

Two more nominees confirmed for Lolo & Lemanu cabinet
Page 2

Trump slams the courts, his court nominee hits back
Page 10

Lagolago Kovana ulua'i suiga ua faia e le Komesina fou o Leleo
Le Lali

American Samoan transgenders made a public stand against LGBTQ discrimination by lobbying against two bills introduced by Washington state's administration, in Washington state's capital, Olympia, last week. Read story below. [Courtesy Photo]



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2017

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American Samoan trans* are making a public stand against LGBTQ discrimination

by Joyetter Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu
Samoa News Reporter

American Samoan transgenders are making a public stand against discrimination — and were part of those lobbying in Washington state's capitol against the transgender bathroom bill and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/ Questioning discrimination bill that was introduced last week by the state's current administration.

Responding to Samoa News questions, Isyss Honnen, from Pago Pago, and a board member of UTOPIA (United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance) said the fight for equality is far from over especially in light of the current Trump administration and the political climate. She told Samoa News via email that in 2016, there were six anti-trans bills introduced in Washington state and over 45 anti-trans bills have been introduced nationwide.

(Continued on page 2)

AG responds to claims of wrongful Immigration detention of Samoa woman

SAYS SHE'S FREE TO LEAVE ANYTIME ...

by Joyetter Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu
Samoa News Reporter

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale has made it clear that the woman from Samoa, who recently gave birth and is being detained at the Territorial Correctional Facility, can leave whenever she wants — leave to return to Samoa that is.

Samoa News sent the AG questions on the matter following a letter to the editor, published on Tuesday, Feb. 7, and submitted by Victims Advocate, Ipu Avegalio Lefiti, who said that the Immigration Office was detaining the woman in the TCF, without access to her newly born baby or visitors.

Lefiti said the woman delivered her baby of

three weeks old after her detainment and upon release from the hospital, she was forbidden to have visitors and her infant was handed over to another family.

According to Lefiti, the woman said that the last time she saw her baby was a week ago and that her boyfriend's family is caring for the baby and they have difficulty seeking transportation. It is very hard to bring the baby four times a day to be breast-fed, Lefiti wrote in her LTE.

In response, Talauega explained that the woman from Samoa upon being served with a notice to voluntarily depart the territory evaded Immigration Officers and this was for more than four months.

He said that the Immigration Office offered

(Continued on page 2)



Congresswoman Aumua Amata Radewagen was guest speaker at the Mafutaga Autalavou Matagaluega EFKAS Kalefonia Matu annual Youth Service kicking off the new year. More than 600 members of EFKAS Youth Organizations attended the event and were from all over the San Francisco Bay Area, including Monterey. Pulega Santa Clara hosted the service.

Pictured are Amata with some of the Santa Clara youth together with ministers, faletua and officers.

[Courtesy photo]

Two more nominees confirmed for Lolo & Lemanu cabinet



Newly confirmed local Department of Homeland Security director Samana Semo Ve'ave'a during his Senate confirmation hearing yesterday. [photo: FS]

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson has suggested training a "special unit" of police officers to respond to serious cases; and cautioned American Samoa when it comes to arming officers in the police force.

Le'i, speaking at his House confirmation hearing last week also revealed that there is no ammunition on hand for the

firearms or guns that were donated by the Honolulu Police Department during the tenure of then Police Commissioner William Haleck.

Responding to a question on his view about arming local police officers, Le'i first pointed out that this issue has been in the media several times and it has also been the subject of discussions in the Fono in the past, during Haleck's tenure as well as former police commissioner

Save Liuato Tuitele.

He says the Samoan culture of respect has, years ago, been the way to resolve differences and keep peace in the community but things have changed and incidents have happened in the past involving weapons, and some firearms are prohibited under local law, but are present in the territory.

(Continued on page 4)

AG responds to claims...

Continued from page 1

her the opportunity to depart voluntarily but she refused.

The Attorney General, in an email to Samoa News, said, "She can leave (return to Samoa) whenever she wants." He also pointed out that otherwise, her case would go before the Immigration Board for a deportation order.

Talauega also told Samoa News that from his understanding the child is with the woman's boyfriend's family.

Lefti in her LTE, said the woman understands why she is detained; but doesn't understand why she is separated from her newborn baby, and why is it

taking Immigration so long to expedite her situation so she can reunite with her newborn.

She writes that according to an Immigration Officer the woman came to the territory for domestic service in 2010, however her sponsors have since moved off island and her identification has expired.

The Victim's Advocate said she's concerned that the mother is being separated from her newborn child and that the woman hasn't been able to breastfeed her baby. She told Samoa News yesterday that her concern is that this woman gets the services, such as the WIC program,

while she's detained.

She's not concerned whether the woman is deported or not. "I put my trust in the Immigration Board, and they are the ones who will determine whether to deport her. As long as it's done legally I don't have a problem."

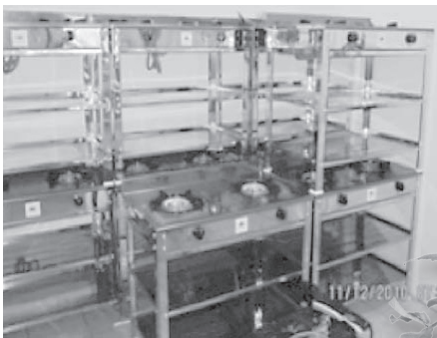
Lefti further stated that it's unclear right now if the woman plans to marry the father of her child, but in the meantime she's just concerned that the foreign woman is not getting the services she's suppose to get. Lefti also told Samoa News that she has no intention of sponsoring the woman.



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A.S trans*... *Continued from page 1*

“All six were defeated in the Washington (state) Legislature. So far this year, two anti-Trans bills have been filed in Washington, with a total of 26 anti-Trans bills across the United States. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, the 26 afore-mentioned bills vary in restricting transgender people’s access to healthcare, restrooms/ single-sex facilities, ability to update their identity documents, and also restricting their rights in schools. These bills also seek to override municipal and county-level anti-discrimination laws and allow discrimination against transgender people by creating special exceptions to existing laws,” Honnen told Samoa News.

She further explained that one of the two bills filed in Washington state — HB 1011 — seeks to amend Washington’s law against Discrimination (WLAD) by removing the ability of Transgender and Gender Non-conforming (GNC) individuals to use single-sex facilities according to their gender identity. The second bill, HB 1178, legalizes discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) individuals.

“These bills are unconstitutional as they violate the human rights of my community and they promote a message of discrimination, hate, and exclusivity. Harmful legislation such as HB 1011 and 1178 will perpetuate a society that dehumanizes Trans* women of color. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence reported that 64% of LGBTQ+ hate crimes were against Trans* women of color.

“This alarming truth affects not only myself, but also my fa’afafine/Trans*+GNC brothers and sisters,” Honnen said.

She pointed out that during the early years of her transition, she experienced harassment; hate, crimes, violence, housing, employment, and racial discrimination due to her gender identity.

“These issues do still affect me to this day to some degree. With WA Anti-discrimination laws in place, my mind is somewhat at ease. However, it does not protect me from being discriminated against in airports and in other states.

