



UPDATE: GITA - Registration opens today for Happy Valley and Petesa residents Page 2

LVPA federal lawsuit now in mediation discussions Page 3

Fa'asea faipule i suiga ua faia e le Komesina o Leoleo Le Lali B-6

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Nisi o tagata faigaluega i le nofoaga a le DRC, e lesitala ai le mamalu o le atunu'u mo fesoasoani a le FEMA.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Rep. Toeaina calls for a House Investigation Committee to be established

SAYS ALLEGED POLICE BRUTALITY AND OTHER ISSUES WITHIN GOVT NEED TO BE LOOKED IN TO

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Manu'a faipule, Rep. Toeaina Faufano Autele says it's time to establish a House Investigation Committee (HIC) to look into a lot of issues being reported from around the island, especially the alleged mistreatment of inmates at the Territorial Correctional Facility (TCF), as reported by Samoa News.

Toeaina, an educator by profession, told House members earlier this week that he hopes they are keeping up with recent Samoa News reports about the inmates allegedly being mistreated by the guards at the TCF.

As chairman of the House Judiciary and Immigration Committee, Toeaina is calling a hearing next week to discuss the issue, and he wants the Attorney General, the Public Defender, and the Chief Probation Officer to testify and explain what the Fono must do to put a stop to these actions.

Toeaina told lawmakers that after he read a Samoa News article about an inmate telling the judge that he was badly beaten

(Continued on page 5)

Faipule say 'no-show' by subpoenaed directors is proof of a lack of respect

MEANWHILE, PAOGOFIE FIAIGOA REPLACES LOGOAI SIAKI AS GOVERNOR'S OFFICE LIAISON TO THE HOUSE

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Some lawmakers were not happy when KVZK-TV director, Tuimavave Tauapai Laupola was a no-show during yesterday's hearing.

Tuimavave was subpoenaed to appear before the House Government Operations Committee, to explain why the recording of church service programs is no longer being conducted in the villages but instead each church has to record their program at the KVZK-TV studio in Utulei.

Rep. Gafatasi Afalava, at the insistence of his constituents from Aoloau, raised the issue during a House session on Monday and asked for a hearing, requesting that the director — not his deputy — appear before the committee to explain the changes.

Gafatasi said he doesn't accept the excuse that church programs are being recorded in the studio because it is more convenient as far as equipment transfer.

"Why is it so hard to transfer their equipment when recording church service programs,

but when it comes to the Toa o Samoa prayer services every month, they are able to transfer their equipment to wherever village the service is being held?" Gafatasi said.

When the hearing was about to start yesterday morning, House staff members informed lawmakers the KVZK-TV deputy director is appearing on behalf of the director, as Gov. Lolo M. Moliga has assigned Tauapa'i to work with FEMA representatives in dealing with recovery work around the island.

Rep. Vesi Talalelei Fautanu Jr. told the committee he was very disappointed to hear that the director was not honoring the House subpoena.

"There is no difference in the agenda of the directors and faipule. When we discuss issues pertaining to the betterment of our people, we rely on the directors to provide answers to the many questions we have, but it's really sad and disappointing to see that directors continue to ignore the Fono's call," Vesi said.

Saole faipule, Rep. Kitara Vaiau told the com-

(Continued on page 6)



"SEE ME FOR ME"

Throughout this week, in honor of Developmental Disability Awareness 2018, schools across the territory have numerous activities planned for their respective Special Education (SPED) students. At the Home of the Sharks, SPED program administrators and teachers — working under the theme: "See Me For Me" — have a busy agenda that includes swimming lessons at the Pala Lagoon Swimming Center in Tafuna, and cooking lessons.

On Monday, SPED students at Samoana HS received a crash course on the importance of vitamins and minerals, why it is best to eat healthy, and how to prepare easy — but nutritious — meals at home, thanks to a presentation by representatives from the ASCC Land Grant Program (pictured). SPED instructors told Samoa News that one of their ultimate goals is to have these 'special' young people learn how to become 'independent', meaning they are taught to master basic life skills including simple tasks like catching the bus, how to wash dishes, taking out the trash, folding the laundry, and preparing easy meals using fruits and vegetables.

These will help them become less dependent on family and friends, and will give them a boost in self-esteem, especially when the successful completion of their tasks are recognized and applauded.

Developmental Disability Awareness 2018 kicked off this past Sunday with a special church service at the CCCAS Matu'u/Faganeanea church.

[photo: BC]

FA’ASILASILAGA

O le a taoto ia le laau ma ona la, i ou paia sautuafafafa Amerika Samoa. E leai se vave na te gafataulima ou sa ma faiga. Ua taoto a’o se i’a mai vasa ua maea ona tuulaupua. E le faagaloina foi le au faigaluega paia a le Atua o loo nono manū ma faafaletulu’ia i fata faitaulaga e fia o si o tatou atunuu. Ona o le tauasuina o le ipu vai o le ola. Auā se manuia mo Samoa ia e le aunoa.

Tulou Tulou Tulouna lava.

IESU LE MALAMALAMA

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10 PRIZES EACH

\$20,000

SATURDAY AT 10AM

APRIL 14, 2018

PLACE: ILIILICATHOLICCHURCH

Ae matou te fa’asilasila atu ai ma le ava tele, i le paia o si o tatou atunuu ae maise o le mamalu i paia o Ekalesia taitasi. O lo’o tauaaoina pepa lucky number a si o matou Ekalesia Iesu le Malamalama. Fa’amolemole matou te faamoemoe i lo outou aao mafola ae maise o lo outou lima foai, ua amata nei ona fa’amaopopoina a tatou pepa lucky number. Silasila ane i le faleoo o le CBT i Nuuuli po’o fale ie o lo’o i le maketi i Fagatogo, Po’o le ASPA i Tafuna, Po’o le telefoni 733-5344 po’o le 733-1001 mo le silafia o le a se’iina le tatou lucky number ma faataunuaina lea faamoemoe ia Aperila 14, 2018 i le itula e 10 i le taeao.

PLACE: Iliili Catholic Church
Afio mai ma talamai aao. Ma le fa’aaloalo lava,
Sainia Susuga i le Fa’afeagaiga, ma le mamalu o le Ekalesia Iesu Le Malamalama.



Trades & Technical Department

Apprenticeship & Workforce Development Training Program

Related Technical In-Classroom Instructions
Mar 26 – May 31, 2018 (10 Week Spring Session)

Registration:

Date: Mar 12 – Mar 23, 2018
Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Registration Locations:

Apprenticeship: TTD Office or Participant Sponsor (Employer)
Workforce Development: TTD Office (Non-Traditional Students)

Cost

Registration Fee: \$40.00 (Non-refundable)
Course (5 CEU): \$45.00 per CEU (\$225.00 per course)
Total: \$265.00

Placement Test (English & Math):

Location: Adult Education Literacy and Extended Learning
Date: TBA

Enrollment Requirement:

Apprentice: Must be employed in the respective area
Workforce Development: Must be a high school graduate or equivalent

Required English & Math Courses:

A participant may be placed in a required English & Math Course pending Placement Test results. English & Math Courses are FREE courtesy of the AELEL Division (Adult Education), ASCC.

