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333 tagata, 105 aiga fa’asoa i ai Alofa Foa’i Fua - Kerisimasi 2017
Lali - 13

Eti Saaga and his daughter Terri. A fellow journalist leaves us ... “Aging, it seems, is measured out in deaths. But a life goes on in the memories it leaves behind.”
(See Editorial Page)

[Courtesy photo]



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017

\$1.00

CARL'S JR. EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Last week Carl's Jr. announced their Employee of the Year Malaki (Maggie) Feliuai, who has worked at Carl's Jr. for 4 years. Maggie has a perfect attendance 100% on time performance. Presenting Maggie with a monetary award is L-R Barry Forsgren, CEO Carl's Jr. Malaki (Maggie) Feliuai, and Sefulu Fanolua, RGM of Carl's Jr.

[Photo: Courtesy]



A look at volunteers for the “Alofa Foa’i Fua” project along with some of the clothing collected, with food items and other useful items that were donated to low-income families on Dec. 23 at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Suspect in police car shooting arrested and denied bail

A SECOND INDIVIDUAL IS BEING SOUGHT

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

A man, with a criminal record, accused of shooting at a police vehicle two weeks ago has been arrested and the District Court has set “no bail”, while a warrant for another suspect has been issued in the same incident, which has been described by police as a “cowardly” act.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries yesterday, Police Commissioner Le’i Sonny Thompson confirmed that an arrest was made last week in the shooting and the suspect’s name is Thomas Siaumau.

However, “I cannot comment on the charges because the investigation is on going and will be until this matter is resolved,” he said yesterday, adding that police have a warrant for another person and are looking for that individual.

Siaumau made his initial appearance on Tuesday in District Court and another hearing was held yesterday, where the defendant waived his right to a preliminary examination and his case was bound over to High Court for arraignment tomorrow (Friday Dec. 29).

Assistant Public Defender, Ryan Anderson sought the court’s permission to address a bail amount, saying that “no bail” was set for this case, but under the Revised Constitution of American Samoa “my client is entitled to bail.”

However, Assistant Attorney General Woodrow Pengelly opposed setting bail arguing that the defendant has a criminal record and currently faces six charges.

Anderson acknowledged that his client has a criminal record, but added that the charges are just allegations. “He is entitled to some amount of bond,” he pointed out.

Pengelly pointed to two previous cases, which set a precedent of “no bail” for the defendants involved in those cases.

District Court Judge Fiti Sunia took the matter under advisement and later during yesterday’s court proceedings following a 45-minute recess, delivered a verbal decision from the bench, denying the defense’s request.

Sunia explained that the defendant is charged with “several felonies.” He also said the court reviewed prior cases with similar matters. In one matter, the High Court upheld denial of bond in a case that involved shooting at a police officer; and in the second case several charges of assault were involved.

After considering these two cases and other binding cases, he said the motion to set bail is denied; however, the defense “is free to revisit” the bond issue in High Court.

As previously reported by Samoa News, the alleged shooting at the DPS unit occurred late on the night of Dec. 14 into the wee hours of Dec. 15, with two officers, responding to a call from a security guard at the ASTCA compound in Tafuna.

Le’i told Samoa News at the time that police were responding for assistance after what appeared to be a cherry bomb that was thrown by an unknown individual/ or individuals inside the compound.

(Continued on page 5)



‘Something did survive’ California wildfires: Goldfish

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — What Logan Hertel and his friends found in the scorched remains of their Northern California neighborhood wasn’t a photo album, wedding ring or even a skit-fish cat separated from its family.

What they discovered were goldfish — plain, sickly and living off ash in a grimy tub.

Somehow the unspectacular goldfish had survived infernos that had wiped out neighborhoods, and Hertel was determined to reunite the fish with their owners, he told The Mercury News of San Jose.

“I could picture myself in their shoes,” said Hertel, a 21-year-old student at Santa Rosa Junior College, “and knowing that if I lost everything, even knowing something this small is alive would be kind of important to me.”

Wildfires in October swept through Sonoma, Napa and other counties in and around wine country, killing 44 people and destroying thousands of homes. Entire neighborhoods were leveled.

Lisa Hertel made signs Tuesday with her number and a photo of her son Logan rescuing the goldfish. She taped them around the rubble of the home where the fish were found.

The Hertels were lucky that their house wasn’t damaged. But she knows other people lost mementos, keepsakes and photos, which is why she wants to get the fish back to their owners.

“Something actually did survive,” Lisa Hertel added, “and somebody cared enough to get the fish and save them.”

Mukesh “not guilty” verdict came down to — who do you believe?

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The government’s case against a 53-year old local businessman, came down to whether the six-member jury believed the government and its witnesses or the defense, who argued that the defendant had maintained his innocence since his arrest.

In the end, it took the jury less than an hour to acquit Chand ‘Bob’ Mukesh, of one count each of sodomy and first degree sexual abuse of a 17-year old female minor who was a friend of the defendant’s daughter.

Assistant Attorney General, Robert Morris gave the government’s closing arguments, saying the crime happened, with “no witnesses” and the defendant “took advantage of a girl” who was alone with him at his home. Additionally Morris claimed, the defendant is a “sexual predator” who “took advantage of the young victim.”

Morris went through the law, pertaining to the two counts, and recalled testimony by the alleged victim, who told the jury that the defendant pushed her against the wall, put his fingers in her boxer shorts and penetrated her vagina.

He accused the defendant of committing a “violent” act

against the young victim and that the defense will attack the victim’s testimony but the victim’s statement is “consistent with a person of sexual assault.”

He reminded the jury that the victim didn’t immediately tell her family about the incident because she was “embarrassed” and was “terrified” of what happened to her and the jury had seen this during the victim’s testimony on the stand where she broke down.

And not talking to anyone about the incident right away “was consistent with (behavior of) a victim of sexual assault,” he said, adding that the victim “had no reason to lie” about the incident. Morris said the defense alleges that this was all a “grand scheme” by the victim, who “contrived all of this because the defendant found out she had a boyfriend” at the time.

He asked the jury to dismiss any claims by the defense that the victim “concocted” all of this, came up with this scheme. He asked the jury to remember the victim’s testimony and what the defendant told the victim, “I know where you live.”

He said the 53-year old father (the defendant) woke up the victim and sexually assaulted her and the defendant had also called one of the victim’s friends to get the victim’s

number. “This wasn’t a grand scheme [by the victim] to hide from her father” that she has a boyfriend, the government pointed out.

He said this “theory” by the defense is “insulting to the victim and anyone with common sense.”

Morris also addressed the testimony by the defendant’s daughter, who had testified that during the hours after the alleged attack the victim was acting normal, nothing out of the ordinary and the pair — along with another friend — delivered plates of food for a fund raiser on Apr. 7.

“I feel very bad for that young lady and I imagine I’m not the only one” but she (defendant’s daughter) was on the witness stand “trying to help her father,” according to Morris, who claimed that not all of the daughter’s testimony was “untruthful” but where “she was untruthful, she was trying to enhance” her testimony in an attempt to help her father.

