

Young Segaula calls switch to solar power a 'revolution'

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Best of the best
Sports

Toe falepuipui tagata faigaluega Fono i lona fa'aaoga fualaau fa'asaina

Le Lali

Jr. Eseroma and Steve Tafaovale from the American Samoa Veterinary Clinic – loading up pets and animals for delivery back to their homes yesterday evening, just after a long day of clinical work as they took part in the World Wide Spay Day that was observed yesterday all over the world. The local event was sponsored by an anonymous donor, according to veterinarian Dr. Kristen Jensen, who shouted out their thanks for the donor's kindness and generosity. (Read story in today's Samoa News) [photo: TG]



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"Champion of Change" SELU seeks a wider market for his artwork

By Leiloa Ese Malala
Samoa News Staff Writer

Last May, Samoan artist Selu Alofipo was recognized as one of ten artists chosen by the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), as a "Champion of Change" last year, May 2016, during President Obama's Administration.

Alofipo started his career as a professional artist in 2009 and began as a bone carver, carving jewelry (mainly necklaces) out of shells and bones. This was short lived however, as he quickly evolved to painting — as he sought a wider market for his work.

He knew that painting would make his work more market-

able and appeal to the general public, rather than one particular group — those who wore bone-carving necklaces. One idea led to the other, with one of his artworks, ending up on display at the East Wing of the White House.

He said during the White House Recognition ceremony last year, "My journey as an artist began was an act of desperation. I wanted more; I wanted better, and I expected both. I simply got tired of getting by. I have a college education; I played Division I football and started every year I played; I am healthy and strong, I am blessed with certain abilities and gifts. Why then was I living

(Continued on page 7)

Gov. Lolo reminds: Territories cannot afford any reduction in Medicaid funding

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has called on the Trump Administration and the U.S. Congress to be mindful that small economies such as those of American Samoa and other U.S. territories "cannot afford any reduction in Medicaid" funding.

Lolo made the call in his written official address distributed at last Friday's annual meeting of the federal Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) in Washington D.C. where the governor also made an oral presentation. The meeting focused on health care and debt service priorities.

At the outset of his statement, the governor points out that the territories are often overlooked when federal policy makers create laws, policies and programs that "are supposed to help our unique native communities."

However, he said often times, "such initiatives ignore our remote distance, vulnerable economies and complex social structures."

"Usually they fail to resolve the problems needing solutions or end up complicating already difficult environments and stifling our ability to grow our economies and our communities overall," Lolo said.

On health care, the governor explained Medicaid is the primary health insurance coverage for the people of American Samoa — other than Tricare and Medicare. He noted that American Samoa has been cited as having one of the highest rates of obesity, diabetes and non-communicable diseases in the world.

With only one Medicaid/Medicare acute care hospital provider, which does not have many diagnostic services or medical specialists, many local patients require off island medical referral, the governor explained.

And the absence of off-island referral services or quality health care, means that those who cannot make it to the U.S. for medical care

"simply accept the inevitability of death," Lolo points out and asked the question, "How can this be acceptable to the most powerful and wealthiest nation in the world?"

"Our people are U.S. nationals that give their lives for this country," Lolo declared. "Per capita, we send most of our children to the U.S. military. Do not the families of our children deserve access to health care similar to the other 50 states in the nation?"

While pleased that U.S. Donald Trump has prioritized health care issues in his administration, Lolo said he is "wary of how [the] administration is going to approach the repeal of or substantive reforms" of the Affordable Care Act (ACA — also known as the Obamacare), Medicare and Medicaid.

The governor explained that the ACA didn't impact American Samoa like all other territories and states, for the simple reason — American Samoa does not have health insurance providers nor did it need Medicaid expansion.

He explained that the Medicaid program for American Samoa does not enroll beneficiaries because it presumes that all U.S. nationals are eligible beneficiaries. "Further, no insurance companies have wanted to provide health insurance to our people because of the high poverty level, low volume purchasers and high health care risk," he said.

Since its creation in 1985, Lolo said the federal Medicaid has been the only health insurance provider for the people of American Samoa. He then revealed that it was last year that a health insurance provider began to pilot a basic plan in American Samoa, paid for by one semi-government agency, "but how long it can be sustained remains to be seen."

"We certainly cannot afford it for the rest of the government nor the people of the territory," said Lolo who didn't identify the name of the one semi-government agency.

(Continued on page 2)



Selu Alofipo, who was born and raised in Samoa, with his wife, Tofuola, last year in May, when he was selected as one of ten artists chosen by the White House to showcase his artwork which was featured in the East Wing of the White House, and was recognized as a "Champion of Change". Go to: www.seluart.com to meet the artist and his work. [Courtesy photo]

Young Segaula calls switch to solar power a 'revolution' "Go Green" everyday is the goal



Manu'a High School student Sabrina Patiasa calls Manu'a's recent switch to solar power, a 'Revolution' that is a stepping-stone for the residents there to "Go Green" everyday.

[Courtesy photo]

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

When the Manu'a Islands made worldwide news with the announcement of their recent switch to solar power, the project became the perfect topic for kids to write about.

Putting their thoughts and ideas on paper, and through visual presentations like photographs and videos, the goal of the Pacific Storytellers Cooperative and its director, Daniel Lin who believe that the best way to pass information down from generation to generation - which is the traditional Samoan way of preserving history - is to allow the young people to research the information, jot it down, and tell it to the world.

That's exactly what has happened, since Lin traveled to Manu'a last month and spent a week mentoring a handful of aspiring storytellers from Manu'a High School.

Stories and photographs



Manu'a High School student Sabrina Patiasa calls Manu'a's recent switch to solar power, a 'Revolution' that is a stepping-stone for the residents there to "Go Green" everyday.

[Courtesy photo]

compiled by the students have been published online and can be viewed at www.maptia.com/manuastorytellers

One of the young authors, Sabrina Patiasa, contributed a short article entitled: "The Solar Revolution" in which she talks about the benefits of the switch to solar power, and how it can be viewed as a first step in "making our island better."

According to Patiasa, the decision to build a solar power plant in Ta'u, Manu'a "has revolutionized the way our island produces energy today, and in

the future." She said it's the "first step to many that we can do to make our island better," and "it has made out community think of possibilities that we can create to 'Go Green' everyday."

Last year, the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), in partnership with SolarCity, introduced 'the world's most advanced microgrid,' to provide clean and sustainable energy to ASPA. Called the "Ta'u PV Project" the work came with a price tag of \$8 million and was funded by ASPA and the US Department of Interior (USDO).

The entire project features 1,410 kW of Solar PV panels and 6,000 kWh of battery storage, three new 275 KW Cummins diesel generators, and 480V switchgear.

Ta'u, Manu'a is "one of the first islands in the Pacific to be powered entirely by solar energy," Patiasa pointed out, adding, "In the past, Ta'u used to be powered by diesel generators. The diesel had to be

imported from Pago Pago which was difficult, due to unreliable transportation."

Patiasa said one of the downsides of being powered by diesel generators — for them — were continuous power outages, not to mention the pollution it created.

"Now we have solar energy powering the whole island, which is reliable and helps the world because we are using renewable energy instead of burning diesel, meaning less pollution."

ASPA employee Fa'gaitu Asoivao Jr. called the Solar Project "a blessing" and told Patiasa that it has made their jobs "easier and less stressful."

Patiasa wrote, "Now our community doesn't have to deal with power outages, or wait for the boat to bring diesel. This revolution has really benefited Ta'u, Manu'a, and the earth."

She concluded, "Personally, as a high school student, and as a person who grew up in Manu'a, this solar project has been an

amazing accomplishment for our island. It has decreased spending money on electricity bills and paying for diesel. It also reduces the chances of our power going off and damaging people's electrical appliances. To me, this is very important for the future of our island because now we can begin to think about other ways to be sustainable."

Patiasa and her four schoolmates who tackled the challenge presented by Lin not only got the opportunity to research the benefits of using solar power, they are now published writers and part of the Manu'a Storytellers group, under the Pacific Storytellers Cooperative.

The Cooperative accepts submissions in all forms from Indigenous Pacific Islanders and residents, including written stories, photos, videos, and poetry.

If anyone wishes to contribute stories to PREL's Pacific Storytelling Cooperative (www.storytellers.prel.org), please contact Lin at lind@prel.org.

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Gov. Lolo reminds Trump Admin ...

Continued from page 1

Since taking office in 2013, Lolo said his staff has worked closely with the U.S. Center for Medicaid and Medicare Service to improve the way the territory administers the Medicaid program. And in that time, "we have also come to learn about the shortcomings of our Medicaid program as a function of the federal law that created it for the territories," he said.

