

REMINDER: Tomorrow is the last day
for FY 2017 local fund govt purchases

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ASG's overtime policy still
noncompliant with USDOL, says Lolo

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Salatupe le ali'i na tu'uaia
i le faia C.I pepelo i le 2006

Le Lali

Ageless Brady not slowing
down at 40 years old

Sports



The McDonald's Family Restaurant has secured the naming rights for the Miss Samoa Pageant 2017. The \$100,000 deal was announced during a press conference at McDonald's in Apia yesterday, Wednesday (Samoa Time).

(LEFT) McDonald's president and owner, Tautolo Aogaleatu Tautolo, said the franchise's involvement in this year's pageant is the beginning of a long partnership with Samoa that will benefit all parties.

(RIGHT) Samoa Events Inc. President, Laeimau Oketevi Tanuvasa, accepted the donation, saying the funds reflect McDonald's commitment to help the two Samoas. See Pacific Briefs for details of donation.

[Courtesy photo]



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017

\$1.00

Shortage of fish supply shutting down cannery production

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Due to "fish supply shortages" StarKist Samoa, the largest private employer in the territory, is shutting down production next week and will resume once additional delivery of fish is made, according to StarKist Co., owner and operator of the local cannery.

"We will share more details as they become available," StarKist corporate spokesperson, Michelle Faist said.

In a brief statement issued yesterday afternoon, StarKist confirmed that StarKist Samoa would shut down operations during the week of August 21st, "as a result of fish-supply shortages."

"We recognize this shut down is a disruption to our workers and the community, and appreciate everyone's understanding," the statement noted. "At this time, the StarKist Samoa plant is expected to re-open after additional deliveries are made to the plant."

The statement comes as Samoa News received reports early this week from industry officials about the possible StarKist shut-down this month due to a fish supply shortage.

Asked if StarKist is expecting any vessels calling into port soon with fish supply, Faist said "our fish procurement team is working on that now" and she hopes to have an update sometime next week.

Samoa News notes that anytime there is a shutdown of a cannery — which employs some 2,000 workers — it not only has a major affect on its workforce, but also companies providing support services.

The Governor's Office confirmed that they received notification of the shutdown due to the shortage of fish.

FISH SHORTAGES AND STARKIST

During the week of Oct. 10th last year, and also in 2015, StarKist shut down production for the same reason: fish-supply shortage.

Faist said at the time that limited freezer capability and the lack of space to expand the freezer have negatively impacted the company's operational efficiency over the years.

She said the issue is further amplified due to fewer deliveries of fish now being made to American Samoa as a result of the closure

(Continued on page 7)

2016 GDP for territory decreased by \$17Mil

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

American Samoa's estimated gross domestic product (GDP) decreased in 2016, as government and private sector investment declined compared to previous years, according to data released Monday by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) of the US Department of Commerce.

BEA said estimates of GDP for American Samoa show that

real GDP — GDP adjusted to remove price changes — decreased 2.5% in 2016 after increasing 1.2% in 2015. For comparison, real GDP for the United States, excluding the territories, increased 1.5% in 2016 after increasing 2.9% in 2015.

According to BEA data, American Samoa's GDP in 2015 totaled \$659 million and \$658 million in 2016.

"When you compare the nominal GDP numbers for

2015 and 2016, GDP decreased by only \$1 million or 0.15%, but when adjusted for inflation, real GDP decreased by \$17 million or 2.5% — a significant amount," ASG Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele said yesterday responding to Samoa News inquiries.

He explained that all components of the GDP — personal consumption, private investments, government expenditures,

(Continued on page 7)



School Lunch Program cooks hard at work, packing breakfast and lunch items for the schools that have already started the new school year. Tomorrow is the last day for the week long food safety training for all SLP cooks and food handlers, a first for the territory.

[photo: courtesy]



Yesterday the American Samoa Dept. of Homeland Security/TEMCO Division, as part of its Disaster Preparedness Training, held a Functional Exercise (FE) for tsunami (Sunami 2017) at the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building in Utulei. Pictured are three government officials after the evacuation was completed.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

ENROLL YOUR SCHOOL IN THE 2018 SPELLING BEE TODAY!



American Samoa

All Public and Private Elementary Schools in American Samoa can now register for the 2017 Samoa News Territorial Spelling Bee slated for March 7, 2018.

Early Bird Registration is now open through October 13, 2017 and teachers and administrators may visit <https://secure.spellingbee.com/enrollment/register> to enroll their schools. The per-school enrollment fee during our early bird enrollment period is \$133. Your school must be registered with the National Bee in order to participate in the Territorial Spelling Bee.

Scripps Bee will provide each school with:

- Exclusive online access to the teachers-only section of spellingbee.com
- Official word lists for your students, organized by grade level
- Official pronouncer guides for classroom and school spelling bees
- Supplemental vocabulary materials for classroom and school bees
- Customizable certificates for your participants and school champion

Samoa News and our major sponsor McDonald's American Samoa look forward to sending our 2018 winner to Washington D.C. next year. Who knows? Maybe your enrollment will lead to our next champion!



REMINDER: Tomorrow is the last day for FY 2017 local fund govt purchases

CUTOFF DOESN'T INCLUDE UTILITIES & PERSONNEL COSTS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Utility and personnel costs are exempted from the cutoff date for government purchases for the current fiscal year (FY 2017), according to a letter from ASG Budget and Planning Office director Catherine Saelua to cabinet members.

The letter also states that all outstanding commitments and encumbrances must be cleared and reconciled before the end of FY 2017, to prevent them from being rolled over to the new fiscal year (FY 2018) — which begins Oct. 1, 2017.

At last Thursday's cabinet meeting, Saelua said her office has set Aug. 18th (tomorrow) as the cutoff date for purchases for all government agencies for FY 2017. She also said a letter regarding the cutoff date of purchase and closing ASG records for FY 2017 has already been sent out.

Saelua's Aug. 7th letter on "FY 2017 year end closing for local fund accounts," tells directors that it's once again that time of the year when each ASG agency needs to "revisit, reconcile, and clean out their respective accounts for the current year".

Hence, to ensure a smooth transition towards the new fiscal year and the timely year-end closing for the ASG FY2017 financial books, the Budget Office would like to assist directors in making all the appropriate changes in charges and encumbrances to their accounts, she said.

She also provided guidelines in "planning for a successful" close of FY 2017 — which officially ends before midnight on

Sept. 30th

"More importantly, this exercise will also assist in our commitment for ASG's effort towards attaining a timely clean audit as well as a balanced budget at year end," she said and explained that it's "mandatory" that all ASG departments' purchases and orders be processed no later than Aug. 18th.

In addition to meeting the cutoff date, Saelua said all ASG departments and agencies are required to take several actions.

For example, "All outstanding commitments and encumbrances must be cleared and reconciled before year end to prevent any transactions from rolling into FY 2018, thus decreasing the budgeted allocation authorized for specified programs and funding."

Additionally, all purchases must be routed through the Budget Office, Office of Procurement, and the Treasury Department before the designated cutoff date. However, any purchase requisitions prepared and processed after Aug. 18th will be returned to be encumbered in the FY 2018 budget.

Excluded from the cutoff deadline, according to the Budget Office director, are utilities and payroll expenditures.

Saelua also informed directors that invoices and receiving reports must be received and on file with the Accounts Payable division of Treasury before Aug. 18th to ensure payments are posted to FY 2017.

At last Thursday's cabinet meeting, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga said the government is making every effort to ensure that it does not overrun the FY 2017 budget.

Scientists potentially narrow MH370 search area to 3 spots

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Scientists have potentially narrowed the search area for the missing Malaysian airliner to three specific locations in the southern Indian Ocean through new satellite and drift analysis of the 2014 crash released Wednesday.

But the Australian Transport Safety Bureau cautioned that the drift analysis by Australian science agency CSIRO is based on French satellite images of "probably man-made" floating objects without evidence that they were from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. Still, the locations could provide potential starting points to search within a 25,000-square-kilometer (9,700-square-mile) expanse identified by a panel of experts in November as the most likely resting place of the Boeing 777

and the 239 passengers and crew on board. That expanse adjoins the original search zone far southwest of Australia that was identified through satellite analysis of the final hours of the flight, which apparently ended when the plane ran out of fuel.

Malaysia, China and Australia agreed to suspend the deep-sea sonar search in January after 120,000 square kilometers (46,000 square miles) of seabed were combed without finding any trace of Flight 370.

The new analysis is based on French military satellite images gathered on March 23, 2014 — two weeks after Flight 370 mysteriously veered far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing — that were taken near the original underwater search zone.

