

Love Thy Neighbor-donate to the food drive and help feed a family

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Polynesian Football Hall of Fame unveils Class of 2018

In Sports

Tele fesili atunu'u e fa'atatau i le aoga e fa'aaupega ai Leoleo

Le Lali

Gov: "...insufficient for our fleet and our territory" NOAA's fishing days proposed rule

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Elijah Jared Tavai exits the front door of the District Court yesterday morning after his initial appearance on 3 criminal charges — child abuse, patronizing prostitution, and endangering the welfare of a child — stemming from an alleged incident involving one of his male students when he was a teacher at Leone High School. See story below for details.

[photo: AF]



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017

\$1.00

GET YOUR GEAR AND HEAD TO THE OCEAN - IT'S PALOLO TIME!

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

It's that time of year again. Time to break out the homemade nets, a flashlight, and a plastic container to scoop up the delicacy that is only found in this part of the world, during this time of year: PALOLO!

According to the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), the palolo rising usually occurs around the 3rd quarter moon in October and /or November, or seven days after the full moon. That means the annual palolo rising/ swarming will occur tonight and November 11th. Two nights ago, some residents in the east side reported a strong 'smell' coming from the ocean, usually an indicator that the palolo rise is imminent. However, Samoa News confirmed that no palolo was seen or collected.

Last year, a large amount of palolo was caught in the deep end of the ocean by 'alia operators, but not too much was collected by those scooping near the shoreline. Palolo is considered a delicacy in the territory, with people paying between \$25-\$45 for an "ofu" or fist-sized portion of the worms that are sold either on the street or through word of mouth.

How the palolo is cooked is a matter of personal preference. Some like it raw with cooked 'ulu, taro or banana, some prefer to fry it with onions, while others scramble them with eggs and serve it on a piece of toast — lots of butter is involved.

DMWR's creel manager, Tepora Toliniu-Lavata'i told Samoa News yesterday that the predictions of the palolo rise are a 'hit-and-miss game' and "we never know if there will be palolo or not." She said their team went out last night, and will be out again tonight and tomorrow night to monitor the seas and collect information for data purposes. "How long did it take for a person to collect a bucket full of palolo?" "How much palolo did they collect in that amount of time?" "These are the questions we ask so we can keep a record of the annual spawning," said Toliniu-Lavata'i, who added that they weigh whatever is caught and then return it to the owners. "Some people think we are out there to take their catch but in reality, we just want to weigh the contents and ask questions for data purposes," she continued. "Although the palolo

(Continued on page 4)

Male teacher charged for alleged sexual misconduct with a male student

COURT DOCUMENTS IDENTIFY MALE TEACHER AS A "FA'AFINE"

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

A 29-year-old man — a Leone High School (LHS) music teacher — from Leluapua has been charged for allegedly having a sexual relationship with a male student, who later contracted a sexually transmitted disease.

Elijah Jared Tavai made his initial appearance before District Court Judge Fiti Sunia yesterday morning. Although he is out on a \$5,000 surety bond, Tavai is being charged with abuse of a child — a felony — punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to five years, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both; and two misdemeanor charges — endangering the welfare of a child, and patronizing prostitution. During court proceedings yesterday, Tavai's attorney, Marcellus Tala Uiagalelei informed the court that because he was just retained as counsel by the defendant Tuesday afternoon, he needs more time to review the information.

A status hearing for Tavai is scheduled for Friday at 8:30 a.m.

The defendant has been ordered to comply with conditions of release, and specifically with the condition that he refrain from any physical contact with the victim or his family at any time.

THE CASE

According to the government's case, on April 28, 2017, an official from the Department of Education (DOE) walked into the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) office, to report a criminal matter that was reported to the DOE main office, involving an unknown minor testing positive for a sexually transmitted disease (STD).

The victim's name was never disclosed by the DOE official during the initial conversation with a CID detective. Only the name of the defendant was revealed. A CID detective then contacted DOH for information about this case, but was told via a telephone conversation that the test for the victim was done in March 2017, but due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA Law) which provides data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding medical information, the information they're looking for is limited and requires a search warrant, provided that DPS can identify the minor in the case.

Court filings state that DPS finally identified the minor on Aug. 30th. The following day, police officers interviewed the main witness in the case, a teacher from Leone High School.

The witness told police that it was sometime

(Continued on page 5)



Three of the 55-gallon drums that will be used to collect nonperishable food items for the estimated 1,500 cannery workers who will be without paychecks for 5 weeks, when StarKist Samoa shuts down later this month. See story for details.

[photo: BC]



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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-06, Page 219 on April 3, 2006, 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 **Aoloau**, American Samoa.

All that certain real property and improvements lying in Land Square 21, Unit C, Village of Aoloau, County of Aitulagi, Western District, Island of Tutuila, American Samoa being a portion of land known as "Etena", owned by the Atualevao Sosene Asifoa and more fully described as follows:

Beginning at a rebar which has coordinates of X=226297.42 and Y=295261.17 based in American Samoa datum of 1962.

*Run thence on azimuth 304° 43' 49" 55.0' feet to a rebar;
Thence on azimuth 34° 43' 49" 65.0' feet to a rebar;
Thence on azimuth 124° 43' 49" 55.0' feet to a rebar;
Thence on azimuth 214° 43' 49" 65.0' feet to the point of beginning.*

Containing an area of 3575 sq. ft.

Date of Sale: Thursday, November 9, 2017, at 2:30 pm, at the property unless postponed by public announcement.

Location: Village of Aoloau, American Samoa

Minimum Bid: \$17,566.64

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



Love Thy Neighbor — donate to the food drive and help feed a family

by Blue Chen-Fruean

Samoa News Correspondent

An estimated 1,500 StarKist Samoa workers will be without a paycheck for five weeks when the cannery shuts down later this month in order to install equipment and carry out other upgrades to their facilities.

No paychecks mean no money for electricity, and no food on the table for those affected — and their families. The shutdown is from Oct. 21st to Nov. 26th.

In response, former Tualauta faipule, Tapumanaia Galu Satele Jr. is organizing a food drive that aims to provide 'care packages' for those he says "live paycheck to paycheck and depend heavily on their wages from the cannery."

Called the "Love Thy Neighbor" project, Tapumanaia told Samoa News yesterday that the goal is to "help everyone, and anyone, who is in need, because you never know when

the roles will be reversed and it is us, who will be needing help from others."

A total of eighteen 55-gallon drums are being disbursed to major retail outlets and small stores in Tualauta County and areas in the western district. In the coming days, other drums will be set up in stores on the east side of the island.

A total of 30 drums are expected to be utilized for the food drive, which kicked off Oct. 2 and will end Oct. 28th.

"Depending on how much we collect, we may have to extend," Tapumanaia said yesterday, adding that those who want to donate are asked to drop off any canned goods and non-perishable food items - including rice, sugar, flour, and even saimin - in any one of the drums already labeled, and set up at certain business establishments.

A radiothon is tentatively set for Oct. 21st during which people will be invited to come out and donate whatever they can to the cause.

Tapumanaia has solicited the assistance of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) whose stake centers (west, central, and east) will be used to store the food items until 'care packages' can be assembled and distributed.

"The drums are already set up in the stores but because everything is voluntary, we don't know how this is going to play out," Tapumanaia said. "We don't know whether people are going to donate or not."

He encourages everyone to look around their neighborhood and find out if there are any affected cannery workers in the area. "If you don't want to come out and donate, maybe you can stop by your neighbor's house and drop off a bag of rice or a case of saimin."

According to Tapumanaia, a list from StarKist Samoa, with the names of the cannery

workers, who will be out of work during the 5-week shut-down, will be forwarded to him. Care packages will be handed out only to those who present a valid ID.