Morris asked the jury to “use your common sense to evaluate” the testimony by the defendant’s daughter. (Samoa News notes that the defendant’s daughter was in the court room during closing arguments, but not when the jury was hearing

(Continued on page 6)



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by Samoa News staff

SIERRA ISAIA

Through his defense attorney Public Defender Douglas Fiaui, drug defendant Sierra Isaia entered a not guilty plea last week Wednesday to a single count of unlawful possession of crystal methamphetamine (ice).

The plea was entered during arraignment where Acting Associate Justice Elvis P. Patea set a pre-trial conference for Feb. 2, 2018.

Isaia, who is out on bail, has a separate drug case pending in High Court as well.

His most recent drug case is a result of being found once again in possession of ice, after he was stopped by police and served a bench warrant for failure to appear in the High Court when his pretrial conference for the first case was called three weeks ago.

JOSEPH T. YANDALL

The defense attorney for Joseph T. Yandall has informed the High High Court that the defense is looking at holding a couple of depositions.

A hearing for Yandall was held last week in High Court where attorney Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde said the defense has not completed discovery and requested trial for her client towards the end of 2018. As part of its discovery, she said the defense is “looking at holding a couple of depositions” in this case.

Firm trial date for Yandall, who is out on bail, is set for Dec. 3, 2018. Yandall is facing charges in a case involving two minor females.

TIMATA NAEA

A 27-year old man who escaped from District Court two weeks ago, was arraigned in High Court last Friday and entered not guilty pleas to 10 counts. The not guilty pleas were made by Public Defender Douglas Fiaui on behalf of his client, Timata Naea, who remains in custody unable to

post bail.

As previously reported by Samoa News, Naea escaped from District Court while there for one of his hearings. He was later apprehended by police. Among the charges faced by the defendant is first-degree burglary and stealing — both felonies.

Pre trial conference is set for Feb. 27, 2018

FUIVAI SUA AND LUALIMA TALIU

Two men, who are both in custody unable to post bail, and accused by the government of stealing and burglary, will go to trial next year, as no plea agreement has been reached between the defense and prosecutor.

Fuivai Sua is charged with one felony count of stealing, and Lualima Taliu, charged with one count each of felony stealing and burglary.

The pair were in High Court last Friday for pre trial conference hearing where Public Defender Douglas Fiaui informed Acting Associate Justice Elvis P. Patea that “we have not reached an agreement” and the defenses is prepared for trial.

Charges against the defendants stem from an incident in July this year where the pair allegedly broke into a home and took off with personal property. The homeowner was off island during the time of the alleged break-in and only learned of the incident when he returned to the territory

Among the stolen property were 10 cases of pisupo, 10 cases of wahoo, a gold chain, DVD players along with DVDs, and clothing that included several men’s suits.

During the investigation, police were able to interview witnesses, who stated that the defendants had sold the cases of pisupo to families. Police were able to locate the defendants and interview them.

2 top officials quit Peru government amid political crisis

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Two senior officials resigned Wednesday from Peru’s government, the latest in a wave of defections amid a political crisis in the South American country.

Minister of Culture Salvador del Solar announced his resignation on Twitter without giving a reason for his decision, while presidential adviser Máximo San Roman said in a letter to embattled President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski that his recommendations were not being taken into consideration.

Their departures come days after the resignations of three members of parliament from the president’s party and his minister of interior.

Kuczynski only barely survived an impeachment vote by congress last week for alleged corruption, and he set off protests at home and abroad with a Christmas Eve pardon of jailed former President Alberto Fujimori in what many Peruvians viewed as a political payback.

Kuczynski said he granted a medical pardon to the ailing 79-year-old former president on humanitarian grounds. The action allows Fujimori to leave prison after serving less than half a 25-year sentence for human rights abuses, including killings of 25 people by the military, that took place during his administration in the 1990s.

Happy 30th Anniversary
Leaea Eddie and Bernadette Uti Fruean

♥ AIGA, where life begins & Love never ends



We love you guys and pray that the Lord blesses you both with many more years together. Love, all of your children, especially your grandkids Titus and Corinthian.



DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE
Project Notification & Review System

Legal Notice

PNRS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
January 04, 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Commerce/American Samoa Coastal Management Program has received a Land Use Permit Application from the following individuals.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Fuapapa Jr. Soliai | 17-4863-L |
| Proposal for a new religious structure with utilities | Pava'ia'i |
| 2. Manu'a Inc. | 17-5027-LVB |
| Proposal for container storage | Tafuna |
| 3. Kalaniuoa Fia..... | 17-5034-LVB |
| Proposal for a commercial food wagon | Nu'uuli |
| 4. DOE/DPW c/o Faleosina Voigt..... | 17-4955-L |
| Federal Consistency Certification and repair with utilities | Fagatogo |
| 5. DPS c/o DPW Faleosina Voigt..... | 17-5033-L |
| Federal Consistency Certification and repair with utilities | Fagatogo |
| 6. DOH c/o Motusa Nua | 17-5040-L |
| Federal Consistency Certification, repair, extension, new construction with utilities and parking lot. | Tafuna |

ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATION(S):

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 7. SSAB c/o Jodi Toleafoa | Tafuna |
| Un-permitted billboard sign | |
| 8. Triple SSS c/o Mandy | Tafuna |
| Un-permitted billboard sign | |
| 9. Famous c/o Lomu Mosese | Tafuna |
| Un-permitted billboard sign | |
| 10. Pasila Tuilagi & Tanielu Ti'iti'i | Avau/Nu'uuli |
| Violation of special condition (Deviation from the approved site plan) | |
| 11. Bob Chand | Tafuna/ Ililli |
| Un-permitted clearing | |

Persons interested in or affected by a proposed project, are invited to review the project file and provide comments based on environmental issues, by contacting Aokusotino Mao at 633-5155, at the Department of Commerce in Utulei during regular ASG working hours. Public comments must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 03, 2018. Interested individuals are also invited to attend a Public Hearing at 9:00 a.m. Thursday January 04, 2018 at DOC Conference Room, on the 2nd Floor of the Executive Office Building in Utulei.

O lo'o iai i le Ofisa o Fa'afetauaina ni talosaga mo Pemitā e Fa'atagaina ai le Fa'aaogaina o Fanua ma Laualeele e tusa ma ala o le Tulafono. A iai se tasi e fa'asea pe fia tusia se molimau i ni afaina o le si'osi'omaga pe a galueaina nei galuega, telefoni mai ia Aokusotino Mao i le 633-5155. E mafai fo'i ona e auai i le fono a le Komiti Fa'afaoe ia Ianuari 04, 2018 ile itula e 9 ile taeao.

Eti Sa'aga (1950-2017)

Another buddy bites the dust. Aging, it seems, is measured out in deaths. But a life goes on in the memories it leaves behind. I remember Eti the bon vivant, Eti the original Apia hippie, Eti the bongo player, but especially Eti the poet, Eti the Samoan Beat bard. No one gave a better, more entertaining poetry reading. He had no fear of sharing his emotions.

