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Monica Afalava (front, 2nd right), the new Program Coordinator for the American Samoa Area Health Education Center (ASAHEC) with members of the ASAHEC Community Advisory Board and guests from off-island. Front (l-r): Hawaii/Pacific Basin AHEC Associate Director Erica Davis; Hawaii/Pacific Basin AHEC Director Dr. Kelley Withy; Afalava; ASAHEC Board Co-Chair Dr. Robin Faumuina. Back (l-r): ASAHEC Board Chairwoman Ipu Eliapo-Unutoa; ASCC Dean of Academic Affairs Letupu Moananu; and ASCC-ACNR Community Nutritionist Travis Fleming. See story inside for details. [Photo: J. Kneubuhl]



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2017

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The beer tax amendment targets volume

GHC REID: THIS WOULD 'EVEN' THE PLAYING FIELD

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

G.H.C. Reid & Company has voiced its support of the Lolo Administration's proposal to change how the government imposes the import tax on beer — based on volume, not on value.

ASG officials told a House committee hearing this week, the proposed amendment is to standardize the imposition of the "sin tax" — on items such as beer — and also to "level the playing field" for all beer importers.

Among the five new revenue measures from the Administration now before the Fono is a bill, which amends several provisions of current law. The bill seeks to gradually repeal the miscellaneous 5% excise tax, create a new tax on sugary non-carbonated drinks, amend the tax on secondhand items, and change the way the tax is levied on imported beer.

This was the subject of a

House Ways and Means Committee hearing on Tuesday.

Currently, excise tax on imported beer is 190% of the value, but the Administration is seeking to amend that to 35-cents per 12 fluid ounces, or fraction thereof.

According to ASG officials, this basically means 35-cents per can.

GHC REID

In an Aug. 18th letter forwarded to several lawmakers, GHC Reid, the local leading beverage company for over 100 years, noted, "We fully support our government's efforts to generate revenue in an efficient manner that also supports our private sector growth, but, most importantly, put a cease to all the fraudulent commercial activities that are preventing our country's economic growth."

According to the letter, the company gives its 100% support to the new methodology of tax calculation for beverages.

(Continued on page 7)



FO'ISIA FINDS NEW HOME

The government owned Fo'isia vessel, which sunk at the Malaloa Marina on Wednesday, May 7, 2017, was finally pulled out of the water yesterday by local businessman Iupeli Kava and the crew from P.J. Corporation.

The vessel, which cost the American Samoa Government \$300K and purchased in 2009 during the Togiola Administration, was put up for sale last month during the government auction held at the Office of Property Management.

Kava, who won the bid for the vessel, didn't reveal how much he bought it for, but laughed and said, "No one wanted to buy this boat." He shared that the low price came with special conditions that required him to pull the boat up himself.

The buyer was able to get help from another local businessman, Timothy Jones Sr. and his son, Timothy Jr., whose crane was used to carry out yesterday's job.

Kava said he's not sure what he's going to do with the boat, although maybe in 3-4 years, he can fix it up enough to use as a fishing boat or cruise boat.

The Fo'isia was to serve as a passenger vessel for the Manu'a Islands when it was purchased 8 years ago. At the time, Togiola said he hoped the vessel would be allowed to carry more than just the six passengers it was certified to carry at the time. No cargo was allowed.

The vessel was purchased through Togiola's transportation consultant, George Wray, who told Samoa News that it would be used to ferry groups of people, but would not operate on a regular schedule. But some Manu'a residents said they understood the vessel was to be used for regular transport between the Manu'a islands.

It's still unknown what caused the Fo'isia to sink and why it had stopped running.

[photo: AF]





FILE - In this June. 21, 2011, file photo, former U.S. CIA Operations Officer, Valerie Plame Wilson arrives for the UK film premiere of Countdown to Zero in London. Wilson launched an online fundraiser on Aug. 18, 2017, looking to crowdfund enough money to buy Twitter so President Donald Trump can,Äôt use it.

(AP Photo/Jonathan Short, File)

FY 2018 Basic Budget introduced in the Fono yesterday

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET NOT INTRODUCED YET

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has revealed that excise tax collection on cigarettes “took a dive” in the current fiscal year because of contractual issues with off island vendors and market contract forces, but they’ve since normalized; and that funding has been committed to “beef up” revenue collections, especially in light of the five new revenue measures, if passed.

The revelations were made in Lolo’s cover letter accompanying the American Samoa Government’s \$395.26 million fiscal year 2018 budget proposal, which was officially introduced yesterday in the Fono and assigned to the respective committees in both the Senate and House for review.

Besides the FY 2018 budget, which is 90% of the approval budget for FY 2017 — dealing with local revenues — the Administration also submitted a Supplementary Budget, which is 10% of the approved local revenues for FY 2017.

It’s unclear at this time when the Supplemental Budget, funded with five new revenues measures pending in the Fono, will be introduced in both Fono chambers.

(Samoa News notes the introduction will probably await the passage of the revenue measures, as the governor has noted that without them, the Supplemental is “invalidated”.)

Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie informed senators on Tuesday that he is waiting for House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale to return from an off island trip to discuss hearings for the FY 2018 budget, along with the chairmen of the Senate and House budget committees.

FY 2018 BASIC BUDGET

For the FY 2018 Basic Budget, local revenues total \$96.81 million, with taxes providing the largest funding source for the local government. ASG is projecting to collect \$61.58 million on taxes for the new fiscal year with:

- Corporate taxes \$11.80 million (\$15.14 million FY 2017)
- Individual income tax \$25.28 million (\$25 million FY 2017)
- General excise tax \$19.50 million (\$23.50 million FY 2017)
- Soda tax \$3.50 million (\$2.50 million FY 2017); and
- Military cover-over tax \$1.50 million (\$1.40 million FY 2017)

In his letter to the Fono, the governor wrote, “Excise tax collection on cigarettes took a dive in the current fiscal year due to pending contractual issues with off-island vendors including constraint market forces that are beyond our control.”

He continued, “Imports on cigarettes have slowly become normalized as outstanding

issues work” themselves out.”

For several weeks earlier this year, smokers in the territory had to resort to other cigarette brands, including a new brand that surfaced (USA Gold), after popular brands like Benson and Kool were nowhere to be found.

During the shortage, some stores were selling cigarettes between \$11.95 and \$13 a pack, some as high as \$14 per pack.

In his letter, the governor informed the Fono the newly appointed deputy treasurer for revenue, referring to Keith Gebauer, has a plan incorporating a process for better enforcement and especially to support the Administration’s five new revenue measures now before the Fono.

“Passage of the new revenue measures will create sustainable revenue streams to fully fund our government’s critical needs for FY 2018 and beyond,” the governor explained. “In addition, to strengthen our revenue base, funding has been committed in 2018 in an effort to beef up revenue collection.”

(Samoa News should point out that the governor did not explain exactly what the “beef up” effort for revenue collection entails, but Samoa News was told it probably means hiring more people for better collections.)

For corporate taxes, Lolo said it’s expected to be weak in FY 2018 “due to uncertainty in business market conditions, and partly because most businesses have better bookkeeping of their goods and services, taking advantage of available loopholes to legally pay less in taxes.”

Regarding revenue from individual income taxes, Lolo expects it to be consistently in line with previous years.

For the soda tax and military cover-over tax, Lolo said they are projected to be slightly higher, compared to the previous year, mostly driven by increase in preferential choice demands in the marketplace.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

For this local revenue source, ASG is projecting to collect \$1.5 million in the new fiscal year — an increase of \$200,000 from the current fiscal year. Lolo said revenue collections are expected to be slightly higher in FY 2018 due to businesses obtaining licenses and permits, for the most part, to move their projects forward.

“It is anticipated that the actual revenue collections will exceed the normal levels due to numerous major economic activities implemented by the private and public sector,” he said. “Policies set by the government to better monitor the registration of new businesses will increase revenues under this revenue category.”

FEES & FINES

Under this local revenue category, the government is pro-

(Continued on page 8)

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FONO BRIEFS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The Senate on Tuesday approved in final reading two bills, sponsored by Sens. Magalei Logovi'i, Nuanuaolefeagaiga Saoluaga, and Paepae I. Faiai. Both bills now go to the House for consideration.

One bill, supported by the Election Office, deals with campaign activities on Election Day; and the other with charging trespassers on school grounds.

