

Defendant arrested a second time for alleged possession of meth **2**

27 graduate from latest Police Academy **3**

ONLINE @ SAMOANEWS.COM



American Samoa Community College's top two graduates — they had GPAs of 3.90- 4.00. Graduating Summa Cum Laude are Selesitina Sulesa Iosia (left) and Aiava Talaesai (right) after last Friday's ASCC Fall 2017 graduation ceremony at the college's gymnasium. Congratulations to all the graduates! See story and more photos inside.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

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samoa news

PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

\$1.00

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN: 7 DAYS

HOLIDAY EVENTS

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Police vehicle shot at while police officers not inside

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Two gunshots were fired at a police unit last Thursday night at the back of the ASTCA compound in Tafuna, and the Department of Public Safety is looking at all leads while investigating this incident to make sure that the person/persons who were involved will be arrested and brought to justice.

Samoa News notes that the Tafuna ASTCA compound is located just down the road from the Tafuna police substation and OMV.

In an exclusive interview with the DPS Commissioner, Le'i Sonny Thompson, early Friday morning, he said a police unit with two police officers inside responded to a call from a security guard at the ASTCA compound in Tafuna, requesting police assistance, after what appears to be a cherry bomb was thrown by an unknown individual/ or individuals inside the compound.

The police unit arrived at the scene a few minutes later and conducted the usual search of the compound, and when the patrol was finished, police officers then extended their patrol to the baseball field, which is located to the back of the

ASTCA compound, and that's when they noticed that the gate was open. One of the police officers went to check out why the gate was open, while the other officer drove the police unit closer to the gate.

According to the commissioner, both police officers then went inside the baseball grounds to check out why the gate was open. It was while they were on the grounds, one police officer saw a flash coming from the front, and identified the flash as what appeared to be a flash out of a weapon.

"And that's when they realized that somebody was shooting at the police unit, and when they came back to where the police unit was parked, they noticed that the rear window of the car was shattered, and what appeared to be another shot had penetrated through the right front door of the passenger's side," Le'i said.

The commissioner said that the bullet was allegedly found inside the police unit and it looks like it came through the headrest of the driver's seat, as the headrest was torn off.

"If the police officer had been inside he would be dead. This is an unprovoked attack and an

(Continued on page 9)



A bullet hole is seen on the right door of a DPS unit following an incident that happened on Thursday night behind the ASTCA compound at Tafuna, when a person/persons fired twice at the police unit. Luckily police officers were not inside the vehicle or close to it when the shots happened. Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson says they are asking the public for help to solve this heinous crime quickly.

[photo by Ausage Fausia]



Some of the ASCC graduates holding up their degrees received at last Friday's American Samoa Community College Fall graduation of 2017 at the ASCC Gymnasium. [photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Defendant arrested a second time for alleged possession of meth

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

A man who was arrested by detectives of the Vice & Narcotics unit two months ago and charged with unlawful possession of crystal methamphetamine was arrested again and charged with the same unlawful possession of methamphetamine charge when police allegedly found a glass pipe with the drug inside, after stopping him, during a routine patrol, to serve a bench warrant issued by the High Court last week.

Sierra Isaia made his initial appearance before District Court Judge Fiti Sunia last week, where he faced one count of unlawful possession of a controlled substance to wit; crystal methamphetamine — a felony, and his case is now reschedule for a preliminary examination this morning at 8:30a.m.

His bond has been set in the amount of \$5,000. The court issued several conditions for Isaia to abide with if he is able to post bond, including no contact with police officers who were dealing with his case.

According to the government's case, police officers were looking for the defendant so that they could serve him a copy of the bench warrant issued by the High Court last week, after the defendant failed to appear in the High Court when his pretrial conference for the first case was called two weeks ago.

Court records show in the initial case it was on Sept. 12, 2017 while the Vice & Narcotics Unit was conducting a traffic stop in the Iliili area that a vehicle driven by the defendant was pulled over for a loud muffler. There were two people inside the vehicle, the defendant and another individual who was in the passenger seat.

After a brief confrontation with police, police officers ordered the defendant to pull his hand out of his pocket but he refused, and started to move around which caused police to worry about their safety, and resulted in the cops taking him down and searching him. During the search, illegal drugs were allegedly found in his possession.

He was charged with one count of unlawful possession of a controlled substance to wit; crystal methamphetamine. Isaia's case was bound over to the High Court, where he entered a not guilty plea to the single charge, and he was released from custody after he posted a \$5,000 surety bond under certain conditions, including his appearance in Court whenever his case is call.

Isaia's pretrial conference hearing for his first case was schedule for Dec. 01, and after he failed to appear in Court, a bench warrant was issued for his arrest. Police found the defen-

dant last week during a routine patrol and allegedly again found drugs in his possession, which resulted with his second arrest for which he appeared in District Court last week.

Court documents state that on Dec.11, 2017, police officers from the Vice & Narcotics were on the road conducting a routine patrol serving bench warrants and at the same time, assisting the Tafuna Police Station with their calls due to manpower shortage.

One of the individuals who had an outstanding bench warrant for failing to appear in Court on a scheduled date was the defendant.

On the early evening on Dec. 11, several police officers from the Vice & Narcotics overheard a radio transmission about a two-car accident at or near the Louisa Laundromat in Iliili. They immediately responded to assist with the call, awaiting the Tafuna Police Station to arrive.

Three police units were on the scene to assist with the two-car accident. Police from the Vice & Narcotics assisted conducting traffic control on both sides of the main road because of the two car-accident — it was still in the east bound lane blocking that side of the road.

While police were conducting their traffic control, a maroon pickup truck driven by the defendant was spotted leading a queue of traffic eastward. Police officers waved down the defendant's vehicle and Capt. Lima Togia approached the defendant inside his vehicle and informed him of the reason his vehicle was pulled over to the side.

Capt. Togia then explained to the defendant about the bench warrant from the Court, where the defendant responded that he doesn't know anything about a bench warrant and that police had no reason to stop his car.

Capt. Togia then ordered him to step out of his vehicle but he refused. Court documents noted that Isaia was ordered five to six times to step out of his vehicle but he continued resisting. The exchange went on for about five minutes and the defendant continued to refuse to step out of his vehicle, which resulted in another police officer opening the door and grabbing the defendant's hand to get him out of his car.

The defendant was very aggressive and upset and threatened Capt. Togia. The defendant was immediately placed in handcuffs for his safety and the safety of police officers.

The defendant was patted down for weapons before taking him inside the police unit for transportation to the Tafuna Police Station.

The lead investigating police officer for this case conducted

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27 graduate from latest Police Academy

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Government and traditional leaders, cabinet members, along with friends and family members packed the Department of Youth & Women's Affairs gym on Friday morning to witness the graduation of 27 from the 26th Police Academy.

Chief Associate Judge Mamea Sala Jr administered the oath for the police officers, followed by each officer being presented a certificate.

For the sworn police officers of the 25th Police Academy, family members pinned on their police badges. And of the 27 graduates, 24 of them are now sworn in police officers — three of them — represent two other government entities; two from the local Department of Homeland Security (DHLS) and one from the Customs Division of Treasury Department.

Dr. Rev. Fa'afetai Fuimaono delivered both the invocation and benediction. He urged graduates to put their faith in the Lord, so that the Lord would guide their way and give them wisdom to fulfill their job.

"When you face challenges and tribulation on the way, don't forget to listen to the Holy Spirit as He's whispering to you. Listen to God, work together with Him and you will get good results at the end," Rev. Fuimaono said.

Lt. Governor Lemanu P. Mauga delivered the special remarks for the graduating class, on behalf of Governor Lolo M. Moliga who was attending the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) graduation that was also scheduled for last Friday morning.

He said American Samoa is faced with difficulties in a number of areas, especially with drugs and alcohol problems, as well as violence against women. He called on the graduates not to forget the community to protect them at all costs and don't take "your duty lightly" as a law enforcement officer. He says the most important thing for police officers to remember is "your personal relationship with God" as well as "community relations."

"Today, you are being chosen to do your job — to serve people and to enforce the law. In the past 10 weeks of this training, you're being fighting this war in your classroom. So now, you're police officers chosen to protect the community," Lemanu said.

Lemanu said that being a police officer comes together with a lot of challenges and difficulties and their duty is to find ways to overcome those problems. He reminded them to remember their culture, and that they needed to learn how to speak to others with different languages such as Tongan, Fijian and also Asian, because there are a lot of different nation-

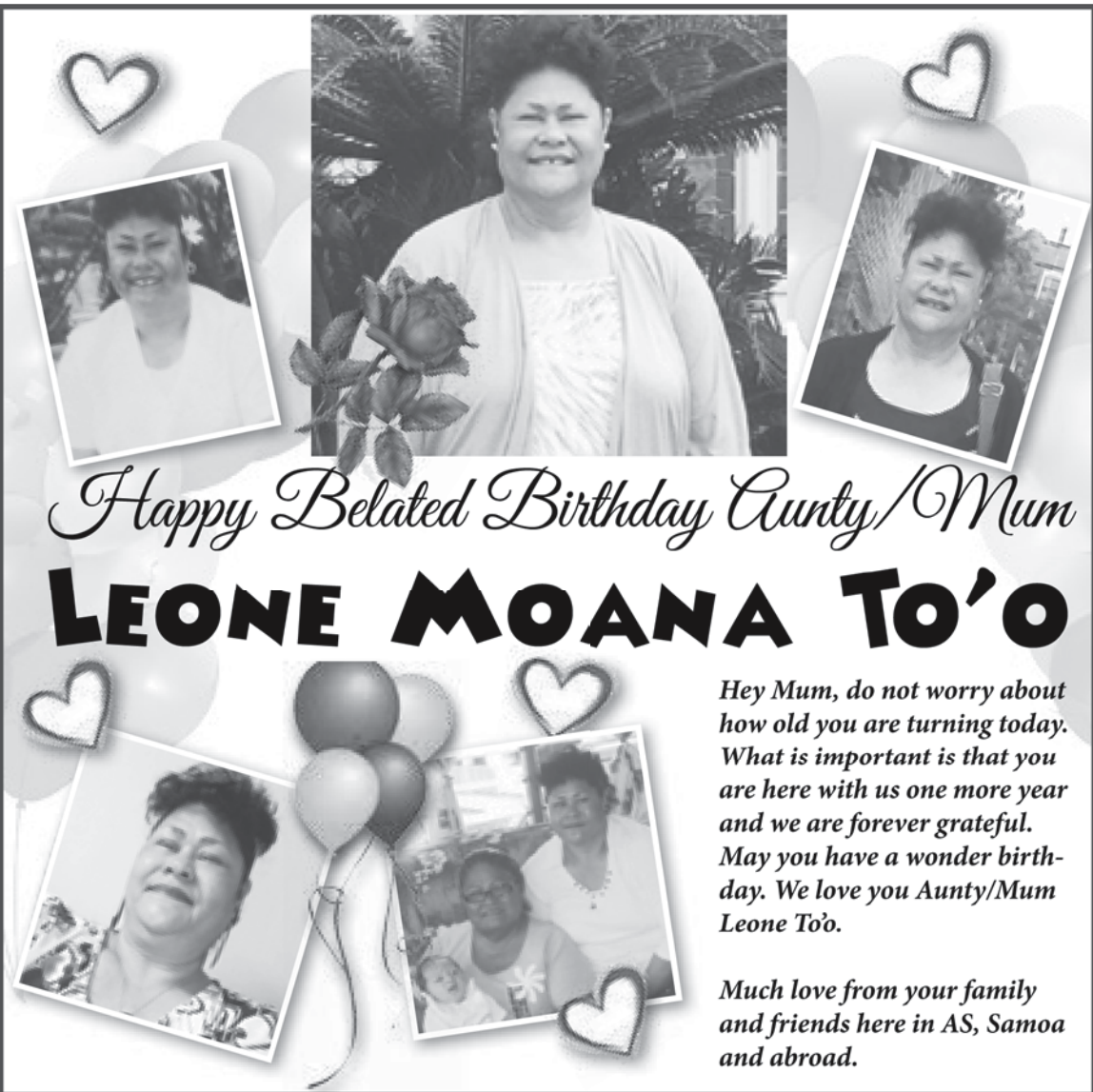
alities on our shores at this time, and their duty as police officers is to protect "everyone" who is living in American Samoa.