COURSE	COURSE TITLE	CEU	DAYS	TIME	ROOM	INSTRUCTOR
ADT 800	Introduction to AutoCAD (Architectural Drafting/Construction)	5.0	M/W	5:00PM-7:30PM	B-18	A. Esera
AST 802	Automotive Engine Computer Controls & Driveability (Auto Technician/Mechanic)	5.0	T/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	ATL-B	F. Suisala
CON 805	Plumbing (Construction)	5.0	M/W	5:00PM-7:30PM	ATL-C	D. Faumui
ETP 860	Electrical Installation, Commercial (Electrician/Construction)	5.0	M/W	5:00PM-7:30PM	ATL-B	T. Leiato
ICT 811	Intermediate and Advanced Excel (Computer Applications)	5.0	T/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	LAB-A	E.Seiuli
WLD 800	Welding Fundamentals & Metallurgy (Welder/Fabricator/Construction)	5.0	T/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	ATL-D	T.Solia

For more information please contact 699-9155 Ext. 353 or Ext. 369.

UPDATE: GITA - Registration opens today for Happy Valley and Petesa residents

SATURDAY IS ‘MAKE UP’ DAY FOR TAFUNA RESIDENTS WHO HAVEN’T REGISTERED

by Samoa News staff

Residents of two subdivisions of Tafuna village impacted by Tropical Storm Gita are next on the list of those to register today, Thursday, at the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) inside the Pago Pago Community Youth Center for disaster assistance.

The DRC, operated jointly by the American Samoa Government (ASG) and the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), opened for registration this past Monday, with registration for Ottoville residents. Yesterday, registration continued for Tafuna village with individuals from Fagaima.

For today, it’s for two subdivisions of Tafuna:

- Happy Valley numbers 0001 – 0084; and
- Petesa numbers 0001 – 0165

Tomorrow, Friday is registration for Kokoland numbers 0001 – 0121.

Saturday is the make-up day for all Tafuna residents that need to register with FEMA.

ASG and FEMA remind the public that only heads of household need to attend the registration. For future village dates and times to register for federal assistance at the DRC, a schedule will be provided by ASG and FEMA.

Another reminder, is for applicants to have on hand the following information when registering at the DRC:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged primary residence
- Description of the damage
- Information about insurance coverage, if applicable
- A current contact telephone number
- An address where they can receive mail
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

According to the ASG/FEMA notice, individuals with access and functional needs who are heads of household and still need to register should call the Crisis Hotline at (684) 633-9017.

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) Teams will then come to your home to register you — you do not need to come to the DRC. Addition-

ally, those in Ottoville already visited by DSA, with slips that have DSA written on them, do not have to come to the DRC, as they are already registered with FEMA.

And if you have been seen at the DRC and have completed all the requirements, “please make sure you are at home when FEMA inspectors come to inspect your place,” says ASG/FEMA.

Meanwhile, many residents, whose homes and personal property were either destroyed or damaged by Gita, have told Samoa News — over the past couple of days — that they are very pleased with how the registration process is being conducted, with numbers assigned to people during pre-registration.

“If you’re a full time worker, like myself, at least I know there is a certain day for me and others to show up, and not for everyone on island to show up at the DRC all in one day,” said a local resident, who is a private sector employee.

Others workers agreed, saying that at least the person knows when to show up at the DRC so that appropriate time is taken off work to get the registration done and get financial assistance.

So far the registration process has gone well, according to ASG officials and those who have already registered. “Everyone is very patient and there are also Samoan translators on hand to help our people,” said an ASG official.

OTHER SERVICES

The US Small Business Administration, which has 15 representatives at the DRC, are again urging all who were impacted by Gita to “please register” at the DRC to ensure that all disaster survivors are aware of the many disaster assistance programs available through SBA and FEMA.

Through a “cooperative agreement,” SBA said it has 20 organizations participating as Veterans Business Outreach Centers to provide entrepreneurial development, business training, counseling, and mentoring for eligible veterans who own or are starting small businesses.

Contact the Veterans Business Outreach Center at (808) 987-5245 or www.hilo.hawaii.edu/vboc for more information.

LVPA federal lawsuit now in mediation discussions

HOWEVER, THE DETAILS ARE ‘CONFIDENTIAL’

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The Territory of American Samoa’s large vessel prohibited area (LVPA) federal lawsuit pending on appeal, also remains in mediation, where details are “confidential”, with the federal government to file a brief later this year in June, according to officials with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of General Counsel for the Pacific Islands Section.

The LVPA lawsuit update was one of the two issues shared by General Counsel Office section chief, Fred Tucher and attorney advisor, Kristen Johns at yesterday’s first-day of the three-day 172nd meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in Honolulu.

As reported by Samoa News several times in past months, the National Marine Fishery Services (NMFS) — one of the federal defendants in the case — appealed to the 9th Circuit Court, the Honolulu federal court’s decision, which sided with American Samoa and invalidated the 2016 LVPA regulation that reduced the LVPA.

American Samoa had argued that NMFS failed to take into consideration in its regulation the Deeds of Cession — between Tutuila and Aunu’u in 1900 and Manu’a in 1904 — with the United States. Preservation and protection of cultural fishing practices was among the issues argued by American Samoa relating to the two

Deeds.

During yesterday’s Council meeting, Johns gave an update on the lawsuit, including the fact that NOAA filed a notice of appeal. “The parties have since entered into mediation discussion, the details of which are confidential,” she said, adding that NOAA has been given June 11th to file its open brief with the appellate court.

American Samoa member on the Council, Va’amua Henry Sesepasara, who is the government’s representative as director of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, inquired as to when the Territory is to file a response.

According to court records, the Territory shall file an answering brief on or before July 11th and NOAA may file an optional reply brief 21-days later. Additionally, the mediation conference call set for last month is rescheduled for Apr. 30th.

One big question being asked by many, who have shown interest in the final outcome of this case, is when the appeal process will be completed; and this was asked by another American Samoa member on the Council, Christinna Lutu-Sanchez, who inquired about how long the appeals process takes.

Tucher responded, “I don’t know,” adding that it will take time. He cited for example a recent case his office was involved with, which lasted for three years. He explained that there may be oral arguments at some point.

“They might not have oral arguments. They might decide on the briefs and after that it may take a year or two. It’s not a fast procedure,” he explained.

Another American Samoa member on the Council, Taotasi Archie Soliai asked about the chance of a mediation occurring to reach a decision on the matter.

“I’m participating in the mediation and I can’t predict,” Tucher explained, noting that mediation is not unusual for appeals in the 9th circuit. For this case, “both parties expressed interest in participating in mediation.”

“There have been ongoing discussions. I shouldn’t assume that mediation will be successful,” he pointed out. “It’s simply an alternate route for the parties to achieve a quick resolution because appeals take so long.” He said the mediator who works with the court, is assigned to be the mediator.

According to court records, Roxanne G. Ashe is mediator for this case. Among the action items for the Council during its meeting is consideration of taking final action on LVPA options that may improve economic efficiency of the larger longline vessels while taking into consideration, among other things, the need to prevent overfishing, impacts on small vessels, and protecting American Samoa cultural fishing practices. (See Samoa News Feb. 13th edition for the press release and table of options for consideration.)

3 rural Illinois men charged with Minnesota mosque bombing

By MICHAEL TARM and AMY FORLITI, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Federal authorities on Tuesday charged three men from rural central Illinois with the bombing of a Minnesota mosque last year and said one of the suspects told an investigator the goal of the attack was to “scare” Muslims out of the United States.