“My efforts to protest were prompted by the fight for equality. We stand on the shoulders of many brave activists like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, who were on the streets to protest for human rights.

I am protesting for a future free from discrimination so that the path to transition for many young Trans* and GNC children is not riddled with the same difficulties I’ve experienced,” she said.

Other UTOPIA members who accompanied Honnen to the protests last week are: Taffy Maene, of Nu’uuli; Tepatasi Vaina from Aoloau; Kelsie Niuvela of Aoloau and Afonotele.

Samoa News asked Honnen about the experience; and she stated she’s an active member.

“We’ve participated in pro-

tests such as the Women’s March, the Airport protest against Trump’s Muslim Ban, and the protests for Marriage Equality and for Anti-Discrimination bills. People need to understand that Women’s issues, Black Lives Matter Movement, Protection of Sacred Indigenous Lands, Immigration Ban Protests, Equality Protests, etc. are also LGBTQ+ issues.

“These experiences are intersectional! We need to realize that we cannot mobilize and move forward as a society if there are people suffering from discrimination, oppression, and inequality.

“These protests are necessary to voice the pain faced by these marginalized communities. They are necessary in holding the Government and policy-makers accountable.

“My experience during these protests has been uplifting and unifying. It is there to remind me of the necessity to rise up and fight for equality,” she said.

Samoa News asked Honnen to comment on the forward progress of gay rights, with the Supreme Court ruling allowing gay marriage; and yet there are

also these anti-LGBTQ bills introduced in 20 states, signaling a major setback.

She responded that these bills have increased in filings due to the political climate created by the Trump Administration.

“Vice President Pence is known for his long Anti-LGBT history. With him in office, we will continue to see these bills pop up annually. Personally, these bills push me to fight back with renewed ferocity. The fight for equality is never-ending,” Honnen said.

Honnen, who was born and raised in Pago Pago, is an accounting student residing permanently in Redmond, Washington state and she’s a volunteer and Board Member and Treasurer for UTOPIA- Seattle. She said UTOPIA is a non-profit organization that serves Pacific Islanders and the LGBTQ+ communities of Washington, and it has been involved in lobbying, direct action, organizing, and providing support and resources to the community.

“Our mission is to create a safe space for Pacific Islanders (PI) LGBTQI communities in advocating for social justice,

education, and overall wellness.

“We have taken steps to provide support and sanctuary to our community members, many of whom routinely experience hate, harassment, abuse, and rejection.

We also assist with providing access to services, benefits, and resources. Our partnerships with local organizations such as LGBTQ Allyship, Pride

Foundation, and Gender Justice League has been instrumental in addressing issues such as LGBTQ discrimination, housing discrimination, homelessness, and Anti-Trans legislation that affect the members of the LGBTQ+ and Pacific Islander community,” she said.



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Letter to the Editor

"REIMAGINING THE HEALTH CARE MARKETPLACE FOR AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESSES"

AUMUA AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE HOLD HEARING

Washington, D.C. — Tuesday, February 7, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata, and the House Small Business Committee held a hearing on Reimagining the Health Care Marketplace for America's Small Businesses. The purpose of the hearing was to examine hurdles facing small businesses in providing health care for their employees.

Whatever happens with health care reform in the near future, the territories cannot be left out of the discussion. It is reprehensible that when the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2009 the territories weren't taken into account at all," stated Amata. "When it comes to the health care choices our small businesses are able to provide to their employees, the issue becomes even more significant for my home district of American Samoa, where nearly all of the businesses qualify as a small business."

Specifically, the purpose of the hearing was to examine the current health insurance marketplace for small firms, review recent difficulties, and explore options to improve access, affordability, and consistency in America's health insurance market. Improving American's access to quality health insurance at an affordable cost will continue to be a dominant issue throughout the beginning part of the 115th Congress. This hearing provided members to hear first-hand from small business owners and policy experts about the current state of the nation's health insurance marketplace and hear suggestions about how to improve the system.

"I want to thank all of the witnesses at today's hearing for their testimony, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee to ensure that our small businesses can grow and prosper. We can and must do better, and I have no doubt that real positive changes are on the horizon for the nation's small businesses," concluded the Congresswoman.

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dba Samoa News is published Monday through Saturday, except for some local and federal holidays.
Please send correspondences to: OF, dba Samoa News, Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.
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Two more nominees...

Continued from page 2

Le'i didn't elaborate further on past incidents involving weapons but he said that police don't have the necessary equipment to protect themselves when responding to serious and emergency situations.

As to arming police officers, he said it's an issue that American Samoa should be cautious about moving forward and it also should be thoroughly reviewed. Instead, he suggested a special police unit, which would undergo thorough training to be armed, but only be used when serious incidents occur — those that threaten the safety of the public.

He believes that arming police officers is an issue that will probably go before the Fono for approval; and reiterated that this matter needs thorough assessment.

Le'i said he doesn't want to discredit previous police commissioners and the work they did, but he believes American Samoa is currently not prepared to respond to any serious incident and police don't have the necessary equipment to protect themselves when responding to such incidents.

He was also asked for the whereabouts of the guns donated by the Honolulu Police

Department to which he said he has seen them, and they have already been inventoried and locked in a vault. The problem, he said, is there is no ammunition for the weapons.

The police commissioner called on the committee to follow up on the ammunition, with one lawmaker saying that he believes the guns came with ammunition. Le'i said he would look into it.

Arming police officers became a big issue of discussion and debate in the territory following the July 2010 deadly shooting of Police Det. Lusila Brown in front of the temporary High Court building in Fagatogo; and again when police raided the Le Aute business in Malaeloa in 2015, which was followed several days later with the shooting of the Leone Police Station.

The issue is still being debated, with many in the community, including several lawmakers, remaining opposed to the idea. For those who support the idea, they — both lawmakers and ASG officials — strongly recommend that before arming officers, they should undergo physiological assessment as well as extensive training in the use of weapons.

Police commissioner suggests training a "special unit" vs. arming all police officers

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

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Le'i, speaking at his House confirmation hearing last week also revealed that there is no ammunition on hand for the firearms or guns that were donated by the Honolulu Police Department during the tenure of then Police Commissioner William Haleck.

Responding to a question on his view about arming local police officers, Le'i first pointed out that this issue has been in the media several times and it has also been the subject of discussions in the Fono in the past, during Haleck's tenure as well as former police commissioner Save Liuato Tuitele.

He says the Samoan culture of respect has, years ago, been the way to resolve differences and keep peace in the community but things have changed and incidents have happened in the past involving weapons, and some firearms are prohibited under local law, but are present in the territory.

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Newly confirmed Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele during his Senate confirmation hearing yesterday.

[photo: FS]

AG suggests special visa for shoppers and business people from Samoa

Says local population count cannot support the local economy

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

To help boost the local economy, Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale says one way to improve it is by proposing a 'special' visitors permit for citizens of Samoa — one that would allow them to make purchases or shop in American Samoa and then return home within a 48- 72- hour period.