Lemanu reminded graduates of their important role in law enforcement — to protect "your parents, your village, and your entire community." The protection of the community "is in your hands," he emphasized.

"Respect the elders, respect everyone in American Samoa including the young ones. If you encounter people of the community on the road, it is your duty to show them respect, protect them and most of all follow the law whatever happens. The color you're going to wear symbolizes success and protection," Lemanu said.

Other than being a law enforcer, Lemanu told graduates that they can also be a teacher for the community; a lawyer; a pastor whenever

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Happy Belated Birthday Aunt/Mum

LEONE MOANA TO'O

Hey Mum, do not worry about how old you are turning today. What is important is that you are here with us one more year and we are forever grateful. May you have a wonder birthday. We love you Aunt/Mum Leone To'o.

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Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Tavita Solomona [Courtesy photo]

McCain treated for viral infection, returns home to Arizona

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. John McCain has returned home to Arizona after being hospitalized for a viral infection while battling brain cancer and will miss a crucial Senate vote on the GOP tax package, his office said Sunday.

The 81-year-old senator will undergo physical therapy and rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic in the state after spending several days at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland. In a brief statement, the office provided an assessment from Dr. Mark Gilbert, chief of neuro-oncology at the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute. "Senator McCain has responded well to treatment he received at Walter Reed Med-

ical Center for a viral infection and continues to improve," Gilbert said. "An evaluation of his underlying cancer shows he is responding positively to ongoing treatment."

McCain expressed appreciation for his care and the outpouring of support and, according to his office, "looks forward to returning to Washington in January."

Now in his sixth Senate term, McCain underwent surgery in mid-July to remove a 2-inch (51-millimeter) blood clot in his brain after being diagnosed with glioblastoma.

His daughter Meghan McCain tweeted Sunday: "My father is doing well and we are all looking forward to spending

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► Priceless...

Continued from page 1

t-shirts are just some of the huge variety of clothing on sale.

Daily store is open from 8:00am - 8:30pm this week only to accommodate your shopping and SUNDAY Christmas Eve from 8am - 8:30pm. Sale ends Dec. 24th. See you there!

Come Celebrate The Holidays With Us!

TSM MART Inc. in Tafuna would like to celebrate the holidays with you with their memorable offers! Frozen Items, Dry Goods, and Starkist Tuna Pouches are available at special prices.

And check out their 2nd story space for gift items galore! Everything from perfumes, clothing, toys, dress material, baby items, house-ware and small appliances are on display.

Throwing a party? TSM has a wide selection of plastic and foam plates, cups, bowls to choose from. Sale ends December 31st.

TSM is open MON-FRI from 6:00am to 9:00pm and 6:00am - 9:30pm Saturdays & Sundays

to accommodate the late night shoppers.

Need To Host A Party?

MAMA'S KITCHEN in Nu'uuli is able and ready for all your holiday parties. Spacious room, relaxing atmosphere, and great food make Mama's Kitchen the perfect place for your office party, family get-together or that surprise party this festive month! The menu offers wholesome, filling, selections that are sure to satisfy. Mama's Kitchen also offers a daily Breakfast Special to get you revved up and fueled for all that Christmas shopping run around.

It's open Monday to Saturday from 7am - 2pm. Arrangements can be made for that special party or get together by calling 699-8983.

All our featured advertisers would like to wish their family and friends a wonderful festive holiday season filled with good food, good cheer and happy days! Merry Christmas American Samoa!

An Obedient Son, a Devoted Public Servant

The sudden passing of Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Tavita Solomona, Director of the Department of Health and Social Services, is still being felt throughout the territory one week after he collapsed in his office, Monday, December 11, at about 11:30am of what is believed to have been a massive heart attack. His beloved wife of 28-years, Vaofu'a Soliai-Solomona was with him, she had stopped by to take him to lunch and has said, how grateful she was to be with her husband in his last hours.

Born on August 24, 1954, in the capital of Papua, New Guinea, called Port Moresby, Taeaoafua was the eldest son of Rev. Si'ulagi Tavita Solomona and his wife Fuarosa To'alepai-Solomona, Missionaries of the LMS church (London Missionary Society,) now CCCS/CCAS. His parents found great pride in naming him and his late sister Elisapeta Kuni-maipa Solomona-Aigamaua, "Children of the Gospel," (Fanau ole Tala Lelei,) as they were born in the Ministry in foreign lands, while their parents preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Taeaoafua's early education began in A'oga Faifeau (Sunday School) with his parents in New Guinea, when they moved back to their island home of Samoa, 1960, he began his official education at what was then known as "Mageo's School" in Pago Pago. He was still learning to speak the Samoan language as he only spoke "Papuan/Niu Kini" and later attended the elementary public institution, "Fia Iloa Independence School" in Utulei for non-Samoan speaking students from first grade to eighth grade, Junior High. He had excelled in both English and Samoan speaking his parents wished to send him off-island to further his education.

He began high school in San Francisco while staying with his Uncle Sa'aga and Aunt Lelogo Levi and later transferred to Los Angeles where he lived with more relatives on his father's side, his Uncle Alatina Teofilo and Aunt Saili Tufele-Teofilo. He graduated from Carson High School and was part of the 1971-1972 California State football championship teams that he was always very proud of. Earning an athletic scholarship to the University of California, Riverside, Meki successfully completed his Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1976 and returned home to American Samoa to care for his parents and family.

In the summer of the previous year, 1975, he began part-time work as a disc jockey for the former Radio WVUV then Radio Samoa and now KHJ 103, to earn extra monies for his last year of college. When he got a teaching position at the Samoana High School in his first year, 1976, he still moonlighted as DJ at WVUV in the evening saying, "My Dad always picks up my check when I get paid at DOE, I needed extra cash."

Well known personality in the mid-70s to the youth and listening public, "Don Mac" was articulate and entertaining, he became a fixture in Flag Day broadcasting and public announcing, he was known for his commitment to teaching the young people of American Samoa, serving the government, his village, his church and his family. There were times he had ventured to further his education namely in Political Science but his devotion to his parents was deep. Story has it that Meki's father was so impressed with then-young attorney and popular legal mind Roy Hall, Rev. Solomona was encouraged to send his eldest son to law school. But true to the 5th Commandment of honoring one's parents, Meki remained home with those dear to his heart.

His father passed away in 1979, this young 24-year old promised his mother 'Rosa that he would always stay home in Samoa to take care of her and all of his siblings. For the rest of his life, he kept that promise. While still employed with the American Samoa Government's Department of Education, Meki earned his Masters and Doctorate degrees in BYU, Provo, Utah under the

tutelage of then DOE Director Seuvaai Mere Tuiasosopo-Betham, whom he regarded as his Mentor and second Mom. Taeaoafua was a high school teacher at Samoana High School from 1976-'85, he became a Vice Principal and eventually the Principal, after which he was transferred to the DOE Central Office's Grants & Special Programs Division 1985-1991.

On January 6, 1990, he married the former Vaofu'a Charlene Soliai and had their only child, daughter Katerina Keliiaione Solomona, (Rina married Vincent Toeava in 2014 and has two sons, Taeaoafua's pride and joy, Mekitavita Solomona Toeava and Mikaele Siaana Toeava.) In 1991-1992, Governor Uifa'atali Peter Coleman and Lt. Governor Galea'i Peni Poumele nominated Taeaoafua as Director of the Office of Development Planning, now Department of Commerce.

In 1992, he became one of the Samoan Managers of the Star Kist Samoa Company, a place he toiled for nearly twenty years and where he is said to have found the ultimate privilege to be amongst the common folk, the working class of his Samoan people, those he loved to serve. It was 1994 after burying his beloved mother Fuarosa that his family of the Taeleifi and Faiivae titles bestowed upon him the "Taeaoafua" matai name, to fulfill the wish of his mother to serve his families. In his wife Vaofu'a's family of the Soliai title in Nu'uuli, he was known as "Fofoga o Aiga".

Taeaoafua retired from Star Kist Samoa in 2012 under the leadership of the first Samoan ever General Manager, Brett Butler, where the former high school principal was deeply proud of his student, who set the bar for Samoa's youths that they too can manage a multimillion dollar corporation in the Pacific. In that same year, after a grueling campaign season of the gubernatorial race, Lolo Matalasi Moliga and Lemanu Peleti Mauga were elected as Governor and Lieutenant Governor, respectively. Taeaoafua did not remain idle and sought to further his service to his people by applying for any Cabinet position available in the new Administration.

Although, many past leaders of the American Samoa Government had long predicted the rise of this young son of the territory to prominence, Taeaoafua's only run for public office was in 2004 as the running mate of the Afioga ile Aloalii, Afoafouvale Leulumoega Lutu. He was a strong force in the Coleman-Tufele, Coleman-Galea'i & Lealaifuaneva-Afoa campaigns. He actively participated in local politics, believing the young people of American Samoa had an enormous say, and must make their voices heard about who is to govern and lead them.

Despite his political affiliations, Taeaoafua kept his highest respect and regard for those in his family with opposing views and assisted whenever required. He and the late Governor Tauese served closely together for many years in their CCCAS Siona Leone church and worked side by side as well-known matais in their Faiivae family matters of Leone. During Governor Togiola's terms, Taeaoafua's expertise while at Star Kist Samoa was often requested by the government; he responded favorably and willingly knowing it was for his people. His unwavering support of Faoa and Taufetee in 2012 solidified the team's strong gubernatorial bid and when unsuccessful, Taeaoafua's firm stance was reminiscent of years of political experience... "ia tatou malolo fa'atamali'i." Coupled with his deeply rooted Biblical beliefs that if we prayed, and this is what God allowed, then to God be the glory.

Governor Lolo appointed Taeaoafua as the Director of the Department of Health and Social Services in January 2013, a position he held until his sudden passing a week ago, Monday, December 11th.

