forcing rapid change in many sectors. That means a large proportion of deals will be smaller-scale in nature and not the blockbuster ones.

“Deals are a necessary part of the tool-kit,” Krouskos said.

He added that the need to adapt to technological innovation “over-rides geopolitical concerns,” which range from worries over North Korea’s nuclear ambitions to President Donald Trump’s intentions to renegotiate trade deals and Britain’s upcoming exit from the European Union.

The survey, which was based on interviews with nearly 3,000 executives across 43 countries and across sectors, also found that half of companies expect private equity to become more involved in M&A.

“The resurgence of private equity could be the biggest M&A story over the next 12 months, with corporates being challenged for assets much more aggressively than during the past five years,” said Krouskos.

Private equity, he added, is “set to take an even bigger role at the deal table.”



Full recovery from California wildfires may take years

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — It will take at least months and likely years to fully recover from devastating wildfires that ripped through Northern California earlier this month, destroying at least 8,900 structures and killing 42 people, Sonoma County officials said Saturday.

“We don’t control these things, and it makes you realize how small you are in the world when something like this happens,” Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano said. “I don’t think we understand the level at which it is going to impact lives, and the community will be different.”

Giordano spoke before hundreds of people gathered at a college in Santa Rosa, one of the hardest-hit cities, for a memorial service to honor the lives lost in the deadliest series of wildfires in California history. The fires sparked Oct. 8, eventually forcing 100,000 people to evacuate. Before a bell rung 42 times to commemorate the dead, Giordano and other officials praised the ordinary and extraordinary acts of heroism by first responders and community members as the firefight raged on for more than a week. Some firefighters worked days on the front line, refusing to take breaks, while sheriff’s dispatchers continued taking calls even as the fire came close to taking out their building.

“The night of Oct. 8, we were all tested,” Santa Rosa fire Chief Tony Gossner said.

U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and five members of Congress spent Saturday attending the memorial, touring the fire ravaged areas and gathering advice from federal, state and local officials on what Congress can do to aid the recovery efforts. In a briefing in Santa Rosa, officials asked them to ease red tape that will make it easier to erect temporary housing and to ensure the Environmental Protection Agency has the resources it needs to clean up any hazardous material before it infiltrates the water supply. The EPA has assessed 740 properties so far, while the Federal Emergency Management Agency has given out \$6 million worth of rental and other assistance to displaced Californians, officials said. Officials estimate the cleanup of debris and other hazardous materials will last into early 2018. The losses are estimated to be at more than \$1 billion.

Pelosi and U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, who represents Santa Rosa, said they must make their fellow lawmakers in Washington understand the unprecedented nature of the fires, the deadliest in California

history. They drove through a neighborhood near Coffey Park where entire streets are wrecked, with only burned-out cars and charred remains of once-standing houses lining the streets. “It was just unfathomable the amount of destruction that we saw,” Pelosi said. “My colleagues will have to understand this is different from anything else, many times over.”

But Pelosi said Northern California’s response to the fires can serve as a national model for disaster response if done right. She urged her colleagues in Congress to think beyond the incremental rebuilding needs to consider the big picture of helping the region better prepare for and mitigate damage from future disasters. Obtaining the appropriate amount of relief money will require detailed documentation of homes lost and other destruction, she said.

Santa Rosa alone lost five percent of its housing stock, Pelosi said.

“What would we like to see the result be? Let’s engineer it back from there,” she said of the rebuilding efforts. On top of the devastation, authorities have had to deal with looting in neighborhoods where fires raged. Santa Rosa police said two more people arrested late Saturday following a high-speed chase through city streets along the southern edge of a burn zone. The Santa Rosa Police Department has corrected the name of one of the two people who were arrested on suspicion of looting in neighborhoods devastated by wildfires earlier this month.

A man the department previously identified as 29-year-old Sean Kranyak has now been identified as Johnathon Leon Lee Conner of Monterey County. Conner and 22-year-old Cristina Marsh could face charges including looting, conspiracy and vehicle theft. It wasn’t known Sunday if they have attorneys.

The department said on its Facebook page that additional felony charges have been filed against Conner for allegedly using another victim’s stolen information to identify himself.