For example, in American Samoa, there is a waiver — similar to the Northern Mariana Islands, which waives federal requirements stemming

from any provisions in the Social Security law. However, he said there are three provisions, that cannot be waived — the Medicaid cap; the federal matching percentage; and mandatory health services.

"These three provisions are the devil in the details," he said. "On the one hand, we are mandated to provide certain medical services that amount to millions of dollars, yet our annual Medicaid funding is capped currently at \$12 million for 2017."

(Samoa News notes that the Lolo Administration along

with Congresswoman Aumua Amata have been working to remove the Medicaid cap.)

"To compound the inadequacy of this funding," Lolo, said the territories "are unfairly treated with the application of the 55%/ 45% match that we struggle to make because of our poor economies." He believes the 55% matching rate is an arbitrary number as it is not a result of using the standard calculation that applies to all states based on average per capita income.

For example, in the poorest

(Continued on page 4)

Local “Prayer Service” for the late former Congressman Faleomavaega set for today

TRI-MARINE OFFICIALS PAY TRIBUTE TO A “FAIR AND HONEST PUBLIC SERVANT”

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

A “Prayer Service” is set for late this afternoon for the late former Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Fa’auaa Hunkin, who is described as a “fair and honest public servant” by two top officials of Tri Marine International.

The two-hour service, which is also a memorial, will honor and celebrate Faleomavaega’s life of service, and is set to begin at 5p.m. today at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium. His family in American Samoa is hosting the service, which is open to the public.

Faleomavaega’s family has extended an invitation to Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, who is also the acting governor, to attend today’s service.

Faleomavaega passed away Feb. 22 at his home in Provo, Utah, and a family announcement, about today’s prayer service, also says final services will be in Provo and includes a wake-service on Mar. 10 and

church service on Mar. 11.

In a joint statement yesterday, Tri Marine president and chief executive officer Renato Curto and chief operating officer, Joe Hamby say the Tri Marine family was “saddened to hear of the passing of our dear friend” Faleomavaega, who “was blessed in many ways.”

“Throughout his life, he was given incredible responsibilities and authority,” they said of the late Congressman. “He took his work and his role seriously, because he loved the people he worked for — people from all walks of life, from villages and cities and capitals far away.”

They described Faleomavaega as an effective representative, who not only seemed to know everyone, but also had an uncanny ability to know how to make them all laugh. “He was universally loved at home and in Washington, DC,” they say.

“A fair and honest public servant, he recognized the importance of the tuna industry to the Territory. That meant

becoming a champion not only for Tri Marine but for StarKist, Samoa Tuna Processors and the American Samoa based fishing fleet,” the statement says.

“We will never forget the kindness and generosity he showed to us as a company and as individuals, and will always remember his fierce love for the people of American Samoa. He will always be remembered as a hardworking and honest figure, whose love of family, love of life and love of his people made him an indispensable leader and friend to all,” the Tri Marine officials say.

“We join thousands in mourning the loss of our dear friend and as we look back and remember his work on behalf of American Samoa, we are comforted in the knowledge that he is at peace, no longer in pain,” the says.

See Samoa News edition of Feb. 24 with story, which includes an official statement from StarKist president on Faleomavaega’s passing.



The candle lighting part of the TOA o SAMOA Service is a sacred ritual observed in remembrance of our entire brave TOA o SAMOA, who have served and are serving in the military armed forces.

The TOA o SAMOA Prayer Service hosted monthly by the Marist St. Joseph association for all our TOA o SAMOA soldiers serving worldwide was held last Sunday at the Malaeloa Methodist Church. The TOA o SAMOA church service for March will be held at the Laulii St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

[Photo: THA]



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TO Members of the SOLIAI Family and to all whom these present may come!

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that NASARETA L. TASESA of NUUULI has offered for recording in this office an instrument in writing which seeks to separate a certain structure which is or to be erected, on land VAAEAGA allegedly belonging to SOLIAI FAMILY of the village of NUUULI Said land VAAEAGA is situated in or near the village of NUUULI in the County of ITUAU, Island of TUTUILA, American Samoa.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any interested person may object to the recording of such instrument by filing in the Territorial Registrar’s Office in Fagatogo, a written objection to the recording of said instrument. Any objections thereto must be filed with in 30 days from the date of posting of this notice.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if no such objections are filed within the said 30 day period, the instrument will be recorded and shall be valid and binding on all persons. The said instrument may be examined at any time at the Territorial Registrar’s Office.

POSTED: FEBRUARY 27, 2017 thru MARCH 29, 2017

SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

FA’AALIGA O LE FEAGAIGA MO SE TU’U’ESEINA

I tagata o le aiga sa SOLIAI, ma i latou uma e silasila ma lauiloaina leni fa’aaliga!

O le fa’aaliga leni ona o NASARETA L. TASESA o le nu’u o NUUULI ua ia fa’aulufaleina mai i leni ofisa se feagaiga tusitusi e fa’ailoa ai se mana’oga fia tu’u’eseina o se fale ua/po o le a, fa’atuina i luga o le fanua o VAAEAGA e fa’asino i le aiga sa SOLIAI, o le nu’u o NUUULI. O leni fanua e totonu pe latalata ane i le nu’u o NUUULI, itumalo o ITUAU, ile motu o TUTUILA, Amerika Samoa.

O le fa’aaliga fo’i e fa’apea, so o se tasi e iai sona aia i leni mata’upu e mafai ona fa’atu’i’iese ile fa’amauiina o leni feagaiga pe a auina mai i le ofisa ole Resitara o le Teritori of Amerika Samoa i Fagatogo, sana fa’atu’iese tusitusia. O fa’atu’iesega uma lava e ao ona fa’aulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 30 faitauina mai i le aso na fa’aaliga ai leni fa’aaliga.

Afai ole a leai se fa’atu’iesega e fa’aulufaleina i totonu o aso 30 e pei ona ta’ua i luga, o le a fa’amauiina loa leni feagaiga e taualoaina ma a’afia ai tagata uma.

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ASG Veterinary Clinic celebrates World Spay Day in American Samoa

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED — IT PASSED THEIR EXPECTATIONS

by T. Gasu

Samoa News Correspondent

This past Tuesday, February 28, 2017 was the global celebration of World Spay Day around the world, and the American Samoa Veterinary Clinic under the management of the Department of Agriculture took part in the annual event by hosting a full day of free clinical operations for our local dogs and cats.

World Spay Day draws attention to “spay/neuter” as a proven means of saving lives of companion animals, community (feral and stray) cats, and street dogs who might otherwise be put down in a shelter or killed on the street.

World Spay Day is celebrated on the last Tuesday in February of every year.

Samoa News spoke to the local Veterinarian Dr. Kristen Jensen about their focus and goal leading up to World Spay Day, and she said that they actually went past their goals and expectations as to the numbers of animals that they had planned to operate on for this special day.

Dr. Jensen said, “I had a donor that gave us enough to cover 25 animals, and so our goal was originally 25 animals – when we announced Spay Day and that we could offer those surgeries for free, but we had such an overwhelming response from the public, that we actually



Dr. Kristen Jensen checking on some of her feline patients just before handing them back over to their rightful owner, at the conclusion of the World Wide Spay Day clinical session held yesterday at our local Veterinary Clinic. The free spay & neuter clinic was sponsored by an anonymous donor, and according to Dr. Jensen, was a highly successful event.

[photo: TG]

added an extra 25 slots.”

“So we went over our goal for sure,” she said.

According to Jensen, they operated on 25 animals for World Spay Day alone, but the day before they were able to operate on 15 animals “for a grand total of 35 animals for free to the public – I was really happy to see the number of

people who responded so fast, and I think this is one of the biggest problems we face here is the need of animal sterilization in order to control the population problem.”

She said the territory has an overpopulation problem and that it’s something that everyone already knows and are dealing with, “I think if we let the cat population go unchecked we’re going to find that it’s going to have a huge feral cat problem.”

Jensen added that there are already some places in the territory that have already lost control of their cat breeding problem, “and we don’t want that to happen on the whole island, I know people really like cats for helping with rat control – one or two sterilized cats

would be great to help keep the rat population down, but when you start getting 50 or more cats then they’ll have nothing to eat and they’ll start hunting our native birds and other native wildlife and that’s a problem for everything.”

When asked about some of the problems that she saw with our local four-legged friends during this year’s Spay Day, the veterinarian told Samoa News that “we always have a problem with dogs having external parasites, we’ve had a lot of dogs that have a lot of fleas so that makes them a little more anemic – which makes surgeries a little bit harder, but more than that, ticks are the biggest problem we have here.”

