

Proposed tax changes results in verbal exchange in the House
Page 3

To'atele faipule e le lagolagoina pili Senate sui ai Tulafono o Palota
Le Lali

NVTHS Wildcats are ready to unleash the beast
Sports

Dr. Thomas Petznick collects a specimen sample from a sow at one of the local pig farms during the ASCC-ACNR Swine Disease Survey in early August. See story for full details.
[photo: D. Helsham]



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2017

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2 Samoas fiber optic cable — no official ink yet

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — August 30, 2017 — The Samoa government is receptive to news that the American Samoa Government, (ASG) has changed its mind and will now sign up with Samoa's new undersea fiber optic cable, Tui Samoa. But until it is officially inked on paper, it's all talk, says Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi.

The Prime Minister in his weekly news brief program with Talamua.com today, said that American Samoa Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga has requested a sit down meeting between the two leaders to discuss the outstanding issue, during the Pacific Forum Leaders meeting in Apia next week.

And he, (Tuilaepa) is looking forward to meeting Governor
(Continued on page 7)

Lawmakers included in proposed drug testing bill questioned

SEN. MAGALEI: IS IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The inclusion of lawmakers in a Senate bill requiring all ASG employees, including elected officials, to undergo drug testing prompted questions from Sen. Magalei Logovii who wanted a clear explanation on why senators and faipule are required to take such a test.

"Senators were selected by traditional leaders of their respective counties, and faipule are elected by their constituents," said Magalei during yesterday's Senate Public Safety/ Homeland Security Committee hearing on the bill, adding that lawmakers didn't seek a job in government it was by the choices made by their constituents.

According to the measure, drug testing for government employees, includes "elected officials", who are elected to office for either ASG or

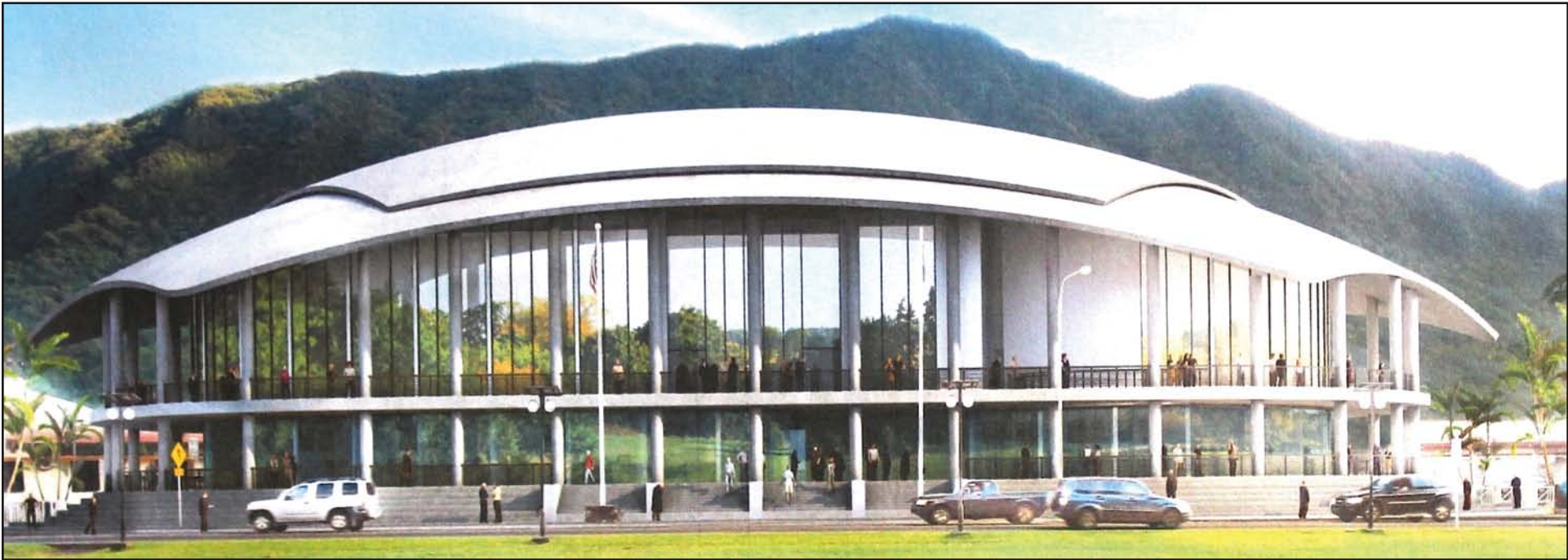
any political office in the territory. The bill also outlines certain criteria for individuals subject to drug testing.

During the hearing, Magalei asked for clarification, if drug testing of elected officials includes senators and faipule, to which Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale responded that based on the bill, the "short answer is, yes."

Magalei asked whether the bill is constitutional or unconstitutional, by taking away a person's right, being required to take a drug test.

Talauega pointed out that many states have drug testing laws when it comes to government employees, because of the belief that a job in government is "not a right" but a "privilege".

And the privilege to work in government comes with certain requirements, he said, adding
(Continued on page 7)



During a session this past Tuesday, Senators were able to take a sneak peek at the proposed two-story Fono building. The Senate will occupy the top floor while the House of Representatives — with other staffers — will work out of the first floor. The new Fono structure is expected to feature an elevator, and was drawn up by Honolulu-based architect, Mark Lively. It has not been approved and specifics have not been discussed. However, more than \$1.5 million has been earmarked from the sale of ASG bonds for the construction phase of the new building.
[photo: FS]



**In The High Court
of American Samoa
TRIAL DIVISION**
PR NO. 007-2017
*IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
TOESEINU'UPOTOPOTO
ULIMA UME*
Decedent
MASINA UME
DECEDENT'S MOTHER
Petitioner

**NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR LETTERS OF
ADMINISTRATION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Letters of Administration has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Trial Division, Territory of American Samoa, by Masina Ume, for the Estate of Toeseinu'upotopoto Ulima Ume, deceased, who died on January 22, 2017, in American Samoa.

A hearing on the Petition will be held on October 30, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa, at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa. All interested parties may appear before the Court on said date to respond to this Petition.

Dated: August 21, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS
Published: 8/31/2017

**In The High Court
of American Samoa
TRIAL DIVISION**
HCCA No. 40-17
*IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
JOAN SANI,*
Petitioner
**NOTICE OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR
NAME CHANGE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Trial Division, by JOAN SANI of the village of Mesepa, American Samoa, born November 30, 1995, at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center in Fagaalu, American Samoa. Petitioner is requesting the Court to approve a change of her legal name to LETELEMALAN-UOLA JOAN KING.

A hearing on the Petition will be held on September 28, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa, at the High Court Building in Fagatogo, American Samoa. All interested parties may appear before the Court on said date to respond to this Petition.

Date: August 29, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS
Published: 8/31/2017

If passed, new law would mandate a 5-year minimum jail term for drug convictions

CURRENTLY, THERE IS NO LOCAL DRUG REHABILITATION SERVICE ON ISLAND

*by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent*

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale and Deputy Police Commissioner, Vaimaga Maiava, have voiced their support of a Senate bill, which mandates a minimum five-year imprisonment for those convicted of delivering, dispensing, distributing, possession with intent to deliver, dispense or distribute, produce or manufacture a controlled substance.

The top law enforcement officials made their view known during a Senate Public Safety/Homeland Security Committee hearing, chaired by Sen. Fa'amausili Mau Mau Jr., yes-

terday on the measure, sponsored by Senate President Gao-teote Tofau Palaia.

Provision of current law (ASCA 13.1020) Prohibited Actions, states in part that it is unlawful for any person to deliver, dispense, distribute, possess with intent to deliver, dispense, or distribute, produce, or manufacture a controlled substance.