A statement from the U.S. attorney’s office in Springfield, Illinois, says the men also are suspected in the attempted bombing of an abortion clinic. The Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington, Minnesota, was bombed just before morning prayers on Aug. 5, causing a fire and extensive damage although no one was injured or killed. And there was an attempted bombing of the Champaign, Illinois, Women’s Health Practice on Nov. 7.

One of the men, Michael B. Hari, 47, described in an April 2017 Chicago Tribune

article how he drafted a \$10 billion plan to build a wall along the border with Mexico, citing President Donald Trump’s call for such a wall. Hari drew up the proposal after launching a security company, Crisis Resolution Security Services, the newspaper said.

Hari also filed a federal lawsuit just last month in central Illinois, naming the U.S. secretaries of agriculture and health and human services as defendants. It accuses their departments of violating his constitutional rights by doing the food-safety certification work that his firm, Equicert, does.

“The People of the United States have rejected the Marxist doctrine that the government shall own the means of production,” he wrote, according to the court document. He requested a court order barring federal officials from interfering with his business.

The other two men charged

in the mosque bombing with Hari were identified as Joe Morris, 22, and Michael McWhorter, 29. All three are from Clarence, a rural community of less than 100 residents some 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of Champaign-Urbana. A fourth man was charged with a gun offense, but he was not identified as a suspect in the bombing or attempted bombing.

A complaint said a tip in December led authorities to investigate the three men, after a person sent the local sheriff photos of guns and bomb-making material inside Hari’s parents’ home, where Hari often stayed. In January, a second informant told authorities that the three men had carried out the mosque bombing and the failed clinic bombing, according to the complaint.

McWhorter allegedly told an FBI agent during an interview that the three rented a pickup in Champaign and drove more

(Continued on page 9)

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NAPA SAMOA
699-NAPA/6272

US students stage massive walkout to protest gun violence

By COLLIN BINKLEY, Associated Press

They bowed their heads in honor of the dead. They carried signs with messages like “Never again” and “Am I next?” They railed against the National Rifle Association and the politicians who support it.

And over and over, they repeated the message: Enough is enough.

In a wave of protests one historian called the largest of its kind in American history, tens of thousands of students walked out of their classrooms Wednesday to demand action on gun violence and school safety.

The demonstrations extended from Maine to Hawaii as students joined the youth-led surge of activism set off by the Feb. 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

“We’re sick of it,” said Maxwell Nardi, a senior at Douglas S. Freeman High School in Henrico, Virginia, just outside Richmond. “We’re going to keep fighting, and we’re not going to stop until Congress finally makes resolute changes.”

Students around the nation left class at 10 a.m. local time for at least 17 minutes — one minute for each of the dead in the Florida shooting. Some led marches or rallied on football fields, while others gathered in school gyms or took a knee in the hallway.

At some schools, hundreds of students poured out. At others, just one or two walked out in defiance of administrators.

They lamented that too many young people have died and that they’re tired of going to school afraid they will be killed.

“Enough is enough. People are done with being shot,” said Iris Fosse-Ober, 18, a senior at Washburn High School in Minneapolis.

Some issued specific demands for lawmakers, including mandatory background checks for all gun sales and a ban on assault weapons like the one used in the Florida bloodbath.

While administrators and teachers at some schools applauded students for taking a stand — and some joined them — others threatened punishment for missing class.

As the demonstrations unfolded, the NRA responded by posting a photo on Twitter of a black rifle emblazoned with an American flag. The caption: “I’ll control my own guns, thank you.”

The protests took place at schools from the elementary level through college, including some that have witnessed their own mass shootings: About 300 students gathered on a soccer field at Colorado’s Columbine High, while students who survived the Sandy Hook Elementary School attack in 2012 marched out of Newtown High School in Connecticut.

In the nation’s capital, more than 2,000 high-school age protesters observed 17 minutes of silence while sitting on the ground with their backs turned to the White House. President Donald Trump was out of town.

The students carried signs with messages such as “Our Blood/Your Hands” and “Never Again” and chanted slogans against the NRA. In New York City, they chanted, “Enough is enough!” In Salt Lake City, the signs read, “Protect kids not guns,” “Fear has no place in school” and “Am I next?”

At Eagle Rock High in Los Angeles, teenagers took a moment of silence as they gathered around a circle of 17 chairs labeled with the names of the Florida victims.

Stoneman Douglas High senior David Hogg, who has emerged as one of the leading student activists, livestreamed the walkout at the tragedy-stricken school on his YouTube channel. He said students couldn’t be expected to stay in class while there was work to do to prevent gun violence.

“Every one of these individuals could have died that day. I could have died that day,” he said.

In joining the protests, the students followed the example set by many of the survivors of the Florida shooting, who have become gun-control activists, leading rallies, lobbying legislators and giving TV interviews. Their efforts helped spur passage last week of a Florida law curbing access to assault rifles by young people.

Another protest against gun violence is scheduled in Washington on March 24, with organizers saying it is expected to draw hundreds of thousands.

But whether the students can make a difference on Capitol Hill remains to be seen.

Congress has shown little inclination to defy the powerful NRA and tighten gun laws, and Trump backed away from his initial support for raising the minimum age for buying an assault rifle to 21.

A spokeswoman for Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, newly appointed head of a federal panel on school safety, said DeVos “gives a lot credit to the students who are raising their voices and demanding change,” and “their input will be valuable.”

KUPU internship opportunities are open to the youth of American Samoa

by Blue Chen-Fruean

Samoa News Correspondent

In partnership with NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS), representatives from KUPU - a 501©(3) non-profit organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii, are on island to share upcoming opportunities to “empower youth to serve their communities”.

Later this month on March 21st, at 1:30 p.m., at the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center in Fagatogo, or at 9 a.m. that same date at the ASCC Lecture Hall, local residents have the opportunity to meet and learn about KUPU conservation and stewardship internship opportunities to implement education/outreach work, citizen science, and community and youth engagement programs.

The NMSAS is pleased to have Gina Carroll and Alofa Taei from KUPU here in the territory, to share, discuss, and learn more about needs for conservation internships in American Samoa.

According to the NMSAS, “This is an excellent opportunity for agencies to learn more, and potentially work with KUPU to increase more opportunities for local youth to enhance their skills, gain experience, as well as work on exciting projects.”

In Hawaiian, the word KUPU means “to sprout, grow, germinate, or increase.” KUPU’s

mission is to bring life back to the people, land, and ocean while restoring the larger community for a better tomorrow.

A media release to Samoa News states that KUPU, founded in 2007, provides service-learning programs in industries like conservation, renewable energy, agriculture, and sustainability. Through these initiatives, KUPU aims to teach youth vital work skills as well as leadership, responsibility, and learning to serve the community, incorporating vocational training, educational degree achievement, and service learning.

In 2017, KUPU, the NMSAS, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation created a Conservation Leadership Development Internship program for two 10-month internships.

THE TWO PROJECT AREAS ARE:

- (1) Development and Implementation of Citizen Science projects in Aunu’u; and
- (2) Marine Science education projects in two Sanctuary schools in Tutuila (Leone High School and Lupelele Elementary School).

Both interns at the NMSAS now earn a monthly stipend.

More information on the upcoming KUPU presentations can be obtained by calling 633-6500.



National Weather Service meteorologist Carol Baqui (center) with teachers from Le’atele Elementary School, who accompanied students from the school during a recent field trip to the Weather Service office in Tafuna.