She pointed out that “ticks

carry a lot of different blood parasites and blood parasites can cause bleeding problems in a couple of the dogs like the couple of them that had surgeries on Monday who had bleeding issues.”

Jensen said, “I think that World Spay Day is an excellent time to remember that it’s really important to have your pets spayed and neutered – there’s lots of benefits other than the over-population that we have here.”

She added, “We help prevent your pets from cancer by having them sterilized, especially the TVTs that we have locally that are transmitted between breeding dogs.”

Adding to more benefits of having your pets sterilized, spayed and neutered, Jensen said, “Dogs are less likely to run away from your house or go chasing other dogs – if they’re sterilized they tend to live longer lives. So for sure Spay Day was a good day for us to get the message out there that it’s very good for American Samoa, for you and your families, as well as your pets.”

Dr. Jensen wanted to extend her acknowledgement and thank you to all those who have helped her and her team at the local Veterinary Clinic for this year’s World Spay Day. “I would like to thank the Department of Agriculture and my staff for a very successful World Spay Day – we also had volunteers from Alofa Mo Meaola (AMM) with transportation and checking animals in as well as helping us with moving the animals around.”

She said, “Our sponsor was actually anonymous, but I’d like to thank them as well for making this all possible.”

CORRECTION

In yesterday’s story about the NTSB report on the Sulemans’ plane crash on July 22, 2014, Samoa News mistakenly reported that Barbar Suleman’s body was recovered. It was actually Haris Sulman, the son’s body that was recovered. The father’s body was never found.

Samoa News apologizes to the family and our readers for the inadvertent error.

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Gov. Lolo reminds: Territories cannot ...

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states like Mississippi and Kentucky, with poverty rates of 22% and 19% respectively, they have a matching percentage of 74% and 70%.

For wealthy states like Connecticut and Wyoming with poverty rates of 10%, their matching is 50%. However, he says American Samoa’s poverty rate is 65%.

“Our poverty level is substantially higher than the poorest states in the nation, yet we are subject to a burdensome 55% (match) similarly applied to the wealthiest states in the nation,” he said.

Lolo said the three conflicting statutory provisions “created long-standing chronic funding shortages and barriers to access health care for our people”.

The governor offered two solutions: the federal government apply the average per capita formula used by the states to the territories to assist the territories with the matching percentage and second, Congress must lift the statutory cap on the territories or significantly increase it to allow the territories to adequately cover the unfunded mandates in the law.

Regarding the move by Trump and the Republican controlled Congress to repeal Obamacare, Lolo said he won’t even ask to extend the ACA’s cliffhanger deadline of 2019 that would terminate the territories ACA Medicaid funding.

Instead, Lolo implored the Trump administration and Congress to “work together”

and “to please be mindful that for small economies like ours, we cannot afford any reduction in Medicaid.”

However, Lolo is supportive of any efforts to give the territories a block grant for Medicaid, “so long as the block grant is determined in an evidence-based manner to ensure that our people are not negatively impacted.”

“The block grant must be significant with a steady annual increase to account for the increase in the cost of doing business,” he added. (Samoa News will report in later editions of other issues cited in the governor’s written statement.)



Translated by Samoa News staff
JENNIFER TOFAEONO

The High Court has taken under advisement a request by Jennifer Tofaeono to travel off island to attend meetings, which is connected to her current employment with the local non-profit organization, Alliance Against Domestic Violence, which was established about seven years ago.

Tofaeono, former LBJ Medical Center business manager, was released last May from jail after serving 16 months behind bars as part of her 20-month sentence for conspiracy to commit felony stealing of hospital money to the tune of \$50,000.

The defense filed a motion to amend conditions of Tofaeono's release to allow her to travel to Hawai'i and the US mainland for meetings between this month and May this year. In his oral arguments at Monday's hearing, Tofaeono's attorney Marcellus Tala Uiagalelei explained that his client works for a local non-profit organization, writing federal grants that help fund the group's various programs.

The first-set of meetings is Mar. 3-17 in Honolulu and Detroit, Michigan, followed by meetings from Apr. 7 to May 1 in Hawai'i, Virginia and Nevada. Uiagalelei explained that these are very important conferences and meetings, which are all helpful and important to Tofaeono's work. Uiagalelei also noted that ever since Tofaeono was released from jail, she has abided by all conditions of release, including making payments towards the restitution ordered by the court.

Chief Justice Michael Kruse raised several questions, including the importance of such conferences and Uiagalelei replied that this is a chance for Tofaeono to discuss and exchange various aspects of the group's work in American Samoa and how federal grants are utilizing the programs in the territory.

Kruse said the court doesn't question the fact that Tofaeono will return to the territory after her meetings, but the court's concern is whether it's fair to those serving time behind bars if the court allows someone to travel off island while on probation. As far as the court is concerned, Kruse said, inmates at TCF have the same rights as those on probation.

To emphasize his statement, Kruse pointed to inmates in orange jumpsuits, sitting behind Uiagalelei in the courtroom waiting for their court hearings, as the individuals with the same rights as a person on probation.

When called to the witness stand to provide sworn testimony regarding the conferences, Tofaeono said the goal of these meetings is to focus on the future of federal grants as well as ways the NGOs are working diligently to prevent domestic violence including violence against children.

She also explained the work of the Alliance, which currently gets funding from the Criminal Justice

Planning Agency and the Department of Human and Social Service — both ASG entities fully funded by federal money.

After her testimony, Kruse announced that the defense motion is taken under advisement. It's unclear as to when the court will issue a decision.

BIOLOGICAL FATHER GOES TO TRIAL ON SEX CHARGES

A father accused of sexually assaulting his biological daughter has maintained his innocence, and his lawyer has requested a trial date, which has since been scheduled by the High Court for Sept. 18, 2018. However, the trial will be moved forward to Nov. 20 this year, if this date becomes available.

With no plea offer from the government, Public Defender Douglas Fiaui informed the court during a recent pre trial conference hearing that his client is prepared for a jury trial.

The defendant, who is out on bail, is charged with four felony counts and one misdemeanor count in connection with the alleged sexual assault which was reported to police on Dec. 6, the same day the alleged incident occurred in the early morning hours, according to court documents.

While out on bail, the court has a pending order for the defendant not to make any direct or indirect contact with the victim — his 13-year-old daughter — and to find another place to stay while the case is pending in court.

To protect the victim, Samoa News does not identify the defendant in these types of cases.

FA'ASILI AUPAAU & DAVID FO'A

Based on a request by the prosecutor, the High Court has continued to tomorrow a status hearing on the government's case against Fa'asili Aupaau and David Fo'a — each defendant is charged with one count of second degree burglary for allegedly breaking into a home several weeks ago.

During the court hearing, assistant attorney general Bob Picket says police have received new information after interviewing witnesses, who stated that that there is another incident in which the pair had allegedly broken into another home and stole the homeowner's property.

Based on this new information, Picket said the government could file additional charges against the defendants, after the police investigation.

Chief Justice Michael Kruse said the court is concerned with delaying cases against defendants who are entitled to speedy trial under the law. And if the government takes no other actions in this case by tomorrow, the court may move to dismiss the current charges.

The two defendants remain in custody unable to post bail.

(Original Samoan stories published in yesterday's Lali section of Samoa News.)

March is Red Cross Month Kicks off locally with the Citizen CPR only course

(Press Release) — March 1, 2017 — March was first proclaimed as Red Cross Month in 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a way to raise awareness of the organization and its humanitarian mission in the midst of war. Since then, every president, including President Obama and now President Donald Trump has designated March as Red Cross Month. The American Red Cross is synonymous with helping people, and has been doing so for more than 130 years.

The American Red Cross presence in American Samoa dates as far back as February 16, 1923 with a document of Certification that sits in our office- prescribed by the Central Committee at Washington — Chairman: Judge John Barton Payne; Secretary: Mabel T. Boardman; President: Calvin Coolidge.

This year the American Red Cross in American Samoa celebrates 94 years of service and to kick off the festivities a team of Red Crossers lead by Youth Club Coordinator/ Water Safety Instructor Zero I'aulualo, assisted by Volunteer Outreach Coordinator- Bella Asiata, Volunteer Youth/Safety- Madjid

Al-Shehri and Operations Manager- Val V. Tuilefano conducted what the American Red Cross calls the Citizen CPR only course.

This free CPR only training usually takes about 30 minutes. However, since the request and invitation came from the Tafuna High School Teachers Vocational-Education Department an hour was given for the team to allow clinical practice of 30 compressions to 2 rescue breaths as well as time for crucial questions.