For the election bill: Provisions of current election law states that: no person — other than the district officials, candidates or one representative appointed by each candidate, and the qualified elector going to and from the polling station to cast a vote — may be permitted within the poling place and “that area” surrounding the polling place, reasonably calculated to preserve a neutral, peaceful and quiet atmosphere for the balloting process.

The Senate bill seeks to clarify “that area” as “200 yards or 600 feet”.

During a Senate committee hearing late last month, Magalei said the reason for the proposed law is to prevent problems like those that were reported during the 2016 general election from villages including Fagatogo, Leone, and Faleniu where there were concerns regarding campaign tents being so close to the polling station.

Magalei said that when asked about the matter earlier this year, the Attorney General said there is no specific law regarding the distance of campaign activities to the polling station. According to Magalei, this is the reason behind the proposed amendment — so people don't argue about the same issue in the next general election. The second bill approved Tuesday, gives the government the authority to charge a person who is present, without prior permission on private or public school grounds from 10p.m.

to 5a.m. — with a Class A misdemeanor.

Local DOE officials voiced their support of the measure during a hearing last month.

FORMER LAWMAKER

This week the Fono approved a House Concurrent Resolution, conveying deepest sympathies and condolences to Catherine Jamentz-Tago, and the Tago family, on the passing of former Rep. Agaese ‘Ace’ Tago.

The resolution, sponsored by Reps. Sataua Dr. Mataese Samuelu and Manuma Wayne C. Wilson, also pays tribute to Tago's devoted service to the people of American Samoa.

Tago was elected as a lawmaker for Ituau County in 1976. At the time, he was working for ASG.

According to the resolution, Tago, who held a Masters in Public Administration, returned to work for ASG two years later, serving as Budget Office director.

He was one of the founding board members of McDonald's Corp. American Samoa, and served as ASG Treasurer from 1989 to 1993.

The resolution detailed his education history, work history, and community service, not only in American Samoa, but also in the US.

“Ace was a strong quiet leader who got things done by mentoring and motivating others,” the resolution states. “Ace lived his work ethics and passed down that trait to his children and grandchildren.”

“We have lost one of our best and brightest and he shall be missed.”

Tago, 78, passed away on Aug. 8th, at his home in San Mateo, California.

He was laid to rest earlier this week in San Mateo, and McDonald's officials as well as friends and family members from American Samoa attended his funeral service.

Tago is survived by his wife, five children and ten grandchildren.



FILE - In this May 21, 2017 file photo, released by the Saudi Press Agency, from left to right, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sissi, Saudi King Salman, U.S. First Lady Melania Trump and President Donald Trump, visit a new Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Egypt, Äôs Foreign Ministry has cancelled a meeting with senior White House advisor Jared Kushner after the U.S. announced aid cuts and delays to Egypt earlier. Kushner arrived on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017 on top of U.S. delegation that includes Jason Greenblatt, envoy for international negotiations, and Dina Powell, deputy national security adviser to discuss the possibility of resuming the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. (Saudi Press Agency via AP, File)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to ASCA 37.1105 that Development Bank of American Samoa intends to foreclose a mortgage recorded in the Office of the Territorial Registrar in Lease Agreement Volume No. LA-96, Page 51 on June 17, 1999, and that the property subject to the mortgage will be sold at public auction.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD ON “AS IS BASIS”: All of the mortgagors' interest in that certain Communal Land Leasehold including structure and improvement situated in the village of Asili, American Samoa.

All that certain real property and improvements thereon situated on Land Square 26, Unit G, Village of Asili, County of Lealataua, being a portion of land known as “Maloseo'o”, owned by the Maugaoteaga family and more particularly described as follow:

Beginning at a point which has coordinates of X=218.840.00 and Y=286.702.00 based in American Samoa datum of 1962.

Beginning azimuth of X=218.840.00 and Y=286.702.00.

Run thence on azimuth

302° 30' 00” 70.00 feet to a point;

14° 03' 55” 63.25 feet to a point;

122° 30' 00” 90.00 feet to a point;

212° 30' 00” 60.00 feet to point of beginning.

Containing 0.110 acre more or less.

Date of Sale: Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 2:30 pm, at the property unless postponed by public announcement.

Location: Village of Asili, American Samoa

Minimum Bid: \$23,000

Contact: For more information please contact Tavailau Ieremia at 633-4031 ext. 224 @ Development Bank or email tavai@dbas.as.



In this image taken from video a police officer examines a van behind a cordoned-off area in Rotterdam, Wednesday Aug. 23, 2017, after a concert by an American rock band was cancelled Wednesday night following a threat, the city's mayor said. Police detained the driver of a van with Spanish license plates carrying a number of gas tanks inside. (RTL via AP)



HACCP-certified Division Head for the School Lunch Program, Nelta Ala (third from right) posing with a class of SLP cooks following a session on 'healthy cooking' as part of the week-long food safety workshop for DOE cooks and food handlers which concluded last Friday.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

New Program Coordinator for ASCC-ASAHEC

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

During the faculty orientation last week to begin the fall 2017 semester at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), Dean of Academic Affairs Mrs. Letupu Moananu introduced the new Coordinator for the American Samoa Area Health Education Center (ASAHEC), a program hosted by the College. Ms. Monica Afalava has succeeded the previous Coordinator, Ms. Sailitafa Samoa, to lead the ASAHEC program in its mission of connecting high school and college students with potential careers in the many fields of health care.

Ms. Afalava joined the ASCC faculty as the ASAHEC Coordinator this past May. A Liberal Arts graduate of ASCC, she completed her undergraduate program with Argosy University, with whom she is currently pursuing a Master's of Science in Public Health.

She brings to the ASAHEC position extensive knowledge in sports skills and strategy techniques, creating customized training programs, and developing curriculum for health academies.

In her new role as ASAHEC Program Coordinator, Ms. Afalava oversees all aspects of its activities, which includes providing recruitment and retention activities for K-16, assisting in the placement of health profession students, and providing continuing education programs for the community.

After first submitting an application for another position with the College, Ms. Afalava

learned of the opportunity with ASAHEC, familiarized herself with its purposes and methods, and proved a successful candidate for the leadership position.

"As a health educator, one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," she said, "I am excited to take the challenge of bridging the gap between the various departments at ASCC and our local government departments and agencies, as well as the private sector, to build a more cohesive health network."

Reflecting on the long-term vision of ASAHEC, Ms. Afalava articulated its importance in ensuring our community's continued access to quality health resources and care.

"The purpose of ASAHEC is to promote the development of health profession education by creating community partnerships and collaborations that will in turn increase access the quality of health care in our community," she said. "ASAHEC is a bridge, connecting the youth and students of American Samoa to their health career of choice, so that they can be better equipped to serve their community in these areas of need."

Ms. Afalava will work collaboratively with a distinguished Community Advisory Board (CAB) of medical professionals and educators.

"The ASAHEC CAB serves many functions, which include the monitoring and evaluation of corporation performance," she explained. "The Board also oversees the financial operation of the corporation to include the

processes of budget review and recommendations and/or modifications. They advise on all actions taken by ASAHEC and provide support for the corporation and its programs."

The board members are Ipuniese Eliapo-Unutoa, RHD Coordinator, Department of Health, chair; Dr. Robin Faumuina, VA Clinic MD/Physician, co-chair; Letupu Moananu, ASCC Dean of Academic Affairs; Lele Ah-Mu, ASCC Nursing Program; Derek Helsham, ASCC Health and Human Services; Travis Fleming, Community Nutritionist, ASCC-ACNR; Magdalene Augafa-Leauane, Science Coordinator, ASDOE; and Ianeta Ah-Ping, Dietary Services Manager, LBJ.

Ms. Afalava commenced her new position this past May, which gave her just enough time to organize the ASAHEC Summer Health Academy, which recently concluded.

The 14 students who met the eligibility requirements for the Academy received a diverse introduction to the various aspects of health care, through activities that included clinical skills and shadowing experiences, a guide to healthy lifestyles, and an overview of how all careers directly or indirectly contribute to the enhancement of health.

Based on the students own final evaluations of the experience, Ms. Afalava described the Academy as "definitely a success" which met all of the objectives she had set.

With a new ASCC semester

(Continued on page 9)

US families, friends of missing sailors proud, praying

Families in the United States are awaiting word on missing seamen who were aboard the USS John McCain when it collided with an oil tanker on Monday near Singapore.

The military says five sailors were injured and 10 were missing following the collision. The collision tore a hole in the ship's left rear hull and flooded adjacent compartments, including crew berths and machinery and communication rooms. The military has not identified any of the sailors, but family members in Michigan, Illinois, Texas and Ohio so far have confirmed some of them.