(Continued on page 3)

Court says it saw the nightmare the people of Vaitogi were facing

SENTENCES MAN TO 15 YEARS FOR BURGLARY AND STEALING WHILE ON PROBATION

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

A young man who was arrested earlier this year — while on probation — and charged with first-degree burglary and felony stealing is going to prison.

Siaosi Ieremia, 23, of Vaitogi will serve a straight sentence of 15 years imprisonment as ordered by the High Court last week, after he was convicted of two felonies — first-degree burglary and stealing. Because of these charges, Ieremia was also found guilty of violating conditions of a 5-year probation sentence, which was handed down 3 years ago for stealing.

During sentencing, Ieremia apologized to the Court for his actions and begged for a second chance to return home to care for his parents and serve his family. He also apologized to the victims and asked for their forgiveness.

Ieremia said he is truly remorseful for what he did, and assured the judge that he will never break any laws, adding that if he is given another chance, he will do everything he can to change his life and look for a job, so he can pay restitution.

“What happened to the first chance the Court gave you when you were sentenced to 5 years

probation in 2014?” Acting Associate Justice Elvis P. Patea asked the defendant.

Ieremia replied, “Your Honor, I messed up and I was trying my best to abide by the laws but I failed.”

He was silent when Patea said, “So now you ask for a second chance, but if you fail again and mess up, what will be your next excuse to the Court?”

The defendant’s attorney, Public Defender Michael White asked the Court for leniency, to give Ieremia a probated sentence so he can change and prove himself.

White stated that after spending over 8 months behind bars, Ieremia has learned his lesson and realized that prison is not a good place for him; that he needs to move on with his life.

Assistant Attorney General

Robert Morris supported the request for a probated sentence but under special conditions, which include some jail time and restitution.

Morris told the Court that the defendant deserved jail time, because not only did he disobey a Court order — to stay clean and not break any laws — he also stole from others.

Patea told Ieremia that because he failed to comply with conditions of his probation, ordered by the Court 3 years ago, the Court believes that prison is the only suitable place for him to learn a good lesson.

“The Court was able to review all the information on this case, and listened carefully to attorney submissions and your pleas for another chance. And even though your attorney

echoed your request for another chance, and a probated sentence, the Court feels that jail is the only option for you at this time,” Patea said, adding that the Court had granted chances to Ieremia in the past, “and given the facts of your new cases, the Court sees the nightmare that the people of Vaitogi were facing, especially when you walked around the village and took away property” belonging to families.

Patea told the defendant that the Court does not tolerate this kind of behavior and a straight sentence is the only answer to his problem.

“Think about your future and what is best for you while you’re in prison. If you think you really need to go back home to take care of your parents and serve your family, then you must change your lifestyle and prove to us that you can change your life,” Patea advised.

In 2014, Ieremia was convicted of felony stealing and was sentenced to 5 years in jail. However, execution of the sentence was suspended and Ieremia was placed on 5 years probation, but ordered to serve 20 months in jail.

Earlier this year, while on probation, Ieremia was charged with first-degree burglary and stealing, both felonies.

For the charge of first-degree burglary, the Court gave him a straight sentence of 15 years imprisonment. For the charge of felony stealing, Ieremia received a straight sentence of 7 years in jail, and the two are to be served concurrently, but will run consecutively with the remainder of the initial 5-year prison term that was handed down back in 2014, as he violated conditions of his probation. (This means he will serve another 3 years on top of the 15 years for the current offenses.)

He was also ordered to pay restitution of \$1,449.42 to the Court, to compensate the families whose property he stole.

“The only help from the Court is to put you in jail for a long time to ensure that you are no longer around in the village to cause trouble for the families there. You were given another chance when you were sentenced the first time, and it appears that you still need more time in jail to straighten up your life and rethink your future,” Patea said.

Scientists...

Continued from page 2

The Australian bureau took over the search for Flight 370 from Malaysia a week later. Satellite experts at Geoscience Australia were not asked to analyze the images until March this year. The experts concluded that a dozen objects appeared to be man-made. CSIRO then investigated where the objects might have originated before drifting for two weeks. CSIRO identified three potential crash sites — 35.6 degrees S, 92.8 degrees E; 34.7 degrees S, 92.6 degrees E and 35.3 degrees S, 91.8 degrees E. “So that is a way of potentially narrowing down the search area with the very important caveat that, of course, we can’t be totally sure that those objects seen in the images are actual pieces of plane,” CSIRO oceanographer David Griffin said. “This might be a really good clue. It might be a red herring. But if you are going to search, then you’d be silly to ignore this potential clue,” he added. The Australian bureau’s chief commissioner, Greg Hood, said in a statement, “Clearly we must be cautious” of the lack a definite link to Flight 370. Malaysian Deputy Transport Minister Aziz Kaprawi said the civil aviation department would need to evaluate the data.

Back to School

2017-2018

SALE HEADQUARTERS

- Lunch Boxes & 2 Liter Jugs & Coolers
- Binders • Trapper keeper
- Exercise Books 1B4 & 1B5, 2B5, 1E5
- Crayons 8, 12, 16, 24, 64 & Jumbo Size
- Coloring Books & Construction Papers
- Rulers & Scissors
- New Concise Dictionary
- Glue • Pencil Sharpeners
- Children's School Clothes
- Children's Shoes & Slippers
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Over 200 cooks and food handlers from the School Lunch Program are undergoing a week long training on the road to being Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) certified. Here, they are being taught the proper way to wash their hands. The Food Safety workshop is being held at the Samoana HS cafeteria and ends tomorrow.

[photo: courtesy]



ASG's overtime policy still non-compliant with USDOL, says Lolo

"ANY PROBLEMS WITHIN AN AGENCY REFLECTS BADLY ON THE DIRECTOR"

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The American Samoa Government's overtime policy is still not being followed as US Department of Labor officials have raised questions on this serious issue, according to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga at last Thursday's cabinet meeting.

Lolo says there are still problems with departments and agencies not complying with ASG's overtime policy and USDOL officials have reported this non-compliance as well as questions raised about employees clocking in at 6a.m. and then roaming around without doing any work, with the director not being aware.

The governor called on all directors to keep a close eye on various aspects of their agencies including personnel costs, saying that there is no reason why an employee would clock in at 5a.m or 6a.m while ASG offices open at 7:30a.m. or 8a.m.

"When the person clocks in,

that's when the person should start working," Lolo said and re-emphasized again the current policy of 'no overtime' and if overtime is needed, prior approval is required before overtime work is carried out.

Lolo recalled two Saturdays ago, when some employees didn't do anything throughout the week but then on that Saturday, they decided to work. Lolo didn't identify the department or agency the employees belong to.

He again called on directors to pay close attention to what's happening within their departments and agencies, adding that the reason why work is not carried out during work-hours is because the director is not making sure a work schedule is in place.

He said directors shouldn't have others oversee and manage their departments, and stressed that the director is responsible for their department or office and "no one else". He said any problems within an agency

reflect badly on the director, who is the leader.

Lolo said this is the same if there are any problems in government; it falls on the leaders, him and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Peleti Mauga.

For agencies with offices in the Manu'a island group, Lolo told directors to enforce the clean-up in Manu'a on Thursdays and Fridays. He said some employees in Manu'a think there are only three working days of the week.

But Lolo explained to directors to enforce and encourage work days and hours — for Manu'a employees — three days of office work and the other two days for clean-up, which is very important, and the reason the government stepped in with its clean-up project, is because of its importance to the community's health and safety.

According to the governor, clean-up is very important as a prevention measure against diseases.

Donald Trump's die-hard supporters show no signs of straying

NEW YORK (AP) — They wash their hands of neo-Nazis and wag their fingers at leftists. They denounce a press corps they see as biased and controversies they view as manufactured. But in the frenzied blame game over the deadly violence at a rally of white supremacists, Donald Trump's loyal base is happy to absolve the president himself.

Even as Trump's zig-zag response to the weekend bloodshed in Charlottesville, Virginia, has brought criticism from some Republican lawmakers, many men and women who helped put him in office remain unmoved by the latest uproar.

"He has done nothing to turn me away from him," said Patricia Aleeyah Robinson, of Toledo, Ohio.

Robinson is black and her support of Trump has put her at odds with many in her life, costing her friendships and


straining family relationships.

But the 63-year-old retired truck driver sees the controversy over Trump's response to Charlottesville as being driven by those seeking to disrupt his agenda and push backers like her away. She said she knows he pays no deference to racists and feels he is the only president who has ever spoken directly to blacks. She admires his refusal to sugarcoat his beliefs.