Mrs. Fiatele Aiono, Voc-Ed, DH reports that one of the main reasons she reached out to the American Red Cross American Samoa for a CPR presentation was due to the concern triggered by the tragic incident that occurred late last month. She explained that this tragedy hit home to many of their teachers, as some of the victims or bystanders involved were former students. It was this reason she felt it was time for her fellow teachers to learn, refresh and or continue to practice the life-saving-skills offered for free by the local American Red Cross called, Citizen CPR.

According to Manager Val V. Tuilefano, Tafuna High

School has consistently over the years referred many of their students, who needed community service hours, to the local Red Cross. At the same time, she said, it is a great way for the students to learn some basic CPR through the condensed made simple Citizen CPR course.

The students understand that the Citizen CPR is only a portion of the needed CPR course that does not cover First Aid/ Infant/AED. It is recommended to sign up and attend a CPR/ First Aid certification course once made available in the community.

Your local Red Cross asks that you stay posted for upcoming Citizen CPR trainings offered during Red Cross Month of March as well as CPR/ First Aid Certification courses that will be made available to the general public real soon.

"I request that during that month (March) our people rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross."

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt, first Presidential Proclamation of March as Red Cross Month, 1943



**Origin Energy
American Samoa Inc**

안전통신부



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부탄의장점중하나논연료의개선된효율성입니다. 같은용량의프로판과부탄을태웠을경우에부탄이 12% 의에너지를더제공해줍니다.
냄비나후라이팬이검은색으로변하는원인은불완전연소 (공기:가스비율)로인한결과이며, 여러분이이 용하고계시는가스가부탄또는프로판이기때문입니다. 이러한이유로가스와연결된가전제품은전문 인가시기구설치공에게설치작업을맡겨두시는것이중요합니다.
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오리진실린더는오리진의소유이며다른공급자들이채울수없으며,오리진에서만제공될수있습니다.
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Stay original, stay with Origin!!!





Faleniū 3rd ward pre-conference Dinner and Dance held Friday Night. The ward was divided into 5 groups, who performed dances from 5 countries to entertain the crowd. An unexpected performance by Elvis had the crowd going crazy with wild fans storming the stage.

[Photo: THA]

This elderly gentleman had a hard time trying to crack open the piñata that was part of the Mexican groups performance at the Faleniū 3rd ward pre-conference Dinner and Dance held Friday Night. The ward was divided into 5 groups, who performed dances from 5 countries to entertain the crowd.

[Photo: THA]

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ALL DAY
TILL 8pm



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come join us for
BREAKFAST
ALL DAY till 8pm



Yahoo punishes CEO in latest fallout from security breakdown

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yahoo is punishing CEO Marissa Mayer and parting ways with its top lawyer for the mishandling of two security breaches that exposed the personal information of more than 1 billion users and already have cost the company \$350 million.

Mayer won't be paid her annual bonus nor receive a potentially lucrative stock award because a Yahoo investigation concluded her management team reacted too slowly to one breach discovered in 2014. Yahoo's general counsel, Ronald Bell, resigned without severance pay for his department's lackadaisical response to the security lapses.

Alex Stamos, Yahoo's top security officer at the time of the 2014 breach, left the company in 2015.

Although Yahoo's security team uncovered evidence that a hacker backed by an unnamed foreign government had pried into user accounts in 2014, executives "failed to act sufficiently" on that knowledge, according to the results of an internal investigation disclosed Wednesday. At that time, Yahoo only notified 26 people that their accounts had been breached.

The report didn't identify the negligent executives, but it chastised the company's legal department for not looking more deeply into the 2014 breach. Because of that, the incident "was not properly investigated and analyzed at the time," the report concluded.

Bell declined to comment through his spokeswoman, Marcy Simon.

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Selu Alofipo an artist born in Samoa – who was selected as one of ten artists to be recognized as Champion of Change by the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. This photo shows his artwork featured in the East Wing of the White House. [Courtesy photo]



► “Champion of Change” ...

Continued from page 1

on food stamps? Why was I struggling to get bills paid? Why could I not take my family on awesome vacations? Why am I not better? These questions burned inside of me and it literally brought me to my knees. I decided to take action and begin creating!”

Alofipo was born and raised in Samoa and has shared his favorite Samoan proverb, “Ole ala ile Pule ole Tautua” – “The Path to Leadership is through service” which has made him appreciate the struggles his parents had faced that made him want to do more for himself and his family and has motivated him to start creating and to try new things.

“I am keenly aware of the struggles and sacrifices my parents made to get our family to this country. For that, I am eternally indebted,” he said. “I vigorously carry a great responsibility to improve upon the foundation that was so carefully laid before me.”

This year Alofipo has opened an opportunity for those who want to experience his artwork and at the same time it allows him to explore using his artistic talents in another way.

“I am an artist first and entrepreneur second,” he told Samoa News. “I didn’t “change from painting to making phone covers and leggings.”

Instead, he says he simply found a different medium to transfer images of his painting and artwork, which would appeal to even a larger group of people.

“I found that there are many people out there that want to have the SELU experience but can’t afford full price for an original or even a print from my website,” he said.

As a result, the Samoan artist began searching for different ideas, that are not only practical and cost efficient, but are trendy and popular too; and it came together with the idea of printing his work on phone covers, leggings, skirts, mugs and soon T-shirts and hats.

His wife Tofuola Alofipo told Samoa News, “We brainstormed trying to find ways to

get his artwork out there, not just on canvas but on apparel as well as accessories. Entertaining the idea of having his bone carving on it and next thing you know he was putting things in action and now our business has continued to grow, persevere, and engaging in the struggle at the same time supporting him because I know he is doing it for us and our children.”

A Pago Pago resident, who purchased three pairs of leggings, told Samoa News, “I love his work. He is a close friend of mine and I have seen him succeed from painting to now these, leggings especially that it’s Polynesian-inspired so I get to wear my culture around.”

Alofipo feels honored to see many are inspired by his work and advises others to find that courage to be successful — as he has done.

He said, “Little do they realize that I am an ordinary guy, who was a counselor for



Selu Alofipo, a Samoan artist, who had his paintings featured at the White House last year in May, now offers a line of SELU items, such as leggings, phone covers, mugs, hats, shirts etc. in a move to expand his customer base. Go to: www.seluart.com to meet the artist and his work. [Courtesy photo]

the state of Utah, a roofer, a financial advisor, a high school football coach, a solar energy consultant, a digital marketing consultant, and yes, an ARTIST.

“I am simply a guy who wants more and expects more. It is my sincere desire and hope that all of my Polynesian brothers and sisters will find within themselves the resolve to be better and the courage to find that hidden jewel inside of them and begin taking steps towards their best thoughts and interests.”

To see Selu Alofipo’s work or for more information you can find it online at www.seluart.com or follow him on facebook, instagram Selu Alofipo.

BACKGROUND

Originally created by President Bill Clinton in 1999, the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which includes a total of 20 commissioners, was renewed by former George W. Bush and Barack Obama. The initiative that created the commission recognizes that AAPI’s are one of the fastest growing groups in the United States and focuses on improving their quality of life.

However, the commission has recently seen the resignations of 16 members of the commission, 10 of whom resigned in February this year.

In their letter of resignation the 10 commissioners cited their objection to President Trump’s portrayal of “immigrants, refugees, people of color and people of various faiths as untrustworthy, threatening, and a drain on our nation,” according to USA Today.

The Feb. 15 letter marks the second wave of resignations after six commissioners stepped down last month prior to Trump’s inauguration, the news agency reported.

It is unknown at this time, if Trump will ‘renew’ the Commission. The Territory’s Congresswoman Amata used to be a member of the commission, but said she has not been since 2007.



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Level 3

SandyMarie E. Tuivaiti
Alataua II Elementary

Telling About My Valentine: My Grandmother

I will buy a vase to put red and pink roses inside for my grandmother. She makes everything look beautiful for my family. An apple is her favorite fruit and she made apple pies for everyone. The love she shows when she’s taking good care of her children when they are sick. When she goes to work, she makes an egg sandwich to eat. My grandmother takes good care of her children to be healthy and strong. At home, she teaches us to have good behaviors to others. She is my incredible teacher that I learned ways of living. She works hard for everything to be neat, and that is why she is my EVERYTHING for Valentine!!!!

Level 4

Faith Smith
Leone Midkiff Elementary

What Valentine Means to Me?

Valentine is all about giving and writing a love letter, expressing appreciation to your love ones. It can be giving a treat like food, stuff animal, and card. All these gestures show your love of what they did for you. Lastly, expressing through dinner with my parents.

Decorating my house with red and white colors to show love and gratitude for someone, our grandparents and also my valentine people that I give things to. Happy Valentine is all about love and gratitude expression to others.