Everyone who knew him, knows Meki Tavita Solomona, Taeaoafua, Fofoga o Aiga, Dr. Meki, would not let anything hinder his service to his

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DOI-OIG: US Fish and Wildlife employee tried to influence local contract award

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Uncomfortable with the “apparent conflict of interest” for an unsolicited proposal for a rat-related research contract with ASG, the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources never awarded the federally funded contract to a man, whose wife works with the federal grantor and helped write the proposal, according to a federal report.

The US Department of Interior’s Office of Inspector General’s (DOI-OIG) semi annual report, dated Nov. 30, to the US Congress shows that among the investigations by the DOI-OIG covering the last six months of fiscal year 2017 includes one regarding a US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) employee who “used her position to influence a contract award” submitted to DMWR. However, the DOI-OIG report didn’t identify the FWS employee by name nor the employee’s husband, who submitted the unsolicited proposal to DMWR, and no dates were cited in the report as to when it happened and when the investigation began. However, Samoa News understands that this matter occurred more than two years ago.

DOI-OIG says it initiated an investigation after it received allegations of a conflict of interest involving a biologist and an FWS employee, who was alleged to have assisted her husband, a biologist, in obtaining contract work with DMWR on projects funded by FWS grants.

DOI-OIG also investigated allegations that the husband failed to return a DMWR laptop and related media when his involvement with the DMWR concluded.

“Our investigation substantiated that the FWS employee used her FWS position to influence a contract award by the DMWR to her husband,” according to DOI-OIG’s summary investigation report, which is included in the report to Congress.

After the FWS employee reviewed a proposal written by her husband for rat-related research, she suggested to the DMWR that it consider additional rat-related research in American Samoa.

“Almost immediately after the FWS employee made her suggestion to the DMWR, her husband submitted an unsol-

icited proposal for rat-related research in American Samoa,” DOI-OIG said and noted that in response to the suggestion, DMWR submitted a grant proposal, which the FWS employee approved despite her knowledge that her husband could benefit from the award.

DOI-OIG said it also determined that the FWS employee had helped her husband prepare the research proposal before he submitted it to the DMWR.

“Because the DMWR was uncomfortable with the apparent conflict of interest, it never awarded the rat-research contract to the husband and the project never received Federal funding,” according to DOI-OIG, who “confirmed” that the FWS employee and her husband had in their possession a laptop that was the property of the American Samoa Government.

The laptop had been loaned to him by the DMWR for a work-related project. And when DMWR asked him to return it, “the husband falsely reported to the DMWR that the laptop was broken and that he had thrown it away.” However, DOI-OIG “subsequently recovered the laptop from the FWS employee who, at the time we recovered it, falsely asserted it was her and her husband’s personal computer,” according to the report, which noted that the US Attorney’s Office for the District of Hawai’i had declined prosecution in this matter.

DOI-OIG issued a report in July on this matter to the FWS director, according to the agency’s public records. However, only a brief summary of the report was publicly released Aug. 30. And this same summary included in the DOI-OIG’s semi annual report to Congress. FWS regional office in Falls Church, Virginia has yet to respond to several questions from Samoa News that were emailed Sept. 5, although the agency had acknowledged receiving the questions, which includes what action FWS has taken regarding the employee cited in the DOI-OIG report.

Samoa News has submitted a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request for the full report on this matter to DOI-OIG, which acknowledged on Sept. 19 that the agency had received the request, which would take between 21-60 workdays to process. DOI-OIG notes that they do have a backlog of FOIA requests.



Some of the 103 graduates of the Fall graduation of the American Samoa Community College last Friday at the ASCC Gymnasium.
[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Sudden power outage creates ‘nightmare’ at Atlanta airport

ATLANTA (AP) — A sudden power outage brought the world’s busiest airport to a standstill Sunday, grounding more than 1,000 flights in Atlanta just days before the start of the Christmas travel rush. Hours after the blackout began, authorities announced that electricity would be restored at the Hartfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport by midnight.

Passengers at the airport were left in the dark when the lights went out at around 1 p.m. The outage halted all outgoing flights, and arriving planes were held on the ground at their point of departure. International flights were being diverted, offi-

cials said. Mayor Kasim Reed tweeted Sunday night that all passengers had been safely deplaned.

The City of Atlanta said on its Twitter page that it would provide shuttle service to the Georgia Convention Center for travelers in need of a place to stay and Chick-fil-A would be provided.

Delta passenger Emilia Duca, 32, was on her way to Wisconsin from Bogota, Colombia, when she got stuck in Atlanta. She said police made passengers who were in the baggage-claim area move to a higher floor. She said restaurants and shops were closed.


Vending machines weren’t working.

“A lot of people are arriving, and no one is going out. No one is saying anything official. We are stuck here,” she said. “It’s a nightmare.”

Delta, with its biggest hub operation in Atlanta, will be hardest hit. By evening, Delta had already cancelled almost 800 Sunday flights and another 250 on Monday, nearly all of them in Atlanta, according to tracking service FlightAware.com.

Robert Mann, an aviation consultant and former American Airlines executive, said it likely will be Tuesday before Delta’s

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Congratulations
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Graduate
Monica Lei Ve'ave'a
Associate of Science Criminal Justice

*New Beginning,
New Chapter,
New Endeavors,
New Challenges.*

*May God's graces be with you as you
step ahead towards your dreams.
Keep the courage as you face new
challenges in life.*

*Lots of Love from your sisters, brothers,
nieces and nephews especially from your
parents,
Lei and Monica Ve'ave'a*

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A look at the crowd at the start of the American Samoa Community College Fall graduation of 2017 at the ASCC Gymnasium, with a total of 103 graduates, who received Associate of Arts, Associate of Science degrees, Certificates of Proficiency and four graduates with Bachelor of Education degrees in Elementary Education under the ASCC BA program. Also marching during the ceremony and present with Masters degrees were five graduates from Ashford University, Concordia University and Walden University, according to the graduation program.

In her welcoming remarks, ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi-Pato told the ASCC graduates their graduation day is a day of celebration. “It is the beginning of your entrance into the workforce, into higher education and into the community,” she said reminding graduates to never forget those who supported them through this journey and those who will continue to support them in their future journey. “Do not forget your family, culture, church, teachers and everyone who stood by you through this journey,” she told the graduates, noting that if they pursue higher education off island, “Do not forget to... come back to our island, our government, our community and our college and to give back in service.” She reminded graduates that “this is the initial step into the real world” and reiterated to “remember to give back in service, in time and in commitment.”

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]





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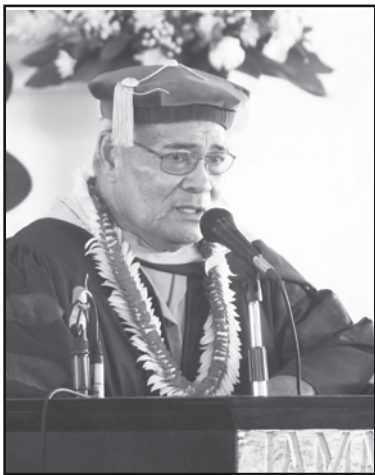
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Lolo tells ASCC grads: “Be a Samoan first...”

BEFORE YOU BECOME A DOCTOR, OR LAWYER OR
WHATEVER PROFESSION YOU WANT



by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has challenged the American Samoa Community College to educate and instill in students that they are Samoans, who respect — among other things — the environment, culture and language — before choosing a profession for the future.

According to the governor, students who learn first who they are as a Samoan, will go off island to get an education and will return home to “serve our people.” This was the focus of the governor’s special remarks at last Friday’s ASCC Fall semester 2017 graduation, at the ASCC gymnasium, where the commencement speaker was William Ena Spitzenberg,

the co-valedictorian of his 1996 ASCC graduating class, who earned a degree in civil engineering and now serves as Chief Water Engineer for ASPA.

At the start of his remarks Lolo expressed appreciation to the graduates for selecting an American Samoan, an ASCC alumnus, to deliver the commencement address. He said that by doing so, it sends a clear message that “our own sons and daughters” are prepared to serve American Samoa.

According to the governor, he had spoken with ASCC and its president as to whether students are being taught to prepare their lives to attend higher education off island seeking higher degrees. After graduation, ASCC and “the rest of us here will just be memories of your past,” he told graduates but added that the question is, “do you really know who you are; has the college prepared you to be yourself and to be somebody, so that when you leave [here], you know who you are? That’s the biggest challenge our college is facing today.”

“First, and the truth is that, you are Samoan, and we are Samoan,” according to the governor, who noted that he had

(Continued on page 10)

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American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) representatives — Radio Technician/Operator Brenda Tevaga-Feero and Radio/SCADA Technician Pene Vaisagote - recently completed a 3-day Communications Unit Leader (COML) Course.

[photo: ASPA]

ASPA radio technicians attend communications courses

Tafuna, AM SAMOA — American Samoa Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS) is pleased to announce the completion of a 3-day Communications Unit Leader (COML) Course by two ASPA representatives: Radio Technician/Operator Brenda Tevaga-Feero and Radio/SCADA Technician Pene Vaisagote.

The COML Course is a service offering designed for all state/territory, tribal regional, and local emergency response professionals and for support personnel with a communications background. The aim of the Course is to familiarize these professionals with the role and responsibilities of a COML under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) and to provide hands-on exercises that reinforce the lecture materials. The Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) and FEMA/Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offer this course jointly as “L969, All-Hazards Position Specific Communications Unit Leader.

Under the NIMS ICS structure, a COML is the focal point within the Communications Unit. This course provides DHS-approved and NIMS-compliant instruction to ensure that every state/territory has trained personnel capable of coordinating on-scene emergency communications during a multi-jurisdictional response or planned event. OEC/Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) instructors are approved by USDHS and have had extensive experience both as emergency responders and as COMLs.

The course is presented with facilitated lectures, hands-on activities and extensive interactive discussions. OEC/ICTAP instructors work through the discussions and activities to explain in detail the processes used to achieve communication operability, interoperability, and how to incorporate

additional communications solutions.

The course offering is through a technical assistance request submitted by the ASDHS to either FEMA/EMI or OEC with verification of the selected candidates by the local Statewide Interoperable Coordinator (SWIC). It is by invitation only with all expenses paid for by the federal government.

Tevaga-Feero and Vaisagote are the most recent candidates representing American Samoa first responders that have attended and completed a COML Course in a decade. Notably, Tevaga-Feero is the first female to join this specialized technical area of expertise in radio communications.

Prior to the COML Course, Radio/SCADA Supervisor Kesi Kuki, and Radio Technicians/Operators Brenda Tevaga-Feero and April Esera all of ASPA attended two separate 5-day COMT Courses held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in March 2016 and Honolulu, Hawaii in September 2017 respectively. The same individuals completed all the required prerequisite NIMS/ICS Courses as part of the selection process for the COMT and COML Courses. The most important and final requirement that will promulgate certification for this training process is the completion of the individual position Task Book, which must be acknowledged and certified by the SWIC.

ASDHS Director Samana Semo Ve’ave’a expresses a big fa’amalo and fa’afetai to the ASPA Chief Executive Officer Utu Abe Malae for his continued partnership and collaboration in programs that are mutually beneficial to our personnel and operations. We are all very proud of the accomplishments and contributions by the four toward building our local capacity in radio communications, which is a key component to emergency operations.