In addition to the LDS church, Tapumanaia is also soliciting the help of various schools, specifically high school JROTC and National Honor Society clubs who can use this project to fulfill their 'community service' requirement.

This isn't the first time Tapumanaia is spearheading efforts to help cannery workers. Last year, he and his family organized a toy drive for Samoa Tuna Processing (STP) workers who were laid off, right around Christmastime.

Thanks to his efforts, over 850 toys were collected. Every child had a toy and the excess was given to kids who were just hanging out near the distribution site last year.

"A lot of people are asking why I'm doing this, saying I'm wasting my time and I should just let StarKist take care of its own people," Tapumanaia shared. "These comments empower me more to do what I'm doing because everyone is quick to talk about Christianity but one of the biggest messages in the Christian faith is: 'Love thy neighbor as thyself'," he said.

"This is the first time I'm organizing a food drive like this and I'm just trying to help where I can," he added. "The goal is to be able to help everyone."

According to Tapumanaia, if the food drive nets a huge supply, two locations will be used as pick-up points — one somewhere near the town area and one on the west side.

If the response is not overwhelming, then only one centralized location will be selected and used as the distribution site.

"It all depends on how the community responds to this project," he said.



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Gov: “...insufficient for our fleet and our territory” NOAA’s fishing days proposed rule

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has called it, “insufficient for our fleet and our territory”, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s proposed rule of 1828 fishing days for calendar year 2017 for U.S. purse seine vessels in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and on the high seas — the area known in federal regulations as Effort Limit Area for Purse Seine, or ELAPS.

“One of our canneries has already closed,” wrote Lolo in an Oct. 4th letter to NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regional administrator for Pacific Islands Office in Honolulu.

Lolo was referring to Samoa Tuna Processors Inc. that shut down last December.

According to the governor, the territory’s remaining cannery — referring to StarKist Samoa — “continues to struggle” and NMFS’ own study shows the detrimental effect the ELAPS closure in 2015 has on the local economy.

“Yet, NOAA still refuses to grant American Samoa all the benefits afforded to it as a WCPFC (Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission) participating territory and small island developing — SID — territory,” he argued.

“Instead, while NOAA withholds these benefits, our economy declines.”

“Our economy is struggling and NOAA is willfully ignoring a solution that will help our deteriorating tuna industry,” he wrote.

“Help our economy by granting us, not money or handouts, but the ability to put our people to work by taking advantage of benefits that are currently being squandered.”

He said it is necessary for NOAA to grant American Samoa relief by crafting a regulation to take advantage of our WCPFC benefits.

He reminded NMFS that the local economy depends on tuna and everything is connected to the local tuna industry, even the cost of fuel and electricity that is tied to the purchasing power brought by boats that refuel in Pago Pago.

However, as the cost of fish rises and price of tuna falls, fishing boats are looking for other options, “placing our industry in danger,” he said.

The governor noted that NOAA has already set the precedent of utilizing WCPFC participating territory and SID benefits in the longline fishery by granting Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa big eye quota.

This was done in December 2013 and the governor provided details in his letter of that NOAA ruling.

According to the governor, this same logic should be used with regards to the ELAPS

days.

And just in case NOAA had “forgotten their own pathway” for utilizing of benefits from being a WCPFC participating territory and SID, Lolo gave the agency a quick run down.

For example, under Article 30 of the WCPFC convention, American Samoa is given special consideration, because it is both a participating territory and SID.

Furthermore, this consideration appears in different measures like the bigeye tuna quota for longline fishery.

Another benefit is found in the general rules of Conservation and Management Measure of 2015, wherein “high seas day limits are set without prejudice to the rights of participating territory.”

This means, said Lolo, while the US is limited to 1270 days on the high seas, American Samoa is not.

“Unfortunately, NOAA is letting this benefit go to waste.”

he argued, and called on the federal agency that it “must” find a way to grant these benefits to American Samoa because NOAA has “a fiduciary responsibility to do so.”

Lolo also reminded NOAA of Tri Marine International’s petition filed in 2015 and supported by ASG, for an exemption from high seas limit any US-flagged purse seine vessel that — pursuant to contract or declaration of intent — delivers or will deliver at least 50 percent of its catch to tuna processing facilities based in American Samoa.

“This petition has languished for two years,” he said and suggested they revisit Tri Marine’s petition.

(See Samoa News Oct. 10 edition for details.)

Deadline to submit public comments on the fishing day limitation for 2017 closed on Oct. 5th.

FA’ATUATUAGA BAHA’I

O LE FA’AMANTUINA O LE ASO SOIFUA O BAHA’U’LLAH

“E moni ou te fai atu: Liliu mai ia outou taliga i le leo malie...”

“O le mataupu a le Atua e to’atasi i le fa’aalia o ia lava o le fia vala’auina lea o tagata ola uma lava i le fa’amaoni ma le agatonu. I le fa’autauta ma le ta’ualoaina. I le gaua’i moni ma le usiusita’i i le finagalo o le Atua. I le onosa’i ma le agalelei. I le amio sa’o ma le poto. O lana sini o le fia fa’afouina lea o tagata ta’itoatasi uma lava i le pupula o le uiga paia, atoa ma le fia fa’apaleina o ia i le amio pa’ia ma le lelei.”

“Tagata e, fa’amatagofieina outou laulaufaiva i le fa’amaoni, ma ia fa’apaleina outou agaga i teuga o le Fa’amaoni.”



LOCAL COMMUNITIES LOOKING FORWARD TO PALOLO RISING THIS MONTH



October and November is the period of the annual rising/swarming of the *palolo* worm. As usual, local communities are expecting a harvest and an event for celebration. During the rising, many residents make their way to the reef early in the morning to await the spawning of *palolo* worms. Although it may vary, *palolo* rising usually occurs around the third-quarter moon in October and/or November or seven days after the full moon. This would put the *palolo* rising around Oct. 12 and Nov. 11.

The *palolo* worm is considered a seafood delicacy in the Samoan culture, and during the rising people come together to harvest and feast. During this period, the worms usually back up from their burrows and release their reproductive segments or ‘epitoke’ that contain their gametes into the water column. The epitoke is what actually is referred to as *palolo*. The epitoke upon release from the worms twirls upward to the water surface like a dancing noodle. It ‘swims’ upwards as it is attracted to light through its own sensor. As it rises to the water surface, it is collected in buckets and baskets using hand nets by the local communities. Blue-green epitoke indicates female and brown epitoke signifies male. As day breaks, the epitoke disintegrates and it releases the male and the female gametes. It is advised that people go out to the reef two to three nights before peak harvest dates (Oct. 12th and Nov. 11th) to check for early signs of *palolo* spawning.

The *palolo* rising is a classic example of synchronous (same time) mass spawning of a marine organism. The timing of the rising/swarming varies and suggests that other factors are involved than the lunar cycle. Other factors that may play a role in spawning include sea water temperature, tides, and wind. It is not known whether the quality or integrity of the coral reef habitat affects *palolo* rising. During the *palolo* rising, assigned staff of the Department of Marine and Wildlife will be conducting surveys and interviews on weight of catch per person to track annual trends in the amount of *palolo* released.

We kindly ask the public to please call Maria Vaofanua (mariavaofanua@hotmail.com) at 633-4465 ext. 241 to report any sightings of *palolo*.

Letter to the Editor

"THE CHIP PROGRAM EXPIRES"

Dear Editor,

On Sunday morning, October 01, 2017, some key sources from the mainstream media in the nation reported that Congress just allowed the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides low-cost health insurance to 9 million children, to expire. The story went on to say that if action is not taken soon to restore the funding, the effects will become obvious in schools across the country, with many of the children in the program unable to see a doctor for routine checkups, immunizations, visits when sick, and other services.

The CHIP program was created under a law that was passed in 1997, with bipartisan support during the administration of Bill Clinton.