Level 5

Brianne Laulu
Manulele Tausala Elementary

“Valentine’s Day”

Valentines Day is my favorite holiday. We get to celebrate within our families. We get to love each other. We get to say ‘sorry’ and say ‘I love you’. That’s why I love this month.

I am picking my dad and my mom. They are the best parents ever. They care for me and love me so much. Valentine’s is all about love. No more hating each other, no more fighting each other, but love is what we need.

We need to help each other. We need to love each other. I love my mom and dad. Even though they hit me, they yell at me, I still love them. Without them I would never be here in Earth.

I don’t know if you love Valentine, but if you do I’m going to give you thumbs up. If you don’t, that’s okay. If I am giving you this, I would say “Happy Valentine” Thank you for understanding.

Level 6

Harmony Leo
Iakina Adventist Academy

Fighting Obesity in Schools

There are a lot of kinds of fights. In school, particularly school children fight over school supplies, teacher’s attention, food, friends, and many other reasons. Unfortunately, all these kinds of fight are not allowed in schools. However, there is one kind of fight that should be allowed in school that is the fight against obesity. To fight obesity, schools should encourage physical education teachers should make Health subject interesting and schools canteens should only sell healthy snacks.

First, schools need to encourage physical education in every grade level. Teachers need to make sure every child in the classroom gets 20 minutes of exercise inside or outside the classroom. Sometimes children come from homes where there is no exercise. It is important that the school encourages children to make exercise a daily part of their lives.

Secondly, teachers should make Health subject fun and interesting. A lot of children like me learn better when learning is fun. Teachers should show videos of what happens to the body when we eat junk food and do not exercise. Maybe it’s another good idea to take field trips to gyms and other places that teaches about healthy living. It’s also a good idea for schools to plant vegetable gardens like the school off-island. Children will know how to plant vegetables, water them and use them for food.

Finally, school canteens should only sell healthy snacks and water. If schools are going to encourage physical education and teach about healthy living, the schools should also set good examples for the students. Parents should be encouraged to only provide healthy snacks and not chips or soda. When I was drinking soda at first, I wasn’t feeling good but when I drank water not only I was wide awake but I had more energy.

Fighting against obesity is the number one fight students and teachers should find. A lot of children are unhealthy. They fall asleep in class. They are much bigger than their age and some young children suffer from diabetes and other diseases. All children deserve to live happy and healthy therefore all children should fight against obesity. Fight, fight, obesity!!!

Level 7

Kirsten De Lara
Manumalo Academy

The Past, Present, and Future

The past, present, and future are three of the things that balances our time. Past holds all your childhood memories and yesterday’s reminders. Present is what you are living right now, in other words, today. The future is one big mystery we haven’t been through yet. We cannot differentiate what we have caused in those three timelines because the life we have now will be different. It is the opposite of what we wished to do ever since we looked back on the problems and mistakes we made in the past.

Everyone would want to build a time machine and have a redo button in our lives, but sadly, we can’t. There is no such thing like that. I would say that the past is what we dearly regret the most out of the three. It was hard for me because I chose the wrong friends and the wrong decisions, but we should just move on and say, “The past is in the past.” My present helped me with who I am today. I found a litter part of who I am, but I’ll know what’s my purpose in the future. The future is something I’m not prepared for. I just hope it’s near of how I pictured my future.

The past, present, and future will not decide who I’ll be; that’s my decision. I have lost some friends in the past, but I gained more in the present. Time is something you wouldn’t want to play around with. It is a beautiful thing to have, but a dangerous thing to use. We just need to appreciate life whether it was good or bad before it ruins out. It’s in the palm of your hands.

Level 8

Uaealesi Amata
Afonotele Elementary School

“Why Love is Very Important?”

Love is very important. Why? Without love, people would be argue all the time. The reason why love is very important because if we don’t show love, we can’t do anything we want, we won’t be able to live a happy life on this world, and our world will be confuse. We need to understand that without love, we will have a lot of wars and people will died everyday. That’s why love is very important.

What would happen to us if we don’t show love? Our relationship with our families, friends, and love ones won’t last long. We won’t be able to share the foods, lands, houses, and things that we really need help for. If we can’t share all these things, we can’t do anything we want in order for us to be successful.

I remember watching the news the other day and I saw that people were finding peace and looking for a place of refuges because terrorist were attacking their homes. And I believed its all because of there’s no love in them. Love is the only way for all our problems. I believed that God made us to be one big family. My one golden rule about love is from the Bible and its says, “Love your neighbors just like you love yourself.” Love is the greatest gift of all.

Level 9

Maurice Ta’ala
Faga’itua High School

Is the use of the Internet a good or bad thing?

Is using the Internet a good or a bad thing? I believe it’s both. The main reason the Internet was crated was to help with homework and give access to family and friends so they can communicate. I will be explaining why the Internet is good and why it is bad.

The Internet is good because it helps kids do their homework. It also helps provide information for students to learn about other countries, their languages, and their customs. The Internet is especially helpful for schools who use it to give kids homework or keep records of the students.

Another reason why the Internet is good is because it helps people communicate. The Internet can help one communicate with one’s relatives, because the world now is all about technology. The Internet is a very helpful tool. Communication is a big part of life and in this age, the Internet plays a powerful role in connecting people. It has changed our daily lives.

In addition, the Internet is positive because it can also help you know what is going on around the world. Nowadays, most people would rather go on the Internet to watch the news. More and more people are getting attached to the Internet; therefore, it is the best way to get the news out.

One way the Internet is harmful is because it gives kids way too much access. It gives kids too much access to things they are not supposed to see. The kids are too young to be seeing inappropriate things that they are not supposed to see. This is one major downfall to the Internet.

Although the Internet might have its advantages, it can also be disadvantageous because of the freedom that it gives people of all ages. It might give a great way to communicate with friends and families around the world and help kids with homework. Nonetheless, it is harmful because of giving kids too much access that gives them the opportunity to view inappropriate materials. The Internet can be good if there is great control on its usage.