Any person who violates this section is guilty of a crime, and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than 20 years, or fined not more than \$20,000 — or both.

However, the Senate bill seeks to amend that, saying,

that any person who violates this section is guilty and upon conviction “shall” be imprisoned “for not less than 5 years” and not more than 20 years, or fined not more than \$20,000 — or both.

During the Senate hearing, Talauega said both he and Vaimaga support the measure, and it’s something that should be done.

Responding to a committee question, Talauega said that current law appears to give the court discretion on sentencing of up to 20 years, as well as a fine, for a drug conviction.

The new bill mandates the minimum jail term of “5 years” and not more than 20 years, he said, adding that perhaps the important issue cited in the bill is the mandated minimum jail term of 5 years for all drug convictions.

Sen. Misaalefua J. Hudson said illegal drugs are a long-standing problem and asked if police have identified people involved or those who manufacture illegal drugs.

Vaimaga said yes, but due to the “confidentiality” of such issues, he couldn’t provide specific details. However, he assured senators that police are working diligently to combat illegal drugs in American Samoa.

Sen. Paepae Iosefa Faiai voiced his support of the measure, but said he is a bit concerned with another proposed law being reviewed, as there is the issue of lack of enforcement of laws.

Sen. Tauaa S. Vaouli echoed Paepae’s concerns and inquired about rehabilitation for those who are facing serious drug problems. He pointed to a recent case involving a man from his village, for whom no rehabilitation services are available.

Talauega responded that the bill does not address the issue of rehabilitating people with drug problems, and said that Human Resources director, Eseneiaso Liu informed him yesterday morning that there is no local drug rehabilitation service on island.

As to whether a rehabilitation service is available at the Territorial Correctional Facility, Vaimaga said DPS has no jurisdiction on this issue but pointed out that local service providers — including ASG — do offer counseling services for drug offenders jailed at TCF.

Samoa News points out that over the years, the court has noted several times the lack of a rehabilitation or detox center in American Samoa to treat people

(Continued on page 8)



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Proposed tax changes result in verbal exchange in the House

REP. VE'EVALU: DON'T MAKE US FEEL GOOD... CALL IT WHAT IT IS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Rep. Ve'evalu Meauta Mageo appears to take issue with the ASG Revenue Task Force's continued claims that proposed changes to current tax laws, as well as the repeal of some current tax laws, will give something back to the people.

During the task force presentation to Fono leaders and some lawmakers last month, Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, who is also the task force chairman, explained that the proposed changes to current tax law, includes tax reliefs — returning money to the hands of the consumers — as well as provide additional revenue for the government.

Talauega made similar comments during the task force presentation to the Chamber of Commerce earlier this month, and this was echoed by task force officials at the start of last week's House Ways and Means Committee hearing to review the tax bill, which includes a repeal of the 5% excise tax and changes the way imported beer is taxed.

At the outset of the nearly 90-minute committee hearing last Tuesday, some lawmakers suggested that thorough discussions between the task force and the private sector should be carried out.

"The private sector should be given sufficient time to voice their opinions, and the task force to take their recommendations," said lawmakers, to which ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaip'e'a responded that the task force met with the Chamber of Chamber three times on the tax proposals.

During the House committee hearing, the majority of the questions targeted the change ASG is proposing on taxing imported beer — instead of 190% valuation of the alcohol, it's 35-cents per 12 ounces, or 35-cents per can of beer.

Both Tonumaip'e'a, who is also vice chair of the task force, and Deputy Treasurer for Revenue, Keith Gebauer told lawmakers that the government is not expecting to collect a large amount of new revenues under the proposed change to the beer tax.

This prompted more ques-

tions from lawmakers, who argued that it does not make sense for the government to want to collect additional revenues, when the new way of taxing beer will not bring in new money.

Tonumaip'e'a and Gebauer maintained that this new change is to "level the playing field" for all importers.

Ve'evalu raised many pointed questions on the beer tax during an exchange with Gebauer, who is also a staffer with the task force and current Acting Chief of Customs.

Like other committee members, Ve'evalu argued that the proposed way of taxing imported beer will hurt consumers, especially those who are non-prime beer drinkers, who can only afford the low retail cost of beer — some of which is sold at \$1.

"The majority of our consumers in American Samoa, are non-premier [beer] drinkers," said Ve'evalu, who shared his experiences as a beer drinker for many years, saying it's the "everyday guy that mows the lawn" and other hard workers who are non-premier beer drinkers, who will be affected by the proposed change.

He questioned why the government would change the way imported beer tax if it's not expected to collect more revenues.

"We try to take a comprehensive approach," said Gebauer, who went on an elaborate explanation and a lengthy response that resulted in House Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman Rep. Vailuama Steve Leasiolagi interjecting, "Keith, just give a direct answer to the question."

Gebauer replied, "I'm not sure how else to answer your question," except that "we are agreeing with you, that [the proposal] doesn't yield additional dollars at 35-cents; but the point of it is to keep all the sin taxes on a unit basis."

Ve'evalu interjected quickly, "Please, from here on out, if I hear one more from the task force that you're giving money back to the community, by taking away the 2% [wage tax], but then you tax us 7% [sales tax]... Come on now."

He said that while the 2%

wage tax is repealed, according to provisions of the sales tax, consumers are still going to pay a higher tax — through the sales tax.

"So don't make us feel good about ourselves, 'oh we got the 2% back', and then you tax us 7%, because you're not. Call it what it is, and don't make me feel good about taking the 2% [out] and then [we] pay you 7% — please," Ve'evalu continued.

Gebauer responded, "I'm not trying to make you feel good. I'm just trying to tell you, the proposal and the comprehensive..."

Ve'evalu interjected again, "I understand the proposal, but you're trying to make us feel good, in that you're giving money back to the consumer. But then you turn around and take that money back, and then some."

"Like I said, I have nothing against these [revenue] measures.

I just wish it was well prepared, prior to arriving at this point," said Ve'evalu, whose argument was also acknowledged privately to Samoa News by other committee members.

Some business representatives have shared the same sentiments with Samoa News, questioning the task force's "give back to the consumer" speech, repealing certain tax laws, but at the same time, proposing a huge 7% sales tax and a new tax on non-carbonated sugary drinks. Additionally, they point to the proposed hike in fees and charges at the Port, saying this will be passed on to consumers, and will result in even higher costs of goods.

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Patele Petelo Siliako Auvaa
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LUCKY NUMBER WINNERS

PLACE	NUMBER	WINNER
1st	370/65	Penina Uso
2nd	406/11	Lam Yuen
3rd	229/5	Papalauena
4th	105/59	Jay A
5th	243/72	Papalauena
6th	389/12	Papalauena
7th	323/34	Aliimuamua
8th	336/43	Papalauena
9th	331/57	Lina
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Letter to the Editor

"INADEQUATE HEALTHCARE FUNDING FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS"

PART 3: FOLLOW THE MONEY

by Dr. Jim Marrone

In my last edition of this Op-Ed, I left you to consider whether ASG (and LBJ, but I believe that we can even include the DOH here too, etc.) has been claiming anywhere near all of the money that it is entitled to under the various healthcare options available to a U.S. Territory. Now, let's follow the money and see if we can figure out what in the world is going on within the applicable governing bodies, which are involved in this process?

Given that I worked pretty much exclusively in Pediatrics, one might point out that most children don't have MediCARE rights or entitlements anyway. As such, it could logically follow that I wouldn't have been getting any of those kinds of requests for documentation.

But while that is partially true, I certainly did help to take care of a very large number of children who are eligible for Medicaid according to the Program's rules, not to mention a number of dependents from the families of Active Military servicemen/women (and other folks with their own private insurance, etc.).