Witnesses called police after the pair was spotted allegedly loading pilfered goods into a truck. Police previously reported looting arrests as the fires burned. Santa Rosa imposed a curfew in evacuation zones because so many houses were empty. Thompson and other members of Congress, meanwhile, were asked to look at ensuring immigrants living in the country illegally are not at risk if they contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They were also asked to look into improving.



A Santa Rosa fireman rings a bell 42 times during a Day of Remembrance memorial for victims of California wildfires on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017, in Santa Rosa, Calif. (AP Photo/Ben Margot)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to ASCA 37.1105 that Development Bank of American Samoa intends to foreclose a mortgage recorded in the Office of the Territorial Registrar in Lease Agreement Volume No. LA-95, Page 47 on November 21, 1995, and that the property subject to the mortgage will be sold at public auction.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD ON “AS IS BASIS”: All of the mortgagors’ interest in that certain Communal Land Leasehold including structure and improvement situated in the village of Malaeimi, American Samoa.

All that certain real property and improvements thereon situated on Land Square 28, Unit C, Village of Malaeimi, County of Tualauta, being a portion of land known as Malaeimi, owned by the Fanene family, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point which has coordinates of X=237980.00 and Y=289675.00 based in American Samoa datum of 1962:

*Run thence on azimuth 48° 30’ 00” 60.00 feet to a point;
Thence on azimuth 138° 30’ 00” 60.00 feet to a point;
Thence on azimuth 228° 30’ 00” 60.00 feet to a point;
Thence on azimuth 318° 30’ 00” 60.00 feet to the point of beginning.
Containing an area of 0.083 acre more or less.*

Date of Sale: Thursday, December 7th, 2017, at 2:30 pm, at the property unless postponed or canceled by public announcement.

Location: Village of Malaeimi, American Samoa

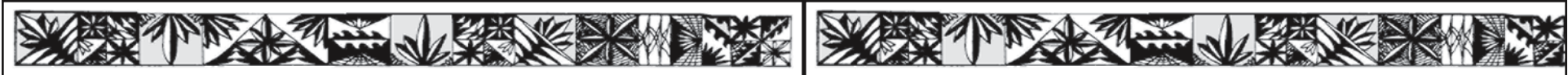
Minimum Bid: \$50,809.09

Contact: For more information please contact Tavai Ieremia at 633-4031 ext. 224 @ Development Bank or email tavai@dbas.as.





Close to 50 people came out to DDW on Saturday night for the Coleman Eisenhower Dinner, hosted by the Republican Party of American Samoa. Governor Coleman was the 1st appointed Samoan governor for the territory and the only Republican to serve as Governor of American Samoa. [courtesy photo]



American Samoa WEDDING PACKAGES

Tautoga Package

USD 1,200.00

- Choice of venue (With Wedding Arch, Aisle Set Up & Signing Table)
- A Bottle of Sparkling Wine for bridal toast
- 2 person string band – 1 hour
- PA System and Microphone
- Wedding Registration
- Celebrant
- Personal Wedding Coordinator

Alofa Package

USD 900.00

- Choice of venue (With Wedding Arch, Aisle Set Up & Signing Table)
- PA System and Microphone
- Celebrant
- Personal Wedding Coordinator

For the Ultimate Wedding Guest Experience, Book a minimum of 10 Rooms at only USD 135.00 per room, per night!

*Room Rate includes tax, breakfast & Wi-Fi

For Inquiries and/or Reservations, please email:
Sheraton Samoa Beach Resort: Sales.SamoaResort@sheraton.com
Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Hotel: Sales.SamoaHotel@sheraton.com

Downed trees, flood damage as severe weather hits East Coast

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Severe weather is hitting the East Coast with damaging winds and torrential rains.

Southern New England appeared to be suffering the brunt of the damage late Sunday night.

Eversource reported more than 50,000 Connecticut customers without power before midnight, with that number expected to grow.

The National Weather Service says the storm will continue through early Monday morning.

Flash flood and high wind warnings have been issued across the region. Meteorologists say parts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts could see wind gusts of up to 70 mph.

The Meriden Human Society in Connecticut put out a call for volunteers on its Facebook page Sunday night to help deal with flooding in its dog kennels.

Downed trees and power lines and flooded roads also are being reported across the region.

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