Three hundred miles south in a Charleston, West Virginia, shopping mall, Joyce Ash took a moment to ponder Trump after buying a dress Wednesday to wear to the funeral for her husband of 33 years, who died of pancreatic cancer.


The 71-year-old woman summoned nothing but support for the political novice who led her to ditch her lifelong support of Democrats. She recalled sitting up all Election Night to watch Trump clinch the win, and said nothing since made her

(Continued on page 6)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email news.newsroom@samoatelco.com Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. Contact us by Telephone at (684) 633-5599 Contact us by Fax at (684) 633-4864 or by Email at news@samoanews.com Normal business hours are Mon. thru Fri. 8am to 5pm. Permission to reproduce editorial and/or advertisements, in whole or in part, is required. Please address such requests to the Publisher at the address provided above.



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Please visit samoanews.com for weekend updates.



Interior & Census to launch 2018 enumeration of compact migrants

TO DETERMINE DISTRIBUTION OF COMPACT IMPACT FUNDS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — August 16, 2017 — Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula has signed a Statement of Work with the U.S. Census Bureau to carry out the next 5-year enumeration of migrants from the Freely Associated States in Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and American Samoa, as required by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188).

The next enumeration, which is the basis for allocating funds to help offset the economic and social impact of these migrants in the affected jurisdictions, will occur in fiscal year 2018 and be completed by December 2018.

“The law requires that we work with the Census Bureau to conduct this enumeration every five years as the basis for the distribution of Compact Impact funds,” said Pula. “I have reached out to Governors of Guam, Hawaii, the CNMI and American Samoa asking for their cooperation to ensure the enumeration is successful. We have also reached out to members of Congress.”

“We look forward to working closely with officials on Guam and in the CNMI as well as with

the communities of Micronesians, Marshallese and Palauans living there to ensure the data are complete and accurate” said Karen Battle, Chief, Population Division, Census Bureau.

“We have established an approach that is appropriate and ensures that data for all four jurisdictions are comparable during this round, just as it has been in the past. We can also ensure that we are committed to and bound by law to protect the privacy of individuals,” he said.

Data on Compact migrants in American Samoa and Hawaii will be obtained from existing sources, namely 2010 Census figures for American Samoa where there are fewer Compact migrants, and the American Community Survey data for 2015-17 for Hawaii, which will provide more current data.

Field surveys will be conducted in Guam and the

CNMI, following the same method as was used in the 2008 enumeration.

Census and Interior officials will be visiting Guam and Saipan in the near future to make necessary arrangements to launch this important effort.

The table below shows enumeration figures from 2008 and 2013. Under current law, the 2018 enumeration should be the last as the financial provisions under the Compact, including Compact Impact funding, expire in 2023.

U.S. Census Bureau Enumerations of Compact Migrants in Affected Jurisdictions

	2008	2013
Hawaii	12,215	14,700
Guam	18,305	17,170
CNMI	2,100	

Am. Samoa 15 2,660
25

The cost of conducting the 2018 enumeration will be \$1,490,039.

Of that total, \$617,451 will be funded by Compact Impact funding, set aside by the U.S. Congress through the Compact of Free Association for the enumeration. The remaining \$872,588 will be funded through the technical assistance program.

Under the Compacts of Free Association first approved in Public Law 99-239 (1986) and Public Law 99-658 (1994), and later amended in Public Law 108-188 (2003), citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau are legal nonimmigrants allowed, for indefinite periods of time, to live, work and study in the United States without need for a visa.

They also serve in the U.S. military and currently serve in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces in large numbers that are disproportionate to the sizes of their populations.

The Compact agreements terminated the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, providing the U.S. with important strategic denial rights to the area in the western Pacific Ocean between Guam and Hawai'i.

In 1996, under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, FAS citizens were deemed ineligible for federal public benefits. Thus began what has been a rising concern for the Guam and Hawaii governments that have directly borne the cost of public services related to FAS migrants, also referred to as “Compact impact”.

In a separate U.S. Census Bureau estimate using 2010-2014 data, there are approximately 41,380 citizens from the FSM, RMI and Palau living in the 50 States.

The five States with the highest number of FAS citizens are Hawai'i (17,205), Arkansas (3,625), Washington (3,430), Oregon (2,580), and Texas (2,090). These numbers do not incorporate the smaller number of American citizens who are of Micronesian, Marshallese, and Palauan ancestry.

A Egypt archaeologists discover tombs dating back 2,000 years

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's antiquities ministry says that archaeologists have discovered three tombs dating back more than 2,000 years, from the Ptolemaic Period.

The discovery was made in the Nile Valley province of Minya south of Cairo, in an area known as al-Kamin al-Sahrawi.

Tuesday's statement by the ministry says the unearthed sarcophagi and clay fragments suggest that the area was a large necropolis from sometime between the 27th Dynasty and the Greco-Roman period.

One of the tombs has a burial shaft carved in rock and leads to a chamber where anthropoid lids and four sarcophagi for two women and two men were found. Another tomb contains two chambers; one of them has six burial holes, including one for a child.

Excavation work for the third tomb is still underway.



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163.
Website: www.dbas.as

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Date of issuance: August 16, 2017
Date & Time Due: September 15, 2017
No later than 2:00 pm local time

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submission: Proposals must be received by DBAS no later than 2:00pm local time on September 15, 2017. They may be mailed or hand delivered in a sealed envelope to:

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

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



“Like all of our Pacific people who left the islands and moved to Aotearoa, we came looking for opportunities. Sadly for many, that dream is diminishing with the new landscape of Aotearoa. This is why our family has joined and will vote for the Māori Party. This is why our Pacific vote counts,” says Rosa Tomasi-Puni, a mother of two of Samoan and Tokelauan heritage. See Pacific Briefs for story.

[Courtesy photo]

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Compiled by Samoa News staff MCDONALDS SAMOA SIGNS MISS SAMOA PAGEANT SPONSORSHIP

The McDonald's Family Restaurant has secured the naming rights for the Miss Samoa Pageant 2017. The \$100,000 deal was announced during a press conference at McDonald's in Apia yesterday.

McDonald's President and Owner, Tautolo Aogaleatu Tautolo, said the franchise's involvement in this year's pageant is the beginning of a long partnership with Samoa that will benefit all parties.

“I remain firm in my resolve that despite our different political circumstances the two Samoas are one,” said Tautolo.

This is not the first time McDonald's has offered financial assistance to the Miss Samoa Pageant and the Miss South Pacific.

“This is our way of giving back to the community,” said Tautolo. “After all it's the community that comes out and supports McDonald's and this is our way of giving back.”

Samoa Events Inc. President, Laeimau Oketevi Tanuvasa, accepted the donation, saying the funds reflect McDonald's commitment to help the two Samoas.

“It also reaffirms that McDonald and S.E.I. are united when it comes to empowering women through the pageant to become assets to the society, community, family and country,” said Laeimau.

A member of the S.E.I., Nanai Lave Tuiletufuga, confirmed there are nine contestants for this year's pageant.

In 2016, Samoa Events Inc. was awarded the Miss Samoa Pageant contract for three years, as a result of its successful Expression of Interest and Technical Proposal.

Samoa Events Inc. is a group made up of the 1981 graduating Form 6 classes from the different schools throughout Samoa.

This unique group of professional and talented individuals in their own respective fields began their journey as classmates at Apia Infant in 1969, then to Apia Primary School, Leififi Intermediate School and to different colleges with the majority attending Samoa College, St Joseph's College, St Mary's College, Chanel College, Avele College, Leulumoea Fou College and Logoipulotu in Savai'i.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

NIGHTCLUBS, GAS STATIONS TARGETED WITH COUNTERFEIT MONEY

Counterfeit money is a growing problem in Samoa and the people behind it are targeting nightclubs and gas stations.

Governor of the Central Bank of Samoa, Maiava Atalina AINU'u-Enari confirmed this during an interview with the Samoa Observer.

According to the Governor, they recently collected \$380 worth of counterfeit money,

(Continued on page 10)

Donald Trump's...

Continued from page 4

reconsider her vote.

“Let the president do his job instead of trying to take him out every time you turn around,” Ash implored. She didn't follow the back-and-forth over Trump's statements on Charlottesville but saw no reason to question him: “I believe in Donald Trump, I really do. I believe that if they would just give this man a chance, the economy, everything will start going better.”