Plus, there are always exceptions to even MediCARE's general exclusion of children. There clearly are children who still have MediCARE benefits, even though they haven't worked yet and as such haven't contributed to the program via income taxes. One example of which is any child with end-stage kidney disease on Dialysis, one or two of whom I actually did help to take care of over my years at LBJ.

With regards to MediCAID though, it takes some further explanation: American Samoa is the only State/Territory out of 56 total that does not determine individual MediCAID eligibility (again, MediCARE is different, because one generally earns those benefits over their working lifetime by paying that "FICA Medical" tax that we see on our paystubs).

Furthermore, for MediCAID the Territory received a waiver many years ago, and proudly thereafter decreed that 88% of its population was MediCAID eligible... But since there is no determination made on a case-by-case basis, there is no way to establish if a given patient is in the poorer 88%, or the wealthier 12% of the Territory.

Voila, everyone in American Samoa has since been de facto MediCAID eligible, despite the fact that it is really designed to be a stopgap health insurance program only for our poorest citizens!

Based on that percentage and the official population figures (and I believe, some formulae involving the Federal Poverty Level determinations), the U.S. Govt. gives ASG a large yearly "block grant," and then basically trusts the Territorial leaders to distribute among the charges made for its eligible residents.

Given the fact that "trusting ASG" is much easier said than done, and that ASG must match all of this funding on a 50/50 basis, one can only imagine how poorly this has gone for the Territory?!

Including even yours truly (as a resident of the Territory under contract), whenever I used LBJ for my own medical needs. While I in no way consider myself "rich," I certainly wasn't at any time among the poorest of the population there either. And I even maintained my own private health insurance the whole time that I lived and worked there (Blue Cross/Blue Shield of CA), which mind you I was never even once asked for by the hospital.

And that is just about tragic, isn't it? I pay a large amount of money for that insurance, and it should be able to be used...? Not to mention that LBJ could have benefitted from it!

In any case, whenever I was charged by LBJ I dutifully paid my \$10 for a medication or whatever it was, but was it really FAIR when I think about all of the other people there who couldn't even afford that much...? Not hardly. That just seems to have forever been the way that things work under the auspices of ASG, which is very sad, indeed.

My final thoughts next time should help to illustrate how and why the residents of American Samoa should be able to force ASG and the Territorial leaders in their respective offices to stop being so "penny-wise, yet pound foolish..." — especially when it comes to healthcare.

Until next time,
Dr. Jim Marrone

SAMOANEWS.COM

COMMENTS

The following are a sample of comments on samoanews.com to a number of recent news stories and a letter to the editor about the proposed tax and budget bills.

There have been no comments received thus far in support.

Go to samoanews.com to voice your opinion on this week's poll: Will you vote to re-elect your faipule if he or she votes for a tax bill that DOES NOT have a provision for cutting gov't spending?

ONLINE COMMENTS

"Senate tax bill hearing ends abruptly, sales tax bill incomplete" — published Fri., 8/24/17
Joseph Scanlan

And it goes on and on. Nothing will be solved as long as we have 6,000 working for local government. That is ridiculous and not sustainable for a territory of 55,000. Honolulu has 1.2 Million people and WAY LESS than 6,000 work for this City! Get real. The best solution is to reduce the size of government employment. Painful? Yes, but a good beginning to solving the problem.

"Fono reviews an 'incor-

rect' tax bill again — more 'sin' items" — published Mon. 8/28/17

PUSAMOA

These people should keep in mind that with all these tax hikes plus scanner fees will hike up the price of my case of chicken legs. Please I'm the only one working in my family and at the same time I'm also raising my family of five. Se come on.... hike the tax and also hike my pay pls. SALAFAIEEEEEEE E LE FAIGOFIE.....

TAMA TUTUILA MA SAVAI'I

Listen, do away with the other taxes like excise tax, and so forth, and implement a 3 to 5% sales tax across the board. Very simple, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure it out. Thanks

"ASG workforce to increase by 150+ if Supplemental Budget is passed" — published Tues. 8/29/17

tautua

Adding new employees to a bloated system on the back of hourly wage earners is a bad idea. What about surveying the effectiveness of the current work force and see if there is a

need for 150 more?

LOUATUNUUMONI

I say we all do our part and ask our representatives to hold on all of these revenue measures. We should also organize a peaceful protest to voice our concerns to this government. We cannot move on with this kind of mind set. Those days are over Mr. Moliga. We should control spending just as you want to increase tax.

"Reality Check" — Letter to the editor by Tom Drabble — published Mon., 8/28/17

Just Sayin' Dagnabbit!

Good points Mr. Drabble. Thus the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. We want to hire, hire, hire while our minimum wage is still not up to par bcuz we're too busy trying to please the cannery so they don't leave. Give these big businesses something like a tax write-off or low property tax or lower lease on the land they're using, but raise the minimum wage to the agreed upon wage.

LOUATUNUUMONI

This is a very disturbing reality for all of us. I hope our Fono will do its job thoroughly for the sake of our people.



Representative Toea'ina Faufano Autele taking a break from his one-man show at the local Veterinary Clinic — all in an effort to improve the parking lot and the premises, in addition to the installation of lights around the dog kennels and more. Toea'ina told Samoa News that this is all voluntary work, as he tries to lead by example.

[photo: TG]



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email
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CANCELLATION COULD SPELL SLOW DEATH OF FAUTASI RACING

The decision to cancel one of the main attractions of the Teuila Festival, the Fautasi Regatta, has attracted strong criticism from interested sectors of the community.

The lack of interest from participating fautasi crews has forced the committee to axe the race. Ituau Ale, a committee member, confirmed this, and said at least five fautasi boats are required for the race to be staged. Prior to the cancellation, only four fautasi had registered.

The four were: the Tolotolo o Tama Uli, Laumua o Punaoa, Don Bosco and the Little Rina.

Ituau accepts that the decision is disappointing but he said they had no other option. “We’ve already contacted (them) about the decision and the reason behind it,” he said dejectedly. The disappointment is shared by the Principal of Don Bosco, Isitolo Stanley, who fears that this could be the start of the slow death of fautasi racing in Samoa. He reminded that the race was also cancelled during the Independence Day celebrations, this year.

“It’s really disappointing,” he said. “We were informed two weeks in to our camp that there’s no fautasi race due to the lack of interested crews.”

Isitolo said the final decision rests with the committee. But he reckons the race should have been allowed to continue. “My concern is that this would lead to the demise of the sport that our people love so dearly and that’s something we don’t want to hear.”

Isitolo’s sentiments were echoed by elders of the community. Taulafo Fa’aloia, 68, of Utuali’i said he had always looked forward to Independence Day and the Teuila Festival because of the fautasi races.

“Given the reason that not enough fautasi have registered, I don’t think that is a good enough reason for the race to be cancelled,” he said. “The committee should allow this to go on, whether two, three, four — at least these crews are from Samoa, not from other countries.

“I am not sure how this could be a problem to the committee. They now have four fautasi, I mean what’s wrong with that? Four crews are enough.”

Taulafo said he was more concerned about the future of fautasi racing.

“We have a duty to keep this race alive for the sake of future generations,” he said. “Our government, especially the committee, should look into their conditions and criteria before further recommendations.”

He suggested they should also look at more ways to attract

other crews.

Afoa Ioane, of Vaitele-fou, said the regatta should never have been cancelled.

“The fautasi race is the only thing that I was looking forward to,” he said. “There’s nothing wrong if there’s only four boats, that’s more than enough.

“I hope that this is not the end of the road for fautasi racing for both the Independence and the Teuila celebrations.”

A budget of \$100,000 was set aside as prize money to be shared amongst the competing long boats.

The 27th Annual Teuila Festival 2017 starts on Sunday and ends the following Saturday with the Miss Samoa Pageant. This year, the festival will coincide with the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, also being hosted in Samoa.