(Source: ASDHS media release)

Defendant...

Continued from page 2

the pat down search. And during the pat down, the police officer felt the right side of the defendant’s pants pocket, and felt a hard object. The police officer flipped the pocket inside out and a glass pipe fell out from the inside of the defendant’s pants pocket.

The glass pipe was later confirmed to commonly be used to smoke methamphetamine. The police officer asked the defendant what it was and the defendant responded for the police

officer to get the f*** away from him and not place anything inside his pants.

The defendant was uncooperative when police tried to place him inside the police unit for transportation. The crystalline substance that was allegedly found inside the glass pipe was tested and the result was positive for methamphetamine. After when warned of his constitutional rights, the defendant refused to make a statement.



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

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

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

“Water Use Information Project for American Samoa”

Submission

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

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

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

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

Document

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

Right of Rejection

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

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

▶ 27 graduate...

Continued from page 3

someone needs spiritual help; a mechanic when someone’s vehicle is stuck on the road, the officer’s duty is to make sure the citizen is receiving the help he/ she deserves from law enforcement. They can also be a parent or a counselor — whatever the community needs.

“Don’t forget to do your best... The community really needs you. Don’t forget, the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.” Lemanu concluded.

Among the VIPs on the stage with the Lt. governor were former police commissioner, Sen. Tuaolo Manaia Fruean, Vice Speaker, Fetu Fetui Jr; Attorney General, Talauega Eleasalo Ale, former senator Soliai T. Fui-maono, and former deputy commissioner, Leseiau Laumoli, who is the director for CPJA.

THE GRADUATES:

Iulio Afoa (DPS); Epitacio Aguimabag (DPS); Ropati Alefosio (DPS); Forrest Ali’ilua (DPS); Sabrina Amosa (DPS); Sosene Faiai (DPS); Iosefa Fanolua (DPS); Leelynn Himphill (DPS) ; Daniel Letuli (DPS); Toia Levao (DPS); Joseph Liu Kuey (DPS); Patricia Murillo (DPS); Faavae Papatu (DPS); Tuluiga Salanoa (DPS); Talitiga Schwenke (DPS); Hana Seafa (DPS); Theresa Setu (DPS); Mose Simi (DPS); Tulutuluaitao Taliga (DPS); Marieta Teletolio (DPS); Meaalofa Tiatia (DPS); Imelda Tumanuvao (DPS); Lee Vaouli (DPS); Fiatuina Wilson (DPS); Taotofi Leota (Customs); Ripine Leasiolagi (DHS) and Valerie Fuimaono (DHS).



▶ Police vehicle shot...

Continued from page 1



attempt on the police officers’ lives. And as far as I am concerned, while this is a grave concern for me, it should also be a grave concern to the general public. An attempt on police officers’ lives is an attempt on all of us, and this must be stopped,” he said.

A special investigation by the Criminal Investigating Division (CID) is being carried out, and the commissioner is asking the public to assist them in this matter so that justice will be done. “I will do everything to bring this person/persons to justice, in accordance with the law, and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. We will not rest until we find this person/persons and I need the public’s help. No lead is too small and no lead is not important. We’re investigating this incident and we want to get this done as quickly as possible. I will also bring any help here and from abroad to help me get this done,” the commissioner said.

As we are in the holiday

season this time of the year, Le’i said that “this sort of behavior should not happen on our island. We have a lot of visitors, including families and children, visiting us this time of the year, and we don’t want them to get hurt in these types of incidents.”

Le’i called this action a “cowardly and unprovoked act” that is not to be tolerated. As the police commissioner, Le’i said that he was very angry when this incident happened. He said that police officers are armed, but they are very controlled when this type of situation happens.

“We don’t want to go out there and start doing things such as shooting at people who shoot at us, we really don’t want to do that type of response because we need to respond according to the law,” Le’i said.

As a leader, Le’i said that he’s very concerned for the safety of police officers because they put their lives at risk to protect the community and to make sure every single person in the community is safe “We know that

there are a lot of mixed feelings going around the island right now ever since police officers were armed. There are people who are very angry and frustrated and they really want to do something bad to the police, but I want to assure you that we are in control of the situation. There’s no need for any alarm, all I’m doing is I’m appealing to the general public to help us find these people.” Le’i said. According to the commissioner, this is not the first time police officers’ lives have been at stake — or almost killed while performing their duty.

Le’i recalled another incident that happened around this busy time of the year in Dec. 2014, when the police unit an officer was riding in with other police officers got shot at in Lepuapua- Leone.

The incident happened when an unknown vehicle shot at the police unit and injured one of the police officers. Bullet holes were seen in the police unit and the rear window was also shattered. The police officer received injuries to his head, shoulder and chest area and he had to undergo an operation the same morning the incident took place. The police officer was later released from the LBJ hospital, and then taken off-island for more treatment, because there were still several pellets in his head area that local doctors were unable to remove.

Le’i said a police investigation remains ongoing into this incident, and there are still no suspects as of this time.

**LAPATA’IGA
MO MATAFAGA**

American
Samoa
Environmental
Protection
Agency

ASEPA

Lagolagoina le fa’amamaina o matafaga

Aso o le Fa’asalalauga: Tesema 13, 2017
Fa’afeso’ota’i: AS-EPA Polokalama a le Vai – 633-2304

Fa’asilasilaga mai le Ofisa o le Puipuiga o le Si’osi’omaga mo le mamalu o le atunu’u: sa faia su’esu’ega o gataifale ia Tesema 12, 2017, ma fa’amaonia ai le i ai o siana (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

- Aua Stream Mouth
- Laulii Stream Mouth
- Alega Stream Mouth
- Avaio \$2 Beach
- Auto Beach
- Fagaitua Stream Mouth
- Masausi Stream Mouth
- Sailele Stream Mouth
- Amouli Beach
- Onenoa Stream Mouth
- Leone Pala
- Asili Stream Mouth

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

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



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Ausage)

Amata releases state- ment on tax reform bill

Washington, D.C. – Friday, Congresswoman Aumua Amata released a statement on the outcome of House and Senate negotiations that produced a final major tax reform bill that reduces taxes and promotes economic growth. The bill leaves tax extenders, such as the American Samoa Economic Development Credit and rum tax credits for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and other similar requests, to be taken up in subsequent legislation, but the offsetting tax rate reduction has a similar effect of encouraging investment and promoting jobs.

The effort to extend the American Samoa Economic Development Credit, as

requested by Congresswoman Amata, was initially included in the House of Representatives' tax legislation: H.R. 1, The Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017. Although that bill passed the House of Representatives in November, the Senate then also passed a bill, and the House and Senate has been conferring through this outcome arriving at a final bill.

"The overall reduction in the tax burden helps the financial bottom line for companies like Star-Kist, and a competitive tax rate is an important indicator that we can expect the tuna industry to continue as an employer and valued community partner in American Samoa for years to come," said Aumua

Amata. "We're also encouraged with the prospects of further consideration in 2018 of the American Samoa Economic Development Credit specifically, along with a series of similar tax extender requests from other territories and around the country. We look forward to continuing to work with Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga on this ongoing effort to strengthen our economy.

"Thank you to so many of Members of the House who supported our effort," continued Congresswoman Amata. "At every opportunity in Washington, D.C., we will continue to educate and inform people on the unique circumstances of American Samoa's geographic and economic isolation, and make the case that our federal tax and economic policies should reflect those realities. We'll continue working to encourage investment and preserve jobs in American Samoa."

♦ An obedient Son...

Continued from page 4

people. When he began dialysis treatment in Seattle, Washington after a government meeting in Las Vegas in June this year and attended the funeral of his dear friend from Carson High School, Kise Fiatoa, it was determined Taeaoafua required immediate medical treatment, he proceeded with doctor's orders of becoming a dialysis patient. However, as soon as he was given the green light to travel home in September, nothing was going to stop him from returning to his beloved people, his family, and his island home. Asked if he was not leery of the LBJ Hospital and all the fuss with the island's only medical facility, his simple

reply was, "O lea lava e lelei le tatou Dialysis unit, they're trying the best they can with what they have."

When reached for a comment on this tragic turn of events in the end of his first year, of his second term, Governor Lolo M. Moliga was saddened by the sudden demise of one of American Samoa's most diligent and vibrant public servants, a trusted Cabinet member and a very dear friend, Governor Lolo held that Taeaoafua succumbed to God's omnipotent will and what He alone has allowed to occur. That in the passing of beloved Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Tavita Solomona, a greater good will arise for the

people of American Samoa and all those whose lives Taeaoafua has touched.

The families are finalizing plans for the celebration of Director Solomona's life for the first week of 2018. His Leone CCCAS "Siona le Mauga Paia" church where he served as Deacon for many years and church General Secretary, are in deep shock and mourning but readily accept the words of the Savior that Taeaoafua believed in, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Deepest condolences to Mrs. Vaofu'a Soliai-Solomona, and all of Taeaoafua's families and loved ones.

♦ Lolo...

Continued from page 7

informed ASCC to be sure that every graduate knows first that he/she is Samoan and being a lawyer, or a doctor, or engineer, or what ever the chosen profession is — comes later.

"Why? Because being Samoan was bestowed by God, who put all of us on these islands and blessed us with abundance of resources, our culture and language," he said, and shared his belief as governor that any student who has Samoan blood must first be taught about being Samoan, "who you are" so when the student goes off island, "you will know first that you are Samoan."

He said that there are many "good Samoan values" — respect, love, humility — that should be the first and a priority in the life of a Samoan student before heading off island to search for a brighter future.

He told graduates that they are "Samoans and this comes first." The governor pointed out that there are many known good examples when it comes to the relationship between the U.S. and its possessions in the Pacific — such as Hawai'i, when it was a US territory before being a

state, and the territory of Guam.

However, he claims that there is a "big disconnect between the people" — referring to the native inhabitants of Hawai'i and Guam — and their "environment."

"Now they are fighting back to restore their culture, their language, and their everything," the governor said. "If this deterioration continues, they will find themselves homeless in their own land..."

He told graduates that this could become a devastating issue for American Samoa — because graduates didn't give priority to being Samoan first and their chosen profession coming later — "in the end, we will be homeless in our own land. Why? Because you have no respect for your environment, as well as culture and tradition." Additionally there is no respect and belief "in your own native language."

"A language is something that God has given as a gift to all mankind," he said, adding that what is happening in Hawai'i and Guam — their native language has started to fade away.

Lolo then recalled earlier in the ceremony where ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi-Pato called on graduates heading off island for

higher degrees to "return home to serve our people."

In his last 40 years of service in government, Lolo said he has observed that "those students who developed to be Samoans first, before they go off island to further their education and other benefits" return home to serve the people.

But "those who put their profession before being a Samoan — they just leave here and you never see them again," he said, and cited for example those seeking to be a medical doctor whom after been given "a lot of government money" through scholarships, they don't come back home upon earning lots of money off island.

"Why? They never wanted to become Samoan first. So it is a challenge to the [ASCC] president, college and the board. It is your duty is to teach and educate these young people to become real Samoans," he said.

In conclusion, the governor told graduates, "be a Samoan first, before you become an attorney, or a doctor... then we are guaranteed that you will go out, and you will return to serve your people."