Here are brief portraits of the missing as reported by families: John Hoagland, 20, Texas

When looking out from the deck of the USS John McCain, Hoagland often was struck by the immensity of the Pacific Ocean and the sparkling clarity of the stars above.

His mother, Cynthia Kimball, said Hoagland knew as a

5-year-old that military service was for him. A recruiter steered him toward the Navy.

"He wouldn't have wanted to be in any other branch," Kimball said Wednesday. "He sends me pictures of just water."

Hoagland spent his early years in Cleveland, Texas, northeast of Houston, and later lived in the Central Texas city of Killeen. He had long expressed an interest in stepping out of Texas and traveling the world, she said.

Hoagland enlisted in 2015 and has served aboard the McCain since October as an electronic technician.

"He's very proud of what he does," says Kimball, who lives with her husband at Fort Benning in Georgia.

Logan Palmer, 23, Illinois Palmer loved serving in the Navy because it let him see the world after an eye injury kept him from being an Air Force fighter pilot, brother Austin Palmer said.

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dba Samoa News is published Monday through Friday, except for some local and federal holidays.

Please send correspondences to: OF, dba Samoa News, Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

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Pacific Island News in Brief



Compiled by Samoa News staff

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MINISTER RESIGNS FROM CABINET

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao Fosi has tendered his resignation to Cabinet to await the outcome of a charge of deception, which he is facing.

At a press conference yesterday afternoon (Samoa Time), Laauli maintained his innocence saying that his resignation does not mean that he is guilty of the charge. “I am innocent and the truth will prevail,” he said during the press conference in which he announced his resignation. He further thanked “Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi for the opportunity afforded to me to serve our country as a Cabinet Minister,” and also thanked his “electoral constituency as well as the various Ministries” under his watch during his tenure for

their support. On Tuesday, this week, La’auli was charged with allegedly obtaining money by deception. His wife and a business partner were also charged.

The charges are in relation to an ongoing court case over a nonu company involving another senior member of the ruling Human Rights Protection Party and Associate Minister of Cabinet and Prime Minister, Peseta Vaifou Tevaga.

Acting Assistant Police Commissioner, Sala’a Moananu Sala’a, said they are scheduled to appear in the Supreme Court on September 18, 2017.

(Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary and Samoa Observer)

P.M. HAILS COIN SAVE

A \$600,000 Coin Save store was officially opened at what used to be the Vaitele produce market yesterday.

And present to launch the venture was Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa’ilele Malielegaoi who congratulated his fellow Falevao chief and Chinese businessman, Tuituioaiga Teeking Weng, for taking on the challenge.

The Coin Save has transformed the looks of the \$5.7million market complex built by the Samoa Land Corporation. “It is a market that was especially built for all the farmers living on the west of Apia, but what happened was all of our farmers continued to go to the market at Fugalei,” Tuilaepa said. “They never believed that people could come to where the market offers the best quality goods at the best and affordable prices.”


The Prime Minister said the area needed a genuine and a strong businessman to develop it.

(Continued on page 10)



First Union members - and a giant Easter bunny - picket Auckland councilors before their meeting on Easter Sunday trading.

[Photo: RNZ / Anusha Bradley]




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Report Cards of previous grade (For students entering Grades 1-7)	Transcripts from previous school (For students entering Grades 1-7)		
Pay Registration Fee \$100	Pay Registration Fee: \$100		



People collect water at a tube well in Islamabad, Pakistan, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017. A new study suggests some 50 million Pakistanis could be at risk of drinking arsenic-tainted groundwater. The findings are based on a hazard map built using water quality data from 1,200 tube wells in the densely populated Indus Valley. (AP Photo/B.K. Bangash)

Strong opposition voiced to reducing the national marine sanctuaries

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

A retired US based scientist has voiced her strong opposition to any reduction of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS), which includes the entire Rose Atoll Marine National Monument.

Ann Hobbs is among the more than 98,000 whose comments were released on the federal portal — www.regulations.gov — in response to a US Department of Commerce notice issued June 26th seeking public input regarding President Trump’s Apr. 28th executive order for the US Secretary of Commerce to conduct a review of national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments designated or expanded since Apr. 28, 2007 throughout the nation. Deadline to submit comments was July 26th but was later extended to Aug. 15th, according to federal records.

The Commerce Secretary’s review is separate from the Interior Secretary’s review, based on another Trump executive order, of land and ocean monuments going back to 1997. The US Secretary of Interior’s review is to be completed by the end of this week, with a report forwarded to the President thereafter. During the past couple of days, hundreds of other comments dealing with the US Commerce Secretary’s review were publicly released, including one yesterday, from Hobbs who said she “strongly opposes the reduction of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.”

“As a retired scientist who enjoys nature and the outdoors, I believe it is essential that we preserve such areas as the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa as part of our heritage for our children and grandchildren to enjoy, and to preserve the resources protected by this Sanctuary for future generations,” Hobbs wrote. “The increased size of the sanctuary was supported by extensive scientific and stakeholder input.”

NMSAS protects many endemic species including corals, fish, shellfish, marine mammals, sea birds, water birds, land birds, insects and vegetation, according to Hobbs. “It is thought to support the greatest diversity of marine life in the National Marine Sanctuary System.”

Additionally, it’s “vital to continue to protect this important resource from despoilment and loss so that we may benefit from research carried out there, and hopefully future generations can continue to enjoy the same diversity of life that we do.” Hobbs continued, “There is no valid reason to reduce the size of this monument or decrease its level of protection — certainly not for the mining of soon-to-be-exhausted fuel, if indeed it is there.”

The vast majority of those who submitted comments strongly oppose any reduction to marine sanctuaries including the NMSAS, and some even specifically pointed to the importance of the Rose Atoll Monument to many marine species and birds. Rose Atoll monument “is one of the smallest atolls in the world, yet has hundreds of species of invertebrates and fish, and supports large populations of giant clams, which have been heavily exploited elsewhere in the Pacific,” wrote Douglas McCauley. One of the many non-profit groups, who oppose changes to any of the current sanctuaries, included in their submission the National Marine Sanctuaries Socioeconomic Fact sheet, by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

There is no publication date on the fact sheet, which notes that national marine sanctuaries are centers for strong local economies and have economic value reaching far beyond the water. It cites, as an example, that the “benefits of coral reefs to American Samoa residents and visitors are estimated to be worth around \$5 million per year.”



In this Aug. 1, 2017 photo, Thailand’s former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra waves to supporters as she arrives at the Supreme Court to make her final statements in a trial on a charge of criminal negligence in Bangkok, Thailand. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Small Business Development Center

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER COUNSELOR I
Employment Status: Full time 12 months (One Year Contract with Benefits)

General Description:

This position was the Business Development Counselor/Manager but is now being offered as a Business Development Counselor I. The successful applicant will report to the Director of the SBDC.

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

Counseling SBDC clients on:

- Managing a Business
- Marketing
- Business Plan Development
- Business Research
- Customer Relations
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- Administrative and Support
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Real Estate & Rental & Leasing
- Retail Trade

Minimum Qualifications:

- AA Degree in Business Administration
- Three (3) years of relevant experience in business development with the SBDC and/or ASG Teaching High School Business.
- Skills in word processing and databases. Must have good written and oral communication skills in English and Samoan and be comp

Salary: Salary will be commensurate with degree and experience.

Application Deadline: September 6, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College,
Human Resources Office at 699-9155 Ext. 403/335/436 or by
emailing Silaulelei Saofaigaalii at s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu or ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

▶ The beer tax amendment targets...

Continued from page 1

For example, “All beverage taxes should be based on 12oz volume and NOT the invoice cost.”

“Although it has a negative impact on the cost of our products, we want to see fraudulent invoices come to a halt,” said the letter, adding that many countries around the world including neighboring Samoa calculate tax “based on volume”.

“This is due to the fact that a ‘physical’ verification of product volume can be justified and checked by customs officials,” the company said. “However, the cost of product on the invoice can be ‘under declared’ without any verification from the vendor resulting in fraud and less taxes paid.”

“We truly believe that there are a lot of fraudulent sales in our beverage market.

We humbly ask our Fono leaders to help stop this activity and have everyone pay the right taxes,” GHC Reid continued.

The letter included the company’s analysis of all proposed taxes and amendments to taxes, on items such as beer, and pointed to both positive and negative impacts.