(Source: Samoa Observer) SAMOA AIRWAYS PARTNERS WITH ‘ISLAND LIVING’ TO PRODUCE ‘MALAGA’ INFLIGHT MAGAZINE

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — Samoa Airways (OL), Samoa’s new international airline, will partner with the publishers of ‘Pacific Island Living’ magazine to produce its new inflight magazine, ‘Malaga’.

‘Malaga’ will be a full gloss high quality publication containing information and stories about the Airline, its products and services, destinations and, of course, Beautiful Samoa. The magazine will be published four times a year, beginning with the inaugural flight on November 14th.

‘Pacific Island Living’ is in its sixth year of production and is distributed widely across Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Micronesia.

Managing Editor of Pacific Island Living, Tiffany Carroll said “the team was honored to be chosen by Samoa Airways to produce their first inflight magazine.”

She added, “we have been working with Samoa’s tourism industry for two years now and have fallen in love with the unique beauty, culture and traditions of Samoa. Malaga will not only showcase the best of Samoa to arriving passengers, but also to the region,” she said.

‘Malaga’ will be available on all Samoa Airways flights including the airline’s core schedule of jet services (which is subject to regulatory approval).

The Airline will operate to/from Auckland 6 times a week and to/from Sydney 2 times a week, using a 170-seat 2-class Boeing 737-800 with 8 seats in Business Class and 162 seats in the Economy cabin.

(Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary)



EDS NOTE GRAPHIC CONTENT - A police officer inspects a body as another body is carried away after they were shot in central Acapulco, Mexico, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017. Seven people were murdered Tuesday in the beach resort of Acapulco as the city continues to grapple with a violent crime wave. Nationwide, murders are up 27 percent so far this year.

(AP Photo/Bernardino Hernandez)

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- HOFFY SAUSAGE - 10LB.....\$12.95/cs

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- SMART MILK.....\$15.95/cs
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- REAL FRESH MILK.....\$16.95/cs
- DIAMOND RICE 50LB.....\$23.95/bg
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- FRC SPECIAL BLEND RICE 40LB.....\$18.95/bg
- SUN WHITE RICE 50LB.....\$23.95/bg
- DIAMOND RICE - 10LB.....\$6.25/bg
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- DIAMOND RICE - 2LB.....\$1.25/bg
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- SUGAR - 4KG.....\$4.80/pk
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- LIPTON 50CT.....\$2.95/pk
- LIPTON 100CT.....\$4.50/pk
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- HUNTS KETCHUP 13.5oz.....\$1.25/pk
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- HUNTS KETCHUP 44.5oz.....\$2.99/pk
- HUNTS KETCHUP 7LB.....\$5.10/pk
- KIKKOMAN 10oz.....\$1.05/pk
- KIKKOMAN 15oz.....\$2.35/pk
- KIKKOMAN 20oz.....\$2.95/pk
- KIKKOMAN 1.25qt.....\$4.60/pk
- KIKKOMAN 2qt.....\$6.05/pk
- ARMOUR TREET LITE 12oz.....\$2.15/pk
- ARMOUR SAUSAGE 4.6oz.....\$95/pk
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- ALBACORE TUNA 24x5o.....\$14.99/cs
- STARKIST TUNA POUCH

VISIT TSM 2ND FLOOR FOR ALL SCHOOL SUPPLIES ITEMS

HAPPY LABOR DAY



(l-r) ASCC-ACNR Director Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta, ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato, Dr. Thomas Petznick, Dr. Halina Zaleski and Seiuli Dr. Michael Hansell following a meeting on the ASCC-ACNR Swine Disease Survey.

[photo: D. Helsham]



Employment Opportunity Delivery Driver

The Company

Origin Energy American Samoa, Inc is a supplier and distributor of LPGas in American Samoa and has been doing business in the territory for over 30 years. Origin is also an equal opportunity employer.

The Position

We are seeking a highly motivated and professional individual for the role of **Delivery Driver**. The position is based out of our Aua Terminal location.

Job purpose

To perform delivery duties for the distribution of our products to our customers across the island and to perform other general duties.

Duties

- Drive delivery trucks (delivering small exchange cylinders)
- Assist with delivery operations
- Assist with servicing & maintenance of delivery vehicles
- Assist in general terminal operational duties
- Follow all HSE policies & procedures

Qualifications

- Must have successfully completed High School
- Must have excellent communication skills (bilingual Samoan & English)
- Must have at least 2 years previous work experience in the position/role
- Must possess basic computer skills (basic knowledge in Microsoft Word & Excel)
- Must hold valid ID & driver's license (private & commercial)
- Preferably with a good driving record
- Must be in good health & capable of lifting 70lbs
- Agrees to random drug & alcohol testing

Compensation Package

- We offer excellent wages based on experience
- We also offer 401K, paid holidays, insurance package & many other benefits.

All interested persons qualified for the above position can apply in person at our Tafuna Office between the hours of 08:00am to 4:00pm. **Deadline for applicants is 4:00pm on 31st of August 2017.**

ASCC-ACNR conducts swine disease survey and workshop

by Daniel Helsham,
ASCC-ACNR

The Agriculture, Community and Natural Resources Division (ACNR) of the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) conducted a swine disease survey in the territory in early August. The project involved training ASCC agriculture students and local pig farmers in methods of conducting a swine health assessment, and the subsequent survey was part of ASCC-ACNR's continued effort to assist local pig farmers with health management challenges.

"This project helps us to understand the health concerns and other challenges farmers face, and to increase the experience of students in some of the practices to care for and understand the health of the pigs," said visiting specialist Dr. Halina Zaleski from the University of Hawaii at Manoa - College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Dr. Zaleski last visited American Samoa in April 2016 to assist with the collaborative Artificial Insemination Project between ASCC-ACNR and the local Department of Agriculture.

The last swine disease survey conducted in American Samoa took place 20 years ago. In order to make recommendations in swine management, awareness and documentation of what swine diseases exist in American Samoa is necessary. Knowing what diseases are currently not in American Samoa will also help with preventative measures to keep them from ever arriving.

The swine disease survey team consisted of ACNR Extension Animal Specialist and Instructor Seiuli Dr. Michael Hansell, ACNR Extension Agent Fili Uta, ACNR Horticulture Technician Pasia Setu, and ASCC students Faatoia Areta, Imeleta Luamanu, Iosefo Sio, Malia Talia, Anastasia Magalo, Michelle Paletaleo, Puaolele Taisau, June Talamoni, Logomalu Papalii, and Naseri Meki. Accompanying the ACNR staff and students were Dr. Zaleski and Extension Swine Specialist Consultant Dr. Thomas Petznick from Nebraska. The survey team collected samples from both the ACNR compound and local pig farms. They then con-

(Continued on page 10)



▶ 2 Samoas fiber...

Continued from page 1

Lolo to clarify any outstanding questions that the territorial government may have.

ASG recently had indicated its reservations to be a part of the Tui-Samoa Cable’s growing family.

But recently, the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) Chairman of the Board and Interim C.E.O, Puleleiite Tufele Li’a Jr., told the Talanei News Agency in the territory that ASG is committed to take up Prime Minister Tui-

laepa’s invitation.

The news agency quotes Puleleiite as saying that the capacity of the existing American Samoa Hawaii Cable is maxed out and going with Samoa’s Tui Samoa cable is the fastest solution to the bandwidth problem.

“The reason why internet service is slow now is because there’s not enough bandwidth,” he told Talanei.

(Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary)

▶ Lawmakers included...

Continued from page 1

that this is probably the belief of the senators who sponsored the bill, as well as the Senate legal counsel, who looked into the language of the proposed law and drafted the bill.