He also wished graduates the best for their future and congratulated them for achieving this milestone in their lives.



Compiled by Samoa News staff
**SAMOA PEACEKEEPERS
LEAVE FOR SUDAN**

A contingent of 6 officers from the Samoa Police Service left for Sudan on Friday, Dec. 15 to serve as part of a United Nations deployment mission. Farewelled in a simple ceremony by the SPS executive, the officers will be deployed in Sudan for 12 months.

Police Commissioner Fuia-vailili Egon Keil congratulated the officers for making it through the tough selection process and reminded them about their role as ambassadors of Samoa in the UN arena during their deployment. He wished them all the best and said that the priority for them is to stay safe. Samoa signed an agreement with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in 2000 and Samoa's first deployment was in June that same year, sending officers to the UN mission in East Timor.

The number of Samoan uniformed personnel engaged in UN-led peacekeeping operations has varied depending on UN requests, although Samoa has never refused any UN requests for peacekeepers. Samoa has since deployed peacekeepers to Liberia and Sudan. Samoa has also provided police to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

Samoa deploys both men and women officers and in 2010, the first all-women Samoan police contingent was sent to Timor Leste to join the UN Integrated Mission there.

The current team headed to Sudan consists of:

1. S/Sgt Tavete Tusani,
2. Const Onosai Muipu,
3. Const Vavaemuititi Koroseta,
4. Const Tosoimatuu Talatonu,
5. Const Faafetai Opeta Auvaa and
6. Const Benhuro Fiu Loimata

(Source: Samoa Press Secretariat — www.samoaplanet.com)

SCHOLARS BOUND FOR FIJI

By Tina Mata'afa-Tufele
More than ready for the challenge, some excited and nervous, a group of 20 scholars are bound for Fiji through the prestigious Australia Awards.

Recipients of the Fiji scholarships were recognized during a ceremony Friday afternoon at the Elisa Hotel Conference Room in Sogi.

"It's quite exciting and I'm scared at the same time," eighteen-year-old Jeremy Fa'amau told Samoa Planet. "I've never left here without parental supervision and this will be my first time being alone by myself in a foreign land."

Jeremy, the son of Ray and Fo'ilagi Fa'amau of Vaivase Tai, will major in political science at the University of the South Pacific in Suva. Like

most of the 2017 Australia Awards winners, he just completed foundation year at the National University of Samoa. He was enrolled at the Faculty of the Arts.

An avid reader, writer, and savvy communicator, political science is not Jeremy's first choice. Political science is not so much an interest of this Samoa College graduate. In fact it's his Plan B.

Jeremy Fa'amau, recipient of the Australia Award Scholarship that will fund his undergraduate studies in Fiji.

"It wasn't so much about interest, it's about my strengths. I'm very good in English, I love communicating and I hate maths," Jeremy laughed. "I hate maths. I hate maths. Write that down. It's mostly just capitalizing on my strengths. I love writing. I love reading."

"Initially, I wanted to be a lawyer," he said. "But the government is not supporting anymore law scholarships... there are too many lawyers in Samoa... I was bummed because I've wanted to be a lawyer since Year 9." Jeremy's parents reminded him that many students would love to be where he is today — done with NUS foundation year and on his way to USP on a scholarship.

His current goal: "I just want to finish, get a degree in something, get a job and help out mommy and daMonday, December 18, 2017. Merry Christmas!"

Scholar sisters Nafanua and Lili Brown, head to Fiji for study for their bachelor's degrees. Nafanua's studies will be funded by the Australia Awards program. Lili is attending uni under the Samoa government's scholarship program.

Nafanua Brown, who represents Vaoala in the pool of Fiji-bound scholars, is excited as her primary goal is to serve Samoa after obtaining her Bachelor of Commerce degree at USP.

"I'm aiming to be an economist and major in economy and marketing," she said. "The main goal for me is to serve our country. Economists can be teachers... to help our country to develop to achieve our economic goals."

The Brown family celebrates the scholastic achievements of Nafanua, 20, and her 18-year-old sister Lili. Lili skipped Year 11 and joined Nafanua in Year 12 at Samoa College.

The daughters of Elvis and Lei Brown, graduated from Samoa College and then NUS foundation year together. However, because Lili was born in American Samoa, she was not eligible for awards from Australia or New Zealand, said Nafanua.

"Another reason for me to pursue my career goals is that my family are science people,

(Continued on page 15)



Some members of the ASCC Choir posed for a photo at last Friday's ASCC Fall 2017 graduation ceremony at the college's gymnasium.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

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

REQUEST FOR QUOTES (RFQ)

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

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

"Water Project Vehicle"

Submission

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

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

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

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

Document

The RFQ package outlining the quote requirements is available at the New Procurement Office at ASPA's Tafuna Compound, New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Right of Rejection

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

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

FA'AFETAI TELE LAVA THANK YOU!

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa would like to
THANK the following sponsors & partners for the support and assistance
provided during our 2nd Open Fishing Tournament
(Nov 17 –18, 2017):



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Other Sponsors & Partners:



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- Panamex Pacific
- Sadie's by the Sea
- Sepp's Paint Shop
- KS Mart
- TSM Mart
- Neil's ACE Home Center
- Steven & Sons
- DDW Beach Café
- Cost U Less
- Moana o Sina
- Pago Printshop
- TaeBo Defense *Fitness Group*



FA'AFETAI ALSO TO ALL THE 'ALIA AND RECREATIONAL
ANGLERS FOR PARTICIPATING. MALO LE TAUATA'I!





Aiava Talaesai (far left), one of the two Summa Cum Laude graduates with a GPA of 3.90-4.00, who graduated at last Friday's American Samoa Community College Fall Commencement at the ASCC Gymnasium. He is accompanied by family members as well as another ASCC graduate Andrew Fanolua. [photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

► McCain...

Continued from page 4

Christmas together in Arizona.”

Earlier in the day, President Donald Trump told reporters he had spoken to McCain’s wife, Cindy. “They’ve headed back, but I understand he’ll come if we ever needed his vote, which hopefully we won’t,” Trump said after returning to the White House from Camp David. “But the word is that John will come back if we need his vote. And it’s too bad. He’s going through a very tough time, there’s no question about it. But he will come back if we need his vote.”

Republicans hold a slim 52-48 majority in the Senate, and McCain and Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., missed votes last week. The 80-year-old Cochran had a non-melanoma lesion removed from his nose earlier this week. He is expected to vote on the tax bill.

Republicans secured the support of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker last Friday for the tax measure, and they are poised to pass the bill by a narrow margin in the face of unified Democratic opposition. As a backstop, Vice President Mike Pence would be available to break a tie.

A vote is expected in the House on Tuesday and the Senate on Wednesday. If approved, the measure would head to Trump for his signature on what will be his first major legislative accomplishment since taking office 11 months ago.

After his summer surgery, McCain rebounded quickly, returning to Washington and entering the Senate on July 25 to a standing ovation from his colleagues. In a dramatic turn, he cast a deciding vote against the Republican health care bill — a move that drew the wrath of Trump and conservatives.

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Female graduates of the 2017 Fall graduation of the American Samoa Community College last Friday at the ASCC Gymnasium.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



Jamie Lattin, left, leans on her son, Daniel Gillespie, during the funeral service for her daughter and his sister, Casey Jordan Marquez, in the Henderson Fine Arts Center Performance Hall in Farmington on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2107. Marquez, a cheerleader who planned to travel to Florida to perform as part of a cheer squad during the upcoming Orange Bowl, and 17-year-old Francisco “Paco” Fernandez were killed on Dec. 7 when a gunman disguised as a student opened fire inside the school

. (Greg Sorber/The Albuquerque Journal via AP)

Memorial held for 2nd victim of New Mexico school shooting

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) — Hundreds of people gathered Sunday in northwestern New Mexico for a memorial service and bonfire to remember a 17-year-old student killed in a school shooting rampage in the small city of Aztec.

Casey Jordan Marquez was a cheerleader who planned to travel to Florida to perform as part of a cheer squad during the upcoming Orange Bowl.

Marquez and 17-year-old Francisco “Paco” Fernandez were killed on Dec. 7 when a gunman disguised as a student opened fire inside Aztec High School.

Authorities have said 21-year-old William Atchison planned the attack, but the victims weren’t specifically targeted.

People were asked to write messages to put on the wood for the bonfire at Marquez’s service.

Many of the mourners at Sunday’s service were cheerleaders from all over New Mexico’s San Juan County. They presented a cheer bow and a shadow box to Marquez’s mother.

Friends of Marquez said she had a big heart and always helped people, including showing new students around Aztec High.

Her family issued a statement saying they “have quickly learned that her angel wings spread further than any of us realized.”

The room at San Juan College was adorned with orange and black balloons, representing Aztec High’s colors. Residents

of the tight-knit community were encouraged to bring balloons in the two colors along with signs bearing the mantra “Aztec Strong.”

“Aztec is not your ordinary town. Everybody knows everybody,” said Susan Aguirre, who owns Lil Aztec Flower Shop, told Albuquerque TV station KOB. “We know our police officers, our commissioners. It’s not a city. It’s not a town of strangers, so it’s very special.”

“(It’s) the story of love and support that’s going to continue,” added Aztec High cheer coach Debbie Johnson. “These kids are our children. We love them, and we protect them and we take care of them.”

A memorial for Fernandez was held Friday in Farmington.

Investigators said it was likely more lives could have been lost if Fernandez had not walked into the bathroom where the gunman was hunkered down.

The gunman shot Fernandez, then walked out into the hallway and encountered Marquez. He immediately killed her.

With some calling him a hero, Fernandez’s family remembered him as a teenager who loved sports, video games and hanging out with relatives and friends.

School officials plan to transform a space damaged by the shooting into an open-learning commons area and dedicate it to the victims.

Students are scheduled to return to school Monday. They’ll start off the day with a special assembly before heading to class.

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State Sen. Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, leaves a hearing of the Senate Rules Committee after joining other members of the committee in voting to remove Sen. Tony Mendoza, D-Artesia of his committee chairmanship amid a misconduct probe, Monday, Nov. 27, 2017, in Sacramento, Calif. Mendoza is accused of inappropriate behavior toward three young women in his office. Assemblyman Raul Boganegra, D-Pacoima announced, Monday, Nov. 27, 2017 that he is resigning his office immediately following multiple allegations of sexual misconduct.

(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

Gov. says senator should resign over misconduct allegations

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Pennsylvania’s governor said Sunday a state senator should resign over published allegations he behaved inappropriately toward women.

Gov. Tom Wolf’s call for Sen. Daylin Leach to quit followed a story quoting former campaign and legislative staffers and advisers who accused Leach, 56, of behavior ranging from highly sexualized jokes and comments to touching they considered inappropriate.

Wolf called Leach “a leader on important policy issues” but said “this conduct cannot be excused.”

Leach, a legislator since 2003, is seeking the Democratic nomination next year for Congress in the Philadelphia suburbs.

In a statement, Leach blamed the accusations on an unnamed political opponent and denied ever inappropriately touching women.