On the plus side, GHC Reid said using per 12 ounce instead of invoice cost allows “even tax calculation for all beer products; avoids fraudulent invoicing; [and] aligns our tax calculation to the global community.”

On the other hand, they “will pay extra cost; however our focus is two things: generate revenue for the government and bring a halt to fraudulent dummy invoicing.”

According to the company, “We agree on the proposed 35-cents per 12 ounce.

This will allow all beer importing companies to compete on the same playing field.”

(*Samoa News will report in future editions on the rest of the company’s comments regarding other revenue measures*)

HOUSE HEARING

ASG witnesses who attended Tuesday’s House hearing were ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaip’e’a, who is also the vice chair of the ASG Revenue Task Force, Deputy Treasurer for Revenue, Keith Gebauer, who is also the acting chief of Customs, and one of the staff members working with the task force.

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, who is also the task force chairman, is reportedly off island and was not present during the hearing.

The majority of the questions and comments from lawmakers made during the hearing centered on the beer tax.

When committee members asked why the task force moved to amend the beer tax, Tonumaip’e’a responded, and repeated several times during the hearing, that this is to “level the playing field” for all beer importers.

He added that the proposed

amendment would not affect revenue collection and stressed that the goal is to ensure that all beer importers pay the same tax.

Gebauer said the task force looked at the different statutes during its review of all current tax laws and when it came to the beer tax, “we took a look at how all other ‘sin tax’ categories were taxed.

What we found it that only beer is taxed at a percentage.”

“All the other ‘sin tax’ — [for example] cigarettes are on a per cigarette basis; gasoline is on a per gallon basis, liquor is on a per liter basis.

The only one that was taxed at a percentage is the beer tax,” he explained.

“So to keep all the taxation for the sin taxes standardized, we went to a unit basis,” he continued, adding that during research work, the task force also looked at “premier versus value” beer and there will be a difference in prices.

“So when we did our calculations, we tried to find the mid-point that made it as fair as possible.

But how we looked at that, was as a category as a whole,” Gebauer explained further. “But within that whole category, you’ll have some businesses — if this provision is passed — that will pay a little more, and some will pay a little bit less. But as a whole, the number comes to just about the same.”

During the review process, Gebauer said there was feedback from the general public, and “this was an issue raised by folks in the industry... but the primary driver behind the change [in the beer tax], was the standardizing on how we apply the excise tax.”

Rep. Fagaoatua Dorian Salave’a commented that those affected in the end are the consumers. “What is affordable for our consumers? If we make this change, will there be an affordable beer? The ‘value’ beer would then become almost the same as the ‘premier’ beer, which is more expensive.”

Referring to the affordable [value] beer, Fagaoatua asked, “Will that be available for our consumers?” Gebauer responded, “In our analysis we did not want to single out a specific beer and we did not want to single out a specific company.”

As a whole, he continued, “What we collected was the same.”

For ‘premier beer’, he continued, “theoretically the price should come down, because the cost per can, comes down. But we’re not trying to dictate that to the competitors in this industry, but as a whole, that will be the effect.”

In other words, “The value beer folks — based on the 190% valuation — will pay a little bit more.

The folks that buy the premier beer, because their per can unit has come down, they’ll

pay a little bit less,” Gebauer explained, adding that the task force had considered other amounts: 37 cents, in which the government would collect more in revenue, and 34-cents where the government would collect less.

“So the point that was close to revenue neutral is 35-cents,” Gebauer explained, adding that the task force also looked at 41-cents and 31-cents, but “we went with 35-cents, as that is the mid-point that’s keeping it as balanced as we could.”



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The two local businessmen who worked together to pull up the sunken Fo'isia vessel yesterday at the Malaloa Marina: (l-r) Iupeli Kava and Timothy Jones Sr., together with Timothy Jones Jr., and a bystander.
The government owned Fo'isia sank - for reasons unknown - earlier this year in May.

[photo: AF]

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► FY 2018...

Continued from page 2

jecting to collect \$4.5 million in FY 2018 compared to \$5.2 million approved in FY 2017.

“Although revenue is slightly lower than the previous year, revenue stream is trending steadily upward as immigration revenues sustain good collection on the number of individuals being processed,” the governor explained.

“It is expected that this trend will continue as stated policies continue to take hold, yet resolving long overdue challenges while diminishing backlogs.”

CHARGES FOR SERVICES

Charges for services revenue stream is forecasted at \$6.6 million, which is slightly lower than the \$6.7 million in FY 2017.

According to the governor, potential port activities will remain steady, given the restraints in fishery regulations, restricting the frequency of inbound and outbound vessels within territorial waters and beyond. Activities for cargo vessels are expected to steadily increase.

“As new revenue initiatives continue to gain traction, it will result in sustainable revenue streams moving forward,” Lolo said.

The last three local revenue sources are Miscellaneous Revenues (projected at \$2.8 million in FY 2018, compared to \$3.85 million in FY 2017); Indirect Cost (\$5 million for FY 2018 while \$5.3 million in FY 2017); and Transfers-In

(\$14.7 million for FY 2018 versus \$18.2 million in FY 2017).

Specific details for these three revenue sources will be discussed during budget hearings.





A \$600,000 Coin Save store was officially opened at what used to be the Vaitele produce market yesterday. And present to launch the venture was Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa’ilele Malielegaoi who congratulated his fellow Falevao chief and Chinese businessman, Tuituioaiga Teeking Weng, for taking on the challenge. (Read story on page 5)

[photo: SO]

Taylor Swift ends intrigue, announces new album in November

NEW YORK (AP) — Yes, Taylor Swift fans, Wednesday was a lucky one for you.

The pop star who whipped her army of Swifties into a frenzy with video snippets of slithery snake parts on social media posted the title of her new album, “Reputation,” and announced online it will be out Nov. 10.

The first single, she said in a series of posts, will drop Thursday night. And she threw in the album’s cover art for good measure: a black-and-white photo of herself — head and shoulders, in slouchy sweater, hair swept back — against a backdrop of newsprint reading, simply, “Taylor Swift” over and over again.

► New prog... Continued from page 4

just getting underway, Ms. Afa-lava is currently planning her calendar of activities and events for fall 2017.

Parents and students interested in learning more about opportunities available through ASAHEC can contact Ms. Afa-lava at the program’s center on the ASCC campus by telephone at 699-1587 or by email at m.afalava@amsamoa.edu.

“The services offered at AHEC are open to anyone interested in seeking a career in the health field,” she said. “If they are unsure of what these careers may be, they are also welcome to contact me for advising.”

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► Pacific...

Continued from page 5

And in Tuituioaiga, the government has found their man.

“Now Tuituioaiga is coming to open his shop here to prove a point that it is the businessman’s ability to produce goods of the highest quality and affordable prices that will create the market for his own products,” he said.

Tuilaepa said Tuituioaiga’s venture could only be good for Samoa. “I congratulate you for believing in developing this place and creating 30 more employment opportunities for our people.

“He has told me that he employs a total of 130 Samoans and this is a great opportunity for the development of our economy,” the PM said.

Tuituioaiga said, “So let us work together to help turn this area into a new shopping center or business circle for all the Samoan people to come and shop in.

“We all know that members of the Samoan community in New Zealand go to Otahuhu and Otara to shop there so

now I have turned practice into history.”

He also congratulated his staff members for all their hard work.

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labor, Lautafi Fio Purcell, said that having Coin Save in Vaitele means that the government will not only benefit but members of the public will benefit also.

“There was minimal revenue collected from the Vaitele market however, since the new tenant the government has collected \$27,000 on a monthly basis,” he said. “Tuituioaiga started paying his lease in May before the renovations due to the fact he wants the public to know that he means business.

The Samoa Observer previously ran a story titled, “What About Us?” reporting on the fear of many of the small business owners — from elei makers to corner shop operators — that they would soon be squeezed out completely, “as the growth of foreign-owned businesses continues at an alarming rate.”

In particular, the article pointed at the development of Coin Save, with one of the business owners in the Vaitele area

saying they stood no chance with these big businesses. “There’s no way we can compete with the Chinese nowadays, and we all know that, many of our people are now on the road selling BBQ to earn a living.”

(Source: Samoa Observer)
APPETITE GROWS IN SAMOA FOR RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN OWNED BUSINESSES

A prominent academic in Samoa has joined the call for restrictions on foreign-owned businesses in local villages.

The National University of Samoa’s Leasiolagi Dr Malama Meleisea agrees with Samoa’s prime minister about the need to protect local businesses.