Pictured are Le’atele teachers: M. Sala, Minioneta L. Sopoaga-Alo, Jamie Lauama, and Rose Spitzenberg.

[courtesy photo]

Rep...

Continued from page 1

by prison guards, and asking that the Court take action, “the only thought that came into my heart is the Fono needs to step up and do something to stop this unwanted behavior by these people in power.”

He continued, “I strongly believe this is a good time for the House Speaker and Vice Speaker to consider my advice, that it’s about time to establish a House Investigation Committee (HIC) to look into these issues and take action.

“Don’t waste our time talking about nonsense issues inside the chamber such as why the Executive Branch is holding the Fono’s budget for travel, complaining about this and that. We are leaders and it’s our responsibility to look at every corner of the territory and the government, and see what we can do to change the life of someone who is in need.”

Toeaina said he was very disappointed after he read the newspaper article because these were things that were happening during the previous administration and it appears that they still exist.

“I don’t want our people to think that the Fono knew about what was happening at the TCF but turned away and discussed other issues such as the Fono’s budget for travel, instead of doing something to avoid this problem from continuing to happen. I think it’s about time for us to look at these sensitive issues,” Toeaina continued.

“Mistreating of inmates inside the prison by police officers is against the law. Things like this happened in the past, which resulted in the federal government stepping in and charging police officers working at the Tafuna prison at the time — including the Warden for assaulting an inmate. I don’t want these things to be repeated at the TCF.”

Speaking to Samoa News after the Fono session, Toeaina said he really wants the leaders of the House to exercise the authority they have, and establish an investigating committee to deal with a lot of sensi-

tive issues that are ongoing in government.

In addition to the TCF matter, Toeaina said he believes there are issues inside government, specifically in the executive branch that the investigating committee needs to look at.

He said most of the time when the Fono committees hold hearings, faipule don’t have enough time to question each director on issues pertaining to their departments.

Therefore, the only time the Fono can get all the information is when the investigating committee exercises its power and subpoenas everyone to testify.

As one of the longest serving faipule in the House, Toeaina recalled the last time a House Investigation Committee (HIC) was up and running. He served as vice chairman and in addition to looking into pertinent government matters, he said the HIC was also able to investigate accusations against the governor at the time, for alleged misuse of government money.



Manu’a faipule, Rep. Toeaina Faufano Autele says a House Investigation Committee (HIC) needs to be established to look into many issues — including alleged police brutality at the TCF — being reported from around the territory. See story for details.

[photo: AF]



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES



2018 WIOA SUMMER YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM
REGISTRATION

(The Department of Human Resources, Employment & Training, Division have available and limited slots for the Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act (WIOA), Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The purpose of the SYEP is to provide academic, occupational skills and work experience for low-income individuals with barriers to employment.

To be eligible for the Summer Youth Employment Program, the applicant must be between the ages of 14-24 years old, unemployed and economically disadvantaged. The WIOA Workforce Center staff will be available to take registration at the Department of Human Resources, Employment & Training Division, A.P. Lutali Executive Bldg., 2nd floor in Utulei, on the following dates.

Ages 18-24 can register from 9am - 4pm

SCHOOLS

Leone HS
Fa’asao/Marist HS
Nu’uuli Voc-Tech
Kanana Fou HS
Manumalo Baptist
Pacific Horizon
South Pacific Academy
Open/All Other Schools

DATE/TIME

March 19-20, 2018
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
March 21-22, 2018
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
March 23, 2018
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 24, 2018
9am - 4pm
March 26-27, 2018
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
March 28, 2018
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
March 29, 2018
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Friday (Holiday) & Saturday
March 30-31, 2018 - 9:00am-4:00pm

SCHOOLS

MANU’A March 19 - March 29, 2018
TA’U March 20-23, 2018
(Registration @ Manu’a High School,
Contact Person: Ms. Foga Gaoa;
Tel: 677-5901)
OFU/OLOSEGA March 26-29, 2018
(Registration @ Olosega Elementary;
Contact Person: Ms. Foga Gara;
Tel: 677-5901)

DATE/TIME

March 19 - March 29, 2018

March 20-23, 2018
(Registration @ Manu’a High School,
Contact Person: Ms. Foga Gaoa;
Tel: 677-5901)

March 26-29, 2018
(Registration @ Olosega Elementary;
Contact Person: Ms. Foga Gara;
Tel: 677-5901)

REGISTRATION AT: Department of Human Resources Employment & Training Division, 2nd Floor, AP Lutali Executive Building.

DEADLINE FOR TA’U-MANU’A REGISTRATION: MARCH 29, 2018
DEADLINE FOR TUTUILA REGISTRATION: MARCH 31, 2018

Applicants must bring his/her birth certificate or passport, social security card and a copy of the 2017 Tax Refund of family members currently employed, receiving social security benefit, retirement check, etc, within their household. The required documents should on hand for registration.

For more information regarding the Summer Youth Employment Program Registration, please contact Ms. Grace Uiagalelei or Ms. Michelle Peko-Agaimalo at the WIOA Resource Center, Department of Human Resources at 633-4485.

Sincerely,

Ms. Eseneiaso J. Liu, Director
Department of Human Resources



ACCURACY

We make an issue
of it every day.

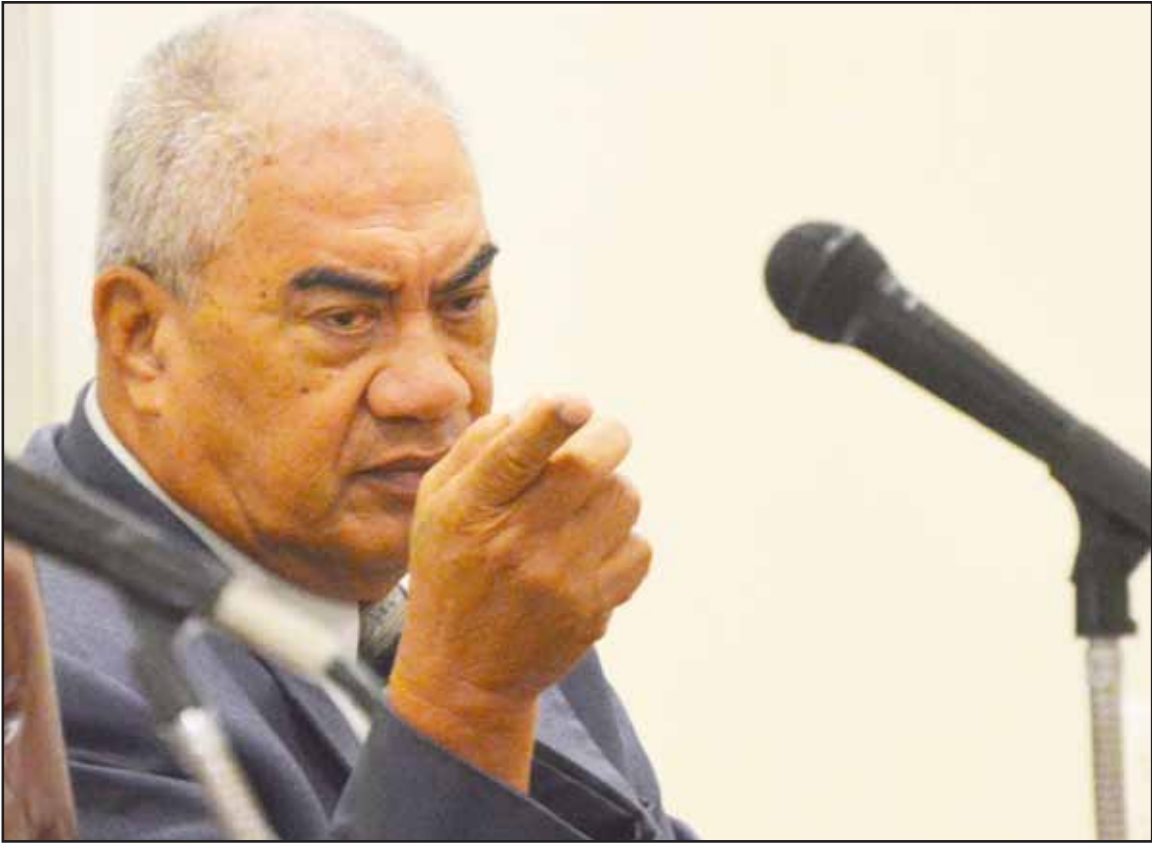
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Samoa News at 633-5599