The Territory should be cautious of the current Republican-controlled Congress and its concerted effort with president Donald Trump and their party ideology in healthcare.

The report went on to say that amid unsuccessful efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (or Obamacare), the Republican-led Congress allowed the CHIP deadline to pass without restoring the funds. The ASG Medicaid Office and our Congresswoman Amata have yet to break this stymie.

But such a federal program for children's health, with about 1.7 million dollars of federal allotment and 0.7 million dollars of ASG allotment, that amounted to 2.4 million dollars of total spending in the FY 2015, revealed a significant role CHIP has on the healthcare of the territory provided at the LBJ hospital.

(To determine the portion of care match at the CHIP matching rate, American Samoa calculates the claiming percentage for children under the age 19 with income between 100 and 200 percent Federal Poverty Level).

It is important to state that like Medicaid, CHIP program eligibility in American Samoa is not determined on an individual basis and individuals do not enroll in the CHIP, like all other territories and states.

Instead, federal CHIP funds pay for care provided at the LBJ Medical Center. This is made possible from a federal mandate for American Samoa under section 19020) waiver of the Social Security Act. Again, like Medicaid, this same waiver has allowed the Secretary of DHHS to waive or modify any CHIP requirement except the statutory annual limit on basic federal CHIP funding.

The reason I'm compelled to write about the CHIP funds is that, I do have a personal attachment to CHIP, which is very dear to me.

In 1997, ASG via its state Medicaid Director, the late Mr. Niutoa Andy Puletasi, was in the process of preparing the Territory's CHIP application; he was specifically interested with the School-Dental Program that was ongoing at the time. Mr. Puletasi was looking for a children's healthcare program in the territory to support ASG's CHIP application.

I told Mr. Puletasi that our School-Dental program was the only children's health program in the territory, whose annual target population was around 20,000 students performed on, on a daily basis. Mr. Puletasi was immediately convinced, and the rest is history.

The completed territory CHIP application was signed and submitted by then Governor, the late Tauese Sunia. The application was immediately approved by the Feds; and by early 1998, Federal CHIP monies was pouring in.

It was a very encouraging and rewarding experience for me. In prioritizing health care services, most of the CHIP funds went to medical, not dental. However, our School-Dental Program that began from scratch without a budget suddenly found itself with federal monies.

But the greatest coincidence with our CHIP approval was that funds were readily available "at the right time" each year, accommodating the employment of the new local dentists graduating from Fiji School of Medicine from 1998 to 2002; the total number of dentists the territory produced consecutively within that period was ten (10).

I believe the CHIP funding is still a cornerstone for the health of our medical and dental patients at the LBJ Hospital, especially our children. The health of our children determines our future. If Congress has now allowed the federal CHIP funding to expire without action, then I'm sure that the acute treatment services, the essential medications, and professional staff development and retainment that have relied on CHIP for two decades will now be jeopardized.

The action of the Republican-controlled Congress to expire CHIP after having failed repeatedly to repeal the Affordable Care Act (or Obamacare) shows that sometimes political party ideology comes first before people and country; when that happens, then it is important for each politician in Congress to assess his or her own personal conscience and moral values.

Terminating CHIP is wrong and immoral.

Let's hope the Republican-led Congress restores CHIP.

Tuasina Dr. Salamo Laumoli

Retired Chief of Dentistry LBJ Hospital, and former DOH Director



Congresswoman Amata in Committee markup of the bill reforming National Monuments.

[Courtesy photo]

Amata votes for National Monument Creation and Protection Act

Washington, D.C. – Wednesday, October 11, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata voted for the National Monument Creation and Protection Act, which was marked up and passed by the Natural Resources Committee, to ensure thorough oversight of future monument designations.

"I'm pleased to cosponsor and vote for this bill because it better protects American Samoa's interests in future marine monument decisions," said Aumua Amata. "A major marine monument should require clear action by Congress, and not just be a bureaucratic decision. Since designating large national monuments can have unintended consequences to a local economy, such as losses in fishing, Congress must protect our waters from overreach." The National Monument Creation and Protection Act clarifies the process of creating a national monument, and updates the Antiquities Act to restore the Act's original intent. This action limits the reach of the Antiquities Act to apply to lands owned by the federal government, not marine areas. The bill also strengthens provisions for local, state and territorial input. Also, the bill creates authority for the President to rapidly declare short term emergency national monuments to protect and preserve a threatened area while the process takes place. These provisions help restore the congressional intent of the Act, modernize it and reduce overreach.

"National monuments should be thoroughly considered with understanding of the impact on nearby communities," continued Congresswoman Amata. "This bill allows the President to move quickly with emergency short term declarations in time of need, but for long term designations requires real input from local or territorial officials who know the area best."

► Get your gear ready...

Continued from page 1

is predicted to rise tonight, we want to be there the day before and the day after, just to make sure we don't miss anything." Some recommended areas to

go palolo hunting, according to some local fishermen, include the end of the airport strip near Lions Park, and along the shoreline in the far East villages of

Amatau and Auto. According to some, a good amount of palolo was collected near the Masefaa area last year.



Compiled by Samoa News staff

FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MUST CONTINUE SAYS SAMOA AG

Be warned, Attorney General Lemalu Herman Retzlaff has put his weight behind the national call to eradicate domestic violence from Samoa. "The message from this office is clear, domestic violence of any kind is unacceptable and those who commit it where the evidence supports a charge will be prosecuted," says the Attorney General. Lemalu's comments follow his presentation to the Ombudsman's Commission of Inquiry into Domestic Violence late last week. In his presentation given on behalf of the prosecution legal service, the Attorney General stated that statistics show an increase in reported cases between 2012 and 2016. "Domestic Violence is alive and well in Samoa, and the fight

against it must continue," continued the AG. Lemalu spoke of the "no drop" policy adopted by Samoa, "which states that once a complaint of domestic violence is made to police, the charge must be laid where evidence supports it and the matter prosecuted. "That position persists even where a victim subsequently becomes fearful and seeks to withdraw the case," he said.

For law enforcement, the Attorney General said, "...we commend the police force for their more recent hard work with their Domestic Violence unit that operates under difficult circumstances."

He continued, "The social acceptance of domestic violence is still an issue and I am concerned that most instances of domestic violence is occurring in the extended family setting. "This implies to me that the victims are particularly vul-

nerable in wider family settings where they may not necessarily have immediate family support at the time of the offending."

(Source: MMPC)

TILAFONO ON THE HUNT

The writing was on the wall in 2012 that Samoa will host the Pacific and Global Summit now taking place at the TATTE Conference room this week.

And in the center of it all was, Tilafono David Hunter, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. At the time Tilafono was wearing a different hat as Chief Executive for the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa, (SROS).

It was at a time where SROS had just successfully developed the gluten free breadfruit flour and on the hunt for investors and sustainable export markets.

The target was the lucrative US market using American

(Continued on page 6)

Samoa gets a check from NTBG

BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE —The Government of Samoa received a check for sales of Samoan breadfruit cultivar as the result of a landmark benefit-sharing agreement between the National Tropical Botanical Gardens, (NTBG) and the Samoan government, entered into eight years ago.

The announcement was made by the Chief Executive Officer for the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa, (SROS) Dr Seuseu Tauafafi during the opening ceremonies for the 2017 Pacific and Global Breadfruit Summit Tuesday this week.

The Associate Minister of Agriculture Faasootauloa Pati Taulapapa received a check of close to \$14,000 tala, from a representative of NTBG.

The funds are part of the agreement with the Samoan government, which authorizes NTBG to act as Samoa’s agent to distribute Samoan breadfruit varieties globally through Cultivaris/Global Breadfruit, a horticultural partner with growing facilities in California, Europe and Central America.

For each tree sold, NTBG receives a net licensing fee and gives half of that fee to the Samoan government, based on a memorandum of understanding.