Talauega shared the proposal during his separate confirmation hearings in both the House and Senate last week when lawmakers in both chambers raised the issue of permits for foreigners entering the territory. There was also a lawmaker who was concerned with the high fee paid to Immigration for someone from Samoa to enter the territory.

The AG first noted that Immigration issues also affect American Samoa's commerce, saying the territory's estimated population is about 60,000 and this number does not really support the local economy.

For example, a restaurant opens up and then closes down, because there are not enough customers. He asked what can be done to expand the territory's economic base and one avenue is for Immigration to relax restrictions on permits for people coming from Samoa to make purchases, shop and spend money here and return to their home country.

Currently a 14-day entry permit is \$10, which can be issued at the port of entry and only for citizens of Samoa, while a 30-day visitors permit is \$40 and must be obtained prior to arrival in Pago Pago.

Talauega said the territorial government is looking at a permit without a fee for a 48-hour stay or a three-day stay for citizens of Samoa especially business people coming here on business, or for others who only want to shop.

And if this free permit works well for Samoa, then maybe it could be expanded to other countries such as Fiji, which has its own airline, the AG said,

referring to Fiji's national carrier, Fiji Airways, which the Lolo Administration hopes will operate flights in and out of Pago Pago, as well as establish a stopover in Pago Pago en route to and from the U.S.

Talauega stressed to lawmakers that American Samoa's population can't support the local economy.

Some lawmakers supported Talauega's proposal of easing entry into the territory, with Rep. Vailuama Steve Leasiolagi saying the government needs to relax restrictions on entry permits to help boost the local economy — something that should have been done a long time ago.

The local Chamber of Commerce, during the tenure of former chairman David Robinson, has for many years recommended an overhaul of immigration law to allow easy entry into the territory for foreigners who come here only to visit. Business owners and shoppers from Samoa was one example cited many times by Robinson and other Chamber members, saying that should be the target for relaxing immigration entry policies, as more and more business people from Samoa continue to visit the territory just to shop.

The government's 2014-2017 Economic Development Implementation Plan, released in early 2014, calls for identifying ways to ease travel between American Samoa and Samoa while improving upon enforcement of local immigration law and travel agreements between the two Samoas.

It also suggested eliminating entry permits for citizens of Samoa to open up American Samoa to new tourists.

Also raised during Talauega's confirmation is the Samoa government's requirement for US Nationals to have an entry permit. Talauega responded that this issue is in the hands of the US State Department, which handles international affairs for American Samoa and other territories.

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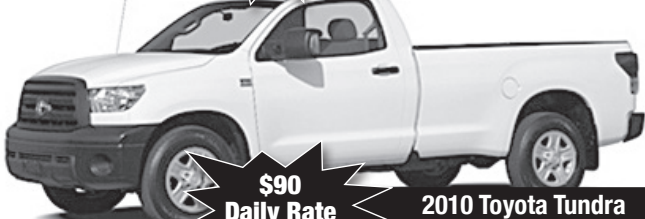
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ASG Treasurer explains two reasons gov't doesn't pay its bills

First, incomplete or no paperwork; Second: No money

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

With the Lolo Administration starting its second four-year term, ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaiepa has urged all cabinet directors to follow procurement procedures so that payments are issued and all are abiding with other policies already in place.

Tonumaiepa's statement was made during his presentation at a recent cabinet meeting, and the presentation revealed that there are still problems when it comes to some cabinet members and ASG employees adhering to set policies, implemented during the first term of the Lolo

administration.

PROCUREMENT

Tonumaiepa reminded directors of the procurement process, which is very important.

He revealed that many directors called Treasury asking for an invoice to be paid, but upon further research it's discovered that there is no purchase request or purchase order made, only the invoice.

"Follow the procurement process," he emphasized. For example, get a purchase requisition then go to the Budget and Planning Office, which will determine if there's money in the department's budget. Thereafter, obtain a purchase order,

which is taken to make the purchase and then take the invoice to Treasury.

What's happening, he said, is that the invoice is taken to Treasury for payment without a receiving report from Procurement.

"We cannot pay your vouchers or invoices unless we have the Receiving Report," he reminded directors, who were urged to "please" go to the Procurement office for the receiving report before bringing the documents to Treasury to process payment.

He explained that there are two reasons an invoice is not paid: First: Incomplete docu-

mentation, missing purchase order or receiving report and not follow procurement rules; and, Second, there is no money.

"So despite you being angry, if there is no money, payment cannot be made," he said. "We're not like the federal government, which prints its own money. We don't have a money tree. Our spending depends on our collections. If we have good collections, we pay our bills."

FIXED ASSETS

And when purchases are made for "fixed assets", Tonumaiepa said it's very important to have the Property Management Office "report and tag your fix assets" — which is also very important when fixed assets are purchased with federal money.

TRAVEL

He reminded directors of the travel authorization (TA) policy where the TA is "routed for approval first" and recommended to the directors, to not make "your booking, buy the ticket and then attach it to the TA and then route it for approval. Attaching your ticket to the TA does not guarantee approval."

He reminded directors of the TA policy, which calls for the TA to be routed for approval 45 days before travel; and noted some cabinet members are currently routing TAs two weeks before travel, while others are routing one week before travel.

He said only the governor or lieutenant governor approves emergency travel. Additionally, don't forget to file a travel expense report, Tonumaiepa said, which is a requirement. Failure to file the expense report would result in the next TA request being denied, until the report is filed from the previous trip.

And if no report is filed within 30-days upon returning from the travel, Tonumaiepa said Treasury can deduct from

that person's pay check the total amount of the TA. "Please remind your staff about the required report," he added.

Another important issue relating to travel is the "travel period and destination". For example — regarding travel period — if the official meeting is for three days and the following week the ASG employee or director is involved in personal matters, the government will not pay for that extra week.

He said many employees have complained about this issue, but "we are doing our job — we can only pay for the one week" which covers the meeting dates, but not the extra week for personal matters.

Addressing the issue of destination, if the meeting is in Seattle, the government will pay for travel from American Samoa via Honolulu to Seattle, but, for example, "if you want to leave early to see 'your number two' in Dallas, you are responsible to pay that travel" on the Dallas segment.

Tonumaiepa's use of the Samoan words — "lau numera lua" (your number two) — brought laughter from cabinet directors.

The Treasurer said the same rule applies to the person returning home after a meeting and wants to make a stop elsewhere to see his/her family. That side trip is the responsibility of the director or ASG employee.

FY 2016 AUDIT

According to the Treasurer, audit of fiscal year 2016 is in progress with the fieldwork, which is to be completed in the first two weeks of this month. Target date for the audit report to be issued is Apr. 30 and Tonumaiepa requested ASG's semi autonomous agencies, to provide their audited financial statements, at least by Mar. 30, because they're needed for the overall ASG audit.



JUDICIAL BRANCH DISTRICT COURT OF AMERICAN SAMOA

ANNOUNCEMENT POSITION VACANCIES

The Judicial Branch of the American Samoa Government announces the following vacancies in the High Court and District Court of American Samoa.