He revealed that the Senate bill is similar to language of a draft proposal the Administration was working on, dealing with drug testing of government employees, with the goal — of both the Senate bill and the administration’s draft proposal — to protect the ASG workforce and the general public.

Magalei asked, “What happens if I refuse to be tested?” and Talauega said a provision in the bill calls for action against the person who refuses to take the drug test.

And if the person refuses the test, then the “privilege” to work in government is taken away, the AG added.

Magalei quickly pointed out that it was the “privilege” given to him by his Tualauta county to serve as senator.

“So if I refuse, you then take away my job as senator?” he asked again.

Talauega referred the question to Sen. Paepae Iosefa Faiai who, along with Sen. Nuanuaolefeagaiga Saoluaga T. Nua, sponsored the bill.

Magalei said he wanted to get more clarification on the matter so that if the bill is enacted into law, it does not end up being challenged in court.

“By refusing to take the drug test, my ‘privilege’ of serving as a senator for my county is taken away?” he asked again.

Paepae said if the measure is approved and enacted into law that does not mean everyone will go through drug testing. The bill outlines specific reasons for requiring a drug test, which includes those applying to work in government.

He said he underwent drug tests many times, over the years, while working for the government and again, later, when he retired and worked in the airline industry.

He pointed out that the American Samoa TeleCommunications Authority, American Samoa Power Authority, and the Dial-A-Ride program,

administered by the Department of Public Works, all carry out drug testing on their employees.

Paepae said the bill protects the rights of an employee and there are reasons cited in the bill for requiring a person to take a drug test. (See Samoa News Aug. 22nd edition for details.)

Magalei kept reiterating his question and the need for clarification as to why lawmakers would be required to take a drug test.

He said lawmakers didn’t go looking for a job in government and now they will be subjected to drug testing under the bill.

He agrees with the argument that the government has the right to test employees and the government has the right to hire its workforce.

But while he supports the bill, Magalei said it should be very clear on this particular issue.

Talauega said lawmakers are not included in the language of the Administration’s draft for drug testing of employees, adding that he believes the governor wanted this matter to be left up to the Fono — whether senators and faipule are included.

The AG speculated as to why lawmakers were included in the Senate bill, saying that perhaps the bill’s sponsors didn’t want to introduce a measure, which originates from the “Tama o le Atunu’u - Fathers of the Territory” that impacts all the ASG workforce, but exempts lawmakers.

“I support the bill,” said Magalei, adding that this is the only issue that he has questions on. At least four other senators who spoke during the hearing supported the inclusion of lawmakers in the bill. Sen. Tuiagamoava Tavai, who supports the bill, suggested that lawmakers — before they take the oath of office — get drug tested.

However, he encourages continued discussions and debate on the bill before making a final decision. This was supported by other senators, including Fa’amausili, who said there will be more hearings on this particular bill.



Representative Toea’ina Faufano Autele taking a break from his one-man show at the local Veterinary Clinic –all in an effort to improve the parking lot and the premises, in addition to the installation of lights around the dog kennels and more. Toea’ina told Samoa News that this is all voluntary work, as he tries to lead by example.

[photo: TG]

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 Maugaotega 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.





Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale addressing the Senate Public Safety/Homeland Security Committee yesterday morning on a Senate bill, seeking to mandate a minimum 5-year jail term for drug convictions. See story for details.

[photo: FS]

► If passed, new law...

Continued from page 2

with drug problems. In the past some families had to pay out of pocket to send loved ones with drug problems off island, usually to Hawai'i, but this requires court endorsement, and monitoring.

At the Senate hearing, Sen. Magalei Logovii noted a provision of current law, which calls for a mandatory 10-year prison term without the possibility of parole and a \$10,000 fine for a person who delivers, dispenses, distributes, produces, manufactures or who attempts to deliver dispense, distribute, produce or manufacture a controlled substance in any school or on any school campus in the territory.

Talauega responded that lawmakers at the time, when the measure was enacted into law, probably wanted to provide this specific mandatory jail term for the protection of schools and students.

Magalei noted that attorneys in court would argue for a probative sentence for drug convictions, but the bill takes away that

argument by deleting “may” and replacing it with “shall”. He sought clarification from the Attorney General to ensure that the court does not throw out the bill if enacted into law.

The AG responded that American Samoa is a democratic society where, the Fono passes laws, the Executive Branch enforces the law, and the court has the authority to interpret the law — but does not approve new laws. He said perhaps the Senate President sponsored the measure due to the serious drug problem in the territory.

Sen. Tuiagamoia Tavai said he supports the bill but he is concerned with evidence collected in drug cases and other cases, which end up missing. “It has happened before,” he said, adding that such instances are embarrassing to the government and American Samoa as a whole.

Vaimaga acknowledged that evidence has gone missing before, but promised that it will not happen again, as the evidence room at DPS is secure and evidence is well protected.

Tuiagamoia responded, that he hopes Vaimaga’s statement is truthful, and reiterated that it’s very embarrassing when evidence goes missing.

Responding to a question from Sen. Fai’ivaie Iuli Godinet, who said he strongly supports the measure in an effort to combat the local illegal drug problem, Talauega says he encourages village leaders, including the village aumaga, who conduct patrols in villages and are in charge of village curfews, to report to police any incidents involving illegal drugs.

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has publicly called on all sectors of the territory to join the government in ridding the “drug crisis” faced by American Samoa.

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A look at the back section of the Fono compound — facing the harbor — this past Tuesday.
Workers with protective clothing and facemasks, from Paramount Builders, are seen passing through the remnants of the old main Fono building, which was demolished over the weekend.
[photo: FS]

Texas chemical plant poised to explode amid Harvey flood

DALLAS (AP) — A flooded chemical plant in a small town outside of Houston was poised to explode, a spokeswoman for the French company said late Wednesday, though the timing and the extent of the danger weren't immediately clear.

The Arkema Inc. plant in Crosby, Texas, about 25 miles (40.23 kilometers) northeast of Houston, lost power and its backup generators amid Harvey's days-long deluge, leaving it without refrigeration for chemicals that become volatile as the temperature rises.

"The fire will happen. It will resemble a gasoline fire. It will be explosive and intense in nature," spokeswoman Janet Smith told The Associated Press.

There was "no way to prevent" the explosion, chief executive Rich Rowe said earlier Wednesday.

Arkema manufactures organic peroxides, a family of compounds used for making everything from pharmaceuticals to construction materials.

"As the temperature rises, the natural state of these materials will decompose. A white smoke will result, and that will catch fire," Smith said. "So the fire is imminent. The question is when."

The company shut down the Crosby site before Harvey made landfall last week, but a crew of 11 had stayed behind. That group was removed and residents within 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) were told to evacuate Tuesday after the plant lost power.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

We Will be **CLOSED**
Monday, 4 September,
In Honor of Our Employee's
Great Work Over the Past Year.

We will re-open again on
Tuesday,
5 September, at 7:30 AM

Have a Great Labor Day Holiday

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Fishing vessel owner convicted for oil and garbage offenses off American Samoa

WASHINGTON D.C. - August 30, 2017 - A fishing vessel company that operated in and around American Samoa was convicted and sentenced today for maintaining false and incomplete records relating to the discharge of oil and garbage, announced Acting Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey H. Wood of the Environment and Natural Resources Division and United States Attorney Channing D. Phillips. The company, Yuh Fa Fishery (Vanuatu) Co. Ltd., owned the Fishing Vessel ("F/V") Yuh Fa No. 201 that was responsible for the pollution.

Yuh Fa Fishery (Vanuatu) Co. Ltd. admitted that its engineers failed to document the illegal dumping of oily bilge water into the waters of the South Pacific Ocean without the use of required pollution prevention equipment.

The Chief Engineer onboard the F/V Yuh Fa No. 201 acknowledged that there had been discharge of oil to the sea that caused a visible sheen upon the water and that he did not log

this discharge in the vessel's Oil Record Book, as required by law.