Tuila’epa Sa’ilele Malielegaoi, last week, alluded to potential regulatory changes to keep smaller retail operations for Samoan business people only. Three village councils this year have banned Chinese nationals from opening businesses on customary lands.

The director of Samoa Studies, Leasiolagi, said it’s about what’s best for village communities.

“We can’t invest in huge

companies like construction or whatever. We can only invest in small shops and stuff like that so let us claim that as part of our own area of operation and leave the rest to people who can afford better,” he said.

Leasiolagi said village council bylaws may give the impression they’re unfairly aimed at Chinese people because they’re the most visual and prominent foreign group to set up businesses in recent times.

(Source: ANZ)

AUCKLAND COUNCIL TURNS DOWN EASTER TRADING EXPANSION

Auckland Council voted against allowing more shops to open on Easter Sunday at a meeting picketed by retail workers and church groups.

Only one councilor opposed the move, saying shops in the city center should be allowed to open for visitors to the city. The debate comes after the government handed the decision to allow Easter Sunday trading over to local authorities last year. Mayor Phil Goff said he wanted to retain the status quo because it was important for families, and if trading on Easter Sunday was allowed, Good Friday and Anzac Day could be next. Mr. Goff, a former Labor Party leader, said the issue came up 11 times while he was in Parliament and could never be resolved. The government’s handing it over to local authorities to decide can only be described as a “hospital pass”, he said. However, councilor Desley Simpson said the status quo was archaic and unfair and the council should support business and visitors to the city.

She said there is a need to promote business and support the council’s visitor strategy.

The council retains the option to allow Easter trading in the future. An economic analysis by Auckland Council showed the impact of allowing shops to open would be minimal to the region’s economy.

First Union retail secretary Maxine Gay said retail workers get only three and half days off a year and pressure to work on Easter Sunday cut into family time. Manukau Ward Councilor Fa’anana Efeso Collins said 80 percent of constituents in his ward did not want Easter Sunday trading.

Before the vote, he said he would present a 2000-strong signature petition to the council, calling for the status quo to be kept. Earlier this year, retailers in Rotorua and Wanaka were given the option to open on Easter Sunday for the first time, although Nelson City and the Tasman District have decided to keep Easter Sunday shopping-free.

(Source: RNZ)

NEW SEED CAPITAL FUND HELPS WOMEN INTO BUSINESS

A breathable wrap that keeps avocado green for four days, rather than it browning straight away was an idea that may have languished, were it not for the intervention of fund helping women entrepreneurs grow their start-ups.

Established by Toronto-based Vicki Salmon, SheEO venture capital fund uses money invested mainly by other women. Salmon, a keynote speaker at the World Women 17 conference in Auckland this weekend, said the woman behind the alternative plastic avocado wrap did not have the necessary support until SheEO stepped in. “When she got selected in our network there was massive interest in this. Everyone told her it was the greatest thing ... [and] she started to believe she had something really amazing.”

Former Telecom chief executive Theresa Gattung organized the conference and said she wanted to bring the SheEO model to New Zealand.

She said while women founded more than half of businesses, they received only 5 to 10 percent of risk capital. “It’s just incredibly difficult to be funded as a female entrepreneur.”

Men dominated the venture capital industry. They were more interested in chasing so-called unicorns, a start-up company valued at over \$1 billion, Salmon said. “Eighty-five percent of companies founded by women stay under \$1 million in revenue. “This is because it’s hard to get capital so we don’t even bother looking for it. We basically keep our heads down, build what we can and keep our businesses small.”

“There are so many incredible business ideas out there ... that, with a bit of an injection of capital, could grow and create more sustainable jobs and, I think, really strengthen the economy,” she said.

Started in 2015, SheEO gets at least 500 women to invest \$1000 each into a portfolio to support five start-ups. The low-interest loans were paid back in 20 equal installments over five years. The criteria for selection was strict. The organization must have revenue of at least \$50,000, be majority owned and led by women, and show “how they are a new model or a new mindset or a new solution for a better world.” Salmon said \$100,000 had already been paid back, allowing them to fund another company this year.

“This idea [is] creating a perpetual fund that we hand on to our daughters, our granddaughters and our great granddaughters, because capital ... is meant to be in flow.”


It was more than a cash injection. The investors became the entrepreneurs’ mentors and coaches.

SheEO aims to have 1 million women in the network, which would create a billion dollar global fund.

Gattung said the SheEO model had sparked a great deal of interest in New Zealand, with 450 women attending the conference. “Women running growth-oriented businesses don’t want to ask men for permission to create billions of dollars,” she said.

“We want to create wealth generated by women for women, for the good of everyone. We can do it for ourselves.”

(Source: RNZ)



AMERICAN SAMOA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Services – Counseling Services

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title:
Employment Status:
General Description:

PERSONAL COUNSELOR

Full Time / 12 Months – Career Service

The Personal Counselor works in the Division of Student Services (DOSS) Counseling Services Program. The Personal Counselor provides support by assisting traditional, non-traditional and students with disabilities with all aspects of educational planning, as well as the development and implementation of programs to meet the academic and personal needs of the students. This is a non-instructional position that may assist with academic aspects of Counseling Services and its scope of responsibilities.

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Report directly to the Program Director of Counseling or other appropriate administrators at ASCC.
- Serve on appropriate department and/or college committees.
- Perform related duties as required or deemed necessary to meet the ASCC mission and goals within the counseling services scope of responsibility.
- Work collaboratively with the DOSS administrators and staff in meeting the academic and personal needs of students.
- Assist with advising students academically regarding ASCC academic general education and / or departmental requirements, appropriate class selection, academic policies and procedures, and campus resources.
- Teach "College and Life Planning" course.
- May report and refer students to other departments, offices or services as required on or off-campus.
- Assist and participate with student registration, student recruitment, retention initiatives and various other activities related to DOSS and the college.
- Maintain Counseling records and confidential student evaluation records.
- Assist in developing and revising counseling activities, regulations and procedures.
- Write reports and evaluations on counseling services effectiveness and challenges.
- Assist with low grade period to coordinate counseling efforts between students and teachers.
- Provide community and/or college-wide outreach efforts.
- Perform other appropriate duties as assigned by the immediate Supervisor and or the Dean of Student Services.

Specific Duties and Responsibility:

- Assist students with setting immediate and long term personal goals.
- Identify and develop a plan to help students overcome potential obstacles by finding solutions and options Follow-up and encourage positive progress towards meeting student(s) academic and personal goals.
- Counsel students with social and emotional developmental issues as they attempt to deal with the challenges of achieving their educational goals.
- Provide activities, workshops, training or seminars for students, staff, faculty or stakeholders concerning related issues on suicide prevention, sexual misconduct, college related policies and procedures, resources, etc. to increase awareness and understanding.
- Responsible for "You Are Not Alone" (YANA) program on campus including recruitment and training of peer mentors for the program.
- Assist students with documented disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations related to their disability.
- Provide orientation of policies, processes and procedures, services and resources available on campus to assist students with disabilities in becoming independent students.
- Develop and implement Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) for each course taught.
- Share SLO course data with department and ASCC stakeholders, and provide recommendations for improvement.
- Participate in the different levels of student learning outcome review, program review and student assessment.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively, as well as the ability to work independently

Minimum Qualifications:

- Masters degree in Counseling, Psychology, Sociology or related field
- At least five (5) years of academic counseling experience at the secondary or college level
- Knowledge of academic, career, aptitude, and personal training.
- Ability to engage a diverse group of students, colleagues and stakeholders.
- Effective oral, written and interpersonal communication skills.
- Organizational skills and ability to prioritize tasks and meet deadlines.
- Proficiency in Microsoft office programs, including Power Point, Word and Excel with effective internet research skill.

Salary Proposed:

GS:15/07-12 = (\$27, 995.00 - \$33, 155.00)

Application Deadline:

September 5, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 Ext. 403/335/436 or by emailing Silaulelei Saofaigaalii at s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu or asochumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

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Trump-McConnell feud threatens Republican agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump can't enact his agenda without Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. McConnell may not have a majority to lead without Trump's help. It's simple, and still so complicated.

The strangest bedfellows in Washington are locked in an increasingly public and personal feud that defies conventional wisdom. The escalating tension between the two men is threatening the GOP's re-election prospects and its ability to govern. It has erupted at a high-stakes moment for the Republican Party, which is facing the prospect of a government shutdown — and the possibility it may fail to enact any major legislation during its first year in complete control of Washington. The dispute is a reminder of the unconventional politics that have gripped the GOP in the Trump era. While Trump and McConnell ostensibly share the same philosophy, legislative agenda, voters and political opponents, they increasingly act more like adversaries than allies — a reminder of just how divisive the president remains within his own party.