COURT TRANSLATOR/DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICER (1 Vacancy)

Act as an assistant or deputy to the Chief Translator/Probation Officer in all work relating to providing language translation services of English and Samoan. Candidate must demonstrate verbal and written proficiency in both English and Samoan languages. Candidate must demonstrate a knowledge of the judicial system and court proceedings/practices. Probation Officer duties include being able to take an oath of office to enforce the orders of the court and those as described by American Samoa statute or regulation. Applicant must have a Bachelor's Degree in social work from an accredited college/university. Five (5) years work experience in probation work or a related field may be used to off-set the academic requirements. Must have a valid's driver's license. Salary range beings at \$22,700 and may be adjusted based on qualifications.

DEPUTY MARSHALL/PROCESS SERVER (1 Vacancy)

Assists the Marshal of the Court to execute, serve and return all writs, warrants, summonses, orders and other processes and notices directed by the courts; act as bailiff in courtrooms, act as security officer for employees and all property of the Judicial Branch. Perform any other functions of the Judiciary Branch. Applicants must have a minimum AA degree, but a Bachelors Degree is preferred, in the related criminal justice field, plus four years of work experience. Documented proof of progressive advancement and increasing responsibilities in work experience may count toward offsetting academic requirements. Must have a valid driver's license. Salary range begins at \$16,000 and may be adjusted based on qualifications.

Applications for this position vacancy are available at the Clerk's Window at the High Court of American Samoa. All applications must be returned to the Administrator at the High Court building by no later than 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 28, 2017. Contact Enele Seumanutafa at 633-1261 or 633-1150 for more information.

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A flash flood warning was issued yesterday for the Territory, as rain pounded Tutuila island most of the day. Roads that are prone to flooding, such as the area in front of the Haleck's new construction area and SSAB Pago on the Ilili Road, near the DHS intersection. It caused a major traffic slow down as vehicles navigated the backed up waters. The area is known to flood when rain is heavy, despite attempts by Public Works to resolve the issue.

[photo: TG]

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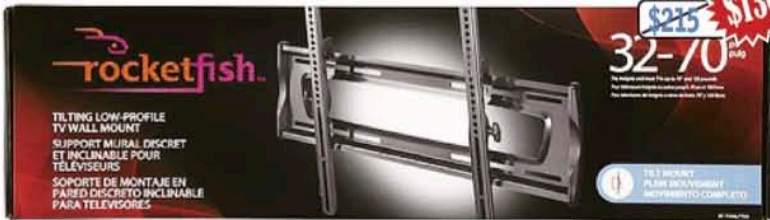
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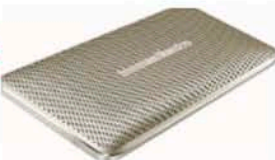


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Procurement director-nominee passes House confirmation

C M
Y K

by Joyetter
Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu
Samoa News Reporter

Procurement Director nominee, Dr. Oreta Crichton was unanimously approved in the House of Representatives in a 'yes' vote of 18, following her confirmation hearing yesterday morning. She fielded questions pertaining to the bidding process and re-opening of the government supply store — among other issues.

Of interest, Leone Rep. Fagaoatua Dorian Salave'a suggested to Crichton that the Procurement Office consider purchasing government vehicles that fit the purpose of the departments and agencies. A teacher by profession, Fagaoatua explained that this was a suggestion from one of his students; to help lower the government costs, instead of just purchasing the "big trucks".

Some departments buy F150s, yet they don't really need that type of "big truck" — a smaller SUV would suffice, said Fagaoatua. The Acting Director replied that this is something that their department will definitely take into consideration.

Manu'a faipule Vesi Fautanu Talalelei Jr. urged the nominee to look into how the bidding process is done when it comes to landscaping/ construction contracts, noting that it would be fair to share the load with other companies that are eager to get contracts with the government. He said accountability is necessary within her department pointing also to the various government vehicles that are under commission with different mechanic shops, and that this should stop.

Dr. Crichton agreed saying that their office is currently working on a process where they would require government vehicles to be taken to "certified" mechanic shops so issues like these do not occur.

Vesi said the Procurement Office is the "heart and soul of the government supplies and we need to move forward to save money, and that having certified businesses to "fix" vehicles is a good move.

Rep Vaetasi Tuumolimoli suggested that Procurement should reopen their supply store and Dr. Crichton agreed, noting they have \$110,00 worth of office supplies in their ware-

house and having the government store would save costs.

However the idea was not welcomed by Rep Vailiutua Steve Leasiolagi, who said that there are local businesses that cater to the needs of the government in terms of supplies, and that re-opening the government supply store will take money away from the local businesses, which are barely surviving.



Backed up water drains causing roads to flood in certain areas around the island was the norm yesterday, as the island saw heavy and at sometimes torrid rainfall throughout the day. Some residents, who live in back villages such as Poloa and Amanave, told Samoa News they left for work early to try and avoid possible landslides due to the heavy rains. Others just stayed home to wait out the storm.

[photo: TG]



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President Donald Trump speaks to the Major County Sheriffs' Association and Major Cities Chiefs Association, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Trump slams the courts, his court nominee hits back

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's extended criticism of the judiciary prompted a rebuke Wednesday from his nominee for the Supreme Court, who told a senator that the president's comments were "demoralizing and disheartening."

Judge Neil Gorsuch, who was nominated by Trump to the nation's high court last week, made the comments after Trump accused an appellate court considering his immigration and refugee executive order of being "so political." During the weekend, the president labeled

a judge who ruled on his executive order a "so-called judge" and referred to the ruling as "ridiculous."

Gorsuch's comments came at the end of his first full week of meetings in the Senate, which is considering his nomination. His response may have been aimed at drawing a line of separation from the new president, who has been politically polarizing figure among Democrats in a highly charged partisan fight over the court.

Prior to the judge's meeting on Capitol Hill, Trump slammed the court that is deliberating his immigration and refugee executive order, telling a group of police chiefs that his immigration order was "done for the security of our nation."

He quoted from the portion of the immigration law that he said gave him the power to enact the ban, calling it "beautifully written" and saying "a bad high school student would understand this."

"Courts seem to be so political and it would be so great for our justice system if they would be able to read a statement and do what's right," he added. "And that has to do with the security of our country, which is so important."

Trump's comments came as the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is weighing the appeal of his executive order on immigration, including a temporary travel ban on people from seven Muslim-majority countries. In a hearing Tuesday, judges on the appeals court challenged the administration's claim that the ban was motivated by terrorism fears, but also questioned an attorney's argument that it unconstitutionally targeted Muslims.

Since a lower-court judge blocked the order last week, Trump has assailed the decision, leading legal experts, Democrats and some Republicans to question whether the president's remarks might jeopardize the independence of the judiciary. Others have expressed fears he may be attempting to use political influence to sway the courts.

Gorsuch joined the criticism in a meeting with Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut. Blumenthal, a former state attorney general, said Gorsuch described the president's comments about the judiciary as "demoralizing and disheartening." Gorsuch's confirmation team confirmed the judge's comments.