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► **Faipule says...**

Continued from page 1



Rep. Gafatasi Afalava and House members are upset with directors being ‘no-shows’ when the Fono subpoenas them — with one faipule saying it proves that directors are looking at them as ‘house of kids’.

[photo: AF]

mittee it’s very sad to see that the branches of government are not respecting each other. He said this is a sign that proves that directors are looking at the House of Representatives, as a ‘house of kids’.

“We are not kids, we are representatives from our districts, and it’s our job to raise our district’s concerns. I want the Executive Branch to show some respect to the Fono and honor our requests whenever we subpoena them to appear before the committees. I don’t want to hear anymore excuses,” Kitara said. He added that if this practice continues without any good reason from the directors, he recommends that the Fono send a letter to the governor, recommending that these directors be suspended from his or her post for failure to comply with the Fono’s subpoena.

Gafatasi said if the deputy director could provide all the answers to inquiries from the faipule, the hearing can move forward.

Rep. Fialupe Felila Fiaui Lutu reminded the committee that her main concern is upholding the dignity of the

Fono, especially when committees issue subpoenas for directors to appear.

Lutu recommended that the hearing be rescheduled for a later date, and allow the committee to uphold the House Rules that only directors can appear and testify before the Fono on certain issues.

Rep. Vailoata E. Amituana’s seconded Lutu’s recommendation, which was supported by other committee members.

Vice Speaker Fetu Fetui Jr. told his colleagues that when he leads the House in the absence of the Speaker, and a director is a no show, he would order the police to handcuff them.

“I want directors to show some respect to the House of Representatives,” Fetu said, before instructing the House staff to bring into the chamber the KVZK-TV deputy director, who was sitting outside the house chamber while faipule were deciding whether to continue with the hearing or not.

Committee vice chairman, Rep. Vailuama S. Leasilolagi informed the witness about the committee’s decision, thanked her for taking the time to appear on behalf of her boss, and then dismissed her.

During announcements, Fetu thanked lawmakers for their patience when situations like these arise in the Fono. He said he feels the same way they do when directors don’t honor the Fono’s call to appear.

OTHER ISSUE

The House has received communication from the Governor’s Office this week, appointing HTC Paogofie Fiaigoa as the new Liaison Officer between the Governor’s Office and the House of Representatives.

Fetu said Paogofie’s first assignment to the governor is to inform him about lawmakers’ concerns regarding directors being no-shows.

Paogofie was present during the House session yesterday morning.

In a letter to the House Speaker, Lolo said that due to illness, HTC Logoai Siaki has been unable to consistently attend to his duties, specifically to liaise between his office and the House to respond to any issues raised during the House sessions and to bring to his attention matters of concern raised by faipule.

“Reshuffling of personnel within my office deemed it fitting and appropriate, given his cultural status, practical knowledge of the legislative process, and many years of government experience, in appointing Paogofie to assume the duties of our House of Representatives Liaison Officer,” Lolo wrote in a Mar. 12 letter.

He further stated that his letter formally announces and introduces Paogofie, who will act as his representative to the House. Lolo asked faipule to allow Paogofie to observe and report back to him issues for which members of the House raise on the floor for which possible responses are to ascertained.



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• Promotion will run from March 12th, 2018 at 12:00am to March 31st, 2018 at 11:59pm • All prepaid, capped and lifeline customers are eligible for this promotion. • To qualify, customer must use at least \$2 a day or at least \$10 in total from Monday - Friday. Usage can be on any Bluesky product or service including data bundle purchase, voice and sms etc • Free data is valid from 12:00AM - 11:59PM on Sunday. • Bluesky reserves the right to alter or end this promotion at any time.



ASG OFFICE OF POLITICAL STATUS – CONTINUES ITS AWARENESS PROGRAM

This recent photo shows American Samoa Community College political science student Louaivasa Laulu after interviewing ASG Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Relations executive director Tapaau Dr. Daniel Aga. The pair, during the interview, talked about American Samoa’s unincorporated and unorganized status.

Laulu was also “given an overview of the process needed to carry the effort forward: from Purpose, Problem Statement, Unified Vision, Pathway, and Formal Agreement,” according to Tapaau’s office, who noted that prior to Tropical Storm Gita on Feb. 9th, the executive director and his staff had already set up dates to speak with students of Fa’asao Marist High School and Kanana Fou High School.

Tapaau and his staff are working on rescheduling visits to these high schools as well as other private schools, as part of the office’s agenda for 2018.

Earlier this year in January, Tapaau addressed students and teachers at Pacific Horizons School, during which students were informed about issues such as geo-political interests leading to the partition of the Samoan Islands, and the journey to understand the conflicts between Western and Samoan values.

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has encouraged Tapaau, who has also testified on such issues before the Fono, to continue these public awareness programs to reach all sectors of the community, including private schools. There are also plans to hold outreach in villages, later this year.

Those interested in hosting a presentation by Dr. Aga and his staff can contact 633-3650, 770-6039 or <drdanaga@gmail.com> online: www.faavaeoamerikasamoa.com

[courtesy photo]



**Fish
and Chips**

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Sandwich**

**Carls Catch
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American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB-011-2018

Issuance Date: March 9, 2018
Closing Date: March 23, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

- 1. **INVITATION**
Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide “Rockfall Mitigation of Lafiga, Tifa, Anape’ape’a and Matalesolo, American Samoa” for the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management.
- 2. **RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS**
Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **March 23, 2018** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.
- 3. **PRE-BID MEETING**
A **MANDATORY** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on March 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement Conference Room.
- 4. **CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**
Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Scope of Work can be examined or obtained from the Office of Procurement during regular business hours, free of charge.
- 5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or my bid.
- 6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB-031-2018

Issuance Date: March 7, 2018
Closing Date: April 4, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

- 1. **INVITATION**
Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide “Route 104 Hospital Road Reconstruction (Rebid)” for the Department of Public Works.
- 2. **RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS**
Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa, 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Wednesday, April 4, 2018** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.
- 3. **PRE-BID MEETING**
A **MANDATORY** Pre-Bid Meeting for all contractors will be held on March 14, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Procurement-Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the pre-bid meeting.
- 4. **CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**
Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Scope of Work can be examined or obtained from the Office of Procurement during regular business hours, free of charge.
- 5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or my bid.
- 6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



Compiled by Samoa News staff
DOI TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR LEGAL TRAINING FOR US AFFILIATED PACIFIC ISLANDS
WASHINGTON – U.S.