Going through his poems I have here, I found a short old favorite to share, quintessential Eti:

Birthday Present

It was the eve

of the new moon

that my daughter

gave me a pebble

for my birthday.

It was gift wrapped

with tiny fingers,

sticky with mango juice.

Rest in peace, uso. Your memory is a happy one.

Signed, John Enright

Ex-Miss Americas to help find new leaders

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Trashed by emails sent by pageant officials, former Miss Americas will help choose the new leaders of the Miss America Organization.

The group told The Associated Press Wednesday night that it is enlisting the help of former Miss Americas and state directors to recommend the next generation of leaders for the pageant.

In emails that were published last week by the Huffington Post, pageant officials ridiculed the appearance, intellect and sex lives of former Miss Americas. The emails included one that used a vulgar term for female genitalia to refer to past Miss America winners, one that wished that a particular former Miss America had died and others that speculated about how many sex partners former Miss America Mallory Hagan has had.

The ensuing uproar led to the group's executive director, Sam Haskell; its president, Josh Randle; board chairwoman Lynn Weidner, and one other board member to resign.

Dan Meyers, the group's interim board chairman, said former Miss Americas and state directors will recommend members for a search committee that will determine the organization's leadership structure, and choose individuals to fill those roles.

"The board wanted to have a process that was unprecedented in terms of openness, transparency and inclusion," he said. "Given the turbulent nature of leadership transitions, asking all the stakeholders to be a part of

this process was the best way."

Former Miss Americas and state directors collectively will name four people to the search committee, and the board will name a former state title holder to the panel. These five individuals and two board members "will begin their exhaustive search in a matter of days," a statement from the board read.

The committee will consider what form the group's leadership should take: whether it needs an executive director, a president and a CEO. It also will search for individuals to fill whatever leadership positions it decides the group should have. There are currently two vacancies on the 14-member board, and there will be at least two more when the resignations of Randle and Weidner become effective in a matter of weeks.

The organization hopes to have the nominations in hand by Jan. 3. The groups were being notified of the board's decision late Wednesday night.

The emails already cost the pageant its television production partner and raised questions about the future of the nationally televised broadcast from Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall the week after Labor Day each year. Dick Clark Productions told the AP last Thursday that it cut ties with the Miss America Organization over the emails, calling them "appalling."

Meyers said the group has spoken with ABC, the television network scheduled to broadcast the September 2018 pageant, as well as with pageant sponsors. None has ended its relationship with the Miss America Organization, he said.

National Park of American Samoa and ASCC collaborate

TEACHING LOCAL STUDENTS TRADITIONAL SAMOAN ART

Pago, Pago, American Samoa — December 20, 2017 — The National Park of American Samoa, in partnership with the American Samoan Community College (ASCC) recently visited a local elementary school to conduct an in-class Samoan arts education program.

Through the partnership and support from ASCC teacher Reggie Meredith-Fitiao, the National Park Service and ASCC embarked on a two-year partnership that focused on educating Samoan youth about the beauty and traditions of Samoan art.

Under Reggie's leadership and with the help of a local master practitioner, ASCC art student's handcrafted traditional Samoan artifacts including a siapo, woodcarvings and traditional fine mats. These high-quality art pieces are now on display at the National Park of American Samoa Visitor Center in Pago Pago and are used to educate visitors from around the world.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this partnership recently occurred when ASCC art students were invited into a classroom at Leone Midkiff Elementary School to serve as mentors and teachers to 3rd grade students.

These younger students learned all about the traditions and stories of Samoan art and had the opportunity to create handcrafted Samoan traditional artifacts. Along with the students, park rangers at the National Park also had a chance to learn these new skills.

When asked what made the partnership so unique, Meredith-Fitiao said, "This partnership provided our young people with a new perspective on how to perpetuate our precious cultural arts for the sake of the present, and for future generations.

"Course syllabus involved hands-on work with master practitioners, which led to our students sharing what they learned to younger students. This component of learning and then sharing that new knowledge was a key factor in our collaborative efforts and we are grateful for the National Park Service in helping to achieve this.

"The plan is to nurture this art of sharing and collaborating for as long as possible," she concluded.

(Source: NPAS)



FILE - In this Jan. 12, 2013 file photo, Miss New York Mallory Hytes Hagan reacts as she is crowned Miss America 2013 in Las Vegas. Some former Miss Americas shamed in emails from the pageant, A&S CEO are calling on him and other leaders of the Miss America Organization to resign. Hagan, A&S appearance and sexual habits were mocked in the emails.

(AP Photo/Isaac Brekken, File)

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Texas authorities nab murder suspect with cigarette butt

BAYTOWN, Texas (AP) — A breakthrough in a long-stalled murder case in Baytown, Texas, has come in the form of a discarded cigarette butt.

The Beaumont Enterprise reports that Byron Lloyd Collins was picked up by authorities last week at the same complex where 50-year-old Natalia Shal was discovered slain on May 8, 2016.

Crime scene DNA didn’t initially match anything in police databases.

In early 2017, investigators

learned about using familial DNA testing to help identify suspects not already in the system.

In June, they got a hit, matching the DNA to Collins’ brother in prison.

Surveilling Collins, police matched his discarded cigarette to the crime scene on Dec. 18.

The 29-year-old has been charged with capital murder and is being held without bond. It is not clear whether he has an attorney.

► Suspect...

Continued from page 1

The police unit arrived at the scene a few minutes later and conducted the usual search of the compound, and when the patrol was finished, police officers then extended their patrol to the Tony Solaita Baseball Field, which is located to the back of the ASTCA compound, and that’s when they noticed that the gate was open.

One of the police officers went to check out why the gate was open, while the other officer drove the police unit closer to the gate.

According to the commissioner, both police officers then went inside the baseball grounds to check out why the gate was

open. It was while they were on the grounds, one police officer saw a flash coming from the front, and identified the flash as what appeared to be a flash out of a weapon.

“And that’s when they realized that somebody was shooting at the police unit, and when they came back to where the police unit was parked, they noticed that the rear window of the car was shattered, and what appeared to be another shot had penetrated through the right front door of the passenger’s side,” Le’i said.

Le’i called this action a “cowardly and unprovoked act” that is not to be tolerated.



compiled by Samoa News staff SAMOA COMPLETES CONNECTION TO NEW SUBMARINE CABLE

Samoa is ready to connect to the new Tui Samoa submarine cable in the New Year after its installation was completed on Boxing Day.

The Samoa Submarine Cable Company said Samoa, Fiji, and Wallis and Futuna are now inter-connected via the undersea optical fibre system, which spans more than 1,470 kilometres.

Samoa’s Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Afamasaga Rico Tupa’i, said it’s a significant milestone for the project to bring high speed broadband to everyone in Samoa.

The new internet connection is expected to be operational next month.

(Source: RNZI)

SAMOAN NFL STAR’S HEARTWARMING CHRISTMAS STORY

Fancy working in the restaurant and getting a US\$1,000 (\$T2,400) tip!