"He's now actively attacking people who can help his agenda," veteran Republican operative Doug Heye said of Trump, who has mobilized his avid supporters against GOP senators since the party's embarrassing failure to overhaul the nation's health care system. "It seems to be really a one-man spiral to the bottom."

Divisions have deepened in recent weeks. McConnell, like other leading Republicans, is particularly upset by Trump's consistent attacks against vulnerable Republican senators who need his help, according to a person familiar with the Kentucky Republican's thinking who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share private conversations. The person said McConnell questions whether Trump is capable of righting his struggling presidency. The concerns were exacerbated by Trump's recent description of some participants in a white supremacist rally as "very fine people," remarks that were broadly condemned by Republicans and Democrats. The intra-party feuding threatens nearly all of Trump's priorities, including his near-daily campaign trail pledge to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border.

While Trump threatened Tuesday to force a federal shutdown unless Congress provides funds for the massive project, many GOP lawmakers, especially moderates, lack his passion for the proposal. They may be harder to win over given the

current rancorous atmosphere.

Republicans who feel wounded by Trump also could be less likely to defend him amid numerous investigations into his campaign's ties to Russia. And it could complicate the task of rallying Republicans around complicated tax legislation, where lawmakers can have divergent priorities.

"In politics, it's a mistake to personalize things, particularly if it's a member of your own team," veteran Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., said Wednesday. "The reality is you're going to need them down the road."

Trump and McConnell "remain united on many shared priorities" and they and other top officials will hold "previously scheduled meetings" after Congress returns from its August recess, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Wednesday in a statement. She said their goals include middle-class tax cuts, building the border wall and strengthening the military.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us, and we are committed to advancing our shared agenda together and anyone who suggests otherwise is clearly not part of the conversation," McConnell said in his own statement.

Such talks are unlikely to yield a close personal relationship between the two leaders.

At 75 years old, McConnell is just four years older than Trump. But he's spent decades in Washington compared with Trump's seven months. And stylistically and substantively, they are worlds apart.

McConnell, a Kentuckian, is guarded and gentlemanly, while Trump flashes a New Yorker's brash, bombastic impertinence.

McConnell is an unrelenting GOP loyalist who's mastered Senate rules and the legislative process, while Trump regularly bashes Republicans and has limited knowledge of congressional procedure. McConnell often seems to think several steps ahead of others, while Trump bounces from one subject to another with little clear strategic purpose.

The most perplexing of Trump's strategies has been the attacks on sitting Republican senators when his party holds control of the Senate by a narrow margin. Without his support, the GOP stands a chance — if somewhat unlikely — of losing its Senate majority.

Last week, Trump encouraged a former Arizona state senator to challenge Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., in a Republican primary election. Meanwhile, a super PAC allied with Trump launched attack ads against Nevada Sen. Dean Heller, who is facing a primary challenge.



FILE - In this June 6, 2017 file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. listens as President Donald Trump, speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. The rift between President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is poised to have lasting consequences on the GOP legislative agenda and Republicans' re-election prospects.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)



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

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White House Chief of Staff John Kelly stands in the door of Air Force One and watches President Donald Trump, as he arrives in Reno, Nev., Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Kelly seeks to restore White House order ahead of key fights

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his first month on the job, White House chief of staff John Kelly has made significant progress toward imposing discipline on a chaotic operation, even as it's clear he still struggles to have the same effect on the president himself. The White House is a less contentious place and decision-making is becoming more orderly under Kelly's thumb, according to more than a dozen people interviewed by The Associated Press, including White House officials, outside advisers and others who work regularly with the administration. They say a group of more experienced advisers — including a trio of generals — is increasingly holding sway. And they describe a process in which Kelly has successfully limited dissenting voices, restricted access to the president and “stacked the deck” on major decisions to guide him toward an outcome. This new Afghanistan war strategy announced this week was a chief example of the process.

But President Donald Trump also made clear this week there's no steering him toward less incendiary rhetoric.

At a rally in Phoenix on Tuesday night, Trump alluded to the advice he's getting — and then proceeded to work his way around it. “You know, they all said, Mr. President, your speech was so good last night. Please, please Mr. President, don't mention any names. So I won't,” Trump said. He went on to insult a pair of Republican senators without mentioning their names and then threatened to shut down the government if Congress doesn't give him money for his border wall, much to the alarm of Republican lawmakers.

The remarks pointed to Kelly's biggest challenge: piloting Trump though a hectic fall filled with high-stakes deadlines for funding the government, raising the debt ceiling and making progress on tax reform. It remains unclear whether Kelly's new grip on the decision-making process will be a check on Trump's impulses on domestic priorities that were central in his candidacy.

“Believe me, if we have to close down our government, we're building that wall,” Trump said in Phoenix.

Kelly's consolidation of power is a direct result of the dramatic shakeup of Trump's inner circle. Since taking the reins from former chief of staff Reince Priebus, Kelly has begun to reorganize the process by which Trump receives information and push back against the open-door policy that gave White House officials constant access to their boss.

“General Kelly demands of the White House staff those same qualities he has exemplified in his 45 years of public service: integrity, humility, team cohesion, focus, discipline, performance and results,” said

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway. “He commands respect and shows respect, empowers us to succeed and expects us to help promote the president's agenda and not a personal agenda.”

While Kelly has made clear that he sees his role as managing White House staff and not the president, he also helped persuade Trump to part ways with adviser Steve Bannon. The populist firebrand often goaded Trump toward some of his more nationalist policies and sharp-elbowed rhetoric and was often blamed for White House infighting. In addition to leaning on Kelly, the former Homeland Security secretary, Trump is increasingly relying on Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, an active-duty lieutenant general, on matters extending beyond foreign policy. Mattis and Kelly are retired generals — a point Kelly underscores in meetings, where he has told Cabinet secretaries and advisers to refer to him as chief of staff rather than “General Kelly.” The group of generals was particularly critical to the Afghanistan decision. After seven months of debate, during which the president repeatedly questioned Pentagon plans, the dynamic changed significantly in the final four days before Trump's Monday night address to the nation, according to an official who like some of the others interviewed spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. With Trump ensconced at the Camp David retreat, Kelly ensured that he heard directly from Vice President Mike Pence, Mattis and McMaster, who had warned of the consequences of withdrawal. Trump was not in contact with Bannon, an intervention skeptic, or Blackwater Worldwide founder Erik Prince, who had advocated for the use of more military contractors, the official said.

Bannon, who opposed a troop increase, did speak with Trump twice on Saturday and also with Pence during the day, according to a person familiar with the calls. By then the major decisions on Afghanistan had been reached. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private conversations, said the calls were cordial.

On Monday evening, Trump announced the U.S. would move additional troops to Afghanistan despite his “original instinct” to retreat from the 16-year-long war.

Kelly's approach acknowledges that Trump is prone to soliciting advice from unusual corners and being persuaded by the last person who has his ear.

That applied to Bannon, in particular, who helped propel Trump to the White House with his unique blend of nationalist fervor, economic populism and love for bare-knuckles political brawling.



JUDICIAL BRANCH HIGH COURT OF AMERICAN SAMOA POSITION VACANCY PROBATION OFFICER / TRANSLATOR

The Judicial Branch of the American Samoa Government announces the following vacancy in the High Court of American Samoa.

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Application Instructions: All applications must be submitted to the High Court Administrator, by no later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 1st, 2017. Applications are available at the Court Clerks window at the High Court Building in Fagatogo during regular business hours.

Lawsuit: School created culture of abuse and excessive force

A Pittsburgh-area school with a history of racial tension created a culture of verbal abuse and excessive force that allowed resource officers to shock students with stun guns and body-slam them, according to a civil rights lawsuit filed Wednesday.

The lawsuit by the guardians of five black former students of Woodland Hills High School also says school administrators “intentionally discriminated” against students because of their race and filed false charges to cover up abuse. The suit seeks compensatory damages and legal fees from the defendants, named as the district, the Churchill borough government, a security contractor and six individuals, including a former principal, two school resource officers and the district superintendent. In April, the Allegheny County district attorney said he was reviewing allegations that Steve Shaulis, a resource officer at the school, punched and knocked out the tooth of a 14-year-old freshman accused of stealing another’s student cellphone. Pictures of the freshman’s bruised face appeared online. In May, video surfaced of Shaulis body-slammng a 15-year-old student in 2015 and shocking him with a stun gun.