Blumenthal told reporters that he had told the judge he would need to condemn Trump's attacks on judicial independence

publicly.

"It needs to be a strong condemnation and that kind of public condemnation is important to establish his independence," Blumenthal said. "Otherwise, the American public will conclude that he is more likely to be a rubber stamp."

In his speech, Trump sought to link his comments about the court battle over his executive order to the law enforcement community in attendance.

"We have to allow you to do your job," he said. "And we have to give you the weapons that you need, and this is a weapon that you need and they're trying to take it away from you."

The president has repeatedly said people are "pouring in" since the ban was put on hold and suggested that blocking the order would be dangerous for U.S. citizens.

On Wednesday morning he tweeted, "Big increase in traffic into our country from certain areas, while our people are far more vulnerable, as we wait for what should be EASY D!"

The administration has not provided any information to support his claims.

Customs and Border Protection, the agency in charge of screening people who arrive at U.S. ports, including airports, has not responded to multiple requests to detail how many visa holders from the seven designated countries have been allowed into the United States since a federal judge temporarily blocked the government from implementing the travel ban.

The State Department previously said fewer than 60,000 visas were provisionally revoked after the order was signed and those people would now be allowed to travel to the U.S. Trump's order banned travel to the U.S. for people from Syria, Sudan, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Yemen and Libya. It also suspended the country's refugee global program.

As of Wednesday afternoon 641 refugees from 13 countries, including five whose citizens were barred from the U.S. under the travel ban, had arrived since a federal judge in Washington ruled against the government.

During his meeting with police leaders, Trump also continued his promises to reduce violence in Chicago, saying that "no one in America should be punished" because of their birthplace. He pledged to provide resources to police departments and promised "zero tolerance" for violence against law enforcement.



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB No. ASCC# 002-2017

Due Date and Time: February 24, 2017

Date of Issuance: January 30, 2017

No Later than 2:00p.m. Local Time

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) and funded under Title III College Accelerated Preparatory Program (CAPP) issues an Invitation for Bids (IFB) from qualified and licensed firms to provide the following:

"COMPUTER DESKTOPS, LAPTOPS, PRINTERS, COPIERS, PROJECTORS, & OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS FOR ASCC"

SUBMISSION:

Original and five copies of the Invitation for Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: **ASCC IFB#002-2017 Computer Desktops, Laptops & Other Instructional & Miscellaneous for ASCC.** Bids are to be sent to the following address and will be received no later than 2:00p.m. Local Time, **Friday, February 24, 2017.**

ASCC Procurement Office
Mapusaga Campus,
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Jessie Su'esu'e, Procurement Officer

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

DOCUMENTS:

The IFB complete package detailing requirements is available at the ASCC Procurement Office, Mapusaga Campus during normal working hours and may also be obtained by emailing j.suesue@amsamoa.edu

RIGHT OF REJECTION:

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted bid proposals that are not in the best interest of the college or the public.

Approved for Issuance by;

Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato

President, American Samoa Community College (ASCC)

Music community honors Randy Travis in song

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A near fatal stroke couldn't take away the signature baritone of country star Randy Travis, and dozens of his friends, from Garth Brooks to Kenny Rogers, used their voices and his songs to honor the legend.

Travis watched from the side of the stage Wednesday in Nashville, Tennessee, as country stars from multiple eras sang his classics, from "Forever and Ever, Amen" to "Three Wooden Crosses." Performers included Wynonna, Alabama, Chris Young, Travis Tritt and Jeff Foxworthy.

By the end, he had joined in the celebration by singing "Amazing Grace" and leading others in singing "May the Circle Be Unbroken."

Travis, whose multiplatinum debut album "Storms of Life" in 1986 made him a star, suffered a stroke in 2013 that initially took away his ability to speak or read. But he's been steadily recovering his voice through rehabilitation, said his wife Mary Travis.

"We sing a lot in the car," said Mary Travis, backstage beside her husband. "We sing a lot at home. Music is his soul. Music is just what he is made of." She said that it's clear that her husband still remembers how to sing and play the guitar, but the stroke caused a condition called aphasia that makes it difficult for him to communicate.

"He knows all the words and he can chord every single song with his left hand," Mary Travis said. Travis, who wore a yellow jacket embroidered with flowers, was all smiles as he watched the performers, who each ended their performances with a hug or a handshake for the singer.

The concert was held to raise proceeds for a new foundation set up in his name to help stroke victims. Travis suffered from a viral infection of the heart and was in a coma when the stroke occurred. He spent over five months in the hospital and underwent two brain surgeries, but battled back through years of rehabilitation.

During his recovery, many of his fellow singers including the Oak Ridge Boys, Alabama, Josh Turner and Jamey Johnson, would come for visits to sing for him and pray for him, said Mary Travis.

Tanya Tucker said every time she visited Travis, she saw how far he had come in his progress.

"Someone told me that I am the only one that really made him laugh, so I would go in there and tell him every dirty joke I could think of," said Tucker, who performed "I Told You So."

Many artists talked about how Travis opened the door for a neo-traditionalist wave in

country music in the late '80s with his unmistakable voice.

"The bottom end of his voice is so wonderful," said Rogers, who sang his classic "The Gambler," for Travis. "Most people sing well in the middle of their range, but he got down in the bottom of his range and would just hold it. I never heard anything like that."

"There isn't anybody in country music today that doesn't owe their career to Randy Travis," said Brooks from the stage. "I am one of those guys, man."

At the end of a rousing version of "Forever and Ever, Amen," Brooks ran over to Travis to hold the microphone so Travis could sing a soft, but still deep "Amen."



Randy Travis, from left, and Mary Travis cheer on Garth Brooks' performance at "1 Night. 1 Place. 1 Time.: A Heroes and Friends Tribute to Randy Travis" at Bridgestone Arena on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017 in Nashville, Tenn.

(Photo by Laura Roberts/Invision/AP)



AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Special Education Division

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Phone: (684) 633-1323, (684) 633-4789 • Fax: (684) 633-7707

Request for Public Comment on Special Education Funding Application

The American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) Special Education Division (SPED) has for public review its application for funding under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) with the US Department of Education (USDOE).

These funds are used to provide special education services to all school age children, ages 3 – 21 years, in the territory of American Samoa who have a disability that adversely affects their classroom achievement. As a condition for granting the funds, each state or territory proposing the application must submit the application for public review and comment. The public must be afforded reasonable opportunities for comment for 30 days prior to the submission of the application on May 12, 2017. The public hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2017 at the ASDOE Guidance & Counseling Office in Utulei at 1:00pm. The Department of Education must review and give due consideration to all comments and suggestions prior to the submission of the application for funding.

Copies of the application are available at the Special Education Office located at the west end of the Matafao Elementary School in Faga'alu. All persons interested in the application are encouraged to pick up a copy between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. Written comments will also be taken during these hours. Comments and suggestions may also be made via email to Faauifono Vaitautolu at faauitolu@yahoo.com or Saouila Fanene Kava at kavasped@gmail.com or may be sent surface mail to Saouila Fanene Kava, Interim SPED Assistant Director, PO Box ASDOE-SPED, Pago Pago, AS 96799. The Part B Application for funding is also posted on the ASDOE website: www.asdoe.net.