The foundation for the agreement stems back to the 1980s when Dr. Ragone spent years of collecting breadfruit varieties throughout the tropical Pacific. In order to put greater emphasis on the conservation and study of this important food crop, NTBG formed its Bread-

fruit Institute in 2003 with Dr. Ragone at the helm.

Dr. Ragone said in a press release that the Breadfruit Institute now has the means to produce and distribute millions of breadfruit trees for tree planting projects in the tropics, where hunger and lack of food sustainability are prevalent.

“In recent years,” Ragone said, “trees of a superior variety have been distributed by Global Breadfruit to 14 countries, including Haiti, Jamaica, Ghana, Nigeria and Myanmar.”

Work by Dr. Susan Murch, now at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan, has put two Samoan varieties, Ma’afala and ‘Ulu Fiti, into mass production by Cultivaris, as well as other varieties from the Pacific.

“At this critical time of global food security issues, these exciting partnerships now make it possible for the Breadfruit Institute to make significant advances in promoting the cultivation and use of breadfruit,” Ragone said.

In addition, the agreement supports conservation and helps countries of origin build capacities of breadfruit varieties.

“It will use this incomparable collection to return benefits to Pacific nations and their people, helping to perpetuate traditional crop varieties, knowledge, and cultural practices involving breadfruit,” said Ragone. “It’s a win-win.”

The National Tropical Botanical Garden is a not-for-profit, non-governmental institution with almost 2,000 acres

(Continued on page 6)

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-99, Page 68 on April 20, 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 **Pagai**, American Samoa.

*All that certain real property and improvements lying in Land Square 12, Unit C, Village of Pagai, Eastern District, land known as “**Pagai**”, owned by the Utoofili family, and more particularly described as follows:*

Beginning at a point which has coordinates of X=285470.00 and Y=309255.00 based in American Samoa datum of 1962.

*Beginning azimuth of X=218.840.00 and Y=286.702.00.
Run thence on azimuth 36° 30’ 02” 60.00 feet to a point;
Thence on azimuth 126° 30’ 02” 60.00 feet to a point;
Thence on azimuth 216° 30’ 02” 60.00 feet to a point;
Thence on azimuth 306° 30’ 0” 60.00 feet to the point of beginning.*

Containing an area of 3600 sq. ft. more or less.

Date of Sale: Friday, November 10, 2017, at 2pm, at the property unless postponed by public announcement.

Location: Village of Pagai, American Samoa

Minimum Bid: \$39,141.00

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



Male teacher charged...

Continued from page 1

during the first week of February that the minor asked him a question about STDs.

The minor allegedly told the witness that he was experiencing symptoms associated with STDs. The witness told the minor he needed to see a doctor and get tested and according to the witness, the minor was adamant about not letting his parents know, and asked the witness if he could take him.

The witness and the minor’s older brother escorted the minor to get tested.

During the hospital visit, the doctor asked the minor how he contracted the STD and the minor said he got it from his girlfriend, who attends a private school. Testing was conducted and during a follow-up visit a few days later, the minor was treated with a shot and pills.

According to court documents, the minor confessed to the witness that he lied to the doctor about who his sexual partner was, because he was too ashamed to admit that it

was a “mala” (fa’afafine or transgender).

The witness told police that a week later, he approached Tavai at the school and asked to speak to him. The meeting was held inside the senior counselor’s office. During the meeting, the witness asked Tavai if there was something he wanted to tell him. According to the witness, Tavai didn’t make any excuses and allegedly admitted and confessed that he had sexually assaulted a male student by performing oral sex on him.

Tavai allegedly told the witness that after “a moment of performing” oral sex on the student in his truck, the minor felt that it was wrong and stopped.

Police officers interviewed the minor’s older brother on Sept. 6 and according to him, his younger brother told him that it was Tavai who gave him an STD.

According the minor’s statement to police, Tavai was his teacher at Leone HS.

He said Tavai kept mes-

saging him on Facebook saying “hey” but he didn’t reply. He stated that Tavai again messaged him saying “hey” and this time, he replied back “hey”.

Tavai then replied saying, he was heading to one of the fast food restaurants; and the minor responded that he wanted some food from there. Tavai messaged back: “What do I get in return?”. The minor asked the defendant, “What do you mean?” Tavai replied, “I want some naked photos and will give you a large amount of money.” The minor said he didn’t reply back to Tavai.

The following week, during class, the minor told police that Tavai would look at him (stare) or do something in class to get his attention. The minor said he felt weird and uncomfortable, and when he went home after school, he saw a Facebook message from Tavai asking if he could perform oral sex on him for money.

The next day, the minor planned to go swimming with his friends in Fogagogo. He said while he was waiting for a ride near Futiga, he observed Tavai’s truck heading east and

upon seeing him, Tavai stopped his truck.

The minor said that’s when he asked Tavai if he could drop him off in Fogagogo and Tavai said ok. According to the minor, when he got inside the truck, Tavai started talking and asked if he could perform oral sex on him for \$350, and he agreed.

Tavai allegedly turned his truck around, headed back to Puapua, and parked in front of his (Tavai’s) house. He then lifted up the armrest located between the driver and passenger seats, pulled down the minor’s pants and performed oral sex on him.

The minor told police officers he felt weird and uncomfortable and after maybe 3 to 5 minutes, he did not feel good and told Tavai to stop.

Tavai then dropped him off in Fogagogo and gave him \$20 saying he will give him the rest of the money at school.

The minor told police officers it was a week later that he started to feel pain in his private parts and he said he knows for sure he got the STD from Tavai, because he had never had sexual intercourse with anyone prior to

the incident, and this was the first time he had experienced any sexual contact with any person.



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► Pacific...

Continued from page 4

Samoa as a gateway to the United States. And following the 2Samoa Ulu Summit that year, a pact was inked for the 2 Samoas to collaborate in setting a pathway for Samoa’s breadfruit as an added value by product for exports. In 2016, as CEO for Agriculture and Fisheries Tilafono with his former Minister Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao Fosi attended the Ulu Summit in Hawai’i. And as predicted, Samoa’s bid to bring the Pacific and Global Breadfruit Summit to Apia was endorsed unanimously.

Now that experts from the Pacific and around the world are congregating in Apia, Tilafono is optimistic that the three-day meeting will produce positive results. He is also mindful that the summit is twofold.

One, with over a hundred delegates attending the 2017 Pacific & Global Breadfruit Summit on the theme of “Home of the Ma’afala” — it translates to fresh money injected into the economy as tourism revenues.

And secondly, if Samoa’s breadfruit gluten free flour does get off the ground and secure lucrative markets, that spells money for the ulu growers, as well as our Gross Domestic Product and Foreign Reserves supported by research which found that the world market for gluten free flour products is in the multi-billion dollar neighborhood. Tilafono is also mindful that for Samoa to realize the full potential of commercializing gluten free breadfruit flour, it needs support from its neighbors. Samoa’s biggest obstacle is supply, as Samoa does not have the volume to sustain demand from its export outlets. But with the Pacific and Global Summit in Apia, the Chief Executive is optimistic that a regional approach will be considered and adopted.

(Source: MMPC)

SUSPENSION OVER PASSPORT PROBE

Samoa’s Immigration Office has suspended an Immigration employee while they investigate the alleged sale of Samoan passports online. David Nomereta Uaine, the suspended officer, confirmed the decision when the Samoa Observer contacted him. He said he was informed of his suspension yesterday.