The company also admitted that its engineers made several modifications using flexible hoses to the vessel's piping system, which allowed oily bilge water and oil sludge to be discharged directly overboard.

The company further admitted that between June 2013 and June 2016, senior engineers regularly failed to accurately record the transfer and disposal of oil waste in the vessel's Oil Record Book.

The vessel's captains also failed to properly maintain a Garbage Record Book, and Yuh Fa Fishery (Vanuatu) Co. Ltd., was unable to accurately account for the storing, sorting, and disposal of garbage during the vessel's extended fishing trips.

The Coast Guard relies on such records to determine whether vessels are illegally dumping oil and garbage at sea. As a result, tons of oil sludge, waste oil, oily bilge water, and garbage produced by the vessel

remain unaccounted for.

The company pled guilty to two felony violations of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, 33 U.S.C. § 1908(a), for failing to accurately maintain an Oil Record Book and a Garbage Record Book.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, the company will pay a total fine of \$2.5 million, which includes a community service payment of \$625,000 for use in the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.

Yuh Fa Fishery (Vanuatu) Co. Ltd., will also serve a 5-year period of probation.

The U.S. Coast Guard personnel in American Samoa and Honolulu, Hawai'i investigated the Yuh Fa Fishery (Vanuatu) Co. Ltd case.

It was prosecuted by Trial Attorney Stephen Da Ponte of the Environmental Crimes Section of the Department of Justice, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Frederick W. Yette of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-2434-17

Issuance Date: August 31, 2017

Closing Date: September 19, 2017
No later than 10:00am (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide **Tech Equipment** for the LA-Immigration System Upgrade.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 10:00a.m. (local time), **Tuesday, September 19, 2017** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. BID DOCUMENTS

Bid documents, including Specifications, may be examined at the Office of Procurement or obtained there from free of charge during normal hours of operation.

4. CONDITIONS

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:

- not accept the lowest or any bid.
- reject all bids and reissue and amended IFB.
- request additional information from any bidder submitting a bid.
- waive any informalities 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

ASCC-ACNR...

Continued from page 6

ducted some of their lab testing at ACNR, while other samples were sent to a commercial lab on the mainland for testing.

In addition to the swine disease survey, a swine management workshop was held at ACNR, at which Dr. Zaleski and Dr. Petznick shared helpful health management tips and discussed their observations from local pig farms. ACNR students gave presentations on practices and techniques learned from their field experience and lab work during the survey.

Local farmers and DOA staff attended the workshop, which was moderated by Dr. Hansell. "The testing is ongoing," said Dr. Petznick at the workshop, "so after we get our complete summary done, we'll come back and recommend a program that you can use on your pigs to address pressing concerns such as worms that are in their diges-

tive systems and parasites that cause itching."

After the workshop, students were awarded certificates of completion for their work on the survey.

ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato thanked Dr. Halina Zaleski and Dr. Thomas Petznick for conducting the swine disease survey and swine management workshop for the farmers of American Samoa.

ACNR Horticulturist Dr. Ian Gurr secured funding for this project through a grant from the Western Sustainable Agriculture, Research & Education (WSARE) Program.

ASCC-ACNR Director, Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta thanked all the farmers who participated in the survey, all workshop participants and all those who supported the survey program.

Good Morning!



You know it's a good morning when you wake up with everything you need. Find us at a store near you!

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Harvey leaving Texas; death toll rises

HOUSTON (AP) — Even as Harvey is leaving Texas, the death toll from the storm is rising. Here are some things happening on the ground:

THE FORECAST

Harvey is drenching communities along the Texas-Louisiana border and is expected to move further into Louisiana before heading to Mississippi on Thursday. The storm has lost a bit of strength, with winds dropping to 40 mph (64 kph), from 45 mph (72 kph).

Meanwhile, forecasters are looking at a weather system off the Mexican coast just south of Texas that they say has a one in five chance of developing into something tropical in the next five days. If it does develop — which is still a big question — it would do so slowly, and it's not yet clear whether it would hit Harvey-flooded areas.

THE DEAD

The number of confirmed deaths linked to Harvey is at least 23. Authorities are investigating 17 more deaths to determine whether they were storm-related, and they fear many more bodies may be found as floodwaters start receding.

Among the dead was a woman whose shivering toddler was found clinging to her body in a rain-swollen canal in Southeast Texas.

A police officer says the woman's actions likely saved her daughter's life.

911 CALLS

Houston's 911 headquarters is furiously trying to keep up with tens of thousands of calls for help related to Harvey. Operators are aiding panicked callers even as they're dealing with their own personal losses in the storm. At its worst, from Sunday into Monday, some 75,000 calls poured in, more than eight times the normal 24-hour load.

"This is like nothing we've ever experienced before," operator Erika Wells said during a short reprieve between calls.

INSURANCE WOES

An Associated Press investigation found that 9 percent fewer homes and properties in the Houston area have flood insurance than five years ago despite a growing population. The sharp drop in coverage means many residents fleeing Harvey's floodwaters will have to draw on savings or go into debt to fix up their homes — or perhaps be forced to sell. Data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency show that Houston's Harris County has 25,000 fewer flood-insured properties than it did in 2012.

HARVEY RELIEF

While the urge to donate clothes and other materials is understandable, relief agencies say for now, money is the quickest and most helpful.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson praised Mexico's generosity in offering to assistance, and Houston rapper Bun B and music manager Scooter Braun are planning a benefit concert.

But former major league pitcher Curt Schilling is facing criticism on social media for his plan to collect supplies and cash to bring to Hurricane Harvey victims. Critics of the plan say donations should only go to legitimate charities. Schilling said Wednesday on Twitter he would personally drive donations to Texas and give them to storm victims.

"I am taking ALL cash directly to victims, personally HANDING it to them to guarantee they get it," Schilling wrote.



People evacuate a neighborhood inundated after water was released from nearby Addicks Reservoir when it reached capacity due to Tropical Storm Harvey on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017, in Houston. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Approved issuance by: Ruth Matagi-Faatili, President.
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.



People fill the square of the main railway station to watch a televised news broadcast of the test-fire of an inter-continental ballistic rocket Hwasong-12, Wednesday, August 30, 2017, in Pyongyang, North Korea. By firing a missile over Japan and putting the Asia-Pacific, including U.S. territory Guam, on notice for more and more ambitious tests, the North has won itself greater space for more weapons tests Washington and Seoul see as provocative.

(AP Photo/Kim Kwang Hyon)



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Services – Library Services

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: LIBRARY CLERK
Employment Status: Full Time 12 months (Career Service)

General Description:

Working under the supervision of the Library Director or director's designee, the Library Clerk will perform all aspects of Circulation Desk, Reference Desk, General Collection Desk, Education Resource Center Room services, build and maintain library collections at the college level, acquire updated and new materials based on book reviews, conduct library instruction, de-select library collections, and perform other duties as assigned.

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Become familiar with the library collections and bibliographic records in MARC format.
- Perform basic circulation services, including checking in and checking out library materials, filing daily statistics, and providing Xerox copies for library users.
- File library materials, keeps shelves in order, and do shelf-reading.
- Keep records of periodicals, journals, and magazines.
- Perform basic reference services, and work by turns at the circulation and reference desk.
- Perform preliminary filing of catalog cards.
- When necessary, bind pamphlets and other library materials.
- Keep track of lost and damaged library materials in the reference collection area.
- Compile library reference collection statistics for Director's biweekly and quarterly reports.
- Maintain a positive work relationship with library staff and users.
- Participate in library meetings and/or workshops for the professional development of library personnel.
- Read book review and publishers' catalogs to keep up with current publications mainly in the reference collection area.
- Keep all collection areas updated, and weed-out obsolete, soiled, or broken materials.
- Performs other duties as assigned by Director.