Though images of Nazi flags and men carrying torches sickened many Americans, the president's most ardent champions saw no reason any of that should change their feelings for Trump. “You know why it doesn't bother me? Because he is everybody's president whether you like him or don't like him. Everything he does, he's doing it for our country,” said Patsy Jarman, a 70-year-old retired factory worker in New Bern,

North Carolina. “And if you don't like being here, you need to leave.” Such enthusiasm may be unsurprising in some ways. Trump himself boasted last year he “could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose voters.” Polls showed his approval ratings dipping even before this flare-up, and now some commentators are proclaiming a historic low point.

► 2016 GDP for territory...

Continued from page 1

ture, and net exports — registered negative numbers.

“The leading causes of the decline in GDP are significant drops in government expenditure/ investments and private investments,” he pointed out.

Lafaele also said that it’s important to note the decrease in importation of fish to be processed for export by the canneries in 2016, which contributed to drop in exports for the year.

“This is a direct impact of federal policy of increasing national marine monuments and sanctuaries; and restrictions on fishing on the high seas,” he said.

“It is also important to note that the aggregate price level in American Samoa increased significantly in 2016.”

According to the BEA, decline in the American Samoa economy reflected decreases in spending on construction and equipment; as several investment projects in both the government sector and private sector ended or entered their final stages during 2015.

It also says that the decrease in government spending, reflects a decline (6.99%) in investment spending by the territorial government, in which spending had been elevated (4.10%) in 2015 due to the American Samoa TeleCommunication Authority’s work to improve broadband capacity and coverage in American Samoa and the American Samoa Power Authority’s work to rebuild the Satala Plant.

ASTCA’s work referred to by BEA is the multi-million-dollar Broadband Linking the American Samoa Territory (BLAST) project.

According to BEA, business spending on construction and equipment continued to decrease, following major investments made by the tuna canning industry in previous years. Samoa News notes that one of the major cannery investments was by Tri Marine International for its Samoa Tuna Processors (STP) Inc., cannery plant at Atu’u village. The cannery operations closed down last December laying-off some 700 workers. When asked of any chances of the GDP improving in 2017, Lafaele said, the closure of STP “is weighing negatively on the 2017 economy, and our fishery industry in general is faced with some challenges.”

“We are encouraged by the fact that Tri Marine is not abandoning the territory, but continues to function as a logistical hub in the region,” he said.

“Hopefully they will find a buyer or lessee soon to re-operate the multi-million-dollar state of the art fish processing facility.

“Fishery will continue to play an important part in our economy, and we should do all we can to sustain our fishing industry,” the DOC director said. Lafaele points out that it’s “important to diversify and expand our economy —

to include the development of tourism and technology based industry; and it’s important to expand our customer base in our region of the Pacific and source raw materials from the region for value adding in the territory for export overseas.”

2015 ESTIMATES BY INDUSTRY

In addition to the 2016 GDP, BEA also released Monday estimates of GDP by industry and compensation by industry for 2015. A footnote in the BEA data notes that these estimates — for 2016 and 2015 — are based on limited source data and subject to revision.

BEA notes that the estimates of GDP by industry for American Samoa show that both the private sector and government sector expanded in 2015, due to growth in manufacturing industries and in the territorial government.

Additionally, the growth in manufacturing (14.5% in 2015) reflected higher output of the canning industry following the opening of a tuna processing plant — referring to Samoa Tuna Processors Inc.

Furthermore, the growth in the government sector reflected an increase (of 1.9%) in territorial government compensation.

According to BEA data, total compensation in 2015 stood at \$311 million with \$126 million in private industries — covering manufacturing and non-manufacturing — and \$185 in government sector, with \$168 million for territorial government and \$17 million for federal government.

For comparison, in 2014 total compensation was \$297 million — with \$119 million in private industries and \$178 million in government (both territorial and federal).

Between 2007 and 2015, the highest total compensation of employees by industry was recorded in 2015.

BEA noted that estimates for 2013 to 2015 that were released on August 8, 2016 have been revised in order to incorporate improvements to source data, including newly available:

- trade data from the ASG Commerce Department;
- territorial government spending from government financial statements; and
- wage information from the Census Bureau’s County Business Patterns

In moving forward, an agreement between Interior Department’s Office of Insular Affairs and BEA will extend and improve the estimates of GDP for American Samoa.

The information provided by the American Samoa Government will continue to be critical to the successful production of these estimates.

BEA says it currently plans to release GDP estimates for 2017 beginning in the summer of 2018. GDP by industry and compensation by industry estimates for 2016 will also be released at the same time.

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► Shortage of fish...

Continued from page 1

of the high seas, US EEZs, and other traditional fishing grounds to the U.S. fishing fleets.

Since the Togiola Administration, StarKist has been trying to secure land for additional freezer storage facility space and just recently, they were offered land in Satala that was occupied by the old Satala power plant after the Lolo Administration denied the company’s request for space at the ASG owned shipyard facility — also in Satala.

Last month, the company’s Seafood Procurement director, Cary Gann wrote to US Secretary of Interior, Ryan Zinke, in response to the federal agency’s

request for public comments following President Trump’s executive order earlier this year in May, calling for a review of land and marine monument designations by former US Presidents, going back to 1996.

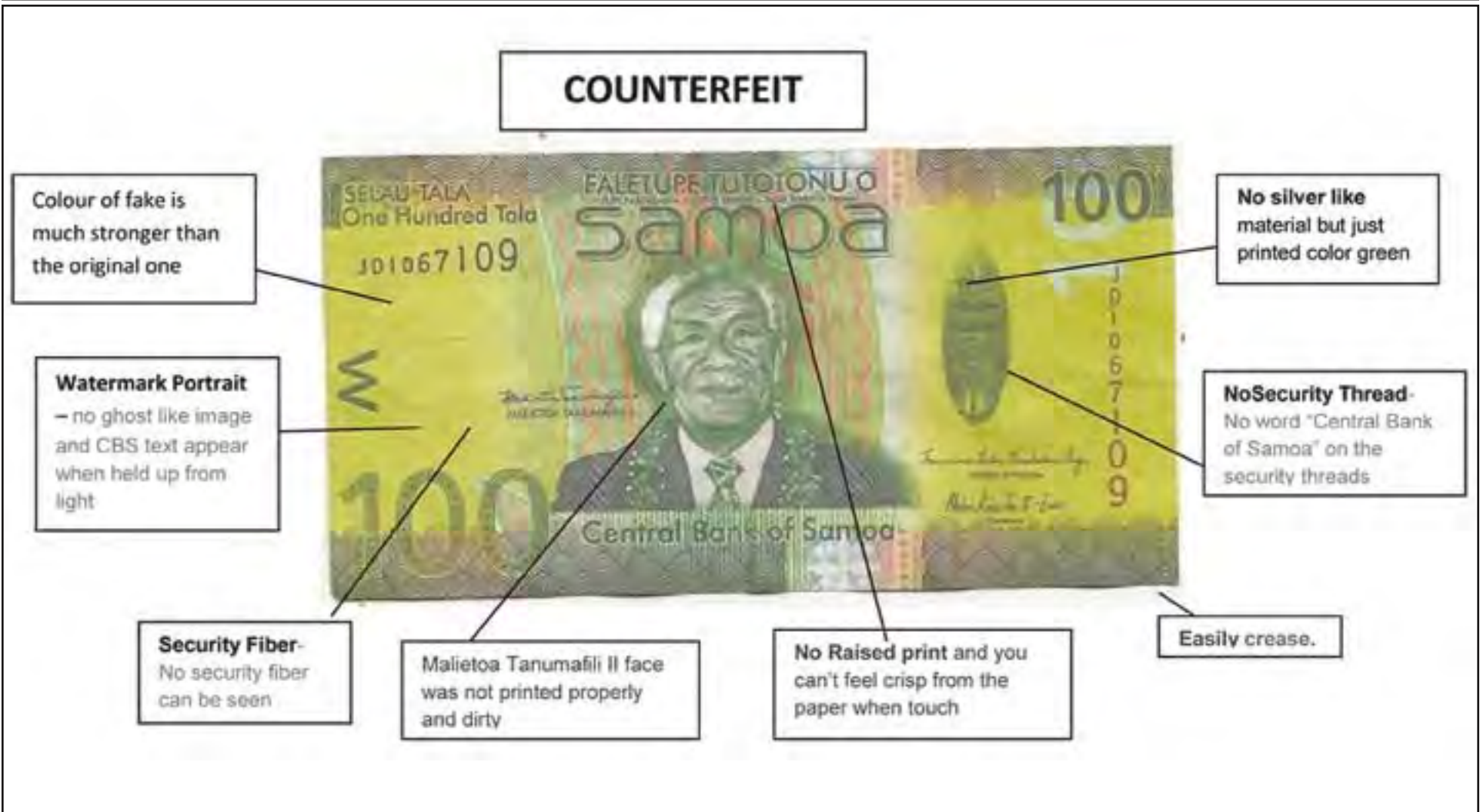
He said American Samoa has historically been an attractive location to process tuna due to a reliable, steady supply of high quality whole tuna directly delivered from the U.S. tuna purse seine fleet operating in the Western Central Pacific fishing grounds. However, he said this “main advantage has been eroded by the expansion” of the Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument and the

“expansion has jeopardized our fish supply, disrupted production, and added cost to our operation.” Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga had raised several times, his concerns over the reduction of fishing grounds due to federal policies to expand ocean monuments, sanctuaries, and closing the high seas fishing that has affected the supply and cost of fish delivered to StarKist.