Young Writers’ Essay Contest - FEBRUARY 2017

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| K5: Calio Fuivai, Afono Nature Laulu, Alataua II Miguel Lotu, Alofau Laumua Nonumalo, A.P Lutali Senomarine Ta’ase, Aua Rose Ames, Coleman Fa’aleaoga Vaitautolul, Faleasao Haedi Va’apu’u, Le’atele Ku’uipo Sofara, Leone Midkiff Aleki Ale, Manumalo Alexander Sualoa, Matafao Selina Yang, Pacific Horizons Jaunalene Leota Pilimai, Pava’ia’i Ripine Cendrowski, Siliaga Arthas Yu, SPA Princess Taumaloto, Tafuna | Shinaya Tua, Le’atele Ulalei Lotu, Leone Midriff Maggie Saia, Manulele Tausala Blessing Fausia, Manumalo Charianna Savali, Marist St. Francis Jakobe Fagafua, Matafao Boyd Zemby, Pacific Horizons Bose Annabelle Satele, SPA Sivia D.S. Ulutu, Tafuna Elem | Level 3: Yolanda Mataxaono, Afono Sandy Marie Tuivaiti, Alataua II Fiapopo Apelu, Alofau Celestial Fouvale, A.P. Lutali Senia Peniumira, Aua Ariel Matautia, Coleman Deon Lin, Le’atele Morgan Su’a, Leone Midkiff Marinette Ioane, Lupelele Hilda Devesi, Manumalo Darian Leo, Marist St. Francis Rosalyn Sala, Pacific Horizons, Malaeloa Cendrowski, Siliaga Jordan Reid, SPA Gayleen Amnia, Tafuna Elem | Faith Smith, Leone Midkiff Mariana Fuiava, Lupelele Judy-Rae Taligi Tuna, Manulele Tausala Katelynne DeLara, Manumalo Tilomai Ugaitafa, Marist St. Francis Darla Aumua, Matafao Mikaela Dane, Pacific Horizons Talanoo Lagafuaina, SBA Luisas Kerisiano, Siliaga Connery Auala, SPA Aaliya, St. Theresa Sheila, Tafuna Elem | Olivia Yoon, Pacific Horizons Fa’anape Suani, Pava’ia’i Sheene, SBA Ngairae Cendrowski, Silage Ariana Nunez, SPA Princess Viesca, St. Theresa Anges, Tafuna Elem | Level 6: Miraculous Naiuli, Afono Andrew Ioane, Alataua II Dorrin Tuisamatatele, Alofau Suitaitaifono Tuilaepa, A.P Lutali Davis Taylor, Aua Leviticus Godinet, Coleman Harmony Leo, Iakina Kilisitina Nautu, Leone Midkiff Mariyah Ioane, Lupelele Faith Mataafa, Manumalo Arianna Tufono, Marist St. Francis Gwen Maliko, Matafao Nataliah Peau, SBA Senetenari Porotesano, SPA Laurence, St. Theresa Tiresa Alopopo, Tafuna Elem | Level 7: Aragon Ali’iIua, Afono Asomoe Amoa, Alataua II Noeani Vele, Alofau Nafanua Molina, A.P Lutali Ruth S, Aua Fa’apaia D. V., Coleman Analiz Lilila, Iakina Earendill Samuelu, Leone Midkiff Marissah Ioane, Lupelele Faith Tago, Manulele Tausala Kristen De Lara, Manumalo Decima Afoa, Marist St. Francis Amy Lupelele Fia’ali’i, Matafao Annie Kim, Pacific Horizons Letoe’e Lyllian Launui, Pava’ia’i Isalei Liaiga, SBA Va’afuti Va’afuti, Siliaga Tao Asifo’a, SPA Monica Maeata’anoa, St. Theresa Micahel Iosefo, Tafuna Elem | Vesi Umi, A.P. Lutali, Makerita Unutoa, Aua Filomena Fotu, Coleman Jessie F. C. Pen, Iakina GK Allen Seagai, Le’atele Fili Scanlan, Leone Midkiff Caroline Pati, Lupelele Fulu Seutalemua, Manulele Tausala Jaron Asalele, Manumalo Rosalina Pereira, Marist St. Francis Shyloan Aumua, Matafao Leilani Galea’i, Pacific Horizons Runi Tuimaseve, Pava’ia’i Tavita Kukii, SBA Asuga’ava Fuimaono, Siliaga Zoe Mavaega, SPA Avril Regis, St. Theresa Precious F. Lisala, Tafuna Elem | Yasminna Sanchez, Samoana Yeon Hee Lee, SPA |
| Level 1: Fuallii Tuisea, Afono Jestine Tupa’i, Alataua II Amethyst Nimoi, A.P Lutali Dalton Amiatu, Aua Edmund Tupa’i, Coleman Nadine T, Faleasao | Level 2: Pesamino Mino, Afono Maria Lotoa, A.P Lutali Noralinda Tufu, Aua Jayemmaris Huang, Coleman Komeo V. V, Faleasao Vaelani Vaita, Le’atele Dalisha To’oalo, Leone Midkiff Selen Fuiava, Lupelele Falaga’i Fuiava, Manumalo Breanne Martin, Marist St. Francis Miracle Semeatu, Matafao Skyler Corry, Pacific Horizons Judith Felise Ioka, Pava’ia’i Erich Mamea, SPA Lale Lutu, Tafuna Elem | Level 4: Simeamatiava Iaulualo, Afono Ruta Pauga, Alataua II Hadrian U., Alofau Nikatie Sagale, A.P. Lutali Taina Mose, Aua Solagaliua Ames, Coleman Matagi Fa’atili, Le’atele | Level 5: Esther Pasesio, Afono Sonagigi Misipati, Alataua II Angelica Sa’au, A.P Lutali Marlee Talesea Ito, Aua Trinity Sipeli’i, Coleman Vanisha Kauoge, Iakina Italian Jeremiah, Leone Midkiff Julieann Filipo, Lupelele Brianne Laulu, Manulele Tausala Meleke Thompson Niko, Manumalo Dahrius Leo, Marist St. Francis Lynda-Ann Nomura, Matafao | Level 8: Uaealesi Amata, Afono Lotonu’u Gago, Alataua II Jaedyn A., Alofau | Level 9: Vincent Maverick Jagon, Fa’asao Marist Maurice Ta’ala, Faga’itua Evelyn Lalopua Morga, Leone Xiao Liu Zou, Pacific Horizons | Level 10: Carl Balauro, Fa’asao Marist Meaalofa Lotu, Leone Gloria Park, Pacific Horizons Faiga Mavaega, Samoana Cody McMoore, SPA Henry Aiava, Tafuna | Level 11: Tuilei Scanlan, Fa’asao Marist Jalen Ioramo, Faga’itua Tamasipani Fa’afai, Leone Alice Sullivan, Pacific Horizons Shobita Rajamohan, SPA Merle Gustafson, Tafuna | Level 12: Alexandrite Toleafoa, Fa’asamo Marist Celestial Moetala, Faga’itua Agnes Manning, Leone Brian Serrano, Pacific Horizons Tullii Lavasi’i, Samoana Dongni Liang, SPA Kiso Skelton, Tafuna |

The Latest: Hawaii bill on commercial fishing industry dies



In this Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017 file photo, a catch of fish is unloaded from a commercial fishing boat at Pier 38 in Honolulu. The sponsor of a Hawaii bill seeking to change the way commercial licenses are granted to foreign fishermen says the bill is in danger of dying after fishing industry representatives told lawmakers the bill could wreck the industry. The bill would restrict commercial fishing licenses to people who are legally allowed to enter the U.S. (AP Photo/Caleb Jones, File)

HONOLULU (AP) — The Latest on Hawaii bills seeking more oversight of the commercial fishing industry (all times local):

3:50 P.M.

A Hawaii bill seeking to change the way commercial fishing licenses are granted has died after industry representatives told lawmakers it would wreck the industry.

State Sen. Brian Taniguchi says the goal of the bill which sought more oversight of the fishing industry is the role of the federal government, not the state.

Two committees deferred the bill indefinitely Wednesday, killing it for the legislative session.

The bill sought to restrict

commercial fishing licenses to people who are legally allowed to enter the U.S. It also would have required fishing license applicants to appear in person.

A House bill to require collecting fishermen's contracts is still alive, but faces a legislative deadline.

An Associated Press investigation found some foreign fishermen were working without most basic labor protections while catching premium seafood.

11 A.M.

The sponsor of a Hawaii bill seeking to change the way commercial licenses are granted to foreign fishermen says the bill is in danger of dying.

State Sen. Karl Rhoads said fishing industry representatives

have told lawmakers the bill could wreck the industry.

The bill would restrict commercial fishing licenses to people who are legally allowed to enter the U.S. It also would require fishing license applicants to appear in person before state officials.

Rhoads says he doesn't think there's enough political will to pass the bill but it may survive if it's substantially changed.

A Senate committee is planning to consider the bill Wednesday.

An Associated Press investigation found some foreign fishermen were working without most basic labor protections while catching premium seafood.

School led locker room assault investigation

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The investigation into the sexual assault of a disabled black football player by his white teammates at a small-town Idaho high school showed that crucial evidence was collected by school employees, not law enforcement officials, and that the culture that led to the attack stretched far beyond the locker room.

John R.K. Howard and two teammates were charged with sodomizing the victim with a clothes hanger in 2015 in the locker room at the high school in the tiny farming village of Dietrich. The sex assault charge against Howard, who was 18 at the time of the incident, was later dropped. He was sentenced last week to probation for felony injury to a child. The other two cases are sealed because they are being handled in juvenile court.

An Associated Press review of roughly 2,000 pages of docu-



Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden speaks about the investigation into the sexual assault of a disabled black football player by his white teammates at a small-town Idaho high school during an interview Wednesday, March 1, 2017, in Boise, Idaho. (Darin Oswald/Idaho Statesman via AP)

ments from the Idaho Attorney General's office found that school officials did not immediately report the crime. Instead, Superintendent Ben Hardcastle gathered key evidence,

including the hanger, and began interviewing the suspects and some of the 27 potential witnesses before notifying the sheriff's department.

Fellow students, neighbors and even football coaches were allowed to pressure the 17-year-old victim about his testimony, in some cases telling him that the case could bring the town to ruin and send friends to jail.

Like most of his classmates, the victim grew up in Dietrich, though he was one of just a few black children in the community. He also struggled with mental illness and a developmental disability that made it hard for him to describe timelines or immediately recognize the racial implications of the teasing he endured.

The teen ultimately had a breakdown from the stress and had to be institutionalized for a time, according to his mother.

Deadly storm in Midwest sounded like 'explosion of glass'

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A deadly spring-like storm that one Illinois resident described as sounding like "an explosion of glass" damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes in that state and others, blew cars off a major Missouri highway and forced people in an Arkansas town to huddle for safety in a high school.

Tornadoes were blamed in three deaths amid a large swath of destruction through the central U.S. before rumbling eastward. Forecasters said up to 95 million people are potentially in the storm's path as it moves toward the mid-Atlantic states and southern New England. Forecasters said cities including New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Atlanta and Washington, D.C., could be at risk.

Officials in Arkansas, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Missouri were assessing damage after storms Tuesday night and early Wednesday.