The tapes sparked outrage among parents over the district’s reliance on resource officers, and they confronted school board members and held protests. “Why wasn’t anything ever done? How could anybody in charge look at those videos and not hold anyone accountable?” said one of the filing attorneys, Timothy O’Brien, at a Wednesday news conference. “When a child goes to school, they shouldn’t be treated like an inmate at a prison.”

The suit cites five incidents in total. Attorneys cited two newly released videos dating back nearly a decade to argue the incidents constituted a pattern of abuse.

A video from 2009 shows Shaulis shoving a student into a locker without apparent physical provocation, then shocking the student with a stun gun and arresting him.

One in 2010 shows a behavioral specialist lifting a student up against a locker and slamming him into the ground, breaking the student’s wrist. The student was charged with aggravated assault and disorderly conduct, the lawsuit said, but charges were withdrawn after a district attorney reviewed the video. The fifth incident involved school principal Kevin Murray, who was caught on a recording last year threatening to punch a 14-year-old special education student in the face and “knock your ... teeth down your throat.” Murray resigned last week. Shaulis transferred out of the school this year, and police records show his standing at the police department has remained the same. The suit says the lack of inter-

vention until this year shows the district and the borough were complicit by being “fully aware of these abuses” but not doing anything about it.

“Nobody has been disciplined, nobody has been retrained, and until that happens, every single child who attends Woodland Hills High School is at risk,” O’Brien said.

The police department that employs Shaulis declined to comment, and Woodland Hills superintendent Alan Johnson did not immediately return a call seeking comment. Phil DiLucente, an attorney representing Murray and Shaulis, said Shaulis had used “reasonable force” when he was seen body-slammng and shocking a student in the 2015 video and that the matter had already been adjudicated.

The Woodland Hills school district has long been troubled by racial tensions. It was created by court order in 1981 after a decadelong legal battle.



In this May 12, 2017, photo, Burgundi Russell, a plaintiff in a civil rights lawsuit against Woodland Hills High School, poses for a picture in Pittsburgh, Pa. Russell alleges that a school resource officer, Steve Shaulis, punched and knocked out a tooth of her son earlier this year. The Pittsburgh-area school with a history of racial tension created a culture of verbal abuse and excessive force that allowed resource officers to shock students with stun guns and body-slam them, according to a civil rights lawsuit filed Wednesday, Aug. 23.

(AP Photo/Dake Kang)

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CORRECTS EXECUTION DATE TO AUG. 24 - This undated photo provided by the Florida Department of Corrections shows Mark Asay. If his final appeals are denied, Asay is to die by lethal injection after 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, 2017. Asay was convicted by a jury of two racially motivated, premeditated murders in Jacksonville in 1987. (Florida Department of Corrections via AP)

Florida to execute white man for racially motivated murder

For the first time in state history, Florida is expecting to execute a white man Thursday for killing a black person — and it plans to do so with the help of a drug that has never been used before in any U.S. execution.

Barring a stay, Mark Asay, 53, is scheduled to die by lethal injection after 6 p.m. Asay was convicted by a jury of two racially motivated, premeditated murders in Jacksonville in 1987.

The planned execution — Florida’s first since the U.S. Supreme Court halted the practice in the state more than 18 months ago — is expected to be carried out using etomidate, an anesthetic that has been approved by the Florida Supreme Court. Two other drugs also will be used.

Asay, who is white, fatally shot Robert Lee Booker, 34, a black man, after making multiple racist comments, prosecutors said. Asay’s second victim was Robert McDowell, 26, who was mixed race, white and Hispanic. Prosecutors say Asay had hired McDowell, who was dressed as a woman, for sex and shot him six times after discovering his gender.

While Asay would be the state’s first white man to be executed in Florida for killing a black man, at least 20 black men have been executed for killing white victims since the state reinstated the death penalty in 1976, according to data from the Death Penalty Information Center. A total of 92 Florida inmates have been executed in that time period.

Opponents of capital punishment said much more needs to be done to make Florida’s criminal justice system more equitable.

“This does nothing to change the 170-year-long history of Florida not executing whites for killing blacks,” said Mark Elliott, executive director of Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

Etomidate is the first of three drugs administered in Florida’s new execution cocktail. It is replacing midazolam, which has been harder to acquire after many drug companies began refusing to provide it for executions. The etomidate is followed by rocuronium bromide, a paralytic, and finally, potassium acetate, which stops the heart. It is Florida’s first time using potassium acetate too, which was used in a 2015 execution in Oklahoma by mistake, but has not been used elsewhere, a death penalty expert said.

While the state’s high court has approved the use of etomidate, some experts have criticized the drug as being unproven.

“It’s never been used in an execution before,”

said Jen Moreno, a lethal injection expert who works as a staff attorney at the University of California, Berkeley Law School’s death penalty clinic. “There are outstanding questions about whether it’s going to do what it needs to do during an execution. The state hasn’t provided any information about why it has selected this drug.”

State corrections officials defended the choice, saying it has been reviewed. The corrections department refused to answer questions from The Associated Press about how it chose etomidate.

“The Florida Department of Corrections follows the law and carries out the sentence of the court,” Michelle Gladly, the Florida Department of Corrections’ spokeswoman, said in a statement. “This is the Department’s most solemn duty and the foremost objective with the lethal injection procedure is a humane and dignified process.”

Doctors hired by Asay’s attorneys raised questions about etomidate in court declarations, saying there are cases where it had caused pain along with involuntary writhing in patients.

But in its opinion allowing the drug to be used, the state’s high court said earlier this month that four expert witnesses demonstrated that Asay “is at small risk of mild to moderate pain.”

Asay would be the first Florida inmate executed since a U.S. Supreme Court ruling found the state’s method of sentencing people to death to be unconstitutional. The court ruled that the old system was illegal because it gave judges, not juries, the power to decide.

Since then, Florida’s Legislature passed a law requiring a unanimous jury for death penalty recommendations.

In Asay’s case, jurors recommended death for both murder counts by 9-3 votes. Even though the new law requires unanimity, Florida’s high court ruled that the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling did not apply to older cases.

Asay will be the 24th inmate executed since Gov. Rick Scott has taken office, the most under any governor in Florida history.

Booker’s son, Vittorio Robinson, who was 15 when his father was killed, told the Florida Times-Union newspaper in Jacksonville that his father’s death helped him realize that racism was still alive.

“I just couldn’t believe it,” he said, describing when he learned of his father’s death. “And then it dawned on me, there are actually still people out there that thought that way.”

Cross-burning victims to priest: Apology is not enough

WASHINGTON (AP) — Phillip and Barbara Butler hadn't given much thought to the man who burned a cross on their front lawn 40 years ago.

Then they heard the startling news Tuesday that the perpetrator had become a priest and was ministering to Catholics not far from their home.

"I didn't know what to say. It was unbelievable," Phillip Butler said Wednesday at a news conference.

The priest, the Rev. William Aitcheson, went public with his old Klan affiliation Monday, writing a column in the diocesan newspaper.

He said his past was not a secret, but he felt compelled to make it more public after seeing images of violence at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville.

Aitcheson, now 62, described his past actions as despicable: "To anyone who has been subjected to racism or bigotry, I am sorry. I have no excuse, but I hope you will forgive me."

For the Butlers, though, his announcement provided more questions than answers.

The Butlers' lawyer, Ted Williams, called on Aitcheson to publicly identify his Klan associates as well as anyone who helped him with the cross-burning.

The Butlers said the cross was big and heavy, more than six feet (1.8 meters) tall, so he must have had help. Phillip Butler said someone also must have identified their home for Aitcheson to target them.

"What did we do to have them put a cross in our lawn?" he asked. The couple, among the first African-Americans to move into their subdivision, moved on after about eight years.

"It makes you very afraid of what's going on," Butler said.

The Diocese of Arlington initially said that for the good of the parish, Aitcheson is taking a voluntary leave of absence from ministerial duties at St. Leo the Great in Fairfax. Through the diocese, he has declined interview requests.

In response to the Butlers' news conference, the diocese released a statement saying Aitcheson "will fully cooperate with law enforcement in addressing details of this case that were not gathered previously."

Williams said he believes

Aitcheson, who became a priest in Nevada before eventually transferring to Virginia, came forward only because he felt he was going to be exposed.