“American Samoa’s financial and economic future is directly tied to the financial health of StarKist and its continued existence in the Territory,” Lolo said in his official written address to a joint session of the Fono last month.



This undated photo released by the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities shows a sarcophagi in a Ptolemaic tomb in an area known as al-Kamin al-Sahraw, in the Nile Valley province of Minya south of Cairo. Egypt’s antiquities ministry says that archaeologists have discovered three tombs dating back more than 2,000 years, from the Ptolemaic Period. (Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities via AP)



Samoa counterfeit bills are making their way through gas stations and nightclubs. Governor of the Central Bank of Samoa says they're not very good fakes, and gave out tips to the public on how to spot the counterfeits. See Pacific Briefs for story. [SO graphic]



Lucky carrot: Alberta woman finds mother-in-law's lost ring

CAMROSE, Alberta (AP) — A Canadian woman who lost her engagement ring 13 years ago while weeding her garden on the family farm is wearing it proudly again after her daughter-in-law pulled it from the ground on a misshapen carrot.

Mary Grams, 84, said she can't believe the lucky carrot actually grew through and around the diamond ring she had long given up hope of finding.

Grams said she never told her husband, Norman, that she lost the ring, but told her son. Her husband died five years ago.

"I feel relieved and happy inside," Grams said this week. "It grew into the carrot. I still can't figure it out."

Her daughter-in-law, Colleen Daley, found the ring while harvesting carrots for supper with her dog Billy at the farm near Armena, Alberta, where Grams used to live. The farm has been in the family for 105 years.

Daley said while she was pulling the carrots and noticed one of them looked strange. She almost fed it to her dog but decided to keep it and just threw it in her pail. When she was washing the carrots she noticed the ring and spoke to her husband, Grams' son, about what she had found.

They quickly called Grams. "I said we found your ring in the garden. She couldn't believe it," Daley said.

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Some of the members of the Mafutaga Tina of the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago, following a special mass held at St. Joseph the Worker co-cathedral in Fagatogo Tuesday evening.

[photo: BC]

Man drives himself to hospital with nail in his heart

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Wisconsin man who doctors say came perilously close to death after accidentally shooting a nail into his heart while working on his house calmly drove himself to the hospital and even parked his pickup truck in the lot before walking into the emergency room.

Doug Bergeson is ready to get back to work this week after surviving a June 25 ordeal that others might not have taken in such stride. Bergeson was working on framing in a fire-place at his house when his nail gun accidentally fired, sending a nail ricocheting off some wood and into his chest.

“I thought it just nicked me. I looked down. I couldn’t see anything,” Bergeson said Tuesday in an interview with The Associated Press. “I felt OK. I wasn’t worried about the injury. I couldn’t feel any pressure or blood building up.”

As he tugged at his sweat-shirt, the 52-year-old said he realized only about an inch of the 3½-inch nail was sticking out of his chest.

“I could see the nail moving with my heartbeat. It was kind of twitching with every heart-beat,” said Bergeson, who lives near Peshtigo in northeast Wisconsin.

He was more annoyed than worried. He knew he had to go to the ER. “I was frustrated because I knew I wasn’t going to get home until late and I couldn’t get anything done,” Bergeson said, adding that “common sense” told him not to pull the nail out.

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American Samoa Government
AMERICAN SAMOA
ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has developed the AS-EPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan that addresses the need to monitor for nonpoint source pollution in American Samoa. A main group of pollutants that cause water quality impairments in American Samoa are pathogen indicators, specifically enterococcus in coastal recreation waters. Two objectives of the AS-EPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan are to determine whether nearshore marine water quality meets the American Samoa Water Quality Standards (ASWQS) for enterococcus, and to inform the public when coastal recreation waters do not meet ASWQS for enterococcus, as well as the potential risks associated with the polluted waters.

The AS-EPA has created a file that contains the AS-EPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan, a summary of historical bacteriological data of coastal recreation waters, the American Samoa Water Quality standards, and the advisory format used to give notice to the public that the coastal recreation waters are not meeting or are not expected to meet applicable water quality standards for enterococci. These documents are available to the public at the AS-EPA office in Utulei. AS-EPA invites public comments concerning the monitoring and public notification program regarding: (1). The beach evaluation and classification process, including a list of waters to be monitored and beach ranking; (2) the sampling design and monitoring plan, including sampling location and sampling frequency; and (3) the public notification and risk communication plan, including methods to notify the public of a beach advisory. Comments must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the published date of this notice. Submit comments to the AS-EPA office or by mail to AS-EPA Water Program, P.O. Box PPA, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. For more information, please contact Christianera Title at 633-2304 or christianera.tuitele@epa.as.gov.


AMEKO PATO
AS-EPA Director
July 25, 2017

► **Pacific Brief...**

Continued from page 6

which was mainly in five to twenty tala bills.

“The culprits are smart,” she said. “They don’t use it to purchase goods at the supermarket, they are giving it to the night clubs and the gas stations. So it’s difficult to detect it at the night clubs because it’s dark.”

But the Central Bank warns that this should be a wake up call for the public to double-check if the money handed to you is fake or not.

She made it clear this latest case is not the work of a professional — but rather, it’s just a copy on two pieces of paper glued together.

“There is a big difference between the fake money and the actual note as the ones circulating the country are made from A4 paper which is pretty rough and rugged.”

“The culprits actually crumble the counterfeit \$5 to make it look like it’s been used for a long time when it’s just paper,” said Maiava.

She noted that in the past these culprits used \$100, \$50 but nowadays they are using smaller notes.

According to the Governor, the matter was brought to their attention during business banking. It was then they noted it was counterfeit money.

The Police were immediately notified and they are investigating.

She also spoke about a task force to address the problem.

“The task force set up involves government ministries and the Police. We have managed to bring some counterfeiters to justice in the past.”

“It will be difficult to identify where this money is coming from but it’s only a matter of time before the Police catch and apprehend the perpetrators,” she said, and noted, “If convicted a person could be jailed up to 14 years or a fine of up to 1,000 penalty units.”

**HOW CAN THE PUBLIC
SPOT A FAKE NOTE
FROM THE ORIGINAL
ONE?**

Here’s what the Central Bank of Samoa says:

1. Texture — the feel of a real note is very different from a counterfeit one because of the paper that’s used. Counterfeiters use A4 paper, which is pretty rough and rugged. Just by touching and feeling it, you can give a counterfeit away;

2. Plastic Window in \$100 and \$50 tala notes — there is a plastic window on the side of these notes, it is a see-through. Counterfeiters can’t duplicate this because they use only A4 paper, they can’t inject the plastic part in it. So make sure to look out for this plastic window.

3. Vertical thread on the side of \$20, \$10 and \$5 notes — there is a special thread that looks like ‘foil’ that runs vertically on the side of these denominations. In this thread are the initials ‘C.B.S.’. You can easily tell it’s a counterfeit

if this is not a foil.

There are a lot of ways and characteristics to look out for, but these are the basic ones that you can apply every now and then in checking your money.

Once a counterfeit is identified, please report it to C.B.S.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

**ONE PACIFIC TURNS TO
MAORI PARTY, AWAY
FROM LABOR**

Aiiloilo Dr. Elise Puni, Co-Leader of One Pacific, in his speech at the Maori Party campaign launch on Saturday, Aug. 12th said, “Our Pacific dream is to progress, live in dignity, and prosper in Aotearoa, to be united, and speak with one voice. That dream is on its way to achieving, starting today.”

In addressing the Maori Party President, Tukoroirangi Morgan, Aiiloilo said, “One Pacific is delighted to present the Maori Party with nine (9) of our One Pacific candidates to stand in the general seats under the Maori Party ticket. This is our One Pacific contribution to our political journey together with the Maori Party.

“Thank you Maori Party for providing us the opportunity to select our own Pacific Candidates to be the voice of our aspiration and our Pacific dream. Thank you for allowing us to have our own voice under the Maori Party banner.”