Job Qualifications:

- Associate degree or high school diploma
- Have experience working in public service. Must be punctual and be able to work independently
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Will North Korea make missiles over Japan the new normal?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The language from North Korea on Wednesday is as familiar as it is chilling, a declaration to the world to expect more missile tests. But there are important clues about North Korea's ambitious push to send its missiles farther into the Pacific Ocean in an attempt to make them an accepted part of life in the region, as leader Kim Jong Un expands the weapons program he sees as his country's best chance of survival against encircling enemies.

By firing a missile over Japan and putting the Asia-Pacific, including Guam and its major U.S. military base, on notice for more tests, North Korea may have won itself greater military space in a region dominated by enemies. It's still too early to see if Kim can create new rules without crossing a line that the United States won't tolerate.

Here's a look at the possible meaning of Kim's comments carried by state media after North Korea sent a missile potentially capable of carrying a nuclear bomb over Japan on Tuesday:

WHAT NORTH KOREA SAID

Because North Korea's "current ballistic rocket launching drill ... is the first step of the military operation ... in the Pacific and a meaningful prelude to containing Guam, (which is an) advanced base of invasion, he (Kim) said that it is necessary to positively push forward the work for putting the strategic force on a modern basis by conducting more ballistic rocket launching drills with the Pacific as a target in the future."

WHAT IT MAY MEAN

This refers to North Korea's attempt to strengthen its weapons capabilities and use them to test its bargaining power against the United States. To this end, North Korea is signaling that it may soon turn the Pacific Ocean into its own ballistic missile training ground and make its launches over Japan an accepted norm.

This might have been Kim's plan all along as he sought what to do next after North Korea's weapons development reached a point where it could test inter-continental ballistic missiles meant to reach deep into the U.S. mainland.

North Korea threatened earlier this month to fire a salvo of Hwasong-12s — the same missile it sent over Japan on Tuesday — to create "enveloping fire" near Guam.

The U.S. territory of Guam is home to key military bases and strategic long-range bombers that North Korea finds threatening. Still, it's unclear whether the North will ever act on its threat to fire missiles at the "advanced base of inva-

sion." This could risk triggering a military retaliation from the United States if something goes wrong. But the threat and the subsequent launch Tuesday may have won North Korea space to stage more weapons tests because anything less than targeting Guam would draw a sigh of relief from the United States.

"There were times when even a short-range ballistic missile launch drew a heated response and sanctions from the international community, but the world didn't do anything about North Korea's short-range ballistic missile launches on Saturday" ahead of Tuesday's longer launch, said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies. "North Korea will try to do the same with midrange ballistic missile launches in the Pacific, making them part of the new normal."

WHAT NORTH KOREA SAID

Kim Jong Un "sternly" said that "the drill conducted by the (North's) Strategic Force is a curtain-raiser of its resolute countermeasures" against joint military exercises being conducted by the U.S. and South Korea.

WHAT IT MAY MEAN

Before Tuesday's launch, it appeared North Korea was backing away from its threat to fire missiles toward Guam. Some took this as a sign that it was willing to talk and wouldn't let things get too tense during the annual joint military drills between Washington and Seoul that run through Thursday.

Tuesday's events killed such optimism. Most experts now say North Korea will likely continue its torrid pace of weapons tests until it perfects ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missile systems, and that it probably won't show serious interest in talks before then.

Kim is clearly seeking a real nuclear deterrent against the United States and likely believes that will strengthen his negotiating position when North Korea returns to talks. And if it does, North Korea will likely demand a halt of the U.S.-South Korean drills and perhaps the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula in any talks involving a moratorium on its missile launches, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert from Seoul's Dongguk University.

North Korea condemns the annual U.S.-South Korea war games as rehearsals for an invasion, and Washington and Seoul faced calls to postpone or downsize this year's drills to ease tensions.

There might also be a simpler reason Kim attributed Tuesday's launch to the drills.

Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation gives \$1M to Harvey relief

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation has donated \$1 million to the newly established United Way Harvey Recovery Fund which will go toward short and long term relief and recovery efforts.

United Way Worldwide said Wednesday that the national fund will distribute 100 percent of donations to recovery efforts for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. “We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of Leonardo DiCaprio and his foundation,” said United Way Worldwide President and CEO Brian Gallagher in a statement. “Responding to Hurricane Harvey requires the best of all of us — and that’s what this gift represents.”

United Way is the world’s largest privately-funded non-

profit and anticipates Harvey recovery efforts will take several years.

The \$1 million from DiCaprio’s foundation represents the inaugural donation to the fund. It is the latest disaster relief support from the Oscar-winner’s namesake foundation. DiCaprio and his foundation have previously donated to recovery efforts following the 2004 tsunami, the Haiti earthquake and Hurricane Sandy.

“We hope others will step up and support the United Way and other organizations,” foundation CEO Terry Tamminen said in the press release.

Many celebrities have pulled out their pocketbooks to help Harvey victims in recent days including Sandra Bullock, who on Tuesday donated \$1 million to the American Red Cross.



People walk inside the Marcelino Champagnat school, which is run by the Marist Brothers order, in Santiago, Chile, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017. The Marist Brothers in Chile say a brother who worked at two of the order, Æs schools abused at least 14 minors from the 1970s until 2000, according to a document obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press. (AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

Marist Brothers say member abused 14 minors at Chile schools

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — The Marist Brothers in Chile say a brother who worked at two of the order’s schools abused at least 14 minors from the 1970s until 2000, according to a document obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

A statement by the Marists to parents and teachers said the order has begun legal action against Abel Perez, and its leaders have met with victims and will donate money to a non-government group that protects children.

Perez acknowledged the abuse to his superiors in 2010 and was later transferred to Peru, the order said this week. But the order was advised at the time not to disclose the abuse until victims came forward, Brother Mariano Varona said.

Asked by local media about Perez’s future, Varona said he would remain a member of the order despite the abuse, even if he is convicted and imprisoned.

“You have to have mercy and also worry

about the abuser,” Varona told CNN Chile this week. “Abel Perez is a person. He has all our respect despite of what he’s done.”

Perez worked at the Instituto Alonso de Ercilla and the Marcelino Champagnat schools in Chile.

In the Aug. 8 statement to parents and teachers, the Marists said “we can assure you that we have taken all the necessary efforts so that it doesn’t happen again.”

“These acts cannot be repeated ever again in our community,” it read.

The AP was unable to locate Perez, and Varona declined to comment.

Officials at the Prosecutor’s Office for Santiago’s Southern Metropolitan Area told the AP that the case would be investigated by prosecutors dealing with sex crimes and domestic violence.

Earlier this month, the general director of an elite school founded by the Marist Brothers in neighboring Argentina admitted he sexually abused a student 38 years ago.



FILE - In this Feb. 28, 2016 file photo, actor Leonardo DiCaprio arrives at the Vanity Fair Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation has donated \$1 million to the newly established United Way Harvey Recovery Fund which will go toward relief and recovery for several years. United Way Worldwide said Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017, that the national fund will distribute 100 percent of donations to recovery efforts for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)

FAASALALAUGA O le Suafa “ATIULAGI”

E le toe tauiloina taeao o le atunuu, aua ua tasi Samoa i le Atua. Samoa, e muamua le Atua. O Samoa fo’i e fa’avae i le Atua. Ta’alolo laia o ou mamalu ma ou paia, ou sa ma ou faiga, aua e le toe gae’e i se fetalaiga ma se saunoaga. Tulou, Tulou, Tulou Lava!

A’o se fa’asilasilaga lenei mo suli, aiga ma gafa o le Suafa To’oto’o o le “ATIULAGI”, i le afioaga o Luma, Ta’u, Manu’a.