“They already told me about it,” Uaine said during an interview with the Samoa Observer over the phone. He declined to discuss the allegations against him. “I have been defamed and

I cannot say anything to the press,” he said. “I understand that I am already defamed so I don’t want to say anything at the moment... for the time being let’s wait for the outcome of the investigation... I just can’t comment about what happened, I just want to know who released the information to you.” Last week, Attorney General Lemalu Herman P. Retzlaff, issued a ‘prohibition order’ for Uaine and a member of the public, Fitu Goshe. The order, leaked to the Samoa Observer, stops them from leaving the country while the investigation is in progress. Signed by the Attorney General, the order was addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Samoa Immigration, Agafili Shem Leo. The alleged sale of passports was brought to the attention of the Immigration Office by the Samoa Observer, which led to the government launching their investigation into the allegations that someone is “selling Samoan passports” online. According to the ‘prohibition order’ the suspects “are required to be available in Samoa as part of an investigation of a criminal offense punishable in Samoa by imprisonment of two years or more”. The issue came to light when an allegation was made in an email from one “Joanna Slewion”, which the Samoa Observer then referred to the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as the Ministry is responsible for Immigration.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

FIVE MORE PEOPLE IN CUSTODY IN FRENCH POLYNESIA DRUG PROBE

Police in French Polynesia have taken a further five people into custody in an ongoing probe of a methamphetamine distribution network. This comes a week after police seized a record 21 kilograms of methamphetamine.

In this week’s raids, a further 100 grams of the drug was found as well as \$US 600,000 in cash. Several luxury vehicles have also been seized. Last week, the prosecutor in Tahiti said methamphetamine was imported from the US where it was bought for between \$US10 to \$US30 a gram and then sold in Tahiti for \$US 1,000. Media reports said a key suspect is a tour guide who allegedly smuggled the drug, in part by giving some of it to unsuspecting fellow travellers. Since the beginning of the year, 27 kilograms of the drug have been seized, implicating dozens of people in a number of cases. (Source: RNZ)

► Samoa gets...

Continued from page 5

of gardens and preserves in Hawai’i and Florida.

Its mission is to enrich life through discovery, scientific research, conservation, and education by perpetuating the survival of plants, ecosystems, and cultural knowledge of tropical regions.

NTBG’s Breadfruit Insti-

tute, breadfruit.ntbg.org, promotes the conservation and use of breadfruit for food and reforestation.

Found online at www.NTBG.org, the NTBG is supported primarily through donations and grants.

(Source: MPMC)

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NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

The Law Office of Sharron Rancourt will close on November 10, 2017.

All current clients having an active/pending matter with our Office are urged to contact our Office prior to November 10, 2017 to arrange the release of your file.

Please contact our Office at:
684-633-6264
to ensure your file(s) will be ready when you arrive.

If you have any questions, please contact our Office during normal business hours.

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FA'AFETAI TELE LAVA

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Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: ASLA STAFF ATTORNEY

The American Samoa Legal Aid, Inc. ("ASLA") is seeking to employ one full-time attorney on a three year contract for our non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal services to low-income residents of American Samoa.

About the Position:

ASLA is interested in an attorney with legal experience in handling Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Date Violence, and Stalking cases. ASLA will also consider applicant's experience in handling cases in Family Law, Housing, Administrative Law, Immigration, Consumer, Social Security, Public Benefits and Veteran Benefits.

Responsibilities:

- Provide effective legal advice and representation of ASLA clients.
- Perform work assigned by the Executive Director.
- Comply with applicable Legal Services Corporation regulations in 45 CFR Part 1600 et. seq.
- Adhere to ASLA Board and Office policies.
- Comply with ASLA U.S. Department of Justice Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking program grant guidelines.
- Articulate ASLA's mission in the legal community, judiciary, government, nonprofit organizations and the community at large.

Requirements:

- Admitted or being admitted to practice law in American Samoa.
- Possess the highest ethical standards.
- Five years experience as an attorney practicing law in American Samoa or the U.S.A. or Samoa.
- Familiarity with Legal Services Corporation regulations is preferable.
- Possess excellent communication skills. Ability to speak and write both in English and Samoan will be favorably considered.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Familiarity with the PIKA case management system is preferable.
- Value diversity and be culturally competent.
- Ability to work well together with the Board, Executive Director and support staff to fulfill the ASLA mission and Strategic Plan action goals.
- Demonstrate a commitment to serve low-income residents.

Starting Salary:

- Depends on experience, salary in the range of \$42,000-48,000 per year for full-time attorney plus generous leave benefits.

Applicants: Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. **Deadline for applications is Monday 10/16/17 at noon.** Interested candidates should submit a letter expressing why they are interested in the position of ASLA Staff Attorney as well as what they believe they can contribute to the future of the program and its client community. The letter should be accompanied by a current resume with the names and contact information of three references. Application letter and resume should be submitted electronically via email in Microsoft Word format to ASLA Executive Director Fainu'ulelei L.P.F. Ala'ilima-Utu at the following email address: Fautu@aslegalaid.org.

ASLA is an equal opportunity employer.



Tele fesili atunu'u e fa'atatau i le aoga e fa'aaupega ai Leoleo

tusia Ausage Fausia

Ua to'atele ni isi o le mamalu lautele o le atunu'u ua fa'aalia a latou finagalo eseese e fa'atatau i le aoaoga lea ua fa'atinoina e le Matagaluega o Leoleo, e mafai ai ona agava'a ali'i ma tama'ita'i Leoleo i le tauaveina o a'upega a o fa'atino ai a latou tiute tauave i le aso ma le po.

Na taua e ni isi o le atunu'u i le Samoa News e fa'apea, e le tatau ona fa'aauppegaina Leoleo o le malo, se'i vagana ua tu'uina atu e le Fono Faitulafono se fa'atanaga latou te fa'atinoina ai lea fo'i tulaga o le latou galuega.

Ae na taua e ni isi sa galulue muamua fo'i i le Ofisa o Leoleo e fa'apea, e leai ni fa'alavelave matuia ua tutupu i le atunu'u e ono aloaia ai le tatau lea ona fa'aauppegaina Leoleo. E ui lava fo'i sa i ai fa'alavelave na tutupu i taimi ua tuana'i, e pei o le fa'alavelave lea na tagatavaleina ai se ali'i Leoleo i le silia i le 6 tausaga talu ai, ae i ai le talitonuga e le o ni fa'alavelave na tutupu sosoo nei ituaiga fa'alavelave, ae na o le tasi lava le taimi na tula'i mai ai.

Ae i se fa'atalatalanoaga ma le afioga il e Komesina o Leoleo i le vaiaso na te'a nei, na fa'amanino ai e le tofa i le tootoo ia Le'i S. Thompson le malosi ua tuuina atu e le Tula-fono i le Komesina, na te saunia ai se ata faataoto o ni aoaoga

e fa'aauppegaina ai Leoleo, ma tu'uina atu i le ofisa o le Kovana mo le fa'amaoniaina.

“O lo o i ai i le Ulutala 46 o le Tulafono le malosiaga ua tuuina mai i le Komesina, na te saunia ai ni polokalame e fa'ataoto ai ni aoaoga e fa'aauppegaina ai Leoleo, ina ia tuuina atu i le Kovana e silasila i ai ma fa'amaonia. Ua mae'a ona ou fa'atinoina ia tulaga uma ma ua faamaonia e le Kovana, o le mafua'aga fo'i lena ua ala ai ona faia aoaoga mo Leoleo,” o le saunoaga lea a Le'i.