That’s exactly what happened to staff at Applebee’s restaurant in Tampa Bay, thanks

to Samoan NFL star, Sealver Siliga.

According to TMZ.com, the entire staff at an Applebee’s restaurant received the tip of the year on Christmas Eve.

TB defensive tackle Siliga and some friends hit up Applebee’s after losing to the Carolina Panthers earlier in the day — but despite the loss, the players couldn’t have been nicer.

When the bill of \$256 came (around 10p.m.), Siliga asked the manager how many people were still working in the restaurant ... because he wanted to tip every person \$100 (from the servers to dishwashers).

In total, Siliga dropped a cool \$1,000 ... and made everyone’s night.

How’s that for a heartwarming Xmas story?

(Source: Samoa Observer)

SAMOAN POLICE INVESTIGATE JAIL BREAK

Police in Samoa are investigating how four escapees managed to break the locks of one of the security cells in Tafaigata prison.

The men escaped a week ago and two remain on the run.

Our correspondent in Apia Autagavaia Tipi Autagavaia

said security at the prison has been a problem.

“There’s a history of escape prisoners from our main Tafaigata prison. From the time when the prison was under the authority of the Ministry of Police, there was always cases of prisoners escape.”

“The problem was there is no fence surrounding the whole compound for the main prison.”

The assistant commissioner of prisons Ulugia Sauafea Niui’a said they would be working together with the police on the case.

(Source: RNZI)

CALL FOR FREER BORDER BETWEEN SAMOAS

A call has been made in the Samoa parliament to get rid of entry permits for American Samoans wanting to visit Samoa.

The call by the Member of Parliament for Urban West Faumuina Wayne Fong was made during discussion on the immigration law.

Faumuina said while travelers from all other countries were free to stay in Samoa for 90 days, American Samoans

(Continued on page 8)



Fa’afetai Tele Lava



The Tafuna Holy Family Parish - International Community expresses their heartfelt thanks to their family, friends and the business for their tremendous support that made our “Know Your Island Fashion Show” a great success! Special thanks to the Tradewind’s Hotel for donating the venue for our event. Many thanks to Taupou Manaia Dance Group & Our fabulous MC E. Sunia for his time.

Corporate Table

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ANZ Bank | Mrs Pat Letuli |
| Forsgren’s | Lions Club |
| Haleck’s Enterprises | Deacon Chaira & Mrs Sherry Uiagalelei |
| Mcdonald’s | Aeto Insurance |
| McConnel Dowell | Mr. Edgar Feliciano |
| Pago Pago Trading Company | Mr&Mrs Fonoti Perelini |
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INTRODUCING OUR JUNIOR BURGERS!

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Our Juniors are little smaller than our other burgers with same great taste and better value.

2 Junior DOUBLE CHEESE BURGERS,
1 Junior CLASSIC BURGER, HOT DOG
with ONION RINGS & DRINK





► Mukesh...

Continued from page 2

testimony from witnesses.)

And when the defense makes their closing arguments, Morris said they would try to humanize the defendant, to say that he is a great father. “They’ll try to distract you from his atrocious, heinous conduct,” he said, adding that the defense will also try to “demonize” the victim.

He asked the jury to not take away the fact that the defendant is a 53-year old single father, who “saw an opportunity to take advantage of this young girl at his home and he took it.” In closing he asked the jury to return a guilty verdict on all counts.

For the defense, attorney Joshua Rovelli gave closing arguments, telling jurors that Chand has been on this island for over 30 years, he is a father of three and he unwinds by watching “Bollywood movies” with his children. Additionally, he runs an auto shop, which is attached to his home.

He reminded jurors about earlier testimony that Chand was taken to the police station on Apr. 9 and the police officer there stated that he was “shocked to learn of the allegations” against the defendant, who was “scared” and asked for help.

And the defendant’s “first and only reaction was that the allegation against him was false,” according to the defense, and that this was the same state-

ment Chand told police and his daughter and it’s “what he’s asking you to consider” during deliberations.

He added, “keep an open mind to the idea that Bob Chand is telling the truth.”

He reminded jurors that this is the government’s case and the government must prove that the defendant committed the alleged crimes. He then focused on what he called an “extreme important” phrase — “proven beyond reasonable doubt” — and went on to give an explanation.

“If there is a reasonable doubt in any of your minds, you must find Mr. Chand not guilty,” he informed jurors.

He claimed that the “emotionally charged story” presented by the government in closing arguments is one “with major gaps” and it should leave “reasonable doubt at every step of the way”.

Among the gaps, cited by the defense, is the timeline, saying that a police officer testified during trial that the victim gave a report on Apr. 9 and that the alleged assault occurred around 7:30a.m Apr. 7. And the victim was firm that the incident occurred at 7:30a.m but the police officer has stated that the timeline didn’t make sense.


Rovelli explained what he calls the “problem” with the timeline. He recalled the house-

(Continued on page 10)



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Maliu o



FATUIVA ALLEN SALAVE'A TE'O AUMOEUALOGO FUAVAI



Ua logo le nā itea, ua logo fo'i le nā i ama, ina ua mapu i Niafane le va'a o le Sanalala, ae lalafo le taula i malolo i vasa. Ua fefe vale ai nei le tauta auā ua ulifaō le tafa'ānu'u, ua oso fo'i peau vale, ae felavasa'i peau lagava'a ina ua sopoutu peau ta tagata ma fulifaō e pei o matagi to fa'ata'uta'u. Ua gausia nei le tautali sa tapa apoapo ai manū, ina ua mafati lona sasaga sa silimea ai le oloa e tua iai aiga ma le ekalesia, auā ua lia'i le poutū ma ua le tatali poulalo, sa tapatautali ai le 'au'au ole maota i Ana-o-le-i'a. Ua po ai nei le nu'u, auā ua le pupula le la, ua puaoa fo'i le masina, ina ua agi fa'asulusulu le la'i, auē! Ua foa lua le Pulou o le Ola, ina ua gasolosolo ao ae ta'ape pāpā, ina ua tifatō ma atafasaina fa'afuga o la'au e to'ulu le tupua ma le la'o'ai i Lalotavai auā ua lagia le afioaga e susū ai le Aumoeualogo, afio le Anavaotaua Te'o ma le Matua ia Mamea. Ua lagia le Aloali'i, tainane le susū o Afusia ma Samoa. Ua gausia fo'i le atipouniu ma lalafo le fa'asau o le upega lauga a le pa'ia maualuga ile To'afa ma le fetalaiga iā Maui'a ma 'upu ile Atimanutui e fa. Ole motusia fo'i lea o le asoa iā Fa'asilita-maita'i ma le to'ulu o 'autā iā Lea'ana ma le 'aumaga. Ua solo nei le falute ma lagia ai Laloifi ma Falesau, o le Fale o Mavaega, auā ua puaoa le maota i Avetonu, ina ua 'i le manu tulu'ia I le si'u 'a'au o Faga-o-atua. O le lagia lea o le afio'aga e afio ai le Fa'atui ole Motu, susū ai le Malu ole Fale, ae o le lagi e faasino i Ati Ma'opu ma le Maava. Talofa, ua tafefea pulu ile vai i le lauga a Tama Matua, ina ua sosofa le ta'ui-sa I le fa'autaga o'o'o'o i lau fetalaiga Salave'a ma Salave'a ma 'upu iā te oe Fofō. Ua motu ai nei le 'asoa iā Iliganua ma to'ulu'auta iā Ilaoa ma To'omata. Ua tupoupou nei Gagamoe, ina ua agi salulululu le Si'amouli, auā ua lagia le afio'aga e afio ai le Ma'oputasi, o le Tama na fa'asasau ma fa'asausau iai Sua ma le Vai-fanua, Fofō ma Aitulagi, Itu'au ma Alataua. O le lagia fo'i lea o Tei ma Anoalo, le Matua ma le Nofo fanau, tainane Anoaloifale. Ua gausia le to'oto'o ole feofeo ma tai loloto ile lauga a lē na Falesefulu ai le Motu, lau fetalaiga Tu'āolo, tainane fofoga o le Falefa ma oe le Launiu-na-saelua. Ua fatitoto ai nei āuma o le gataifale e pei ole tala ia