“I have brief discussions in public places literally dozens of times a day and of these incidents, I remember one not at all,

and one only vaguely,” Leach said. “But they both allegedly occurred in crowded rooms with lots of people and cameras around. I was never alone with the women involved. And I never, in any way, intentionally or unintentionally, touched them inappropriately. It did not happen.”

Aubrey Montgomery, a former finance director for Leach’s 2008 state senate campaign, told the paper she complained to Leach about a sexualized tone in the office that offended her.

“When I expressed my discomfort, Daylin suggested I just didn’t get the joke, labeled me a prude and characterized me to my colleagues as the campaign’s wet blanket,” she said. “The more uncomfortable Daylin made me, the more he would dial up the intensity. The more I expressed my discomfort at his sexual and off-color humor, the funnier it was to him.”

Montgomery has worked for a man running against Leach in the Democratic primary next

year, Dan Muroff.

Wolf said the state lacks an “adequate structure for victims to report this type of behavior” and called on leaders from both parties in Harrisburg to “commit to real reform that protects victims.”

The paper said none of the women who say they saw or heard questionable conduct by Leach said they had been assaulted, denied a promotion or had their careers threatened.

Messages were left Sunday with Leach and his spokesman, Steve Hoenstine.

Pacific brief...

Continued from page 11

even my sister,” she said. “I want to be different.”

Nafanua landed an Australia Awards scholarship and Lili’s scored a Samoa government scholarship. They’re both going to study for their bachelor’s degrees in Fiji.

“This is a great opportunity to explore the world,” she said. “I’m actually pretty scared. It’s a bit difficult for me to go out there.”

Australia Awards are prestigious international scholarships funded by the Government of Australia.

During her speech, Australia Deputy High Commissioner for Samoa, Amanda Jewell, congratulated awardees and reminded: “never lose focus” in Fiji.

(Source: Samoa Press Secretariat — www.samoaplanet.com)

WILEX SAMOA LAUNCHES NEW DAIRY FREE COCONUT CHOCOLATES FOR EXPORT

The Wilsons; Nathan, father Tagaloa Eddie and mum Carol with sister Grace at the launching of their new chocolate brands

There is a popular saying “Life is a box of Chocolates! You never know what you’re gonna get” and Wilex Samoa launched a NEW Range of Chocolate Boxes to add to its ever popular KOKO LOA line of chocolates. Its 3 New products- aimed for the local, tourist and export markets.

The 3 new products are:

The “Dairy Free” Milk Coconut Chocolate — is a first of its kind in the world- and is a delicious products targeting the Vegan Market as well as health foods markets. “We developed this chocolate after numerous requests from our “Vegetarian and vegan community” as well

as surveys carried out at the Auckland, Food Show held in July where Koko Loa displayed some of its products.

The Koko Loa Assorted Gift Pack of Chocolates is simply divine! “The Gift Packs were inspired by our customers feedback saying they wanted something slightly bigger to show off Samoa to family and friends, we’ve worked tirelessly with our design people in Wellington, NZ to bring you this beautiful packaging masterpiece. The new packaging arrived last week and we’re so excited for our Farmers, Retailer and also Our Employees as if Sales pan out we will definitely need more employees. We promise it is quality chocolate. Still proudly produced here in Lelata by our 20+ staff. Wilex strives to give an exquisite taste of Samoa with nuts and fruits to tickle your taste buds! Koko Loa was just launched in American Samoa last week- and so far support has been overwhelming, with resulting orders now being sent over. Koko Loa Macadamia Gift Pack is now being produced here due to popular demand by our American and Asian Customers. Wilex hopes to use existing Samoan Macadamia and nut tree’s for these products to encourage and support small farming communities. “This will provide an extra source of income for our people, instead of going to NZ and Australia, we want to encourage our people to stay in Samoa and farm our land,” said Tagaloa Eddie Wilson.

Wilex Samoa has a network with over 300 farmers /families since the Mid 1990s, and plans to continue local production are ongoing.

“Our farmers are 2nd- 3rd Generation Wilex Farmers,

(Continued on page 19)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Contact us by Fax at (684) 633-4864

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FILE - This Sept. 27, 2017, file photo, shows an Amazon Fire TV streaming device displayed with its remote. The device plugs into the back or side of a television set to stream Netflix and other video. Amazon is angling for a truce in its two-year battle with Apple and Google over streaming gadgets: It says it is preparing to put Apple TV and Chromecast back on sale. A spokeswoman for Amazon confirmed Friday, Dec. 15, 2017, it is preparing to sell the devices. Links to the products appeared on Amazon.com but indicate they are still unavailable.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File)



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Academic Affairs

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: TED/ASDOE RECRUITER/DATA
Employment Status: One Year Contract

General Description:

Main course of work: Recruiting in-service teachers to attend ASTEP and keep data of teacher's enrollment and participation semesterly.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Coordinate and schedule school site visits to high schools, elementary schools both public and private to recruit possible candidates for Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) program.
- Design and create power point presentations pertaining to A.A./B.Ed. programs for school site visitations.
- Participate in informational presentations at school sites to high school juniors and seniors and/or parents for recruiting purposes to include: Setting up projector and power point presentation, distributing hand-outs of program information, presenting, making available a sign-up sheet that includes contact information for those interested, and doing follow up contacts with school administrators.
- Design, develop and distribute approved educational information/advertisements/brochures, and track the effectiveness of targeted education and outreach campaigns. This will include free community advertisements on radio and television, if available, and any other creative recruiting ways and means that can be implemented.
- Develop good working relationships with ASDOE Secondary and Elementary leaders and Teacher Quality to encourage and pipeline in-service teachers into the program.
- Create data sheets on the demographics of the in-service population as needed; male, female, age, village, school, years of experience, certified, non-certified, coursework, etc.
- Keep raw data on pre-service and in-service teachers to monitor progress in the program.
- Interpret and provide disaggregated data according to the needs of the program to show success rates and progress of students as well as to provide DOE with data as required.
- Participate in workshops and set up informational booth at various venues throughout the community.
- Work with TED's Lumana'i Educators Association (LEA) for recruiting purposes.
- Collaborate closely with TED Administrative Assistant on pipelining in-service and pre-service students into program
- Write and submit a report on progress of in-service population to Director of TED. Maintain a record of all teachers recruited in the program.
- Make copies of all literature pertaining to recruiting/outreach and maintain a filing system of all correspondence.
- Answer phones and direct calls to appropriate staff or faculty, assist with registration process, and assist Administrator Assistant when and where needed.
- Keep travel log and sign in sheets for recruiting purposes, run errands on/off campus pertaining to TED matters, provide a weekly schedule when actively visiting school sites, and perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

- Some College or Associate's Degree
- A combination of work experience including training and education may be substituted for degree
- 2-5 years of relevant experience
- Professional knowledge in Public Relations
- Typing skills and ability to use WP and Excel Software

Salary: Salary to be commensurate with experience, qualification, and credentials.

Application Deadline: December 27, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 ext. 428/441/429, online at <http://www.amsamoa.edu/employmentopportunities.html> or by email at ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

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Amazon will stream AVP beach volleyball tour next 3 summers

Amazon is going shopping for TV content, and it's putting some beach volleyball in its cart.

The internet retail giant has an agreement with the AVP tour to livestream almost every match from every tournament for the next three summers. The domestic beach circuit joins NFL Thursday night games and some men's tennis on Amazon Prime Video, which sends shows to TVs, phones, tablets, game consoles and other connected screens around the world.

"When Amazon has interest in anything you do, you pick up the phone," AVP managing partner Donald Sun told The Associated Press. "The fact that they've made the decision, it's definitely a positive for the AVP in terms of being on that train."

The deal announced Thursday could provide a boost for a sport that emerges as an Olympic favorite for American TV audiences every four years but has struggled to sustain viewership. Next year's AVP tour is scheduled to make eight stops, from the sport's longtime venues in California to Seattle, Chicago, New York and Austin, Texas.

Sun said numbers from the tour's broadcasts on NBC and its own livestream were "pretty robust." But the opportunity offered by an Amazon partnership "was quite the no-brainer," he said.

"They clearly have shown their technological know-how," Sun said. "Everything that they've sought out to be, whether it is buying grocery chains to producing movies now, they clearly have the bandwidth and knowledge."

Jim DeLorenzo, the head of sports for Amazon Video, said the NFL streaming has been a success so far. It also will offer 37 ATP tennis events live and on demand in Britain and Ireland.

The AVP tournaments will be available in nearly every country in the world and on more than 600 devices, Amazon said, from TVs to mobile devices and game consoles. In the U.S., one match per event — the men's or women's final — will be broadcast exclusively by NBC or its sports network.

DeLorenzo declined to comment on Amazon's future plans for live sports streaming.

"It's too soon to say," he said. "We're in the early, early stages of this."

► Sudden power outage...

Continued from page 5

operations in Atlanta return to normal, and for passengers "it could be most of the week" because there aren't many open seats on other flights in the last week before Christmas.

"Tomorrow is going to be a long and difficult day for everybody," Mann said.

One bit of good news, according to Mann: Delta has more spare planes and available crews in Atlanta than anywhere else, which will help it to recover.

Still, when flights at Atlanta were grounded for most of one day last spring, it took Delta five days — and about 4,000 cancelled flights — before it fully recovered.

Like Sunday's outage, that April storm hit Delta's largest hub at a busy travel time when there weren't many empty seats to accommodate customers from cancelled flights. At the time, CEO Ed Bastian vowed that Delta would make "significant improvements" to its system for scheduling and tracking aircraft crews to recover more quickly from disruptions.

While Delta was hit hardest by the outage, other airlines also canceled flights for the rest of Sunday. American Airlines canceled 24 departures and an equal number of arrivals, said spokesman Ross Feinstein. The

airline also diverted three planes that were headed to Atlanta when the outage struck, sending them instead to Dallas, Nashville and back to Philadelphia.

The FAA said it would staff the airport control tower throughout the night so that it can handle flights once they resume. The FAA said the tower could operate normally but flights were affected because airport equipment in the terminals was not working.

According to a Georgia Power statement, a fire in an underground electrical facility may have been responsible for the outage. The cause of the fire was not known.

"No personnel or passengers were in danger at any time," the statement said.

No areas outside of the airport were affected by the power loss. The utility said that there are "many redundant systems in place" to ensure the power supply to the airport and that such outages at the airport "are very rare."

That wasn't enough to comfort Jeff Smith, 46, of Pittsburgh, who ended up stuck in a plane on the tarmac for three hours after it landed.

"This is the worst experience I've ever had at an airport," he said.



Flames threaten coastal communities as firefighters mourn

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thousands of firefighters tried Sunday to shield coastal communities from one of the biggest wildfires in California history while a funeral procession rolled past burn-scarred hillsides in honor of one of their colleagues who was killed battling the flames.

Crews cleared brush and dug containment lines above hillside neighborhoods in Santa Barbara County, taking advantage of slightly calmer winds a day after gusts fanned a flare-up that prompted more evacuations.

“Everything’s holding really well,” fire information officer Lisa Cox said. “Thousands of homes have been saved.”

While gusts had eased somewhat, even lower intensity winds were still dangerous, she warned. The fire northwest of Los Angeles was 45 percent contained.