O le vaiaso na te'a nei na fa'amae'aina ai se aoaoga e 2 vaiaso sa fa'agasolo i le potu fonu a le Ofisa o Ta'avale afi i Tafuna, e a'otauina ai ali'i ma tama'ita'i Leoleo i auala e fa'aaoga ai a'upega eseese e tete'e atu ai i tagata fa'atupu fa'alavelave atoa ai ma le fa'atinoina o solitulafono eseese. O le aso Tofi ma le aso Faraile na te'a nei, ina ua mae'a aoaoga tusitusi sa faia i totonu o le potu mole silia i le vaiaso, na fa'atinoina ai loa le vaega mulimuli o le aoaoga, e ala i le fa'aaogaina lea o le a'upega malosi poo le fana. O lenei aoaoga sa fa'atinoina e le Faiaoga, susuga Ernie Haleck, o se ali'i Leoleo ua malolo litaea mai le Ofisa o Leoleo i Los Angles (LAPD), ma ua avea nei

(Faaauau itulau 9)



Komesina o Leoleo, tofa Le'i S. Thompson

[ata AF]



tusia: *Leua Aiono Frost*
**FA'AIUGA TU'UGA VA'A
ESEESE O LE COAST
WEEK 2017:**

Ua aloaia fa'aiuga a le Komiti o le Coast Week 2017 i tu'uga va'a eseese sa fa'atautaia i le vaiaso atoa na fa'ailoga fa'apitoa ai le Vaiaso e Fa'ataua ai le Apitagalu & le Gataifale.

Sa to'atele matagaluega o le Malo, fa'apea fo'i ma Kamupani tua sa auai ina ia fa'ataua lava galuega fa'ailo, fa'aleleia ma le tausia lelei o tatou Gataifale ma ona Puna'oa ua masani ai le mamalu o le atunu'u, ona tausia ai lo tatou fofoga taumafa.

Ua fa'ailoa mai le tulaga muamua se'ia o'o i le 4 i vaega ta'itasi sa fa'atautaia ai tu'uga va'a. Mai le vaega o Outrigger po'o Paopao na manumalo le 'au alo paopao mai le ASTCA. Tulaga lua Matagaluega o le Soifua Maloloina ae tulaga tolu le ASPA. Tulaga fa le Manu'a i tu'uga alo paopao a tama'ita'i.

I le vaega o Ali'i i le alo paopao lava na manumalo ai le ASPA; o le Criminal Justice na soso'o ai; tulaga tolu le DYWA ma le tulaga fa na sola ma le SOPAC i le vaega lea o Ali'i A.

I le vaega a le Alii B na manumalo ai le Tool Shop; o le EMS na tulaga lua; tulaga tolu ai le McConnell Dowell; ae sola le Tool Shop #1 ma le tulaga fa.

I le vaega o 'au e aofia tama ma teine i le 'au alo po'o le COED A na manumalo ai le 'au malosia a le GHC Reids; tulaga lua le 'au a le Veterans Affairs; Tulaga tolu ai le Manu'a #1; ae tulaga fa le DYWA i le taimi e 1:40:04.

I le vaega o Tu'uga Paopao COED B na sola ai le Nana's Company ma le tulaga muamua; tulaga lua ai le Manu'a #2; tulaga tolu le Tool Shop #2 ma le tulaga fa o le Island Business Center.

O le tu'uga Kayak i le vasega o Ali'i na manumalo ai le VA, tulaga lua le ASPA, tulaga tolu le Dept. Administrative Services ae tulaga fa le Matagaluega o Tina ma Tupulaga Talavou. I le vasega o tama'ita'i i le Kayak lava lea na malo ai le DYWA, tulaga lua le ASPA, tulaga tolu le Manu'a Store ae tulaga fa ai le Matagaluega o le Sofua Pulega ma le Komiti o le Vaiaso o le Coast Week.

“Fa’afetai lava mo le tatou galulue fa’atasi, ae silisili o la outou fa’ataua fo’i o le tatou gataifale e ala i nei fa’atasiga. Ua le faigaluega lava le mamalu sa auai i nei tu’uga ona o le manatu ia lelei mea uma mo le fa’ailogaina ma le fa’atauaina fo’i o le tatou Gataifale ma ona Puna’oa i lenei tausaga. Fa’afetai, ae i ai le fa’amoemoe, o le a fa’ateleina nisi fuafuaga fa’atatoto mo lea vaiaso i le tausaga a sau,” o se tala aloa’ia lea mai le sui mamalu o lea vaega a le DOC.

**FA'AIUGA VAIASO -
TETE'E I FUALA'AU
FA'ASAINA MA LE AVA**

MALOSI

“O le toe ta e mau ai le fao!” “O le toe maila lava e ausia e manumalo ai!” O le fa’amoemoe atoa o le Malo ina ia fulisia fa’atasi tagata uma e tete’e malosia atu i le fa’aaogaina o Fuala’au Fa’asaina, Vaila’au O’ona ma le Ava Malosi na fa’ato’a mae’a lelei i le itula e 4:30 i le afiafi o le aso Faraile na te’a, ma sa toe faia ai lava le talotaloga fa’atasi i lumafale o le DDW ma le Malae o le Suigaula a le Atuvasa i Utulei.

“O lenei toe talotaloga e fa’amanatu atu ai i sui uma fegasoloea’i le mau ua mae’a fa’ailo ma fa’amalosia e le Malo atoa e aofia ai ma A’oga uma mai le ECE se’ia o’o i A’oga Maualuluga, ina ia le toe tagofia e tagata uma nei fuala’au ma vaila’au oona e fa’asaina i totonu o le atunu’u ae maise le ulaula tapa’a ma tapa’a o’ona fa’apea ma sika-

leti,” o le talanoa mai lea a le vaega o le Homeland security, Samana Semo Ve’ave’a.

O le mau ua i ai nei, ia fausia se aiga e mautu le saogalemu i lona lotoifale se’ia o’o atu i so’o se isi lava fa’alapopototoga o lo’o fa’atasi atu i ai fanau iti o lo’o tausia i le pulega a le Malo, fa’apena ma ofisa eseese o le Malo ma fa’alapopototoga, o Kamupani eseese fo’i.

“Afai e aotelega le malo i lenei taumafaiga, o se malo e maopoopo lona lotoifale le tatou Malo!” O se tima’i lea a le afioga le Kovana, i lana folasaga fa’apitoa na tatala ai lenei fa’amoemoe i le Fale Laumei i le taeao o le aso Gafua o le vaiaso na te’a.

O le talotaloga sa matua mafuli i ai le matagaluega o le DHSS i ona lala ma tautua eseese o lo’o ua mae’a fa’atulaga ai tautua lautele mo le atunu’u.

► **Tali mai...**

Mai itulau 8

o ia o se Faiaoga faapitoa mo le a’oa’oina o auala e fa’aaoga ai e Leoleo ia a’upega, lea o lo o fa’atupeina e le vaega a le Feterale. Silia i le to’a 30 Leoleo ma Ta’ita’i na auai i le aoaoga sa faia i Aoloau i le vaiaso na te’a nei. O i latou sa auai e aofia ai le Komesina o Leoleo; o le Lutena Kovana ia Lemanu Peleti Mauga; o le Faa-tonusili o le Ofisa o le Puipuiga ia Samana S.Ve’ave’a, fa’apea ai ma Ta’ita’i Sinia o le Ofisa o Leoleo. Saunoa Le’i e fa’apea, e le o Leoleo uma e fa’aaupagaina, ae se’i vagana ai lava i latou o le a pasia aloaia a latou suega ma aoaoga, o i latou ia o le a tauaao atu i ai aupega latou te fa’aaogaina i soo se taimi e fa’atino ai a latou galuega, aemaise ai lava le Vaega Faapitoa lea ua galulue mo le sailia o i latou o lo o umia

ma tagofia fualaa fa’asaina i le atunu’u (Vice & Narcotics Tactics Team). Saunoa atili le Komesina e fa’apea, ua i ai fa’alavelave ua tutupu i le atunu’u ua alaga tataua ai ona fa’aaupega Leoleo.

“Ua silafia uma e le atunu’u le ali’i Leoleo na tagatavaleina, o le faalavelave na tafana ai le ofisa o Leoleo i Leone, ma le fa’alavelave lea na fana ai foliga o se ali’i Leoleo i le 2 tausaga talu ai, o nei uma fa’alavelave na tutupu e aunoa ma ni a’upega na fa’aaoga e Leoleo e tali atu ai,” o le saunoaga lea a Le’i.