Fulu'ulalematoto ma lofia ai le malae i Laloni ma Falemalama, auā ua lagia le afio'aga e afio ai Lealaisalanoa, o le tama a malili e fa. O le lagi e fa'asino i le 'Autapa'au, a'o le susū ai le Ma'ava a Sua ma le Vaifanua. Talofa i le fa'autaga a Tama Matua lea ua segia e le savili, ma ua tafea fo'i le utu i le fetalaiga i le Atisua ma 'upu i le Alataua. Ua matagitogaina nei le malae i Nu'uuli ma Paepaeuli, ina ua ite le papa osofia ae tu'utu'u mai le va'aloa ma amia ai le agaga i le fāfā. Ua lagia ai nei le afio'aga o Ma'opu. O le lagi e fa'asino i Usoali'i ma Taumafaalofi. Talofa i le fa'autaga a le 'autalaia ma tolo popoto o le To'afa lele ua faleseu le 'ainā, ae ua mafuli fo'i fa'ala'au oia 'upu i le Atimanea ma oe le Itu'au malosi. Ua masofa ai nei le fa ma ua mamate vaiagia, ua le susua fo'i vaieli ma ua matūtū vaipapa ina ua mumutu vanu i le malae i Togalei. O le lagia lea o le afio'aga afio ai le Fa'atui. O le lagi e fa'asino i le Tamafa'alagia. O le lagia lea o maota o le Usoali'i. Ua usu fo'i le fono ma motu le tu-ive'eve'e o le lauga iā te oulua To'oto'o ma 'upu iā te oe le Ofu. Ua fa'atau ata nei le la ma le masina ina ua lagona le leo i Rama i Malaetele. Ua peia le taualuga o Manu'a, ina ua fa'apōpō a o ni aso ua, auā ua lagia ai nei le afio'aga o le Tui Manu'a, le la'au na amotasi. O le lagi e faasino ile Fa'atui, tainane le Vaimagalo-o le tama a le malo. O le lagia lea o le suafa o Lefiti ma le Pupuali'i. Talofa ile fa'autaga iā te outou to'oto'o lea ua masoe ma nuti e pei ole kate i le ala ma 'upu iā te oe le Faletolu. O pa'ia ia o le lagi lea mai le Tai Samasama ma le vai sa o le Tui Manu'a se 'ia pa'ia le Tai 'ula'ula o Nafanua ma le vai salia i Tūlāfasā, o le a nu'unu'u atu i to'oto'o au a Samoa, auā o lo latou faiva alofilima lea e tausi va'atele i pa'ia ia. E! ua maliu le toa, ua maumau ai a'upega o le taua, auā ua goto le fetū o leapai ma o le a le toe va'ia, ua lilo fo'i le fetū o le aniva i lona nofoaga mau, ae mapu malolo le fetū o tapuite'a e lē toe susulu, ina ua to le fa'auli o le soifua tautua ma faamanavaina e le Atua galuega a lō matou tinā peleina. E fa'anoanoa lava e faasilasila atu ma le fa'aloalo tele, i aiga tupu, aiga o e'e, aiga o nofo, ma aiga o ao, paolo ma gafa na sausausema ma ni mulivai na fetafea'i a'o ni taupega 'afa matou te malu ai i itu e fia o Samoa, uo ma aumeamamae, le tu'ua o le malō i le afioga i le Faletua, o lē sa pele ma mamae i loto ma agaga, o Fatuiva Allen Salave'a Te'o Aumoeualogo Fuavai, ile Maota Gasegase i Faga'alu, i le aso 11 o Tesema, 2017.

O le Polokalama lenei:

Masina o le Toetaumafa (Tesema 28,2017), i le Fa'aitula (10 i le taeao), o le a 'aveeseina lona tino maliu mai le Fanaega ma le Maota Fa'atausau i Faga'alu

Fa'aitula i le solia o le la (11:30 i le taeao) o le a faia lona ulua'i sauniga i le malumalu Ekalesia Fa'apotopotoga Kerisiano i Amerika Samoa i le afio'aga i Aoa. A mae'a ona molimoli lea o lona tino maliu i le maota o Ana-o-le-i'a

Masina o le Toetaumafa (Tesema 29,2017), i le Fanaafi e fa'amalama (6:00 i le taeao), fesilafa'iga o aiga ma paolo tu

Solia o le la (12:00 i le aoauli) sauniga Paia o le Misasa, o le faia ile malumalu o le Ekalesia Fa'apotopotoga Kerisiano i Amerika Samoa i Aoa lava, ma molimoli ai loa i lona oliolisaga tumau ma falelauasi ai i lona aiga i Asofitu i Nu'uuli, i le maota o Aumoeualogo Te'o J. Fuavai.

Ma le fa'aloalo lava

Afioga i le Tama a le Malo
Aumoeualogo Te'o J. Fuavai
Aumoeualogo Te'o J. Fuavai ma le nofoalo fa'avauvau.





It's a wonderful holiday season for the Alofa-Seumanu family, as their mother Fonoifafo (seated center) traveled to the territory from Savaii to celebrate Christmas with all her children and grandchildren, some of whom arrived from New Zealand earlier this month.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



RISE TO THE TOP!

Bluesky is an established telecommunications company in American Samoa, Samoa and Cook Islands. Our success comes through innovation and customer experience where our purpose is to apply technology and service excellence to advance and improve the lives of our customers. Be part of a company where employees have a chance to do exciting work and make a difference! Bluesky has an exciting opportunity for a marketing professional to manage and oversee Bluesky's marketing department.