Finagalo Fa'alaua'itele mo le Tusi Talosaga mo Alagatupe Fuafuaina o le Ofisa o A'oga Fa'apitoa

Ua tu'uina mai e le Matagaluega o A'oga Amerika Samoa (ASDOE) Ofisa o A'oga Fa'apitoa (SPED) se avanoa e fa'alua ai finagalo fa'alaua'itele a le mamalu o le atunu'u mo alagatupe talosaga i lalo o le Maga B Tulafono mo Tagata o iai Manaoga Fa'apitoa (IDEA) Ofisa o A'oga Fa'apitoa (OSEP) o le Matagaluega o A'oga a le Malo Tele o Amerika (USDOE).

O ia alagatupe ua fuafuaina e fa'atino ai a'oa'oga fa'apitoa tu'uina atu mo tamaiti a'oga uma, e amata mai i le 3-21 tausaga, i totonu o le teritori o Amerika Samoa o lo'o iai manaoga fa'apitoa ua fa'afaigata ai taumafaiga tau a'oa'oga i totonu o potu a'oga. O se tasi o aiaiga mo le taliaina o le talosaga, e tatau i setete ma teritori uma o lo'o talosagaina ia alagatupe ona fa'asalalau a latou tusi talosaga mo se finagalo fa'aalia o tagata lautele. E tatau ona lava se avanoa e silasila lelei ai le atunu'u mo le silafia ma tu'uina mai so latou finagalo fa'aalia e tusa e 30 aso ae le'i tu'uina atu le tusi talosaga ia Me 12, 2017. O le a faia se fono fa'alaua'itele ia Aperila 12, 2017 i le Ofisa ASDOE Guidance and Counseling i Utulei i le itula e 1:00pm. O le a iloiloina e le Matagaluega o A'oga Amerika Samoa finagalo ma manatu fa'aalia a le lautele ma tu'uina atu ni fautuaga ae le'i o'o i le aso fa'atapula'aina o tusi talosaga.

O lo'o maua kopi o lenei tusi talosaga i le Ofisa o A'oga Fa'apitoa i le itu i sisifo o Matafao Elementary School i Fagaalu. Mo i latou e mana'omia se kopi o le tusi talosaga, e avanoa le ofisa mai i le itula 8:00am-4:00pm. O manatu fa'aalia e taua mai i tusitusiga e mafai ona tu'uina mai i taimi ua fa'atulagaina. A iai nisi manatu ma fautuaga e mafai ona imeli mai ia Fa'auifono Vaitautolu (faauitolu@yahoo.com) po'o Saouila Fanene Kava (kavasped@gmail.com) pe tusi mai ia Saouila Fanene Kava, Interim SPED Assistant Director, PO Box ASDOE SPED, Pago Pago AS, 96799. Ua mafai fo'i ona maua se kopi o le Part B. Application i luga o le upegatafa'ilagi ASDOE website:www.asdoe.net

Airstrikes on rebel-held Syrian district kill 9 civilians

BEIRUT (AP) — A series of airstrikes on an opposition-held district in the Syrian city of Homs, presumably carried out by Russia or Syria, killed at least nine civilians on Wednesday, local activists said.

Pro-government forces shelled the city's al-Waer neighborhood with tank and artillery fire in conjunction with the airstrikes, the Local Coordination Committees, an activist network, reported.

Government forces have kept the opposition-held neighborhood under siege since 2013, according to the Washington-based Siege Watch. An estimated 75,000 people are trapped inside.

The local Civil Defense search-and-rescue team, also known as the White Helmets, said the airstrikes hit one of its centers in al-Waer, wounding one volunteer. The govern-

ment and its allies have regularly targeted hospitals and first responder positions in the course of the Syrian civil war, which is approaching its seventh year.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported that nine civilians were killed in the raids.

Homs is Syria's third-largest city. Government forces retook most of the city in 2014, effectively ending an anti-government protest movement that had gripped Homs since 2011.

The al-Waer assault came one day after presumed Russian or Syrian government aircraft bombed the rebel-held city of Idlib and marked the second major violation of a month-old cease-fire between the government and rebels in as many days.

The Observatory said 24 civilians were killed in seven

strikes across Idlib on Tuesday. The Idlib Civil Defense said 26 people were killed.

The Dec. 30 cease-fire was brokered by Russia and Iran, both of which are key allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad, and Turkey, which supports the opposition. Each side has accused the other of repeated violations.

U.N.-sponsored talks on Syria are scheduled to start in Geneva on Feb. 20 and invitations to the discussions will be issued "in the coming days" — not on Wednesday as expected,

United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. He said U.N. special envoy Staffan de Mistura and his team are continuing discussions and the invitations will go out once they reach "a position of comfort."

De Mistura had said invitations would be issued around Feb. 8 and if the Syrian opposition wasn't united, he would select the delegation and ensure that it is as inclusive as possible. Dujarric declined to say whether talks were still going on with opposition groups or whether de Mistura is choosing the opposition delegation.

Late in the day, the Pentagon said two U.S. airstrikes near Idlib last week killed 11 al-Qaida operatives, including one with ties to Osama bin Laden and other senior al-Qaida leaders. Navy Capt. Jeff Davis said an airstrike Friday killed 10 operatives in a building used as an al-Qaida meeting site and a strike the next day killed Abu Hani al-Masri, who U.S. officials say oversaw the creation and operation of al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan in the 1980s and 1990s. Davis said al-Masri had ties to bin

Laden and to Ayman al-Zawahiri, who became the top leader of al-Qaida when bin Laden was killed by U.S. forces in 2011.

Turkey, meanwhile, is in talks with Russia to coordinate troop movements around northern Syria to avoid any encounter with the Syrian military, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman told private NTV television Wednesday.

Syrian government forces and Turkish-backed opposition fighters are in a race to seize the town of al-Bab from the Islamic State group.

Turkish and Syrian forces have so far avoided direct conflict, despite hostile rhetoric between Erdogan and Assad. The twin offensives put the two forces within 3 kilometers (2 miles) of one another, on opposite sides of al-Bab.

Erdogan spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said Turkish troops had reached the center of al-Bab and were fighting to secure it, but the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists inside Syria, said the Turkish force was still at the town's outskirts.



FILE - This file frame grab from video provided on Sunday, Dec. 25, 2016 by Step News Agency, a Syrian opposition media outlet that is consistent with independent AP reporting, shows smoke rise from the government forces shelling on Wadi Barada, northwest of Damascus, Syria. Opposition activists and Syria's state TV said on Friday, Jan. 13, 2017 that maintenance workers have arrived in the rebel-held valley near Damascus to fix the water facility there, ending a violent standoff that has dried out the capital for weeks. (Step News Agency, via AP, File)



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2001, file photo, refugees, right, gather on one side of a fence to talk with international journalists about their journey that brought them to the Island of Nauru. U.S. officials had stopped screening refugees for potential resettlement in the United States but would return to the Pacific atoll of Nauru to continue working toward a deal that President Donald Trump has condemned as “dumb,” an Australian minister said on Thursday. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft, File)

US officials stop vetting Nauru refugees for resettlement

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — U.S. officials stopped screening refugees held on Nauru for potential resettlement in the United States this week but will return to the Pacific atoll to continue working toward a deal that President Donald Trump has condemned as “dumb,” an Australian minister said Thursday.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton would not say when U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials would return to Nauru to conduct what Trump describes as “extreme vetting.”