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Ia alofa le Atua mo se fesilafa’iga manuia i lea aso.

Sainia lenei fa’aaliga e,
Suli ma Aiga Potopoto o Atiulagi



FILE - In this file photo taken on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017 Russian soldiers compete during a team's run at the Army Scout Masters competition, part of Army Games, outside Novosibirsk, 2900 km (some 1800 miles) east of Moscow, Russia. The Russian military says major war games, the Zapad (West) 2017 maneuvers, set for next month will not threaten anyone.

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev, File)

NATO sending 3 monitors to Russia war-games but wants more

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO said Wednesday it will send three experts to observe military exercises between Russia and Belarus next month but alliance Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg wants the two countries to allow broader monitoring.

Russia and Belarus say the Zapad 2017 exercise, which runs from Sept. 14 to Sept. 20 not far from the borders of NATO allies Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, will involve less than 13,000 troops. Under international rules, the two should allow wider access to monitors if troop numbers exceed that figure.

NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said the three experts will attend “Visitors’ Days” in Belarus and Russia after they were invited to attend.

But she said international rules permit monitors to have much wider access, including briefings on the exercise, opportunities to talk to soldiers and overflights.

The rules governing military exercises are enshrined in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s so-called Vienna Document.

Stoltenberg is calling for the Vienna Document to be revamped, and believes he can muster enough support to ensure that unannounced war games, or snap exercises, can be watched with “snap monitoring,” or that small, multiple maneuvers under different commands be recognized as one big exercise, loopholes he says Moscow is exploiting.

“It’s especially important now, because tensions are higher than they used to be. There is more military activity, more exercises and therefore it’s even more important that we avoid incidents and accidents or misunderstandings,” he told The Associated Press on Friday, in Orzysz, Poland.

Stoltenberg was in Orzysz to thank those in the 1,200 U.S.-led battlegroup, based near

Russia’s Kaliningrad region and Belarus, for their service. NATO has a total of around 4,500 troops based in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in response to Russia’s renewed assertiveness.

NATO allies are concerned that Moscow might leave military equipment behind in Belarus when the exercises are over, perhaps to use later should President Vladimir Putin want to send troops quickly across the border, as he did in Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014.

Russia’s Deputy Defense Minister, Lt. Gen. Alexander Fomin, has rejected what he described as Western “myths about the so-called Russian threat.”

“The most improbable scenarios have been floated,” he said Tuesday. “Some have reached as far as to claim that the Zapad 2017 exercises will serve as a ‘platform for invasion’ and ‘occupation’ of Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine.”

Fomin said the Russian armed forces were inviting foreign observers to the maneuvers, which will involve 5,500 Russian and 7,200 Belarusian troops, about 70 aircraft, up to 250 tanks, 200 artillery systems and 10 navy ships.

But Lungescu said the invitations are no substitute for real observation under the Vienna Document.

“Russia and Belarus are instead choosing a selective approach that falls short. Such avoidance of mandatory transparency only raises questions about the nature and purpose of the exercise,” she said.

In eastern Poland, U.S. 2nd Cavalry Regiment Lieutenant Colonel Christopher L’Heureux, says NATO troops remain in a state of readiness, but will not over-react to developments across the border.

“If something goes sideways, we’ll be ready to address that, but we’re not going to do anything special,” he told AP.



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

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Qualifications: A minimum of one (1) year experience in human or allied social services. An undergraduate degree in behavioral sciences, education, public administration, political science or criminal justice, may be substituted for the above experience requirement. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university is preferred.

Salary: \$22,240.00 per annum

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.



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Myanmar Buddhists seek tougher action against Rohingya

BANGKOK (AP) — Several hundred Buddhist nationalists, including monks, rallied in Myanmar’s largest city on Wednesday to urge stronger action against insurgents from the Muslim Rohingya minority for attacks on police last week.

The attacks in Rakhine state in western Myanmar have spiraled into chaotic violence, with more than 100 dead and villages torched.

At least 18,000 Rohingya have fled the violence and crossed into Bangladesh in less than a week, with hundreds stranded in a no man’s land at the countries’ border, the International Organization for Migration said.

The army, responding to last Thursday’s attacks, launched what it called clearance operations against the insurgents, but advocates for the Rohingya say they are attacking and burning Rohingya villages, shooting civilians and causing others to flee. The government blames Rohingya insurgents and their sympathizers for the continuing violence. Government figures put the death toll since last week at a minimum of 103, including 12 members of security forces, 77 people described as insurgents and 14 civilians. There were reports of additional deaths Wednesday.

Rohingya advocates fear the death toll for civilians is much higher. Most of Myanmar’s estimated 1 million Rohingya live in northern Rakhine state. They face severe persecution in the Buddhist-majority country, which refuses to recognize them as a legitimate native ethnic minority, leaving them without citizenship and basic rights.

Longstanding tension between the Rohingya Muslims and ethnic Rakhine Buddhists erupted in bloody rioting in 2012. That set off a surge of anti-Muslim feeling throughout the country. Wirathu, a Buddhist monk and leader of the anti-Muslim movement who is known for virulent sermons, told Wednesday’s protesters in Yangon that only the military can control the situation in northern Rakhine. He criticized the civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi for not responding quickly to the army’s call Tuesday for a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council, which could declare a state of emergency in Rakhine and give the military absolute authority to enforce it. The military holds a majority on the council, which was created by the 2008 military-drafted constitution. “Only the military’s commander in chief can protect the lives and the properties of the people,” Wirathu said. “The military is the only one that can give a lesson to tame the Ben-

gali terrorists.”

Myanmar nationalists use the term Bengali for Rohingya because of a belief they migrated illegally from Bangladesh, even though many families have been in Myanmar for generations.

Wirathu also denounced international aid groups that the government has accused, without evidence, of giving assistance to the Rohingya insurgents. The allegations have circulated widely on social media. The Information Ministry said Wednesday that 45 homemade bombs were detonated and seven villages, one security post and two neighborhoods in the township of Maungdaw were burned down on Sunday and Monday.

Maungdaw, in the northern part of Rakhine state, is a center of the violence, though villages over a much wider area were also hit.

Sanjukta Sahany, a spokeswoman for the International Organization for Migration in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, on the border with Myanmar, said the Rohingya crisis was not just an issue between Myanmar and Bangladesh but of international concern. At the United Nations, the Security Council got an emergency, closed-door update Wednesday on Myanmar, at Britain’s request. The council didn’t issue any statement as a whole, but British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said members condemned the violence and called on all the parties involved to de-escalate tensions.

The U.N. refugee organization on Tuesday urged Bangladesh to continue to allow Rohingya fleeing violence to seek safety. It said it was ready to help Bangladesh with assistance for the refugees.

Ali Hossain, Cox’s Bazar district’s top government official, told The Associated Press that its resources were under huge stress after some 87,000 Rohingya entered Bangladesh since October last year and another 18,000 since last Friday. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the United States on Wednesday to pressure Myanmar so its government would stop pushing Rohingya toward Bangladesh, her spokesman said.

Hasina made the request during talks with Alice Wells, U.S. acting assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia, said Ihsanul Karim, Hasina’s press secretary.

The insurgent raids last Thursday were deadlier than an attack by the militants on three border posts last October that killed nine policemen and set off months of brutal counter-insurgency operations against Rohingya communities.



Supporters of nationalist Buddhist monks display banners during a protest rally demanding to give wider powers to Myanmar military to crackdown on Muslim Rohingya militants in Yangon, Myanmar, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017. At least 18,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled fresh violence in Myanmar and crossed into Bangladesh in less than a week, with hundreds stranded in no man’s land at the countries’ border, the International Organization for Migration said Wednesday. (AP Photo)

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