MARKETING MANAGER

POSITION SUMMARY
Develop, implement and drive the company's marketing strategy to achieve company goals, market share, profitability, product development, marketing communications and product management. Responsible for the development and management of the marketing team. (Please refer to detailed Job Description on www.bluesky.as)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS REQUIRE

- Bachelors Degree in marketing, business administration and/or related field.
- Minimum of 5+ years of experience in a marketing position or related field
- Strong leadership, management and decision making skills; ability to lead and supervise staff directly and indirectly including the ability to achieve results and performance through others; excellent communications skills, self-motivated, self-starter, personable and well organized.
- Experience in telecommunications industry is an advantage
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills (both English and Samoan)
- Ability to communicate effectively with people at all levels inside and outside the company.
- Exposure to product promotion and advertising as well as strong statistical background.
- Competent financial skills
- Demonstrated skills, knowledge and experience in the design and execution of marketing, communications and public relations activities.
- Demonstrated successful experience writing press releases, making presentations and negotiating with media.
- Experience overseeing the design and production of print materials and publications.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to interpret and maximize the use of sophisticated market research data.
- Strong creative, strategic, and analytical skills

Competitive salary based on qualifications and professional experience. Company benefits include discounts on products and services, IRA retirement, medical insurance, annual leave, and many more. Bluesky is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Interested and qualified candidates must submit a cover letter and resume or curriculum vitae to the Human Resources Department by email at as.jobs@blueskypacificgroup.com or in person at the main office located in the Laufou Center 2nd Floor, Nuuli, Am. Samoa. We will continue to accept resumes until the position has been filled.

Pacific...

Continued from page 5

were not given the same privilege and he said that isn't fair.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi told parliament the minute American Samoa removes its entry permits for Samoan citizens, Samoa would do the same for American Samoans.

(Source: RNZI)

FOUR DIE IN SAMOA OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Samoa police report four deaths during the Christmas and Boxing Day period.

Police superintendent Auapa'au Logoitino Filipino told the Samoa Observer that two had drowned and two were suspected to have taken their own lives.

He declined to give any information about the deaths saying police are conducting investigations into each one.

Auapaau said more than 20 people were arrested for driving under the influence.

They were caught at roadblocks that police had staged throughout the country over the Christmas Day long weekend.

(Source: RNZI)

PNA SEES MIXED RESULTS FROM FISHERIES MEETING

The CEO of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) sees the outcomes of the annual meeting in Manila earlier this month of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) as mixed.

PNA CEO Ludwig Kumoru said there were some good steps forward by the Commis-

sion. These included adoption of a Port State Measure, which includes arrangements for appropriate inspection of tuna vessels when they come to port. This will close one of the remaining gaps in the Commission's monitoring and control scheme and is well adapted to the region where many of the major ports are in small island developing states, said Mr. Kumoru.

Other positive steps included the adoption of a measure to reduce marine pollution from fishing vessels, including banning discharge of plastic, and the adoption of a rebuilding plan for Pacific Bluefin.

However, Kumoru was disappointed in the outcome of the revision of the Tropical Tuna Measure.

"This is a key measure for PNA members, most of whom are heavily dependent on tropical tuna fisheries," Kumoru said. "Most of the tropical tuna catch is taken in PNA waters but some fishing states fail to respect the rights of PNA members and other resource-owning Pacific Island states and try to use the Commission to protect their fleets instead of protecting the fish."

In the meantime, he said, "PNA Members will continue to work on strengthening management arrangements applied in PNA waters, and I call on Commission Members to focus on strengthening management arrangements for the high seas in 2018."

(Source: PacNews)



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The newest Toa Samoa from American Samoa after graduating from their AIT in Atlanta, Georgia on Dec. 15 and now ready for active duty.

[courtesy photo]

Power restored at Disneyland after guests taken off rides

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Power was fully restored at Disneyland on Wednesday after an outage at the California theme park forced some guests to be escorted from stalled rides.

A transformer problem caused the late-morning outage in Toontown and Fantasyland, affecting 12 rides, park spokeswoman Suzi Brown said.

An unknown number of guests were taken off rides and no one was hurt.

Power was restored in Toontown and much of Fantasyland within a couple of hours. It was fully restored later in the afternoon, Brown said.

Mark Freeman of Provo, Utah, said he, his wife and two children were in the affected area when the power went out.

“We were in line for It’s A Small World,” he said. “It just went out. And they basically said, ‘Everything’s shut off.’”

Freeman and his family, who were at Disney as part of a three-day vacation, said they decided to go to nearby New Orleans Square to wait out the confusion.

“It was just such a mad house,” he said. “It was so crowded we couldn’t even get out of the park. We went and got ice cream and just sat there for probably a half-hour.”

Some people wondered on social media if they’d get refunds.

Guests are warned that all or part of the park may close without notice and tickets are nonrefundable in such cases. Brown said tickets may be refunded on a case-by-case basis because of the outage.



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Former Samoa News reporter Grant Moos (right) and his grandson Johnny after placing wreaths on graves at Arlington National Cemetery. The graves include his father, who was a medic in the military and died Christmas Day in 1959. Moos, who worked for Samoa News in the 1970s, and his grandson are from Wisconsin. [photo: grant moos]

► Mukesh...

Continued from page 6

keeper testifying that she gets to work between 6:30a.m. and 7a.m. and she didn't see anyone in the living room or in the kitchen. Later, the housekeeper says she saw the victim and the defendant's daughter and she didn't notice any distress.

"This is enough to call the government's story into question," he told jurors, adding that this is consistent "enough to raise reasonable doubts in your mind."

Another problem, as claimed by the defense, with the timeline is that the defendant's auto shop is attached to his house and employees were coming in to work around 7a.m., the housekeeper was coming in to work, and there was nothing out of the ordinary that morning.

Therefore, he argued that if the timeline doesn't make sense, if it doesn't sound right, if it contradicts a witness who was in the house when the alleged assault occurred, then "you have reasonable doubt" — then find Chand not guilty.

The defense went on to question the victim's credibility, saying that the victim didn't ask for help, instead went into her friend's bedroom to wake up the friend, and later went to pick up bread for the food-plate fundraising. And for the rest of the day, the victim was in and out of the house, cooking and

delivering food plates. At the same time, the defendant was there and she had seen him.

Among the witnesses who testified for the defense, was the defendant's daughter who was at home when her father was falsely accused of the alleged crime, he said. Additionally, the defendant's daughter was one of the most creditable witnesses during the trial.

As to why the victim would lie about the alleged attack, the defense said only the victim knows and she's not telling. Perhaps the victim lied because, on Apr. 6, she told Chand that she wanted to see her boyfriend, but the defendant "scolded her, she's too young to have a boyfriend."

He claims that it's possible that the victim "made up this story to discredit" the defendant so that the defendant wouldn't tell her parents about the boyfriend.

According to the defense the government gave an inconsistent story, and its witnesses were not in the house at the time of the alleged assault.

Assistant Attorney General, Woodrow Pengelly gave the government's rebuttal telling jurors that the defense had presented "fake motive" theories. An example of fake motive theory is that the victim made up the alleged assault so that her

parents wouldn't discover she has a boyfriend.

Pengelly argued that the victim didn't fabricate the incident and recalled testimony during trial that after the victim told friends, she went to the corner of her room hugging herself. The "real fake theory" is the testimony by the defendant's daughter that the victim "blurted out that she has a boyfriend."