O le vaiaso fou lea ua fa’amoemoe e faia ai le sauniga faapitoa e tufatufa aloaia ai tusi pasi o Leoleo uma ua pasi a latou suega, ma aloaia loa lo latou tauaveina o aupega i soo se taimi e galulue ai.



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163.

Website: www.dbas.as

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Approved to issuance by: Ruth Matagi-Fa’atili; DBAS President
Date of issuance: August 16, 2017
Date & Time Due: October 30, 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 October 30, 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.



IN THE COMMUNITY

(photos: Leua)



O se va'aiga i le miliga tele lea na manumalo ai le Nana's Company ma ua mau ai nei le manumalo se'ia o'o fo'i i lea tausaga, Vaiaso o le Coastweek.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



TALA O FAAMASINO

tusia Ausage Fausia

VILIAMU LAFATELE

O le masina fou o Novema lea ua fa'atulaga e toe valaau ai le mataupu a le ali'i o Viliamu Lafatele, i le mae'a ai lea ona ia teena o moliaga mamafa e 2 ua tu'uaia ai o ia e le malo, e mafua mai i le fa'alavelave lea na ia fa'ao'olima ai i se isi ali'i ma manu'a tigaina ai.

O moliaga o lo o tu'uaia ai Lafatele e le malo e aofia ai le fa'ao'olima i le tulaga 2, ma le talepe fale i le tulaga lua.

O moliaga e pei ona tu'uaia ai Lafatele e le malo na alia'e mai i se fa'alavelave na tula'i mai i le masina na te'a nei i Tafuna, ina ua logo e le to'alua o le ali'i na manu'a le Ofisa o Leoleo mo se fesoasoani, ona o manu'a tuga sa a'afia ai lona to'alua.

Na taua e le ali'i na a'afia i Leoleo e fa'apea, o se taugaupu i lo la va ma Lafatele, na fa'ai'u ai loa i lona una'i o le ua molia ma pau ai i luga o ma'a, i le taimi o le latou inugapia sa faia ma ni isi o a latou uo.

Ina ua mae'a le inugapia, sa latou fa'amavae ai loa ma taape, ona ia fo'i lea i le latou fale, ae fo'i ia Lafatele ma isi o ana uo i o latou aiga, e leai ma mea na tupu. Na fa'ateia le na aafia ao nofonofu i totonu o lona fale pe tusa o le itula talu ona tuana'i le latou tafaoga, ina ua malepe le faitoto'a o lona fale, ma ia vaaia ai Lafatele ua savali atu i totonu o lona fale e aunoa ma se

fa'atanaga ma fa'aolima loa ia te ia, e ala i lona sasa o lona ulu i se laupapa ma manu'a tigaina ai.

O le po lava lea na logo ai le Ofisa o Leoleo mo se fesoasoani, ma latou sailia ai Lafatele ma pu'e fa'apagota ai lava.

O lo o taofia pea Lafatele i le toese i Tafuna i le taimi nei, ina ua le mafai ona ia totogiina le \$5,000 lea ua fa'atulaga e tatala ai o ia i tua. Ae afai e mafai ona tatala o ia i tua, ua poloaina o ia ina ia aua ne'i ona toe taumafai e fa'afesootai le ali'i na aafia i lenei mataupu poo lona aiga, fa'asa fo'i ona ia toe tagofia le 'ava malos, a ia ave a o ia ma tagatanu'u e usitai i soo se tula-fono a le malo.

SIO APELU

Ua molia nei e le malo le ali'i o Sio Apelu i le moliaga mamafa o le ave ta'avale a o se'i lona laisene. O lea moliaga na afua mai lea i le fa'alavelave lea na tula'i mai i luma o le ofisa a le Pulega o le Eletise ma Suavai i Tafuna i le masina na te'a nei, ina ua taofi e Leoleo se ta'avale pikiapu sa vaaia le alu saosaoa i se taimi o le vaveao.

Ina ua fesiligia e Leoleo le ave ta'avale (lea na iloa mulimuli ane o ia o Apelu), i le mafua'aga o le soona alu saosaoa o lana ta'avale, na tali le ua molia, o lo o fa'anatinati e piki mai lona to'alua e faigaluega i le falema'i i Fagaalu ua manava.

Na pepelo Apelu i Leoleo

ina ua fesiligia lona laisene, ae ina ua fa'aauu pea le suesueina o ia i le mafua'aga o le soona alu saosaoa o lana ta'avale, na ta'utino ai le ua molia i Leoleo e fa'apea, o lo o se'i e le Fa'amasinoga lona laisene ave ta'avale, o le mafua'aga lea o lona alu saosaoa, ina ua ia vaaia le Ta'avale a Leoleo o lo o mulimuli atu i ona tua.

O le masina o Me o le tausaga nei na se'i ai e le fa'amasinoga fa'aitumalo le laisene a Apelu, ina ua fa'amaonia le moliaga o le ave ta'avale 'ona sa tu'uaia ai o ia e le malo. I le aso na se'i ai lona laisene, sa fa'ailoa i ai e le Fa'amasino, e le tatau ona ia toe fa'afueina se ta'avale i totonu o le taimi o lo o se'i ai lona laisene.

Afai ae maua o ia o lo o ia fa'afueina se ta'avale, o le a molia o ia e le malo i le moliaga mamafa o le ave ta'avale ae o lo o se'i lona laisene, ma, afai ae fa'amaonia e le fa'amasinoga lea moliaga, e ono taofia o ia i le falepuipui mo se umi e le silia i le 5 tausaga.

O lo o tumau pea tuutuuga o lo o tatala ai Apelu i tua e fa'atali ai le aso lea ua fa'atulaga e toe valaau ai lana mataupu.

Ae o le moliaga o le ave ta'avale ao se'i lona laisene lea ua molia ai o ia e le malo, e mafai ona fa'asala ai o ia i le toese mo le umi e le silia i le 5 tausaga, ae fa'amalosia lona tuliina o le umi e 90 aso i le toese.

UN: Teenage girl alleges sex abuse by peacekeeper in CAR

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations said Wednesday that a teenage girl alleged she was sexually abused by a U.N. peacekeeper in Central African Republic, a conflict-torn country that has seen widespread allegations of sexual misconduct by U.N. troops charged with protecting civilians. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the alleged incident took place on Sept. 30 in the central mining town of Bambari and involved a 16-year-old girl. He said she was immediately referred to humanitarian organizations “for appropriate medical and psychological assistance,” and the U.N.’s internal watchdog is carrying out an inquiry to verify information and “has preserved evidence.”

Amnesty International reported that its on-the-ground research revealed that one or more Mauritanian peacekeepers allegedly drugged and raped a 19-year-old woman adjacent to a checkpoint manned by the soldiers in Bambari in the evening of Sept. 30.

The rights group said its senior crisis response manager, Joanne Mariner, was in Bambari last week and an Amnesty researcher interviewed the woman and 10 others with direct knowledge of the case, including local medical and law enforcement officials who carried out a formal criminal investigation of the case.

“We have uncovered compelling evidence suggesting that at least one Mauritanian peacekeeper, and possibly more,

raped a young woman,” Mariner said. “The public authorities in the town of Bambari have confirmed the rape, and the U.N. is investigating it.”

According to Amnesty, the young woman said she was walking home from a funeral and because she was feeling ill she accepted tea offered by the soldiers. She said she passed out soon after drinking the tea, woke up on the ground several hours later, nearly nude, and was found in the middle of the night by a guard and a health care worker from a medical clinic adjacent to the checkpoint, “seeming quite ill and sedated.”

The rights group said the guard and health worker put her in bed, treated her with intravenous fluids. When she recovered enough to speak coherently in the morning, she told the health care worker she thought she had been raped and a local hospital found evidence of drugging and sexual violence, including semen, Amnesty said.