Interior Assistant Secretary of Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech has authorized a payment of \$653,003 to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council Pacific Islands Committee to provide and oversee legal training for FY2018 in the judiciaries of the U.S. Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the freely associated states of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau.

“The rule of law is fundamental for a strong economy and effective democratic rule in any society,” said Assistant Secretary Domenech. “I am pleased, on behalf of the Secretary and the President to continue to support judicial training and court development services in the Judiciary systems across all the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands.”

The Pacific Islands Committee of the Ninth Judicial Circuit was established to fulfill oversight responsibilities with respect to the judiciaries of the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the former Trust Territories of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

All judiciaries in these Pacific Island jurisdictions are modeled after the U.S. judicial system and the Pacific Islands Committee is charged with monitoring their judicial development.

Specific responsibilities of the Pacific Islands Committee include: 1) assisting in the development and provision of continuing judicial education and court professional training and 2) overall improvement of the administration of justice in the courts.

Support for judiciary systems in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands began as early as 1976, when U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger established a Pacific Territories Committee to develop and work with courts in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific areas, appointing Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Richard Chambers as Chair.

The Pacific Islands Committee Judiciary Training program continues that work today. Funding is provided in part through the Technical Assistance Program of the Office of Insular Affairs in the Department of the Interior and through Compact of Free Association funding provided under U.S. Public Law 108-188.

(Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary - Insular and

International Affairs)
SAMOA PM WORRIED AT PROSPECT OF NZ RECRUITING POLICE

Samoa Prime Minister Tuila’epa Sa’ilele Malielegaoi is concerned at the possibility of his police officers being enticed to move to New Zealand.

He expressed grave concern at what might happen to the Samoa Police Service if its members were to take up an offer from New Zealand Police to work there.

The prime minister fears that police could sign up in large numbers leaving a depleted force in Samoa.

During last week’s visit by New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Adern it was mentioned that the New Zealand Police were looking to recruit from the Pacific, including Samoa.

Tuila’epa said if a large number of Samoan police move away the country will face a major problem.

(Source: RNZI)
HUGGIES REMOVES OFFENSIVE LIST OF MAORI BABY NAMES

Multinational nappy company Huggies has removed an online list of Maori baby names with advice for parents after complaints it was racist and offensive.

Maori cultural adviser Karaitiana Tairu told Morning Report he complained to Huggies for about 18 months, but it wasn’t until the story was picked up on social media and news organisations that the information was removed.

He said some of the names were not Maori, were incorrectly translated, or were offensive because they referred to gods.

“Gods’ names such as Tangaroa the god of the ocean, Raamoko the god of earthquakes, Mahuika the god of fire.

“There was one name that wasn’t a Maori name, Nyree.

Tairu said the list also included racist advice on how to pick a Maori name. “Blatantly racist, so suggesting that a name shouldn’t be long or hard to pronounce because the baby might be teased at school. There was other strange comments that a name ... needs to be able to flow with the surname, so there was no cultural understanding of the names.”

“The general tone of the advice was racist. It did ignore that we are a bilingual country, we have the Maori language act, we have a commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi, and I think it’s just inappropriate for an international corporation to not actually get proper advice.

He said there were also problems with translations.

“For example, the name Ahurewa was only referred to as ‘a sacred place’. The real meaning of Ahurewa is much

(Continued on page 10)

6 US soldiers in mountain warfare training hit by avalanche



In this still image from video provided by WCAX-TV Channel 3, a U.S. Army soldier is evacuated on a stretcher, right, following an avalanche Wednesday, March 14, 2018, after participating in U.S. Army mountain-warfare training near Easy Gully in Smugglers Notch, a narrow pass at the edge of Mount Mansfield, in Cambridge, Vt. Six U.S. soldiers were injured in the avalanche. Five soldiers have been taken to the University of Vermont Medical Center, in Burlington, Vt. The sixth soldier returned to duty.

CAMBRIDGE, Vt. (AP) — An avalanche hit six Army soldiers undergoing mountain-warfare training near Vermont’s highest peak Wednesday, sending five to the hospital.

Rescuers worked to evacuate the six soldiers training at Smugglers Notch, a narrow pass at the northern edge of Mount Mansfield. The base of the notch is surrounded by steep cliffs on both sides.

Five soldiers were taken to the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. Their injuries were not considered life-threatening. The sixth soldier returned to duty.

There is no word on what triggered the avalanche that hit about 1 p.m. The soldiers were brought down the mountain to waiting ambulances. A photo posted by WCAX-TV shows one soldier on a stretcher.

Smugglers Notch separates Stowe from Cambridge. The Stowe ski resort is on one side and Smugglers’ Notch ski resort is on the other.

The Vermont Department of Public Safety said recent storms have created “extremely unstable conditions in steep terrain.”

The U.S. Army’s Mountain Warfare school is run by the Vermont National Guard. The Army website says the school provides tactical and technical training for mountain warfare and cold weather operations.

It’s unclear what the soldiers were doing when the avalanche hit. But soldiers who take the winter training course, based at the Ethan Allen Training Center in Jericho, practice ice climbing in the notch as well as other cold-weather activities.

► 3 rural...

Continued from page 3

than 500 miles (805 kilometers) to Minnesota with a plan to bomb the mosque, according to a criminal complaint. He said they wanted to let Muslims know they are not welcome in the United States and “scare them out of the country,” according to notes taken by the FBI. It wasn’t clear from the complaint why the men may have targeted a mosque so far from Illinois. Morris told one informant that Hari had promised to pay him and McWhorter \$18,000 for participating in the mosque bombing, according to the complaint. An affidavit says the men broke a window to the imam’s office and threw a pipe bomb containing black powder into the mosque. The pipe bomb exploded, causing a fire that was extinguished by sprinklers.

A witness outside the mosque heard the sound of breaking glass and saw a man get into a dark pickup truck. The truck then sped away, the

affidavit said. Minneapolis FBI Acting Special Agent in Charge Robert Bone said authorities no longer believe there is any further threat to the community in connection with this incident.

McWhorter also allegedly admitted that the three men tried to bomb the abortion clinic on Nov. 7, again renting a truck to carry out the attack. McWhorter described a PVC pipe bomb and said Morris broke a window and threw it in, where it failed to go off, according to the complaint.

The complaint also said nothing about a possible motivation for the clinic attack.

Jaylani Hussein, executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Muslim advocacy and civil liberties group Council on American-Islamic Relations, welcomed news of the arrests.

“This is definitely a relief that this case is finally to conclusion and those assailants—suspects are apprehended and no longer a threat.

Dog death on United raises questions about its track record

By DAVID KOENIG, AP Airlines Writer

United Airlines, under siege over the death of a puppy on one of its flights, says the flight attendant who ordered a passenger to put her pet carrier in the overhead bin didn’t know there was a dog inside. The airline’s account was contradicted by the family that owned the French bulldog, and also by other passengers on Monday night’s flight. Eleven-year-old Sophia Ceballos told NBC News that her mother told the flight attendant “‘It’s a dog, it’s a dog,’ and (the flight attendant) said we have to put it up there,” in the bin. Other passengers backed up the family’s account on Twitter and Facebook. United acknowledged Wednesday that the customer said there was a dog in the carrier. “However, our flight attendant did not hear or understand her, and did not knowingly place the dog in the overhead bin,” the airline said in a statement. United declined to identify the employee.