Television news footage showed at least one structure burned on property in the wealthy enclave of Montecito, and authorities said damage assessments could take days.

Mourners stood on freeway overpasses to pay respects to firefighter Cory Iverson, 32, who died Thursday of burns and smoke inhalation. His funeral procession was scheduled to wind through five Southern California counties before ending up at a funeral home in San Diego, where he was based with a state fire engine strike team. He is survived by his pregnant wife and a 2-year-old daughter.

The blaze is also blamed for the Dec. 6 death of a 70-year-old woman who died in a car crash on an evacuation route.

The fire that started nearly two weeks ago has burned more than 1,000 structures, including at least 750 homes. Some 18,000 more homes are still threatened.

Some evacuation orders were lifted to the east in Ventura County, where the blaze erupted, and officials reported

making progress protecting the inland agricultural city of Fillmore.

Jim Holden returned to his neighborhood in the city of Ventura to find his home still standing amid widespread destruction. He told KABC-TV that at the height of the inferno, when it appeared his house would be lost, firefighters risked their own safety to retrieve his belongings.

“They broke in and they saved my family photos,” Holden said, wiping away tears.

Mike and Dana Stoneking lost their Ventura home while many of their neighbors’ properties were spared. The Stonekings planned to rebuild and found some solace after retrieving Mike’s wedding ring from the ashes.

The 422-square-mile (1,093-sq. kilometer) blaze called the Thomas Fire crested a peak just north of Montecito, where evacuation orders remained in effect. Known for its star power, the enclave includes the mansions of Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres and many other celebrities.

“Still praying for our little town,” Winfrey tweeted. It was not clear if the former talk show host was in Montecito.

A portion of the city of Santa Barbara was also evacuated as a thick plume of smoke blew through city streets. At the city’s zoo, workers put some animals into crates and kennels to ready them for possible evacuation.

While crews on the fire lines got a break from slightly calmer winds, much of the rest of Southern California was buffeted by powerful gusts that once again increased the wildfire risk across the region. The National Weather Service forecast red flag conditions for extreme fire danger through Sunday evening for Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Trees came down after wind gusts topped 70 mph (113 kph) in mountain areas and 50 mph (80 kph) along the coast.

Coach Lou Holtz sues The Daily Beast over RNC article

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Hall of Fame college football coach Lou Holtz is suing The Daily Beast over an article that claimed he called immigrants “deadbeats” at last year’s Republican National Convention in Cleveland.


The federal lawsuit filed Wednesday in Orlando, where Holtz lives, claims an article published by the news website on July 19, 2016, defamed Holtz, causing him to lose paid speaking opportunities and suffer personal humiliation.

He’s seeking damages of more than \$75,000. The article originally carried the headline “Lou Holtz at RNC Said Immigrants are Deadbeats Invading the US.” The suit claims The Daily Beast took Holtz’s comments out of context and that he never used the term “deadbeats.” After complaints, the website updated its headline to “Holtz Goes on Immigrant-Bashing RNC Rant.” A spokesperson for The Daily Beast’s parent company said it doesn’t comment on pending litigation.



In this photo provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, firefighters and a bulldozer from Santa Barbara County Fire watch from El Camino Cielo as a helicopter readies to make a water drop on a hot spot above Montecito, Calif., Sunday morning, Dec. 17, 2017.

(Mike Eliason/Santa Barbara County Fire Department via AP)



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

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

REQUEST FOR QUOTES (RFQ)

RFQ No: ASPA18.010.ESD-WTR Closing Date & Time: Thursday, December 28, 2017
Issuance Date: December 14, 2017 No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

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

“Supply of Electro-Mechanical Equipment for the Tramway Tank Project (Re-Bid)”

Submission

An original and one (1) PDF must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **“RFQ No. ASPA 18.010.ESD-WTR Supply of Electro-Mechanical Equipment for the Tramway Tank Project.”**

Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00pm. (local time), **Thursday, December 28, 2017:**

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

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

Document

The RFQ package outlining the quotation requirements is available at the New Operaitons Building at ASPA’s Tafuna Compound and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Right of Rejection

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

Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director





American Samoa Community College graduate Selesitina Sulesa Iosia (second from left) with her family at last Friday's ASCC Fall 2017 graduation. Iosia is one of the two graduates, with a GPA of 3.90-4.00 — Summa Cum Laude.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

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► Pacific brief...

Continued from page 15

I worked with their Grandparents and parents to develop their farms and now they're teaching their children as well, so the more success Willex see's so will their farmers" noted Tagaloa Eddie Wilson.

The brand Koko Loa was envisioned by founder Tagaloa Eddie Wilson, the name Koko Loa is a 'play' on his Chiefly title Tagaloa – a God of our ancestor. Thus, Koko Loa is "Heaven Sent".

The Koko Loa Gift Packs were just launched in American Samoa last week and so far support has been overwhelming with the resulting orders now being sent over

Willex Samoa has been working with the Am Samoa Government and farmers in growing cocoa in the American territory. Soon Willex will start producing chocolates from cocoa grown in American Samoa. Plans are for manufacturing arm of the company to be established there as a doorway from the American market.

Koko Loa has now established export markets in Am. Samoa, New Zealand, USA and Japan. The local factory has just commissioned new plant-equipment including a refiner/conches to increase its exports capacity. Willex Samoa has a network with over 1100 farmers- families since the Mid 1990s and plans to continue local production are ongoing. It plans to increase local cocoa production by at least another 2000 acres with its farmers and its own. Plans are also in place to establish joint ventures in Fiji and Tonga as well to increase market access to the Pacific tourism industry.

(Source: Samoa Press Secretariat)

MARITIME BOUNDARIES TALKS' PROGRESS

Positive and Constructive outcomes

have been reached at the USA Department of State (led by Legal team leader Oliver Lewis) hosted Maritime talks with Pacific nations in Washington DC. Delegates from the Kingdom of Tonga, Niue and Samoa met with Department of State officials.

The Samoan delegation was led by Attorney General Lemalu Hermann Retzlaff assisted by Constance Tafua Rivers Lesa, (Assistant AG) Matilda Bartley (MFAT) and Safuta Iulio (ACEO - MNRE).

Lemalu stated: "Samoa has the smallest Exclusive Economic Zone in the Pacific region. As members of the Cabinet appointed National Maritime Boundaries Committee for Samoa, we have an extremely important task with plenty of work ahead. This gathering was a positive step forward."

"We have now initialed and are ready to present our draft bilateral treaty with the Kingdom of Tonga, to Cabinet for their consideration and approval. The teams have agreed in principle only, subject as appropriate, to that final approval. The talks have ironed out details for it to now be given that final consideration."

On talks with the USA, Lemalu further stated "information was formally exchanged and talks between Samoa and the USA Department of State also resulted in a positive open door for ongoing future discussions with them."

The talks were facilitated by the Pacific Community (SPC) Geoscience Energy and Maritime Division. (Represented by Malakai Vakautawale and Andrick Lal) and assisted by counsel from the Australian Attorney General's Department, Ms Frances Anggadi.

(Source: Samoa Press Secretariat)



This poster released by Parabon NanoLabs shows a facial sketch made with DNA found at a crime scene in Brown County, Texas, which helped lead police in Texas to a suspect in a woman's May 2016 slaying. Brown County Sheriff's investigators announced in mid-November, 2017, that they had charged Ryan Riggs with capital murder in the beating death of Chantay Blankinship. Riggs confessed a week after the department released a suspect sketch made by analyzing DNA from the crime scene. (Parabon NanoLabs via AP)



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is classified as a beta-2 agonist and WADA allows it to be taken through inhalation only, in limited amounts.

Sky said Froome had to take an increased dosage of salbutamol without exceeding the permissible dose after he “experienced acute asthma symptoms” during the final week of the Vuelta.

"I have been a professional cyclist now, treating my symptoms and racing with asthma, for 10 years," Froome said in the interview. "I know what those rules are, I know what those limits are and I have never been over those limits."

If found guilty of doping, the 32-year-old Froome could lose his Vuelta title and be suspended for a long period. Sprinter Alessandro Petacchi was suspended for one year for testing positive for salbutamol during the 2007 Giro d'Italia.

Vuelta organizers said they are waiting for "official conclusions" from the UCI about the case. "The position of La Vuelta's organizer is one of extreme caution, as it hopes for this issue to be resolved as quickly as possible," they said in a statement.

Froome was expected to attempt to join cycling greats Emond, Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain on the list of five-time Tour de France champions in July. Lance

Armstrong won seven titles, but all of them were stripped because of doping. Team Sky has been dominating the field at the Tour de France in recent years, but has been targeted by doping accusations. Britain's anti-doping agency last month closed an investigation into the team without bringing charges. The case centered on the contents of a medical package dispatched to former Tour champion Bradley Wiggins at a key

Salbutamol is a drug that helps expand lung capacity and can be used as a performance-enhancing drug to increase endurance. Commonly marketed as Ventolin, salbutamol

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In this undated video grab provided by the RU-RTR Russian television via APTN in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Dec. 15, 2017, Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) operatives detain a suspected member of the Islamic State group's cell in St. Petersburg, Russia. The FSB said Friday the suspects were plotting a suicide bombing and a series of other explosions in the city's busiest areas this coming weekend.

(Russian Federal Security Service video via AP)

Putin thanks Trump for CIA tip he says stopped bomb plot

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin telephoned U.S. President Donald Trump Sunday to thank him for a CIA tip that helped thwart a series of bombings in St. Petersburg, the Kremlin and the White House said.

During the call, the two leaders' second in three days, Putin expressed gratitude for the CIA information. The Kremlin said it led Russia's top domestic security agency to a group of suspects that planned to bomb St. Petersburg's Kazan Cathedral and other crowded sites this weekend.

"The information received from the CIA proved sufficient to find and detain the criminal suspects," the Kremlin said.

The White House said in its readout of the conversation that "based on the information the United States provided, Russian authorities were able to capture the terrorists just prior to an attack that could have killed large numbers of people."

The White House added that Putin extended his thanks and congratulations to CIA Director Mike Pompeo and the entire agency. Trump then called Pompeo "to congratulate him, his very talented people, and the entire intelligence community on a job well done!"

"President Trump appreciated the call and told President Putin that he and the entire United States intelligence community were pleased to have helped save so many lives," the White House said in its statement. "President Trump stressed the importance of intelligence cooperation to defeat terrorists wherever they may be. Both leaders agreed that this serves as an example of the positive things that can occur when our countries work together."

The Kremlin said Putin assured Trump that "if the Russian intelligence agencies receive information about potential terror threats against the United States and its citizens, they will immediately hand it over to their U.S. counterparts via their communications channels."

The CIA's tip to Russia comes even as Russia-U.S. ties have plunged to their lowest level since the Cold War era — first over Russia's annexation of Crimea and support for pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine, more recently over allegations that Moscow interfered in the U.S. presidential election to help Trump.

While Russian officials have said the two countries were continuing to exchange some terror-related intelligence, Sunday's statement from the Kremlin was Russia's first public assertion that information from the United States helped prevent an attack.

The conversation was the second between the Russian and U.S. presidents since Thursday, when Trump thanked Putin for his remarks

"acknowledging America's strong economic performance," according to the White House.