He reminded jurors that the victim herself had testified during trial and "told you what happened to her" at the hands of the defendant.

As for the timeline raised by the defense, Pengelly said the defense is trying to confuse the jury. He said the victim woke up to a 53-year old man groping her, then pinning her against the wall and sexually assaulting her.

According to the government, the victim's story is "true" and asked for a conviction on both counts.

Defense attorney, Richard Desaulles, who led the defense during the trial, later told Samoa News that, when the alleged victim lied on the witness stand, "and those lies were exposed during trial, I believe... the jury was left with serious questions about the alleged victim's credibility."



Young Writers CONTEST



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Level K5

Raymon Amalai
Coleman Elementary School
I love Christmas
I love Christmas because of Santa Claus. I love the lights and the presents. I love our Christmas Tree. I love Christmas because its magical.

Level 1

Sefulu Fe'a
Leone Midkiff Elementary

My wish...
I wish for food.
I wish for presents.
I wish for family and friends.

I wish for snow.
I wish for love.
But most of all, I wish for peace....

Level 2

Kate Finau
Leone Midkiff Elementary School
“What I Want for Christmas”
I want a white bike with two wheels for Christmas. I would ride it from my house to the front cement and all around the guest-house. I will ride my bike with my two little sisters Queenie and Heidi. I will share my bike with my sisters because I love them. I will not trade in my white bike for a pink one because I have always wanted a white bike. It will make me very happy to own a white bike for Christmas.

Level 3

Reydan Chun
Manulele Tausala Elementary School
“My Favorite Time of the Year”
Christmas is my favorite time of the year. Do you know why? It is because in this season, you get a bunch of presents in your stocking. You yell with joy because you get what you want and Santa will get it for you. When you put cookies with milk and a carrot, Santa will get it for the reindeer. This is also my favorite time because when everyone is awake you can open your presents and play with your toys that you’ve got for Christmas. Once you’ve opened all of your presents you greet everyone a “Merry Christmas”. After that, you go and have a feast with the whole family – your Mom, Dad, siblings, uncle, aunty, and grandparents. Anyone you know will come and visit your house to eat with you. On the table you have desert like Christmas pudding,, chocolate or strawberry cake, or chocolate or vanilla ice cream. In the afternoon you eat turkey, mashed potatoes, chicken, celery and carrots. Then they hang out for a while, they rest and then they go home and sleep.
Another thing I liked about Christmas is the presents. I can still remember my most favorable Christmas present I received. It was a speedboat, and it can go on really fast. You could try to catch a fish with it if you have a string with bait connected with the boat. I love playing with it. At the end of the day, Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. It is also a time for sharing, caring, and giving presents to everyone, and a time where everyone, family and friends, gather together. These are reasons why Christmas is my favorite time of the year.

Level 4

Romeo Vasega
Faleasao Elementary School
The best Christmas present for my mom
My mom is my role model. She does everything for my baby brother and I. She always buys us nice presents for Christmas. This year, I want to buy her a nice present; a present that is very useful to her and reminds me of her all the times. On Christmas Eve every year, my family comes together and gives out presents to each other. My baby brother and I always get more present. I want to show my whole family the present that I am going to give my mom. The best present is my thank you letter and a big heart made of red construction paper. I told my mom to post my letter and the heart in our room. I know it is the best present for my dear mom.

Level 5

Telecia Fa’apue
Manumalo Academy
What Christmas Means to Me
Christmas is a holiday to celebrate with family and friends. Most of the people in the world think that Christmas is about presents, and toys, yet Christmas is about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The only reason why people get gifts is because in the Bible, three rich men gave Jesus three gifts. I think it is better for kids to not get any gifts but celebrate and give or offer to Jesus.
Christmas is not a day for presents, but these days an average of many people are still giving out gifts. Not only is it bad to give gifts on Christmas, but people could give clothes, food, and toys to those in need to make it the best Christmas they’ve ever had. On Christmas, I think we should celebrate Jesus Christ’ birthday with family and friends. It is better to have your family with you celebrating Jesus’s birthday than getting gifts. That is what Christmas really is to me.

Level 6

Fa’asala Sale
Le’atele Elementary School
My Wish
“My favorite holiday”

Christmas is by far the best holiday in my opinion. I love spending time with my relatives, decorating my house for Christmas, going to stores, and buying gifts for people, going to the Christmas service on Christmas Eve night at my church, and especially getting presents for both loved ones and Santa Claus. Yes, I still believe in Santa Claus because he has a spirit of giving. I love everything about Christmas and Christmas Eve and all the things we do each year. I always feel bad when Christmas day is over.

Level 7

Francis Vaofanua
Siliaga Elementary School
Drugs in American Samoa
So sad not joyful
That drugs are all over
The lands that God created
Like a drop of rain
It came so sudden,
Oh, how did it come to be?

We’re clueless of how
It came to shore
Oh the demons that they release,
The heart will darken
The brain is frozen
Oh, how did it come to be?
The disease is spreading
Like the wind is ready
To hoof, huff, and be free
Across the land
He created with his strength
Oh, how did it come to be?
It could shorten your life
It’s not yours to waste
Christ died on the cross for us,
Like a finger on a spindle
So fast it could take you
Oh, please let the Lord guide you!

Like the breaking of glass
It could split you like that
With your wife, your children or parents
It’s the demon’s work of art
It would stick like glue
Oh, please let the Lord guide you.

Level 8

Semila Samuelu
Lupelele Elementary

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a joyful holiday. People love to celebrate Christmas, but some people do not know the real meaning of Christmas. Christmas is not about gifts and Santa. It is about love and giving thanks to our Heavenly Father for everything that he has done for all of us. It is also about families getting together. Christmas is a day of giving.
Christmas is where we come together to give thanks to the Lord. I have seen lots of kids wanting to buy this and that, but Christmas is not about how many gifts that’s under the tree. It is about giving thanks, having fun, showing love, and sharing gifts.
Christmas is our number one favorite holiday. It is where my family and I put up our Christmas tree and decorate it with shiny balls and sparkling lights. At the end we let our litter sister put the star at the very top of the tree to remember how the shepherds and the three wise men who found Baby Jesus. After that, we would sit down and sing a lovely Christmas song together as a family.
When I was a little boy, I thought that Christmas was about presents and Santa. But now, I know that Christmas is all about Santa coming through the chimney. It is about giving thanks and love to our Heavenly Father. Our family loves to celebrate Christmas because it is a joyful and wonderful holiday.
A man once told me, that it doesn’t matter how many presents you get for Christmas, but the greatest gift you could ever receive is your family. I don’t care if I don’t get anything for Christmas, because I got the most awesome present ever, my family. The real reason behind Christmas is to remember when our Savior came to Earth. If you see someone alone on Christmas, invite them to celebrate Christmas with you. Remember this, the greatest gift you could ever get is your family. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Level 10

Erin Jessop
Samoana High School
To give or to receive, that is the question
As the time of Thanksgiving come to an end, we begin to think about Christmas. Now is the time we begin writing our Christmas lists and purposely leaving it around the house for our parents to find as the post office becomes cluttered with letters to the North Pole. I remember my first letter to Santa asking for a Barbie-doll with pink hair that comes with a house and a car. There will always be that one Barbie-doll we want in life, but this year I compared my Christmas list with the list of someone else; someone who is less fortune or in need of refuge. There is a child in Africa wishing for a couple grains of rice to eat while I wished for a Barbie-doll with pink hair. While I wished for the Barbie-Doll House that came with a car, a child in Iraq wished for peace and shelter. At the top of my Christmas list this year is the newest version of the i-phone, and a child in India has medicine to save his baby sister’s life at the top of his list.
Comparing my Christmas lists with others has helped me realize I have everything I need. Instead of wishing for something you want this Christmas, why not give to someone in need? When you give to someone else, you not only receive their gratitude, but something far greater in return-the Christmas spirit. The last time I checked, you will not be able to find the Christmas spirit on sale. What is Christmas without the Christmas spirit and what better way to receive it than by giving to those that have less than us?