Trump made enhanced screening a condition for agreeing to honor an Obama administration deal to accept up to 1,250 refugees refused entry into Australia. Australia pays Nauru and Papua New Guinea to keep more than 2,000 asylum seekers — mostly from Iran, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka — in conditions condemned by rights groups.

The process of “extreme vetting” has yet to be explained.

U.S. officials were sent to Nauru within days of the deal’s announcement in November after the U.S. presidential election. But they left this week with arrangements under a cloud.

“I don’t have any comment to make in relation to when U.S. officials will be on Nauru next,” Dutton told reporters. “There have been officials there who have left ... in the last couple of days and we would expect other officials to be there in due course.”

Dutton later denied in an interview with Sky News that

the screening process was on hold, saying his staffers were working with homeland security officials in Washington to assess each of the refugees’ cases.

Refugee Action Coalition spokesman Ian Rintoul said most of the refugees on Nauru who had been accepted by the United States as candidates for resettlement had initial interviews with U.S. officials in what they had been told was a two-step process.

But there have been no second interviews so far, Rintoul said.

Australia has determined that there are 1,600 genuine refugees among 2,077 asylum seekers on Papua New Guinea and Nauru. There could also be refugees among the 370 asylum seekers who came to Australia for medical treatment then took court action to prevent their return to the island camps.

As of last week, Nauru held 1,132 asylum seekers including women and children. The Manus Island facility in Papua New Guinea housed 818 men with another 127 male asylum seekers living elsewhere in Papua New Guinea.

Australia has said the “most vulnerable” refugees on Nauru would be given priority for U.S. resettlement.

After committing to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull that he would honor the agreement, Trump tweeted that it was a “dumb deal.”

Asked last week whether the deal would continue, Trump said: “We’ll see what happens.”

Papua New Guinea was on Thursday accused of breaching the rights of 60 asylum seekers who have been told they are about to be deported. Such deportations are rare.

The 60 have had their refugee claims rejected and one has already been removed from the men-only Manus facility, said Ben Lomai, a lawyer representing them.

Most of those targeted for deportation were from Iran, with others from Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Bangladesh.


It is not clear how Papua New Guinea hopes to overcome Iran’s refusal to accept back its citizens who have not returned voluntarily.

One asylum seeker from Nepal was put on a commercial flight Wednesday night and told he was being returned to his home country, Lomai said.

Lomai was preparing an application for the court in Papua New Guinea on Thursday asking that the deportations be halted. The asylum seekers already have separate court applications pending asking that they be resettled in Australia, and Lomai said it would be unjust to deport them before those matters were heard.


Australian Attorney-General George Brandis defended Papua New Guinea’s legal right to deport the men, saying their refugee claims have been investigated and rejected.

The Papua New Guinea government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



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Dr. Lana Ka’opua (PhD, DCSW, LSW)

IDENTIFY ASSESSMENT OF CANCER SERVICES AND NEEDS & USE OF FOCUS GROUPS AND KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS



American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition
Helping people of American Samoa Fight Cancer
Funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities 1U24MD011202

You'll learn to:

- Identify and describe elements common to key informant interviews and focus group discussions
- Recognize the importance of sequencing types of questions
- Articulate probes to questions asked in key informant interviews

Questions? Call 699-0110

When?
Saturday,
February 11, 2017

Time?
1:00 p.m.

Where?
Sa Iosia Building,
2nd Floor, Nu'uuli

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Role Responsibilities:

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- Develop company-wide Health & Safety procedures as part of continuous improvement

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- 7+ years experience in a Health & Safety advisory/management role
- Extensive knowledge of legislative requirements and the ability to translate these into clear procedures
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- Clear and concise communication skills (written and verbal)

If you are interested in applying, please deliver your CV (Resume) to McConnell Dowell office by **4:00pm by Wednesday, February 15th.**

McConnell Dowell is an Equal opportunity employer.



In this Feb. 4, 2017, photo, wildlife biologist Purnima Devi Barman, who works with a local conservation group called Aranyak, rescues a baby Greater Adjutant Stork that fell from its nest on a tree in Dadara village, west of Gauhati, India. As a result of a conservation movement spearheaded by Barman, local women in this region pray, sing hymns, weave scarves and other items on their hand looms with the motifs of the bird, to create awareness about the need to protect the species, only 1200 of which survive in the world, according to estimates from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. With about 800 birds Assam has the largest number of the Greater Adjutant Stork, concentrated largely in three villages just northwest of state capital Gauhati. (AP Photo/Anupam Nath)

Once-reviled scavenger bird now the pride of its Indian home

GAUHATI, India (AP) — The greater adjutant stork used to be an object of revulsion in northeast India. It’s not a pretty bird, with its large, dull-orange bill and gray, black and white plumage. A carnivore and scavenger, it left bits of dead animals in its nests. People thought it brought bad luck, so they destroyed nests and sometimes poisoned the birds.

The fortunes of the species may turn on local pride.

Local women took it upon themselves early last year to form a conservation movement for the bird in Assam state, one of only three homes the species has left. The women known as the hargila army, for the bird’s

name in the Assamese language, sing hymns and weave scarves and other items on handlooms with motifs of the bird to create awareness about the need to protect the species.

Only 1,200 of the large storks survive in the world, according to estimates from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Assam has about two-thirds of them, largely in three villages just northwest of state capital Gauhati.

The other 400 or so greater adjutant storks are found in the eastern Indian state of Bihar and in Cambodia.

The conservation movement wasn’t easy to sell; wildlife biologist Purnima Devi Barman needed almost eight years to convince locals the bird was crucial to the ecosystem.

“It was seen as a bird with an evil omen that brings in carcass and other rotten stuff,” said Barman, who works with a local conservation group called Aranyak.

“We had to involve the locals because the bird nests on trees owned by individual households. The future of the greater adjutant stork depends on individual tree owners who used to fell trees earlier to get rid of the nests,” Barman said.

The locals now call Barman “hargila baideo,” or hargila sister, after she organized and named the movement, now

involving nearly 150 women.

Once the women began to feel pride in ensuring the survival of the bird, they spread the message.

Hymns are sung in the local prayer hall for the stork’s survival. At Sankardev Sishu Niketan, the school where most local children study, the teachers talk about protecting the bird.

“We have launched a pride campaign among the children and youth so they can proudly say their village is home to the hargilas,” Barman said.

The movement also found support from local government authorities, who have provided nets to protect young storks falling out of the nest during storms or windy days. The critical period is the breeding season from August to April.