During the first call, they also discussed during ways to work together to address North Korea's nuclear and ballistic weapons program, the White House said.

The Federal Security Service, or FSB, announced Friday that seven suspected followers of the Islamic State group had been arrested for allegedly planning to carry out terror attacks in St. Petersburg this weekend.

The agency said the suspects were plotting a suicide bombing in a church and a series of other explosions in the city's busiest areas this coming weekend on IS orders. It said a search of a St. Petersburg apartment found explosives, automatic weapons and extremist literature.

Russian news reports said that Kazan Cathedral, a landmark 19th century Russian Orthodox church on St. Petersburg's central Nevsky Prospect, was the prime target.

If the suspects succeeded in bombing the cathedral, it would have been the first major attack on a Russian Orthodox Church by Islamic terrorists, who have blown up apartment buildings, passenger planes and transport facilities in Russia.

In April, a suicide bombing in the St. Petersburg's subway left 16 dead and wounded more than 50. Russian TV stations have aired footage daily since Friday of the suspects in the foiled attacks being apprehended and questioned. One segment showed FSB operatives outside a St. Petersburg apartment building detaining a suspect, who appeared later saying he was told to prepare homemade bombs rigged with shrapnel.

"My job was to make explosives, put it in bottles and attach pieces of shrapnel," the suspect, identified by Russian media as 18-year old Yevgeny Yefimov, said in the footage released by the FSB. Several other suspects came from mostly Muslim regions in Russia's volatile North Caucasus, and one man was from the ex-Soviet nation of Tajikistan that borders Afghanistan.

The TV reports included footage of a metal container, which the suspects used as a laboratory for making explosives, according to the FSB. Another video showed operatives breaking the doors and raiding an apartment used by other suspects. Last week, the FSB said it also arrested several IS-linked suspects in Moscow, where they allegedly were plotting a series of suicide bombings to coincide with New Year's celebrations.

The latest calls between Putin and Trump came after the Russian leader praised his U.S. counterpart during a marathon news conference on Thursday.

Sooners RB Rodney Anderson won't be charged with sex assault

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — An Oklahoma prosecutor decided against charging Sooners running back Rodney Anderson with sexual assault on Thursday, clearing a major cloud hanging over the team ahead of its College Football Playoff semifinal against Georgia.

"Definitely, charges are not warranted under these circumstances," Cleveland County District Attorney Greg Mashburn said during a news conference.

The accusation stemmed from a petition for a protective order in which a woman said Anderson assaulted her in her apartment last month and that she feared for her safety. Anderson had gone to her home after the two met during a night of drinking.

Mashburn's assistant prosecutor, Susan Caswell, said one of the woman's close friends told an investigator the accuser called the friend from a bathroom saying she was excited that Anderson was at her house.

"She said that she had vomited, but intended to brush her teeth and go back and kiss him some more," Caswell said, describing what the friend told the investigator. "She sounded tipsy, but not drunk."

Caswell said two other witnesses relayed similar accounts — that they understood that Anderson and the woman had a good time. They added that the woman had hoped to have a romantic relationship with Anderson. Derek Chance, Anderson's attorney, had called the accusation "patently false," saying the woman made it after Anderson declined her social invitations. "The investigation reveals what we have maintained, Mr. Anderson is innocent of these allegations," Chance said in a statement. "Anderson is ready to focus on his obligations as a student-athlete."

Anderson has been one of Oklahoma's breakout stars after season-ending injuries the past two years. He leads the Sooners with 960 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns and has 283 yards and five touchdowns receiving. Anderson took over this year for departed running back Joe Mixon, who was suspended for a year after he punched a woman in a restaurant in July 2014. Mixon is now with the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals.



Cleveland County District Attorney Greg Mashburn, left, speaks during a news conference in Norman, Okla., Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017. Mashburn said that he has decided against charging Oklahoma running back Rodney Anderson with sexual assault, clearing a major cloud hanging over the team ahead of its College Football Playoff semifinal against Georgia. Mashburn's assistant prosecutor, Susan Caswell is at right.

(AP Photo/Sue

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Delegates attend the second day of the African National Congress elective conference in Johannesburg, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017. The vote to choose the next president of South Africa's ruling African National Congress party got underway after disputes over the credentials of party delegates, highlighting the bitter fight within Nelson Mandela's historic liberation movement.

(AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)

South Africa's ruling ANC party votes for new leader Monday

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's ruling African National Congress will vote for its new president on Monday, as delegates choose between two candidates to lead Nelson Mandela's historic liberation movement.

After a rocky start to the gathering, two candidates accepted the party's nomination for president: Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, former African Union commission chair and Zuma's ex-wife, and Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, a wealthy businessman who has been increasingly critical of the president.

Voting among the more than 4,700 delegates got off to such a late start Sunday that it was postponed until Monday morning, an ANC official told

the press.

The ANC's new leader is likely to become South Africa's next president, as the party's candidate in the presidential election in 2019.

The conference on the outskirts of Johannesburg brings to an end President Jacob Zuma's two terms as head of the party.

Though either presidential candidate could still prevail, Ramaphosa had the edge after the nominations were announced, with the backing of 1,469 ANC branches, compared to Dlamini-Zuma's 1,094. The Saturday night endorsement of Ramaphosa by Baleka Mbete, the party's outgoing national chairwoman and a Zuma ally, also fueled speculation that the race may be swinging in the deputy president's favor.

The mood at the party conclave, held once every five years, was jubilant on Saturday as delegates arrived at a conference center in luxury buses, clad in the ANC's yellow and green colors. However disagreements quickly erupted over the legitimacy of some delegate groups. By midday Sunday, the credential process was resolved.

The ANC's reputation has taken a beating during Zuma's scandal-ridden tenure, causing rifts that threaten to split Africa's oldest liberation party. Keeping the ANC together has been a key talking point at the gathering.

"In all its manifestations, factionalism has become the biggest threat to the organization," Zuma said in a tepidly received speech at the opening of the conference. "Unity is what will make the ANC and South Africa succeed."

Last chunks of Georgia Dome to be blasted away in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — Portions of the Georgia Dome in Atlanta that are still standing soon will be brought down with explosives.

A long wall on the stadium's east end and a smaller structure on the other side both failed to fall when the rest of the stadium was brought down in an implosion Nov. 20. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that a "supplemental implosion" to bring down the remaining pieces is set for 1 a.m. Dec. 20. The dome was built in 1992. It was the former home of the Atlanta Falcons and the site of two Super Bowls, 1996 Olympics Games events and NCAA basketball tournaments among other major events.



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Approved to issuance by: Ruth Matagi-Fa'atili; DBAS President
Date of issuance: Dec 1, 2017
Date & Time Due: December 30, 2017
No later than 2:00 pm local time

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

DOCUMENT

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

Document: Requests for proposal packet outlining requirements will be available for pick up at DBAS on Friday Dec 1, 2017 or emailing charmaine@dbas.as for information regarding the RFP. It can also be accessed through the DBAS website: www.dbas.as (click public notice).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



President Donald Trump steps off Marine One on the South Lawn at the White House in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017, after returning from Camp David in Maryland.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Trump: I'm not considering firing special counsel Mueller

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that he is not considering firing special counsel Robert Mueller even as his administration was again forced to grapple with the growing Russia probe that has shadowed the White House for much of his initial year in office.

Trump returned to the White House from Camp David and was asked if he was considering triggering the process to dismiss Mueller, who is investigating whether the president's Republican campaign coordinated with Russian officials during last year's election.

The president answered: "No, I'm not."

But he did add to the growing conservative criticism of Mueller's move to gain access to thousands of emails sent and received by Trump officials before the start of his administration, yielding attacks from transition lawyers and renewing chatter that Trump may act to end the investigation.

"It's not looking good. It's quite sad to see that. My people were very upset about it," Trump said. "I can't imagine there's anything on them, frankly. Because, as we said, there's no collusion. There's no collusion whatsoever."

On Saturday, the general counsel for the transition group sent a letter to two congressional committees arguing Mueller's investigators had improperly obtained thousands of transition records.

The investigators did not directly request the records from Trump's still-existing transition group, Trump for America, and instead obtained them from the General Services Administration, a separate federal agency that stored the material, according to the group's

general counsel.

A spokesman for Mueller said the records were obtained appropriately.

"When we have obtained emails in the course of our ongoing criminal investigation, we have secured either the account owner's consent or appropriate criminal process," Peter Carr said. But many Trump allies used the email issue as another cudgel with which to bash the probe's credibility. Members of the conservative media and some congressional Republicans have begun to systematically question Mueller's motives and credibility while the president himself called it a "disgrace" that some texts and emails from two FBI agents contained anti-Trump rhetoric. One of those agents was on Mueller's team and has been removed. Michael Caputo, a former Trump campaign aide, called the investigation an "attack on the presidency" and told CNN there are "more and more indications that the Mueller investigation is off the rails." The talk of firing Mueller has set off alarm bells among many Democrats, who warn it could trigger a constitutional crisis. Some Republicans also advised against the move, including Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, who deemed the idea "a mistake."

The rumor mill overshadowed the Republican tax plan, which is set to be voted on this week. Although Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin was doing a victory lap on the tax bill on the Sunday talk show circuit, he first had to field questions on CNN's "State of the Union" about whether believed Trump would trigger the process to fire Mueller. "I don't have any reason to think that the president is going to do that,

but that's obviously up to him," said Mnuchin.

Mnuchin added, "We have got to get past this investigation. It's a giant distraction." But he declined to elaborate on how he would want it to end.

Peru president: Odebrecht payments did bring 'some money'

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Embattled Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski says he did "earn some money" as a result of services his private consulting firm provided to the Brazilian construction company entangled in Latin America's biggest corruption scandal.

In an hour-long interview with Peruvian media Sunday, Kuczynski repeated earlier assertions that he had no involvement in the Westfield Capital firm when Odebrecht-led consortiums made \$782,000

in payments over a decade ago.

But Kuczynski did acknowledge that as a shareholder in the company he would have benefited from any profits that resulted.

Peru's congress has initiated impeachment proceedings against Kuczynski on grounds that he displayed "moral incapacity." Opposition lawmakers say Kuczynski should have disclosed the payments.

Kuczynski was a government minister at the time some of the payments were made.

Louisville files counterclaim to Rick Pitino lawsuit

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The University of Louisville has filed a counterclaim to former basketball coach Rick Pitino's lawsuit and is seeking monetary damages from vacated games and bonuses. WDRB-TV reports the university alleges negligence and "wrongful conduct" by Pitino has tarnished the school's reputation. The lawsuit noted that the NCAA ordered

the school to return money it received for some basketball tournaments. The counterclaim filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court said the school also wants any bonuses and other compensation "wrongly paid" to Pitino for the tournament appearances. The counterclaim was filed as part of Pitino's breach of contract lawsuit against the U of L Athletic Association.



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA18.002.ESD-WTR Closing Date & Time: Friday, December 29, 2017
Issuance Date: November 24, 2017 No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

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

"Faga'alu Surface Water System"

Submission

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

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

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

Document

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

Right of Rejection

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

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



Happy Birthday Mrs. Wanda Lee Alofa