According to Esther Tofilau-Tevaga (Mangere Candidate for the Maori Party), “Education is a priority for our Pacific families. Thank you Maori Party for championing the current 30 hours of Free Early Childhood Education for all pre-schoolers.

“Furthermore, our 2017 Policy Manifesto will introduce completely FREE Early Childhood Education for all pre-school children. This will be a real financial help for families including Maori and Pacific families of young pre-school children.

“We have a dream to eliminate homelessness,” Tuilagi Saipele Esera (Manukau East candidate for the Maori Party) said. “Thank you Maori, and all Marae that are taking in homeless people. In addition, thank you Maori Party for including in your 2017 Policy Manifesto the goal of eliminating homelessness and poverty.”

According to Manase Nehe-maia Lua (Maungakiekie Candidate for the Maori Party), “When life gets tough, thank you Maori Party and Dame Tariana Turia for establishing Whanau Ora to help our vulnerable Maori and Pacific families re-group and after rebuilding their confidence, they can thrive again.”

Maryanne Marsters (Napier Candidate for the Maori Party) said, “Hon. Te Ururoa Flavell and Marama Fox, we look forward to your Iwi Rail project to create jobs for us all and to stimulate economic developments for the regions, including tourism. Thank you Maori Party for presenting real answers

(Continued on page 12)



This photo provided by Donna Bergeson on June 25, 2017, her husband Doug Bergeson lies on a hospital bed at Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay, Wis., before a doctor removed a nail from his heart. He had accidentally shot it into his heart earlier in the day while working on a new house in Peshtigo, Wis. He survived and is going back to work this week.

(Donna Bergeson via AP)

‘Please don’t let her be dead’: man who saved fiancée

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — With tires screeching and bodies flying, Marcus Martin shoved his fiancée out of the way of a car charging through a crowd of peaceful protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Marcus Martin was promptly hit and upended by the car as it plowed through the crowd. Flat on his back with a broken leg, he says he experienced several minutes of terror.

“The only thing running through my mind was:

please don’t let her be dead,” Martin, 26, told The Associated Press in an interview. “Please don’t let her be dead.”

Marissa Blair was OK, and Martin’s body was captured in a photograph as he tumbled over the crashing car that fatally hit Heather Heyer, a friend who had been marching with Blair and Martin. Nineteen others were injured.

Martin’s mother, Kimberly Martin, was terrified as she watched the scene replayed on television.

“I’m thanking God, because after seeing that photo and then I’m seeing videos and I’m seeing my son behind this car and then when I see the car backing back up the street, it was nobody but God that got him out of the way, you know? And it was just a cruel, cruel, act because those peaceful people: it was like going to a battle-ground without any protection from anybody,” she said.

While her son survived, Kimberly Martin said she’s pained by Heyer’s death.

“As a mother it hurts, you know, because I could have lost my child, but somebody else did and, like I said, it just hurts,” she said.

James Alex Fields Jr., a 20-year-old Ohio man who was said to idolize Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany in high school, has been charged with second-degree murder in Heyer’s death. Authorities say he drove into a group of counter-protesters at a white nationalist rally on Saturday after the crowd had moved from a nearby park to downtown. Fields has been held without bail.

Blair said she has never had a close friend pass away.

She saw Heyer every day at work at a local law firm and on weekends. They had met up in Charlottesville on Saturday to march as counter-protesters against participants in the white nationalist rally. Even when distraught by her death, she brightens at the thought of Heyer, who was 32.

“I just smile when I think about Heather,” Blair said Sunday night after attending a vigil at the spot of the crash now covered with flowers. “She always spoke with so much conviction and she stood up for what she believed in, and she liked to make you laugh and she didn’t care what she said. It was Heather. She cared about people. She wanted the best for everyone. She stood up for equality. She didn’t want hate. She just wanted everybody to be equal.”

Blair said the crash was an “act of terror,” a hate crime that she believes should be treated as such.

“The group that was here, the alt right, the neo-Nazis, they stood for hate, and he knew what he was doing. It was a deliberate act,” Blair said.

Martin said he attended the march in a peaceful response to the white nationalist rally, at a time when he is focusing on turning his life around. He pleaded guilty to robbery in 2013 and was released last summer in July. He said in an interview he is a “100-percent” different person. Martin, who may have surgery this week on his ankle, said the crash shouldn’t have happened. He doesn’t think the white nationalist rally should have been allowed near the city. Other cities should consider what happened in Charlottesville before allowing similar rallies, he said.

A total of three people died as a result of Saturday’s violent protests. As the violence of that day’s rally waned, a state police helicopter deployed in a large-scale police response to the violence crashed outside the city. Both troopers on board, Lt. H. Jay Cullen and Berke M.M. Bates, were killed. An investigation into the crash is ongoing.

“Is not one life enough?” Martin said. “Do you need more of that?”



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-085-2017

Issuance Date: August 17, 2017

Closing Date: August 31, 2017

No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms for the “Construction of the New Coleman Elementary 2-Story Classroom Building”, located in the village of Pago Pago, American Samoa.

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), August 31, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY- PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on August 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement located in the village of Tafuna. 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 any 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



FILE-In this Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017 file photo, Marcus Martin pauses during a vigil, held for the victims of an attack on Saturday in Charlottesville, Va. James Alex Fields Jr. plowed a car into a crowd of people protesting a white supremacist rally on Saturday, injuring over a dozen people including Martin.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber, File)



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Hawa Stevens, who claim she lost 28 family members following heavy flooding and mudslides in Regent cries as she speaks to Journalist outside Connaught hospital morgue in Sierra Leone, Freetown, Wednesday, Aug. 16 , 2017. Hawa Stevens spoke through tears of the 28 family members she lost after heavy rains and mudslides swept in and around Sierra Leone’s capital, killing hundreds and leaving hundreds more missing as rescue teams fought to save them. “I can’t believe my eyes, Å mother, father, sisters, brothers, cousins and other family members all gone. My life has been shattered. Where will I start? , Å please help me God,” she cried out.

(AP Photo/ Manika Kamara)

Families wait in rain to ID lost loved ones in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — Hawa Stevens spoke through tears of the 28 family members she lost after surging mudslides and floodwaters swept through Sierra Leone’s capital, killing hundreds and leaving hundreds more missing.

“Mother, father, sisters, brothers, cousins all gone. My life has been shattered. ... Please help me God,” she sobbed as she waited in a long line in the pouring rain Wednesday outside Freetown’s overwhelmed mortuary to try to identify the corpses of her loved ones.

She was surrounded by hundreds of others, some wearing face masks to try to ward off the smell of death and blue hospital booties over their shoes. Many clutched photos in the desperate hope that they would be among those fortunate enough to find their loved ones and give them a proper burial.

For Stevens, the wait brought only disappointment. “I was only able to identify two

of my entire family,” she said in anguish.

More than 300 people were confirmed dead — a third of them children — from the devastating mudslides that struck before dawn on Monday, triggered by days of heavy rain. Red Cross officials estimated some 600 others remained missing more than 48 hours after the storm hit while most of the victims slept. Thousands of people lost their homes.

On Wednesday, crews continued the grim work of digging out bodies from the tons of mud and debris that came roaring down the hillsides onto impoverished, low-lying areas of Freetown and surrounding settlements. Many were volunteers who dug with shovels, pick axes and, at times, only their hands.

At the city’s Connaught Hospital morgue, firefighters, military personnel, police and volunteers tried to help grieving survivors with the difficult process of finding their dead relatives, many too mangled and decomposed to be identified. President Ernest Bai Koroma’s office has said that all unidentified corpses will be given a “dignified burial” in the coming days. He called for seven days of mourning starting Wednesday.

Amara Kallon held up photos of his 3-year-old daughter, Hawa, who had been spending her school holidays with her mother in Freetown when a wall of mud hit their home, killing

(Continued on page 13)

Pacific...

Continued from page 12

for employment creation and reducing high unemployment amongst Maori and Pacific.”

In addition, John Kiria added in his thoughts on the Pacific dream by saying that... “we thank you Maori Party for supporting our vision to create tourism related employment opportunities and economic developments for Pacific people through the proposed establishment of a Pacific Cultural Centre in Auckland”.

Finally, Ikamafana Tameifuna, One Pacific co-leader, said, “One Pacific has turned its back on the Labor Party and turns its face to the Maori Party.

“We Pacific people are better off with the Maori Party. We can create a better future together with the Maori Party. We can grow and progress together with Maori and the Maori Party. We share a common vision and our Pacific dream... to progress, live in dignity, and prosper in Aotearoa with Maori. Thank you Maori Party!”