“We are providing looms for the weavers and educational grants to children of tree owners in the area as they are going all out in protecting the bird,” said Vinod Sachan, the local district magistrate.

In January more than two dozen greater adjutant storks were found dead in a neighborhood near Gauhati. Forensic testing is being done to learn the cause.

“The news of so many hargilas dying has cast a pall of gloom amongst us. We need to do more to save this globally endangered bird,” said Barman.

‘El Chapo’ Guzman’s sons wounded in cartel attack

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A prominent Mexican journalist reported Wednesday that the sons of Sinaloa cartel kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman say they were wounded in an attack they blamed on a rival drug gang figure and onetime “top lieutenant” for their father.

Ciro Gomez Leyva said he received word about Saturday’s purported attack in a handwritten letter from Guzman’s sons that said they were with Sinaloa boss Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada at the time and that he was also targeted.

Gomez Leyva said the letter accused Damaso Lopez, another alleged Sinaloa figure who is believed to be disputing for control of the cartel, of betraying them. The letter said they had come to a meeting organized by Lopez only to find he was not there, and gunmen suddenly opened fire and killed their bodyguards. Guzman’s sons said they and Zambada escaped. Guzman lawyer Jose Refugio confirmed to local media that

the letter came from the sons. “I was aware of that, I know about that letter and I know they wrote that letter,” Refugio told Radio Formula. “But it was not delivered through me.”

Mexican authorities did not immediately confirm or otherwise comment on the purported attack.

Guzman was arrested for the third time in January 2016 and finally extradited to the United States last month. Some have speculated a bloody turf war could break out to fill the power vacuum.

Last August, his son Jesus Alfredo Guzman Salazar was one of a half-dozen people kidnapped by armed men from a restaurant in the Pacific coast city of Puerto Vallarta. He was released not long afterward.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Lopez was indicted by a federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, in 2011, accused of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and conspiracy to launder money.



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This undated photo provided by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab shows physicist Dr. Arthur Rosenfeld at ceremonial launch of the ITRI-Rosenfeld Fellowship in Berkeley, Calif. Rosenfeld, spearheading breakthroughs in reduced energy for lighting, refrigerators, televisions and other electronics while working at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, has died at age 90. Rosenfeld died Jan. 27, 2017, at his home in Berkeley, said Lawrence Berkeley National Lab spokeswoman Julie Chao.

(Roy Kaltschmidt/Lawrence Berkeley National Lab via AP)

Art Rosenfeld, ‘godfather’ of energy efficiency, dies at 90

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — Physicist Arthur Rosenfeld, who spearheaded breakthroughs in energy efficiency for lighting, refrigerators, televisions and other electronics while working at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, has died. He was 90.

Rosenfeld died Jan. 27 at his home in Berkeley, said Lawrence Berkeley National Lab spokeswoman Julie Chao.

Rosenfeld was known to his colleagues as California’s “godfather” of energy efficiency, a field he is credited with creating.

A native of Alabama, he was known for his detailed calculations, but also for his talent in translating the results into terms that could be easily understood.

A particle physicist, he moved to Berkeley in the 1950s to work in the particle physics group of Luis Alvarez, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics in 1968.

A turning point in his career came in 1973 when the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries declared an oil embargo. Knowing he would have to wait in a long line the next day to buy gas, he decided to calculate how

much energy could be saved by turning off unused lights.

“After 20 minutes of uncovering light switches (and saving 100 gallons for the weekend), I decided that UC Berkeley and its Radiation Laboratory should do something about conservation,” he wrote in a 1999 autobiography of his career, “The Art of Energy Efficiency.”

He received numerous awards and honors, including the National Medal of Technology and Innovation in 2011 — the nation’s highest honor for technological achievement — for the development of energy efficient building technologies.

Gov. Jerry Brown said that during his first term as governor in 1975, Rosenfeld told him that simply by requiring more efficient refrigerators, California could save as much energy as would be produced by the then-proposed Sundersert Nuclear Power plant.

“We adopted Art’s refrigerator standards and many others, did not build the power plant and moved the country to greater energy efficiency,” Brown said in a statement after Rosenfeld’s death was announced.



AMERICAN SAMOA
POWER AUTHORITY
Materials Management Office

Po Box PPB, Pago Pago
American Samoa 96799
Phone No.: (684) 699-3057
Fax No.: (684) 699-4129
bids@aspower.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.022.ESD-WTR

Closing Date & Time: March 13, 2017

Issuance Date: February 9, 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:

“Lepine ACP Line Replacement Project”

Submission

An Original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP NO. ASPA17.022.ESD-WTR Lepine ACP Line Replacement Project. Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Monday, March 13, 2017:**

Materials Management 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 Materials Management Office 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



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American Samoa 96799
Phone No.: (684) 699-3057
Fax No.: (684) 699-4129
bids@aspower.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.024.WW

Closing Date & Time: April 10, 2017

Issuance Date: February 8, 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:

“East Side Village (ESV) Wastewater Collection System Project: Package 5, Phase I”

Submission

An Original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP NO. ASPA17.024.WW ESV Wastewater Collection System Project: Package 5, Phase I. Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Monday, April 10, 2017:**

Materials Management 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.

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Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director

"FAMILIES ARE FOREVER"

In loving Memory of a Beloved Husband, Father, Son, Brother, Uncle and Friend

IOSEFA ELIA

Sunrise: July 24, 1990

Sunset: January 14, 2017



“O le Aliʻi, o loʻu leoleo mamoe o ia; e leai se mea ou te mativa ai; na te ave aʻu i le mea e iai le vao muʻa ou te taoto ai. Na te taʻitaʻi ia te aʻu i tafatafa o vai e tafe lemuʻ na te faʻafoʻisia mai loʻu agaga; na te taʻitaʻi ia te aʻu i ala o le amiotonu ona o lona suafa. E ui lava ina ou savali i le vanu o le ata o le oti, ou te le fefe lava i se mea leaga; aua o oe ta te faʻatasi ma aʻu; o lau laʻau ma lau toʻotoʻo e faamafanafanaina ai aʻu. E te laulau mai mea i le laʻoʻai ma aʻu i luma o e ita mai ia te aʻu; ua e faʻauʻuina loʻu ulu i le suauʻu; ua taumasuasua laʻu ipu. E moni e mulimuli mai ia te aʻu le agalelei ma le alofa i aso uma o loʻu ola; ou te nofo foʻi i le fale o le Aliʻi i aso e tele lava.”

Salamo 23: 1-6

FUNERAL PROGRAM

Friday, February 10, 2017

5:30pm Family Service at LBʻf Chapel

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

8:00am Mass of Christian Burial

Maria Le Tina, Catholic Church - Aasufou

(Followed by Viewing at Lualemaga Guest House)

1:00pm

Burial Service at Tuifagafue Vili Lam Yuen in Aasufou

Leeann Elia and Families

Luka 23: 43 “E moni, ou te fai atu ia te oe, o le aso ta te faatasi ai ma oe i le parataiso.”