Late Wednesday, the district attorney’s office in Harris County, Texas, said a criminal investigation has been launched into the dog’s death aboard the Houston-to-New York flight.

Last year, 18 animals, mostly dogs, died while being transported on United — three-fourths of all animal deaths on U.S. carriers, according to the Department of Transportation. Those figures represent animals that die in cargo holds.

It is rare that an animal dies on a plane. Even on United there was only one death for roughly every 4,500 animals transported last year. United, which promotes its pet-shipping program called PetSafe, carries more animals than any other airline, but its animal-death rate is also the highest in the industry. Alaska Airlines, which carries only 17 percent fewer animals, had just two deaths last year.



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5. Compile department reports for monthly board meetings and provide transcription and dictation of minutes.
6. Prepare conference room for board meetings and other conferences.
7. Maintain library of bank archival documents, policies and procedures.
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Docs link Trump Org lawyer to effort to silence porn star



FILE - In this Feb. 11, 2007, file photo, adult film actress Stormy Daniels arrives for the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. New documents show a top lawyer for the Trump Organization was involved in legal efforts to keep adult film star Daniels from talking about her alleged affair with President Donald Trump. The arbitration documents are signed by Trump Organization lawyer Jill A. Martin and list her address as that of Trump's golf club in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Matt Sayles, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — New documents show a second lawyer with ties to President Donald Trump was involved in legal efforts to keep adult film star Stormy Daniels from talking about her alleged affair with Trump.

Attorney Jill A. Martin signed the documents, which

were filed Feb. 22 as part of confidential arbitration proceedings. She's referenced in the filing as counsel for "EC LLC," though the address she lists is that of Trump's Los Angeles golf club. EC appears to be a reference to a company formed by Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, to facilitate a \$130,000 payment

to silence Daniels in the closing days of the 2016 presidential campaign. Cohen has acknowledged making the payment, but said he was not reimbursed and denied the campaign and the Trump Organization were involved in the transaction.

Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti, confirmed the authenticity of the new documents to The Associated Press. The documents were first reported by CNN and the Wall Street Journal. Avenatti said the documents show that "contrary to Mr. Cohen's representations, there is little to no difference between EC LLC and The Trump Organization/Donald Trump." In a statement late Wednesday, the Trump Organization said Martin worked on the filing in her "individual capacity" and the company "has had no involvement in the matter." The White House says Trump has denied the affair with Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford.

Earlier this month, Clifford filed a lawsuit seeking to invalidate her "hush agreement" because it was signed only by her and Cohen, but not Trump. She's also offered to return the money she was paid for agreeing not to discuss the alleged relationship.

Clifford alleges that she began an "intimate relationship" with Trump in 2006 and that it continued "well into the year 2007," according to the lawsuit. She said the relationship included encounters in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and Beverly Hills, California.

► Pacific...

Continued from page 8

more in depth and could be equivalent to naming your baby the pope, a priest, or another sort of religious term.

"The name 'Matiu' was another name which was offered as 'a gift of God' which is really a common translation of the name Matthew, so the 'gift of God' is more of — as I understand it — a Hebrew translation of the name Matthew."

"It was wrong and it was offensive, there was just no consideration of Maori names and how a lot of Maori names originate — for example from ancestors, from iwi names — there was no consideration of any of that."

He said the information had been on the Huggies website for at least five years, possibly longer.

He first complained about it 18 months ago, give or take a month or two.

"I used their online web form. Then several months later I tried ringing, then earlier this year I sent a public tweet to a ... twitter account for Huggies NZ, it was only yesterday that I found out that that account

wasn't an official account."

He said the company now had taken all the pages down voluntarily, and had assured him it would do its best to correct the issues in the pages.

"My concern is the information's been there for five years, how many newborn babies during that period have incorrect names or have names that their parents think it means one thing yet it means another thing."

No spokesperson for Huggies was immediately available for comment.

(Source: RNZI)

A FIRST FOR SAMOA

Traditionally, the funeral industry is a male dominated field.

But the landscape is changing and over the years women have become more interested in working in a funeral home.

Now, Samoan woman, Luana Michael, has become Samoa's first qualified female funeral director.

Based in New Zealand, Luana has roots in Lelepa, Toga-fua-fua Salevalu and Aleipata.

She works at South Auckland business, Ese Tatupu Funeral Directors and Mortuary Embalmers.

The young graduate recently

achieved the Funeral Directing qualifications at the Wellington Institute of Technology, which is the only learning institute in New Zealand that offers such a qualification.

Speaking to the Samoa Observer, the 25-year-old tells us that she has always had an interest in working within the funeral home environment.

"My background was working for the Manukau Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Auckland," she said.

"I had experience working with bereaved families. I always had an interest working in a funeral home environment. Joining the team at Ese Tatupu Funeral Directors was not a hard decision."

Having knowledge and experience of Pacific Island funeral practices is an important aspect in some requests from families in New Zealand for their deceased ones.

Laura was able to work directly with Funeral Home Director and owner, Ese Tatupu, who is also a qualified Weltec supervisor.

"I was taught all facets of traditional Samoan cultural and religious undertakings of funerals by my mentor

(Continued on page 11)

Pacific...

Continued from page 10

and course supervisor – Ese Tatupu,” she said. “I was given the knowledge and gained experience by working with Ese Tatupu on the front line, out in the community.”

“Ese Tatupu is a qualified Weltec supervisor in both funeral directing and mortuary embalming. He had taught many students. He is the first Samoan and Pacific Islander to hold the highest funeral qualification in New Zealand.”

While the thought of handling corpses may send shivers up on most peoples’ spines, Mrs. Michael feels comfortable in the funeral home environment and says her only fear is really the actions of the living.

“No, I do not get frightened; however I do get scared when the funeral bill is not paid.”

I believe you look after the deceased in such a way that involves a high level of dignity and respect, always.”

The young funeral director from Tatupu Funeral Directors is the daughter of New Zealand born Samoan parents. Her father’s family is from Lelepa and Togafuafua and her mother’s family is from Salevalu and Aleipata.

While there has not been a need yet to expand to Samoa, Mrs. Michael says they maintain good working relations with Sefo’s Funeral Service in Samoa. “If there was a need for our services in Samoa, we would certainly consider opening a branch. However, in New Zealand we work along with Sefo’s Funeral Services in both Upolu and Savai’i.

“We have a very good relationship with them. We receive and send our clients to them all the time because they are reliable and that is what we expect as funeral service providers.”

(Source: Samoa Observer)

ALLEGED SABOTAGE, HEALTH CONSPIRACY

The Minister of Health, Tuitama Dr. Leao Tuitama, has rejected reports the Government is planning to slash the salaries of doctors working at the hospital as part of the merge between the National Health Service (N.H.S.) and Ministry of Health (M.O.H.).

He has instead accused the National Health Services of spreading false rumors as part of a conspiracy to sabotage the merge.

“All this false information is being spread around,” the Minister told the Samoa Observer yesterday. “It is the present management that has been spreading the false information that the salaries will be slashed once they come under the P.S.C.”

“I can tell you there is no plan for that. The merge is a different issue it’s not about salaries.”

The Minister said the rumors are part of a conspiracy to sabotage the merge; they are looking to implement in July 2018.

“The salary issue originated because the doctors complained

that the management was not complying with the Cabinet’s decision, which was based on the Salary Tribunal recommendation to set the doctors salary according to the structure back in 2013.”