For more information email: One Pacific Secretaries onepacific.sec@gmail.com

(Source: One Pacific Secretaries)



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Charlottesville violence revives painful past for minorities

Bernard Lafayette fought to end segregation during the civil rights movement. But after watching events in Charlottesville, Virginia, last weekend and hearing President Donald Trump blame both sides for the deadly violence, he realized that changing laws did not change enough hearts and minds.

“It was below the surface,” said Lafayette, the 77-year-old chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. “It was always there. It never left. People are coming out again and expressing their racist feelings.”

Minorities who came to the United States in search of a better life or who fought for equality were dispirited to see their fellow citizens fighting to preserve the legacy of the Confederacy and displaying Nazi symbols. And they said Trump’s response to the deadly violence only fanned racial flames.

Trump’s initial statements on Saturday blamed violence on “many sides.” Two days later, he condemned white supremacists. On Tuesday, he lashed out at the counter-protesters who had been in Charlottesville. He also questioned whether removing public tributes to Confederate figures would result in similar treatment for statues of George Washington or Thomas Jefferson — both slave owners.

On the day of the Virginia rally, Lafayette was in Lowndes County, Alabama, marking the anniversary of the death of Jonathan Daniels, a white civil rights volunteer who gave his

life to save 17-year-old black girl Ruby Sales. Lafayette, who worked alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was stunned to see young whites marching with torches and swastikas in 2017.

To him, it was a sad reminder that the racist attitudes of the past have stubbornly persisted despite the progress of the past half century.

Trump, he said, does not understand the counter-protesters.

“The people who had weapons, who were geared up for violence, were the other side,” Lafayette said.

The Rev. William Barber said Trump’s comments were “deeply harmful” and will embolden white supremacists.

“It was a misrepresentation of history, saying that people were just trying to preserve their culture,” said Barber, creator of the Moral Mondays movement in North Carolina. “What culture is he talking about? The culture of slavery? Of the reinstitution of white supremacy?”

Barber said those who reject racism must not be drawn into a fight.

White supremacists “want confrontation,” he said. “Let them put their agenda out there, and let us build a nonviolent, moral movement.”

Rabbi Joshua Stanton of East End Temple in Manhattan is the grandson of refugees from Germany. As he watched the bloodshed in Charlottesville, his pulse raced and his stomach clenched.

► Families wait in rain...

Continued from page 12

them both. In one, the wide-eyed girl held a microphone as she sang; in another she was dressed in festive bright pink native garb, her hair braided with beads.

With the help of hospital porters, who used the photos to find the child’s body among the hundreds at the morgue, he was able to identify her corpse.

“The present condition of my daughter is nothing good to talk about,” he said. “I’ve spoken with other family members and we have decided to allow the government to go ahead with dignified burial process.”

Mortuary officials said mass burials would begin Thursday.

Amid the chaos of rescue efforts, the government has said contingency plans were being put in place to try to stem the outbreak of diseases such as cholera.

Sierra Leone’s government has pleaded for international assistance as it reels from the disaster. With rain forecast


for at least the coming week, the threat of further mudslides around Freetown remained. Many poor areas of the capital are near sea level and have poor drainage systems, which makes flooding worse during the rainy season. Freetown also is plagued by unregulated construction of large residential houses in hilltop areas. Deforestation for firewood and charcoal is another leading contributor to flooding and mudslides.

Forty-year-old Brima Munde, who escaped the disaster with his two children, said he feared that three missing family members were buried under the mud. Three other relatives have already been confirmed dead.

“I can’t describe the magic that took me and my family out of my house,” he said. “But I believe it’s the work of God because I don’t know where the strength and power came from to get us out.”



FILE - In this March 4, 1990 file photo, civil rights figures lead marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge during the recreation of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march in Selma, Ala. From left are Hosea Williams of Atlanta, Georgia Congressman John Lewis, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Evelyn Lowery, SCLC President Joseph Lowery and Coretta Scott King. In August 2017, Jackson used a Chicago Sun-Times opinion to praise Heather Heyer, the 32-year-old woman who died in the vehicular attack in Charlottesville, Va. Jackson wrote that she “joins the martyrs of America, whose long struggle for equal rights.” (AP Photo/Jamie Sturtevant)



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Staff Accountant

Posting Date

August 10, 2017

Department

Accounting

Deadline

4:00PM; August 17, 2017

Division

Support Services

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Job Grade/Status

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Reports To

Accounting Supervisor

Major Duties & Responsibilities

Incumbent must be able to produce accurate and complete reconciliations for the preparation of monthly financial reports for the Board and appropriate government entities; complete monthly journal entries as part of the close process; and ensure all schedules are completed for each month and the year-end financial audit. Incumbent should have good time management and organizational skills, be analytical and detail-oriented, computer proficient, possess good interpersonal skills as well as excellent written and verbal communication skills.

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Bachelor of Arts/Science Degree in Accounting / Commerce or Associate of Arts Degree (AA) in Accounting with experience. Knowledge of US GAAP and GASB as well as of automated accounting and financial information systems.

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Minimum of five (5) years related work experience in financial reporting is required in addition to the minimum educational requirement having been obtained.

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- Prepare payments by utilizing the accounts payable system, be able to accrue expenses and maintain a prepayment schedule; assign account numbers; process disbursements.
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- Interact with auditors as required, providing analysis, reports and data as requested during audits.
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Trump leaves top strategist's future in limbo: 'We'll see'

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump is saying “we’ll see what happens” with top strategist Steve Bannon.

The president refused to express confidence in Bannon during an impromptu news conference Tuesday.

“He’s a good person. He actually gets very unfair press in that regard,” Trump said. “But we’ll see what happens with Mr. Bannon.”

Bannon was a key general election campaign adviser and has been a forceful but contentious presence in a divided White House. The former leader of conservative Breitbart News has drawn fire from some of Trump’s closest advisers, including son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Though Bannon has survived being on the outs at earlier points in the administration, the president is being pressed anew to fire him. The anti-Bannon campaign comes as Trump is facing heated criticism for not immediately condemning by name white supremacists and other hate groups after deadly violence last weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Bannon once described Breitbart as “the platform for the alt-right.”

Speaking to reporters in Trump Tower, the president said Bannon is a friend and “not a racist.”

That less-than-enthusiastic defense called into question Bannon’s own assessment of the situation: He had been telling people that he believed his job was safe, following a conversation in recent days with new chief of staff John Kelly, according to a White House official who demanded anonymity to discuss private exchanges.

The decision whether to drop Bannon is more than just a personnel matter. The media guru is viewed in some circles as Trump’s connection to his base and the protector of Trump’s disruptive, conservative agenda.

A Tuesday headline on Breit-

bart equated his potential ouster to the president being urged to “Give Trump Voters Middle Finger.” Ned Ryun, a conservative strategist who occasionally advises the White House, wrote on Twitter, “Cannot tell you how bad a signal it would be to @realdonaldtrump’s base if Bannon is forced out.”

But Bannon’s high profile and puppet-master image have at times irked a president who doesn’t like to share the spotlight and bristles at the suggestion that he needs a liaison to his base.

In April, Trump diminished Bannon’s role to that of “a guy who works for me.”

The president doubled down on that dismissiveness at Tuesday’s press conference, distancing Bannon from his unexpectedly successful presidential campaign.

“I went through 17 senators, governors, and I won all the primaries. Mr. Bannon came on very much later than that,” he said.

Bannon’s supporters say Trump is being urged by advisers such as chief economic adviser Gary Cohn and deputy national security adviser Dina Powell to fire him.

Kelly has also expressed concerns to Trump about Bannon, and is said to be particularly angry with a flood of negative stories about national security adviser H.R. McMaster that some in the White House believe are being leaked by Bannon. That’s according to two people briefed on the personnel discussions taking place who are not authorized to speak publicly.

Kelly has grown weary of the conservative attacks on McMaster and believes that even if Bannon is not personally responsible for them, he has not done enough to quell them. Bannon has denied being behind the anti-McMaster campaign.

The public squabbling among White House advisers is precisely the sort of drama Kelly was brought in to stop.

The chief of staff is embarking on a weeks-long personnel review of West Wing staff and has indicated to aides that significant changes could be coming, according to an official familiar with Kelly’s plans but not authorized to speak publicly.

Although Bannon enjoys a vocal core of supporters outside the White House, most of Trump’s most trusted advisers long ago soured on him. Kushner and Ivanka Trump’s opposition to Bannon’s West Wing role is well-known, but they’re staying out of personnel decisions about him, according to a White House official.