He questioned Aitcheson's statement that the Charlottesville rally prompted his public mea culpa, after so many other racial flash points over the decades.

"The big question is, why is this just coming out now?" he asked.

The diocese, in its statement Wednesday, said a freelance reporter had approached the diocese asking whether Aitcheson had been connected to the cross-burnings, which received press attention at the time.

"Aitcheson was approached about this, he acknowledged his past and saw the opportunity to tell his story in the hopes that others would see the possibility of conversion and repentance," the diocese said.

Aitcheson was convicted and sentenced to 90 days in jail in 1977 after he was charged with burning several crosses, including the one at the Butlers' home in College Park, Maryland, and sending a death threat to Coretta Scott King. Authorities at the time said he was a University of Maryland student doubling as a "wizard" of a 12-member KKK lodge.

Years later, the Butlers won a \$23,000 civil judgment against Aitcheson, and received a personal visit from President Ronald Reagan, who with his wife, Nancy, condemned the hate crime.

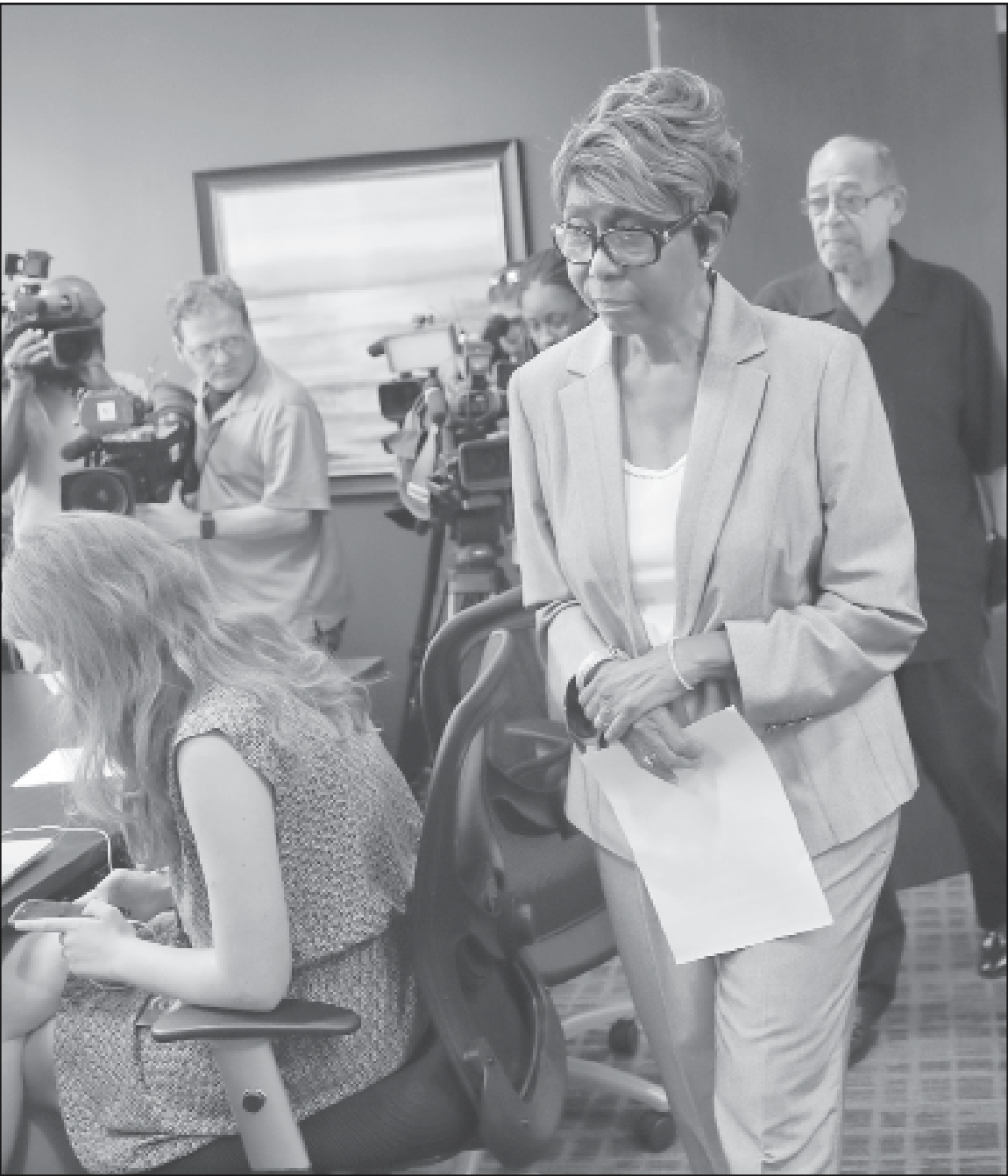
But Aitcheson never apologized to the Butlers, in writing or in person during their time in court, and they said they never received any of that money.

The diocese said it only learned of his unpaid restitution this week, and committed to ensuring he fulfills his moral and legal obligations.

Williams said he is researching his options in pushing the judgment and calculating possible interest in 35 years of nonpayment.

Barbara Butler said she doubts Aitcheson could say anything she would be interested in hearing in terms of an apology, and expressed skepticism about his change of heart.

"Father forgive them for they know not what they do," she said, quoting Jesus Christ. Then she addressed the priest: "But you did know."



Barbara Butler, followed by her husband Phillip Butler, arrive for a news conference at their attorney's office in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017. The Butlers, victims of a cross burning on their property forty years ago, is questioning the sincerity of Catholic Priest William Aitcheson, a Ku Klux Klan "wizard", who has come forward after decades about his past.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA)

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Position Type	Career Service	Deadline	August 25, 2017/4:00 pm
Job Opening	Two (1)	Starting Salary	GS: 8/1 \$12,878.00 to GS:8/12 \$20,869.00
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This combination photo shows performers, from left, Gary Clark, Jr. at the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin, Texas on March 17, 2017, Solange Knowles during the FYF Fest in Los Angeles on Aug. 23, 2015, and SZA at the BET Awards in Los Angeles on June 25, 2017. They will be perform at the Afropunk festival in Brooklyn,Ãs Commodore Barry Park this weekend.

(AP Photo/File)

Afropunk to celebrate 12th year with Solange, SZA and more

NEW YORK (AP) — Afro-punk festival co-founder Matthew Morgan remembers when the musical event carried out as a small gathering on New York’s Lower East Side with 25 people. Now, celebrating its 12th year this weekend in Brooklyn, New York, the festival has also expanded to an international celebration, even traveling to South Africa for the first time in December.

“We’re giving people an opportunity to gather and celebrate being a person-of-color,” Morgan said. “It’s very, very, very important that we connect to our community globally.”

Afropunk returns to Brooklyn’s Commodore Barry Park on Saturday and Sunday with performances by Solange, Gary Clark Jr., Raphael Saadiq, Willow Smith, SZA and Anderson.Paak. About 60,000 people are expected to attend.

The festival launched in 2005 and was inspired by the 2003 documentary, “Afro-Punk,” produced by Morgan and directed by festival co-founder James Spooner. The film examined notions that challenged stereotypes about musical artists of color and focused on black performers in the punk rock world. And this year’s festival continues to challenge those perceptions, Morgan said.

“I kind of booked it like a mix tape,” he said. “I want people to be open and free enough to experiment within the space.” Clark Jr., known for mixing rock, soul, blues and hip-hop sounds, has performed at three Afropunk festivals. The Grammy-winning musician said Afropunk “feels right at home.” “I play at a lot of festivals and Afropunk is one of the few where I play and show up and see folks that look like me, and that feels good,” he said.

The Afropunk festival has been eclectic over the years, featuring performers such as Grace Jones, Lauryn Hill, Sharon Jones, Lenny Kravitz, D’Angelo, Kelis and Unlocking the Truth. The festival has been held in Atlanta, Paris and London, and will visit Johannesburg in December. Morgan even said he is working to expand to Brazil. Solange, who experimented with a variety of genres on her 2016 album celebrating black pride, “A Seat at the Table,” will also curate a stage at the festival. Other performers include Kaytranada, Michael Kiwanuka, Soul II Soul, Sampha, Dizzee Rascal, Macy Gray, Thundercat, Nao and King. Sage Howard, a 23-year-old graduate student from Brooklyn, has attended several Afropunk festivals and looks forward to celebrating a “side of black culture that is deeply rooted in our collective identities.”





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