“Cabinet endorsed and approved the recommendation and ordered the management to get on with it and put the doctors’ salaries, yet up until now, nothing has been done.”

“There was some suggestions the management should be fired given they were not complying with Cabinet’s decision.”

Attempts to get a comment from N.H.S. were unsuccessful yesterday.

But the Minister revealed that part of moving forward included a recommendation that a clear career pathway be put in place by N.H.S. They were to report to Cabinet about it.

“Until now, nothing has been done,” he said.

“Also in 2013, I ordered the Medical Council to draft a career pathway for the doctors to go together with the salaries structure that was endorsed.”

“That took two years and in 2016, the Medical Council presented the pathway career to go together with the changes of the new salary level for doctors.”

“What happened was that the N.H.S. Management implemented the increase of salaries on certain doctors, yet the directive was uniformly for all the doctors.”

“When the doctors realised there was a F.K. with recommendations for their salary structure, yet nothing has been done, about 12 doctors wrote letters complaining to the Ministry about their salaries last year.”

“They went to the Clinical Manager, General Manager, yet nothing was done and so they came to me, they brought the issue to my attention.”

“However, I saw that two doctors were my son and daughter. I recused myself because of my conflict of interest and the matter was transferred to the Prime Minister.”

“The Prime Minister then issued another directive for the M.O.H. and M.O.F. to work together to resolve this issue.”

“So again the doctors salaries is not a merge issue, it’s an issue with the management.”

The Minister also took issue with the Samoa Medical Association (S.M.A.), whom he met on Tuesday.

“They came to address the same issue you are talking about and I have informed them that salaries have nothing to do with the merge,” he said,

“I told them this is their mandate and I said, look you are not performing your function as an association.”

“Your members didn’t know where to go to get a resolution. I thought that would have been an appropriate time to intervene and assist your members. You must have known their grievances, yet there was no action from you.”

(Source: Samoa Observer)

SAMOA AIRWAYS REQUESTS FOR LANDING FEE WAIVER

Samoa Airways has requested the Samoa Airport Authority (S.A.A.) to waive its landing fees for 2018.

S.A.A. Chief Executive Officer, Magele Hoe Viali confirmed this during a phone interview with the Samoa Observer.

Initially, Magele said he could not comment, but afterwards confirmed that Samoa Airways has applied to waive their landing fees.

“There is a thing called Air Service Incentive program that is being utilized by the Atlanta Airport in America.”

“It’s a practice that is being utilized all over the world and the request has been considered by the Airport.”

“And as the P.M said, this would have to go through proper channels for approval from Cabinet as the Prime Minister indicated to you,” said Magele.

Asked whether the airport gave the same incentive for Fiji Airways, Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia, Magele said no.

“This is how it works. We only offer incentives to new carriers or the airlines taking new routes. If there are current routes, why would there be any incentives given to those airlines,” he said. “Again the incentives are only given to an airline that has developed new routes and or developed a new airline.”

Magele pointed out, “Also if it is considered for the Samoa Airways, it has to be applied to all the new carriers.”

He said it has to be approved by Cabinet, “given that we are operate on public funds, so of course it has to be approved from the top.”

According to the C.E.O., the same incentive was given for Samoa Air and Talofa Airways.

“Also this incentive has to be paralleled with other new carriers and I’m sure that is how Cabinet will look at it.”

Asked as to how much money the airport will lose if the landing fees are waived for Samoa Airways, Magele was unaware. “As of now, we are working on a feasibility study which will include all of that.”

He added, “Also be mindful that in every situation like this, it is a win-win situation, meaning that we help them and in return we will get some money from it.” “This is exactly why we have not submitted the request to Cabinet is because we are considering all options before the actual request is submitted,” said Magele. Last week, Tuilaepa said: “I don’t believe that a decision has been made on that specific issue, but there has been a request.”“At the same time, it is not easy for the authority to make such a difficult decision. It is a decision that has to be looked into by Cabinet, but that has not reached Cabinet.”

Tuilaepa said the Government has to be careful and weigh up its options.

“If the request is granted, other airlines will object, so the decision comes from Cabinet and not the authority on such matters.”

(Source: Samoa Observer)

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Toys R Us is planning to liquidate its US operations

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Toys R Us is headed toward shuttering its U.S. operations, jeopardizing the jobs of some 30,000 employees while spelling the end for a chain known to generations of children and parents for its sprawling stores and Geoffrey the giraffe mascot.

The closing of the company's 740 U.S. stores over the coming months will finalize the downfall of the chain that succumbed to heavy debt and relentless trends that undercut its business, from online shopping to mobile games.

CEO David Brandon told employees Wednesday the company's plan is to liquidate all of its U.S. stores, according to an audio recording of the meeting obtained by The Associated Press.

Brandon said Toys R Us will try to bundle its Canadian business, with about 200 stores, and find a buyer. The company's

U.S. online store would still be running for the next couple of weeks in case there's a buyer for it. It's likely to also liquidate its businesses in Australia, France, Poland, Portugal and Spain, according to the recording. It's already shuttering its business in the United Kingdom. That would leave it with stores in Canada, central Europe and Japan, where it could find buyers for those assets.

Toys R Us had about 60,000 full-time and part-time employees worldwide last year.

Brandon said on the recording that the company would be filing liquidation papers and there would be a bankruptcy court hearing Thursday. "We worked as hard and as long as we could to turn over every rock," Brandon told employees. He put much of the blame on its woes on the media, saying negative stories about the company's prospects scared customers and vendors.

The Wayne, New Jersey-based company declined to comment. The chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last fall, saddled with \$5 billion in debt that hurt its attempts to compete as shoppers moved to Amazon and huge chains like Walmart.

It pledged then to stay open, but Brandon told employees that it had a "devastating" sales performance during the critical holiday season as nervous customers and vendors shied away. That made its lenders more skittish about investing in the company. In January, it announced plans to close about 180 stores over the next couple of months, leaving it with a little more than 700 stores. The company's troubles have affected toy makers Mattel and Hasbro, which are big suppliers to the chain. But the likely liquidation will have a bigger impact on smaller toy makers, who rely more on the chain for sales. However, many have been trying to diversify in recent months as they worried about the chain's survival.

Toys R Us was also hurt by the shift to mobile devices taking up more play time. But steep sales declines over the holidays and thereafter were the deciding factor, said Jim Silver, who is editor-in-chief of toy review site TTPM.com.

The company didn't do enough to emphasize that it was reorganizing but not going out of business, Silver said. That misperception led customers to its stores because they didn't think they would be able to return gifts.

Now, the \$11 billion in sales still happening at Toys R Us each year will disperse to other retailers like Amazon and discounters, analysts say. Other chains, seeing that Toys R Us was vulnerable, got more aggressive. J.C. Penney opened toy sections last fall in all 875 stores. Target and Walmart have been expanding their toy selections.

File- This Jan. 24, 2018, file photo shows a person walking near the entrance to a Toys R Us store, in Wayne, N.J. Toys R Us's management has told its employees that it will sell or close all of its U.S. stores. That's according to a toy industry analyst who spoke to several employees who were on the call Wednesday, March 14, 2018. Jim Silver, a toy industry expert, says Toys R Us's CEO told employees the plan is to liquidate all of its U.S. stores and after that, it could do a deal with its Canadian operation to run some of its U.S. stores. The company declined to comment. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez, File)



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