In northern Illinois, an uprooted tree killed 76-year-old Wayne Tuntland of Ottawa. More than a dozen others were injured. In the small community of Naplate, next to Ottawa, about a quarter of the roughly 200 homes were damaged, Fire Chief John Nevins said.

Debbie Loughridge, 61, and her son were inside their Naplate home, riding out the storm in the bathtub. Firefighters rescued them after the roof was torn off.

"All I heard was the wind and the breaking glass. Like an explosion of glass," Loughridge said.



Debbie Loughridge is seen going through rubble in her living room in Naplate, Ill., Wednesday, March 1, 2017. She rode out the storm in the bathtub. "All I heard was the wind and the breaking glass. Like an explosion of glass," Loughridge said. In the small community of Naplate, next to Ottawa, about a quarter of the roughly 200 homes were damaged, Fire Chief John Nevins said. (AP Photo/Teresa Crawford)

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Defense: Killer of 2 is star witness, not Aaron Hernandez



⊗ *Lead defense attorney Jose Baez reacts as he delivers his opening statement to the jury on the first day of former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez's double murder trial at Suffolk Superior Court, Wednesday, March 1, 2017, in Boston. Hernandez is standing trial for the July 2012 killings of Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado, who he encountered in a Boston nightclub. He is already serving a life sentence in the 2013 killing of semi-professional football player Odin Lloyd.*

(AP Photo/Stephan Savoia, Pool)

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BOSTON (AP) — The real killer of two men in a hail of gunfire at a stoplight was not former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez but rather the government's star witness in the double murder trial, Hernandez's attorney alleged Wednesday in opening statements, revealing the defense strategy for the first time.

Attorney Jose Baez, known for winning an acquittal for Florida mom Casey Anthony in the death of her daughter, said prosecutors want to convict his client so badly that they made "a deal with the devil," referring to Hernandez's former friend, Alexander Bradley.

Bradley has said he was with Hernandez the night of the shooting and is scheduled to testify against him. But Baez told jurors Bradley fatally shot Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado over a drug deal.

Prosecutor Patrick Haggan told the jury that Hernandez had a brief encounter with the men involving "a simple bump, a spilled drink and an exchange of looks" at a Boston nightclub in the early

morning hours of July 16, 2012. Two hours later, Haggan said, Hernandez opened fire on the men's car as they waited at a stoplight, killing both men and wounding a third man.

Haggan said the encounter to most people would be "simply trivial," but Hernandez misinterpreted it as a sign of disrespect.

Haggan said Hernandez and the two men he's accused of killing came from "very different worlds." Furtado and de Abreu were working-class immigrants from Cape Verde, while Hernandez, Haggan said, was a star athlete, "a celebrity in the city of Boston."

"By pure coincidence, those two worlds collided," Haggan said.

Hernandez and Bradley were only in the club for 10 minutes that night. Haggan said Hernandez became angry when de Abreu accidentally bumped into him while dancing, spilling Hernandez's drink, then smiled at him.

"To Aaron Hernandez, that smile

said it all. That was a sign of disrespect, and Aaron Hernandez was furious," Haggan said.

Haggan said video surveillance from outside the club shows Bradley trying to calm down an agitated Hernandez. Two hours later, Hernandez saw the men's car at a stoplight, grabbed a gun from the glove compartment and called out to de Abreu and Furtado.

Haggan said Bradley will testify that Hernandez said, "Yo, what's up now?" and added a racial slur before leaning across Bradley in the driver's seat and firing five bullets into the car.

Haggan said Hernandez trusted Bradley not to tell police about the crime until seven months later, when Bradley made the mistake of mentioning the Boston shootings to Hernandez.

"At that point, Aaron Hernandez knew that he could no longer trust Alexander Bradley," Haggan said.

The next day, Hernandez shot Bradley point blank in the head, he said. Bradley lost his right eye, but survived. Hernandez is

charged with witness intimidation in Bradley's shooting.

Hernandez's lawyer told jurors Bradley is a drug dealer with a violent criminal history who told "lie after lie after lie" to save his own skin. He said prosecutors and police did not thoroughly investigate Bradley and instead fixated on Hernandez, who they saw as a "notch in their belt." He repeatedly referred to Bradley as a drug dealer/killer."

Baez told the jury there is no DNA, no fingerprints and no other forensic evidence linking Hernandez to the killings.

He also suggested de Abreu knew Bradley and that the two men had a dispute over drugs.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this did not happen over a spilled drink. This happened over a drug deal," he said.

But de Abreu's sister, Neusa Abreu, testified Wednesday that her brother did not use drugs and had never mentioned Bradley's name.

Hernandez, now 27, already is serving a life sentence after being convicted in the

Pacific island nations call for UN report on Papua abuses



FILE - In this Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, file photo, West Papuan protesters scuffle with the police during a rally calling for the remote region's independence, in Jakarta, Indonesia. Seven Pacific island nations have called for a U.N. investigation into allegations of human rights abuses in Indonesia's West Papua and Papua provinces, where a separatist movement has simmered for decades.

(AP Photo/Dita Alangkara, File)

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Seven Pacific island nations have called for a U.N. investigation into allegations of human rights abuses in Indonesia's West Papua and Papua provinces, where a separatist movement has simmered for decades.

A statement to a session of the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva, read on behalf of the seven states by Vanuatu's Justice Minister Ronald Warsal, accused Indonesia of serious human rights violations of indigenous Papuans including extrajudicial executions of activists and beatings and fatal shootings of peaceful protesters.

The statement Wednesday called on the council to request a comprehensive report from the high commissioner for human rights and Indonesia's cooperation in providing unfettered access to the two provinces, which independence supporters refer to collectively as West Papua.

In a right of reply, the Indonesian delegation accused Vanuatu of "blatantly using human rights issues to justify its dubious support for the separatist movement in Papua" and said the government's record of protecting human rights "speaks for itself." Pacific island leaders angered Indonesia last year when they used their speeches to the U.N. General Assembly to criticize Indonesia's rule in West Papua. Jakarta accused them of interfering in Indonesia's sovereignty and supporting groups that carry out armed attacks.

Warsal, who spoke on behalf of Vanuatu, Tonga, Palau, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and the Solomon Islands, said they also wanted to highlight the Indonesian policy

of encouraging the migration of Javanese and other ethnic groups, which has led to the dramatic outnumbering of indigenous Papuans in their own land.

The Indonesian government "has not been able to curtail or halt these various and widespread violations," he said. "Neither has that government been able to deliver justice for the victims."

Indonesia maintains a tight grip on West Papua and restricts journalists from reporting there. However, the independence movement appears to be increasingly well organized, with different groups now united under an umbrella organization.

The Dutch colonizers of the Indonesian archipelago held onto West Papua when Indonesia became independent after World War II. It became part of Indonesia following a U.N.-supervised referendum in 1969 that involved only a tiny proportion of the population and was criticized as a sham. Independence supporters want a second referendum.

The indigenous people of the two Papua provinces, which make up the western half of the island of New Guinea, are ethnically Melanesian and culturally distinct from the rest of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

West Papua is home to the world's largest gold mine by reserves, one of the world's biggest copper mines and vast areas of virgin forest. The government insists it is an indivisible part of the Indonesian state and is unlikely to make any concessions to separatists out of fear that could re-energize other dormant independence movements.

Rights groups says Philippine police has falsified evidence

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A human rights watchdog on Thursday accused the police in the Philippines of falsifying evidence to justify unlawful killings in the government's war on drugs that has caused more than 7,000 deaths, and pointed the finger at President Rodrigo Duterte as being ultimately responsible.

Human Rights Watch said in a report that Duterte and other senior officials instigated and incited the killings of drug suspects in a campaign that could amount to crimes against humanity.

The United Nations should create an independent investigation to determine responsibility and ensure accountability, the report said.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the presidential palace will issue a statement later Thursday in response to the report.

The report said police have repeatedly carried out extrajudicial killings of drug suspects, then falsely claimed self-defense, and planted guns, spent bullets or drugs on the bodies.

"Our investigations into the Philippine drug war found that police routinely kill drug suspects in cold blood and then cover up their crime by planting drugs and guns at the



FILE - In this Nov. 10, 2016 file photo, residents watch as workers load one of the five people killed in an alleged police anti-drug operation in Manila, Philippines. A human rights watchdog on Thursday, March 2, 2017 accused the police in the Philippines of falsifying evidence to justify unlawful killings in the government's war on drugs that has caused more than 7,000 deaths, and pointed the finger at President Rodrigo Duterte as being ultimately responsible.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez, File)

scene," said Peter Bouckaert, emergencies director at Human Rights Watch and author of the report. "President Duterte's role in these killings makes him ultimately responsible for the deaths of thousands."