Bannon’s backers include Rep. Mark Meadows, the head of the House’s Freedom Caucus, an array of Breitbart-like media and the Zionist Organization of America, which has spoken out in opposition to McMaster.

Bannon didn’t respond to requests for comment.

He has told associates that he has no plans to leave the White House and would only do so if Trump fires him. He has been trying to keep a low profile during Trump’s break from Washington and ride out the storm — the same strategy he employed during clashes earlier this year with Kushner.

At the start of the administration, Bannon was its driving force, a near-constant presence in the Oval Office leading the charge to roll back Obama-era regulations and push through the president’s travel ban. Blowback to the botched introduction of the ban, which was rolled out quickly with little outside consultation, angered many in the administration, including Kelly, then head of Homeland Security.

In the hours before Trump spoke to the press Tuesday, Kelly was spotted eating lunch at a nearby hotel with aides. Playing on the TV screen above him was a cable news program with its ticker displaying speculation about Bannon’s future.

Kelly did not look up.



President Donald Trump walks out of the elevator to speak in the lobby of Trump Tower, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017 in New York. Walking out with Trump are Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, and National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



In an undated photo provided by Iva Harberg, Mary Grams, 84, holds a carrot that grew through her engagement ring in Alberta, Canada. Grams, who lost her diamond ring 13 years ago while pulling weeds in her garden, is wearing it proudly again after her daughter-in-law pulled it from the ground on a misshapen carrot. Grams, 84, said she can’t believe the vegetable actually grew through and around the diamond engagement ring she had given up for lost.

(Iva Harberg/The Canadian Press via AP)

SKorea looks to jumpstart diplomacy in NKorea standoff

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — In an effort to jumpstart diplomacy, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday he would consider sending a special envoy to North Korea for talks if the North stops its missile and nuclear tests.

He also declared, amid fears in South Korea that threats from President Donald Trump to unleash “fire and fury” on Pyongyang could lead to real fighting, that there would be no second war on the Korean Peninsula.

“The people worked together to rebuild the country from the Korean War, and we cannot lose everything again because of a war,” Moon said in a nationally televised news conference. “I can confidently say there will not be a war again on the Korean Peninsula.”

Moon’s comments follow a spike in animosity generated by North Korea’s warning that it might send missiles into waters near the U.S. territory of Guam, and Trump’s warlike language. Both Koreas and the United States have signaled in recent days, however, a willingness to avert a deepening crisis, with each suggesting a path toward negotiations. Trump tweeted early Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had “made a very wise and well reasoned decision,” amid indications North Korea doesn’t immediately plan to fire multiple missiles toward Guam.

“The alternative would have been both catastrophic and unacceptable!” Trump wrote.

Next week’s start of annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises that enrage the North each year could make diplomacy even more difficult.

Moon said he believes dialogue with North Korea can happen when North Korea halts missile and nuclear tests.

Moon was elected in May after a near-decade of conservative rule that saw animosity deepen between the rival Koreas. Moon wants to engage the North. But his efforts have so far been met with a string of threats and missile tests as the North works to build nuclear-armed missiles that can reach the U.S. mainland.

“A dialogue between South and North Korea must resume. But we don’t need to be impatient,” Moon said. “I think lots of effort and time could be necessary to overcome a decade of severed ties and to reopen a dialogue.” Moon said Washington and Seoul are closely communicating over the North Korean nuclear problem and share the view that strong sanctions and pressure are needed against Pyongyang to stop its provocations and force it into negotiations to give up its nukes. Moon said he thinks Trump’s belligerent words are intended to show a strong resolve for pressuring the North and don’t necessarily display the willingness for military strikes.

“The United States and

President Trump have already promised to sufficiently consult with South Korea and get our approval for whatever option they will take against North Korea. It’s a firm agreement between South Korea and the United States,” Moon said.

North Korea’s threats against Guam and its advancing missile capabilities, highlighted by a pair of intercontinental ballistic missile flight tests in July, have raised security jitters among many South Korean who worry that a fully functional ICBM in Pyongyang would force the United States to rethink whether to trade New York or Washington for Seoul in the event of a war on the peninsula.

Lobbing missiles toward Guam, a major U.S. military hub in the Pacific, would be deeply provocative from the U.S. perspective. A miscalculation on either side could lead to military confrontation.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, earlier this week that the two countries should work together to contain tensions and permit no one to “stir up an incident on their doorstep,” according to a statement posted on the Chinese foreign ministry’s website.

“The most important task at hand is for the U.S. and North Korea to ‘hit the brakes’ on their mutual needling of each other with words and actions, to lower the temperature of the tense situation and prevent the emergence of an ‘August crisis,’” Wang was quoted as saying in the Tuesday conversation.

“A resolution of the North Korea nuclear issue by military force is completely unacceptable and the peninsula’s nuclear issue must be peacefully resolved by political and diplomatic methods,” Lavrov was quoted as saying.

China is North Korea’s main economic partner and political backer, although relations between the two countries have deteriorated amid the North’s continuing defiance of China’s calls for restraint. In recent months, China has joined with Russia in calling for the U.S. to suspend annual military drills with South Korea in exchange for Pyongyang placing a moratorium on new missile and nuclear tests as a first step toward direct talks.

During an inspection of the North Korean strategic rocket forces earlier this week, Kim praised the military for drawing up a “close and careful plan” but said he would watch how Washington acts before deciding whether to go ahead with his Guam missile test plans, according to state media.

In an interview, Trump’s chief strategist Steve Bannon said there’s no military solution to the threat posed by North Korea and its nuclear ambitions. The White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



South Korean President Moon Jae-in speaks during a press conference marking his first 100 days in office at the presidential house in Seoul Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017. In an effort to jumpstart diplomacy, President Moon said Thursday he would consider sending a special envoy to North Korea for talks if the North stops its missile and nuclear tests.

(Jung Yeon-Je/Pool Photo via AP)



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE Samoan Studies Institute

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Employment Status: Full Time 12 months (Career Service)

General Description:
The Community Outreach Program Coordinator will be responsible for all aspects of Samoan Studies Institute outreach programs.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Organizes and develops workshops for students and community at large on SSI services.
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- Maintains SSI MOA with non-government organizations.
- Assists with SSI research and information collections; reads and edits materials for SSI Research and Publications.
- Conducts surveys on community needs.
- Responsible for SAFF (Students Association for Faasamoa) student retention program.
- Responsible for SSI cultural performances and activities such as Samoan Day annual event.
- Assists in planning and organizing SSI research and fieldtrips.
- Assists in the identification and selection of eligible program participants.
- Assists in developing curriculum for program instruction relevant to college transition.
- Assists in advising program participants on college admissions, career, and financial aid.
- Oversees and supervises the tutorial program, coordinates tutors, schedules and prepares classroom activities for program participants.
- Conducts workshops for parents and participants related to college preparations.
- Coordinates and organizes extra-curricular activities (i.e., camping, field trips, hiking, etc.)
- Assists and coordinates with Director in preparation of monthly, quarterly, and Annual Performance Reports as mandated by federal regulations.
- Coordinates and assists with Faasamoa Pea Radio Program.
- Performs other related duties as assigned by the Director.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree in Samoan studies or any related area.
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Sunset: August 03, 2017

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ENOS 1:27
“And I soon go to the place of my rest, which is with my Redeemer; for I know that in him I shall rest. And I rejoice in the day when memorial shall put on immortality, and shall stand before him; then shall I see his face with pleasure, and he will say unto me: Come unto me, ye blessed, there is a place prepared for you in the mansions of my Father. Amen.”

ENOSA 1:27
“Ma ua lata ona ou alu i le nofoaga o lo’u malologa, lea ou te fautasi ai ma lo’u Togiola; ona ua ou mautinoa o ia ou te malolo ai. Ma ou te olioli i le aso o le faaofuina ai lo’u tino faaletino i le tino ola pea, ma ou tu ai i ona luma. Ona ou vaai ai lea i ona fofoga ma le fiafia, ma o lea fetalai mai o ia ia te a’u: Sau ia ia te a’u, oe ua faamanuiaina, ua i ai se nofoaga ua saunia mo oe i maota o lo’u Tamā. Amene.”



FUNERAL PROGRAM

Saturday August, 19, 2017

8:00 a.m. Depart LBJ Tropical Medical Center Chapel
Alailepule Hansolo “Punde” Lopesi will be transported to the LDS Aua Stake Center
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 noon Family Service
12:00 noon - Final Burial Service
2:00 p.m. - Alailepule Hansolo “Punde” Lopesi will be laid to rest at the Manuo’s Residence in Tafuna.