During the night, Amnesty said the guard and health care worker told them a Mauritanian soldier from the checkpoint twice visited the clinic to ask where the woman was.

Dujarric wouldn’t confirm the details in the Amnesty International report but told the AP: “We take the allegations very seriously. Preliminary action was taken as soon as we found out about them, including securing evidence.”

He said the U.N. has asked the peacekeepers’ home country, which it did not dis-

close, to quickly investigate the allegation. He said the U.N. stands by the fact that she’s a minor, though Amnesty said its staff saw her birth certificate showing she is 19-years-old.

The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic, which arose from a regional force in September 2014, has been marred by allegations of sexual misconduct by troops from a wide array of countries. Last year, it had the highest number of misconduct allegations in the world.

The Republic of Congo withdrew all its troops from CAR in June and the much larger neighboring nation of Congo repatriated contingents after a U.N. report in May found they “had committed sexual violence while deployed in Bambari between Sept. 14 and Dec. 14, 2015.” The Code Blue campaign, a watchdog group, reported last month that leaked case files show “egregious mishandling” of sexual misconduct allegations against U.N. peacekeepers in CAR. Code Blue said 14 cases were investigated last year to determine whether the allegations could be substantiated and found that in eight cases the alleged victims were not even interviewed.

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Winds whip new terror into deadly California wildfires

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) — Fueled by the return of strong winds, the wildfires tearing through California wine country exploded in size and number Wednesday as authorities ordered new evacuations and the death toll climbed to 21 — a figure expected to rise higher still. Three days after the fires began, firefighters were still unable to gain control of the blazes that had turned entire Northern California neighborhoods to ash and destroyed at least 3,500 homes and businesses. “We are literally looking at explosive vegetation,” said Ken Pimlott, chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. “It is very dynamic. These fires are changing by the minute in many areas.” The entire historic town of Calistoga, population 5,000, was evacuated. In neighboring Sonoma County, authorities issued an evacuation advisory for part of the town of Sonoma and the community of Boyes Hot Springs. By that time, lines

of cars were already fleeing. “That’s very bad,” resident Nick Hinman said when a deputy sheriff warned him that the driving winds could shift the wildfires toward the town of Sonoma proper, with 11,000 residents. “It’ll go up like a candle.” Ash snowed over the Sonoma Valley, covering windshields, as winds began picking up toward the potentially disastrous forecast speed of 30 mph. Cars of evacuees raced away from the flames while countless emergency vehicles sped toward them, sirens blaring. Residents manhandled canvas bags into cars jammed with possessions or filled their gas tanks. The wildfires ranked as the third deadliest and most destructive in state history. And officials warned the worst was far from over. “Make no mistake, this is a serious, critical, catastrophic event,” Pimlott said. The fires have burned through a staggering 265 square miles (686 square kilometers) of urban and rural areas.



**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-006-2018

Issuance Date: October 10, 2017

**Closing Date: October 24, 2017
No later than 2:00p.m (local time)**

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide “Food, Beverages and Supplies for the American Samoa Department of Education (AS-DOE) - School Lunch Program”.

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), October 24, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE MEETING

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting for all contractors will be held on October 17, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement - Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the pre-bid meeting.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Scope of Work can be examined or obtained from the Office of Procurement during regular business hours free of charge.

5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.

6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



TELL ME A STORY: THE LITTLE RED HEN

(AN AMERICAN TALE)
*adapted by Amy Friedman and
illustrated by Meredith Johnson*

Once upon a time, a little red hen lived in a big red barn, and there her family grew bigger and bigger. The little red hen worked hard taking care of her chicks, and she was happy. Their home was comfortable; her chicks were sweet and happy. All day long she sang.

In that barn there were other animals, and they were the hen's friends. One was a goose, another was a pig and the third was an ox. The little red hen loved to watch her three friends play. They chased each other around the barnyard; they kicked up mud; sometimes they ran in circles; they napped in the sun. They enjoyed their lives, too. But the little red hen did not have time for those kinds of games. She was too busy working and looking after all those chicks. She made breakfast for the little ones each morning, and she tidied their nests and tended the barn and cooked more meals and washed their feathers. Morning till night she was hard at work.

But the goose and the pig and the ox never worked at all, or so it seemed to the little red hen. And some days she wondered how they got away with being so very lazy.

One sunny summer day when the hen was outside working in the garden, scratching away for food, she found a few grains of wheat. She called to the pig who was nearby, "Friend, look here. There are 10 grains of wheat. Why don't we plant them, and they will grow, and then we'll have a field of wheat!"

"Let's ask the ox what he thinks," the pig yawned -- he was very nearly asleep again, for he had eaten a large breakfast.

So the little red hen said to the ox, "Look at this, I've found some grains of wheat. I think we should plant them."

"Oh, that doesn't seem right," the ox sighed, for he didn't much like to do work, and planting wheat takes work. "Ask the goose if she thinks that's a good idea."

So the little red hen asked the goose, who said, "I can't plant wheat. I'm very busy, can't you see?"

The goose didn't seem very busy, but the little red hen decided she would plant the wheat herself, and so she did.

Before too long, the wheat began to grow taller, golden and ripe. When the hen saw this, she called to the goose and the pig and the ox, "Friends, look at our wheat! Who is going to help me tend it?" "Not I," said the goose. "I'm far too busy."

"So am I," said the pig. "Me, too," the ox explained.

So the little red hen told her friends she would do it herself, and for the next several weeks she worked hard looking

after the wheat. She watered and weeded and watched, and finally the wheat was fully ripe, and it was time to harvest.

She asked her three friends, "Who will help me harvest the wheat?"

"Oh, I can't do that," the goose said. "Nor can I," said the pig.

"Not me!" the ox whined, shaking his head. So the hen did it herself. She pulled the scythe from the wall and held it in her beak and she used her wings to thresh the wheat, and she worked from dawn to dusk. When she had finished, she carefully put all that wheat into bags and loaded those bags onto a wagon, all by herself. When she saw the wagon full of bags of wheat, she called to her friends, "Who will help me take this to the miller so he can grind it into flour?"

"Oh, I don't like the miller," said the goose. "The miller doesn't like me," said the pig. "I'm very busy," the ox said. "I don't have time to travel all the way to the miller's." So the little red hen pulled

that wagon with her beak all the way into the village. When she arrived, she went to see the miller, and she asked him to please grind her wheat.

"Happy to," said the miller, and he ground the wheat into flour and put it in a sack. The little red hen pulled her wagon all the way home, happy as she could be, for now she could make bread for her chicks. When she reached the barn, she cried, "Who wants to help me bake bread?" "I don't bake," said the goose. "I'm much better at cooking than baking," the pig added. "I'm very busy," said the ox. So the little red hen decided she would bake the bread herself, and before long the smell of freshly baking bread wafted through the barn and across the fields, and the little red hen called out, "Who will help me eat this bread?"

Well, the goose and the pig and the ox came running. "I will! I will! I will!" they cried.

But when they arrived, the little

red hen shook her head. "I planted the wheat, and I tended it, and I harvested it, and I took it to the miller, and I traveled back home with the flour, and I baked this bread all by myself, didn't I?"

"You did!" her friends agreed. "We're proud of you!"

"Well, now I will eat this bread all by myself," she said proudly.

The little red hen called to her chicks, "Come to Mama!" and all the chicks came running. They ate up all the bread, and there was nothing left for the goose and the pig and the ox.

"What kind of friend are you?" they asked the little red hen.

"A friend who values her independence!" she said proudly.

That day, the goose and the pig and the ox learned a valuable lesson about teamwork and what it means to be a friend to others. Never again did they let the little red hen do all the work by herself.

The Little Red Hen