Human Rights Watch said masked gunmen taking part in killings appeared to be working closely with the police, casting doubt on government claims that vigilantes or rival gangs are behind majority of the killings. It said in several instances

it investigated, suspects in police custody were later found dead and classified by police as "found bodies" or "deaths under investigation."

The report draws heavily on interviews in metropolitan Manila with 28 family members of victims, witnesses to police killings, journalists and human rights activists. It also references initial police reports of killings, which Human Rights Watch said its field research consistently contradicted.



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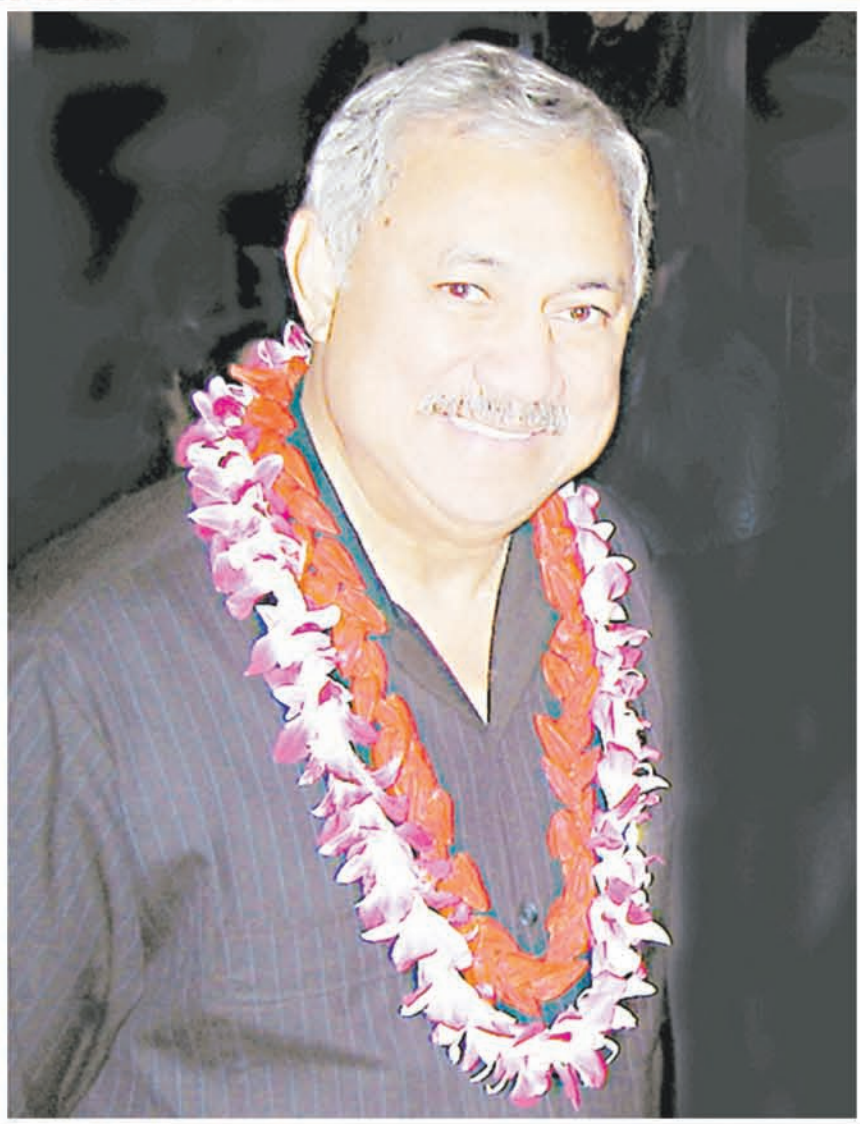
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Sunrise: August 15, 1943 ~ Sunset: February 22, 2017.



The family of the Honorable former Congressman of American Samoa, le Tofa Faleomavaega Eni Fa'auaa Hunkin, invites you to a PRAYER SERVICE, Honoring and celebrating his life of service.

The Prayer Service will be held Thursday March 2, 2017 at the H. Rex Lee Auditorium, Utulei from 5:00pm - 7:00pm.

Faleomavaega passed away peacefully at his home in Provo, Utah on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

Final services in Provo, Utah will include a Wake Service Friday, March 10, 2017 and Church Service Saturday, March 11, 2017.

(His family requests that the faasamoa be suspended.)

O le a se'e lili'a ia Saveasi'uleo, leaga e faigata o Samoa, o le ao mamala i le fa'asouga o Ao ma le atu Folasa.

Taoto la le ata na moe malu i Fogalefasa, i le afua mai i le Tainefu, o le Tuimanu'a se ia pa'ia le Tai Ulaula, na popo ai upu o mavaega, Tulou.

O lea fo'i ua ta'oto ata na sua olotuli ai fo'i Fitimamana, ina ua pa'ia si lupe o Falefasa, ou te fa'apoipoi lili'a ai, aua le fa'afogaga'aga ma lau Tapua'aiga Samoa.

O Paia le avea ma Mamalu Tumau, o le Faleagafulu, ae tai nane, le afifio o Maopu, i ti'a faalele i Tulatoa ma To'oto'o uli, o le atunuu. O Paia o le Motu Sa, Le Laau Amotasi, afifio Faa-Tui, ae tausi va'atele i fetalaiga i To'oto'o, ma upu ia te oe, le Manu'atele. O Paia ma Mamalu i lau tapuaiaiga, Tumua ma Pule, Tulou.

O Paia o le Tafa-tolu o lau Faigamalo, Tutuila ma Manu'a. Ou te faatulou atu.

Ou te fa'atulou fo'i i Fatafisina, ma pulela'a e fia o Samoa, o lo'o talatala ai le ta'ui talagata o le Talalelei, e pei o le fetalaiga ia Vaifanua Vimoto. Aua le faamutia agiagi ai, o le 'au faigaluega tofofi o le Atua, Tulou, Tulou, Tulouna ia.

Ae, magalo ia so'u leo i ou aiga Tupu, Paolo ma Gafa e Tau i le Lagi, ma so'u Taupega afa ma so'u ala i Malo, ona o le taimi ua vave, e taua ai lenei fa'a'ilo, ina ne'i poga i vao, ae lia'ina i ala, ona lagafuaina lea e pei o le fetalaiga ia Mageafaiga.

Ae, o se leo e fa'asilasila atu ai ma le fa'aaloalo tele,

Le tu'umalo, a'o o le usuia o le Fono i le Tofa ia Faleomavaega Eni Fa'auaa Hunkin i Provo, UTAH, aso Lulu, Fepuari 22, 2017.

O le taulaga tagata a aiga, tulou, na momoli i luma o le Atua, aua Tutuila ma Manu'a, i le vasa tele o faigamalo, ma le Malo Tele, sa ia tu ai i matagi'olo, ma seu i falemua, ae seu tapua'i Samoa, e fofogaina le finagalo o le atunu'u i luma o le fono a le lunaite Sitete.

Talofa, i le manu a le tama'ita'i o Sina Tapuola, na fa'alele ae mo'omo'o lava, ina ia toe fo'i mai, o se manu-sina, ae paga, o lea ua fo'i mai o le manu-uli.

E ui lava la i le matuitui o le pa'i mai o le tala fa'anoanoa, ae peita'i, loto tetele aiga, aua ua silasila Tutuila ma Manu'a, i l'a o si ona faiva, sa ia asa ai le fuelavelave o le vao, ma tofu i le moana sausu, aua se l'asina, lele ua Taumeasina ai Tutuila ma Manu'a ma Samoa atoa.

POLOKALAME

Aso Tofi, Mati 2, 2017 • 5:00 i le afiafi

O le a faia se sauniga mo le Tofa ia Faleomavaega i le Fale o le Malo, i Utulei, e momoli ai le fa'afetai i le Atua, ae maise se molimau ona o galuega ma le 'avaunaga, o lea fo'i auauna faatauva'a, i le malo o Tutuila ma Manu'a, ae maise le atunu'u pele. E ia te a'u le ava tele ma le faa'aloalo mai aiga, i le mamalu o le atunuu, uo ma e masani, ae tai nane fo'i le malo, e afifio mai ai ma tala mai 'aao, e tatou te alega fa'atasi i lenei sauniga atofaina.

O isi faamoemoega ma le fale-lauasiga, o le a faia i Provo, Utah, ia Mati 10 ma le 11, 2017.

Talosia ia lenei famoemoe, ia sao ma uli i le alofa o Atua.

Sainia: Fa'auaa Kataferu P. Elisara, ae tainane lau seu silasila le Afioa i le Malu o le Fale, ia Faiivae Iuli Alesana Godinet

Soifua ma ia manuia.