Level 1 1

Stuart Tuigamala
Nu’uuli Vocational Technical High School
To give or to receive – that is the question
There is nothing sweeter than receiving things that we like. The joy of receiving blessings is a delightful experience. Nevertheless, we can’t just sit and wait for thing to come our way. For some people, they would simply just ask politely. Most people would work for what they want. However, the majority would have the mentality that they would have to give in order to receive.
Like an old Bible proverb says, “Ask and ye shall receive”. The teaching emphasizes the fact that we should ask and just get what we want. However, it is not the most effective way to receive. The outcome depends on the person you are asking and for what reason it’s needed and may also depend on who you ask. The answer won’t always be yes, and won’t always be no.
One of the most effective ways is to work for our wants and needs. A Chinese proverb says, “He that will not work will not eat”. For every hard worker, his or her satisfaction is guaranteed. However, the achievements of those who don’t work hard enough are only by chance.
In the Bible, we are taught that we must do unto others, as we would have them do unto us. To be the one to give will mean more than just receiving mutual kindness. Majority of the people have the mentality to return the favor to those that have given. Giving will not only show an act of kindness, but will also give those that receive a warm heart. The actions you have done will portray satisfaction and happiness.
In conclusion, we shall all keep in mind that giving is an important aspect of a loving person. The act of giving or receiving both ensure satisfaction and happiness, if given and received with a pure heart. Giving and receiving works vise versa. In result of our actions, we will receive blessings and many more.

Young Writers’ Essay Contest - DECEMBER 2017

K5:
Collins West, AFONO
Janaiah Harmon, ALATAUA II
Sauimalae Uhrle, A.P.LUTALI
Raymon Malai, COLEMAN
Malamamaisua Lam Yuen, FALEASAO
Kolio Logoleo, FALEASAO
Evan Antonio, FAGALI’I
Fa’aulu Togia’i, LAULI’I
Merelyn Lilo, LE’ATELE
Junior Valfae, LEONE MIDKIFF
Mata’u Sani, LUPELELE
Nehemaia Tu’ulangavalu, MATAFAO
Adriel Masaniai, MT. ALAVA
Abbigail Paulo, PAVA’IA’I
Zander Jennings, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Nana Moeai, SPA
Jorel Fananisili, SILIAGA

Maretino Lawakeli, MARIST ST. FRANCIS
Emmanuel N. Pili, MATAFAO
James Elin, MT. ALAVA
Mercy Su’a, PAVA’IA’I
Jessica Gu, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Eli Vevesi, SPA
Ripine Cendrowski, SILIAGA

Level 2:
Fualili Titi’ali’i AFONO
Jennifer Misa, ALATAUA II
Amethyst Nimoa’i, A.P.LUTALI
Cecilia Wilson, AUA
Si’isava’i, COLEMAN
Fetal Saia’ana, FALEASAO
Steven Maui, FALEASAO
To’a Moeono, FAGALI’I
Martha Isa’ako, LAULI’I
Shinaya Tua, LE’ATELE
Katie Finau, LEONE MIDKIFF
Nu’uese Fausaina, LUPELELE
Tara Seto, MARIST ST. FRANCIS
Bernadette Autele, MATAFAO
Safina Mauigoa, MT. ALAVA
Sheila Ssakalaia, PAVA’IA’I
Baston Dunn, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Tautasi Sauvao, SPA
Fred Etimani, SILIAGA

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Ryahlyn Tumama, AFONO

Leoteleileupumoni D. Amosa, ALATAUA II
Rosaline Uhrle, A.P.LUTALI
Katelani T. Lugaliga, AUA
Cyrus O. Aulava, COLEMAN
Siliona Mauga, FALEASAO
Keciah Tu’ufuli, FAGALI’I
Merle D. Auve’a, LE’ATELE
Tautana Molesi, LEONE MIDKIFF
Jasmine Lafaele, LUPELELE
Reydan Chun, MANULELE
Zelda Nightingale, MANUMALO
Tausala Paolo, MARIST ST. FRANCIS
Sarahjane Vaitautolu, MATAFAO
Andrisa Masaniai, MT. ALAVA
Alecia Annandale, PAVA’IA’I
Skyler Corry, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Katie Maioto, SBA
Diamond M. Hollister, SPA

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Yolanda Matagaono, AFONO
Jordan Fui, ALATAUA II
Samuelo Filipo, A.P.LUTALI
Agi Tofaeono, AUA
Mita’i Peters, COLEMAN
Romeo Vasega, FALEASAO
Pualani Ale, FAGALI’I
Kathy Sulusi, IAKINA
Michelle Lavea, LAULI’I

Emma Nu’u, LE’ATELE
Gabriel Paopao, LEONE MIDKIFF
Sesalina Kitiona, LUPELELE
Lennuy Sili, MANULELE
Amily Seko, MANUMALO
Rylan Sovita, MARIST ST. FRANCIS
Aziz F. Sahib, MATAFAO
Noel To’omaga, MT. ALAVA
Rose Flame, PAVA’IA’I
Christian Whuillas, PACIFIC HORIZONS

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Angel Tavae, ALATAUA II
Tara To’alepai, A.P.LUTALI
Lisa Filipo, AUA
Emma Milo, FALEASAO
Mouana Laulu, FAGALI’I
P.J. Isaako, LAULI’I
Lomeo Vanilau, LE’ATELE
Kennedy Kim, LEONE MIDKIFF
Toetu Ah-Poi, LUPELELE
Katelynne DeLara, MANUMALO
Brigitta Ta’aga, MARIST ST. FRANCIS
Monica Laulu, MATAFAO
T.J. Seuva’ai, MT. ALAVA
Esdras T. Auapa’au, PAVA’IA’I
Danju Dizon, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Tau Reid, SBA
Maximus Togiai, SPA
Waiholani Seaga, SILIAGA

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Ulrich Schroeder, ALATAUA II
Angelica Sa’au, A.P.LUTALI
Christian Von Koppel, AUA
Levalea’I Maligi, FALEASAO
Joanne Mase, FAGALI’I
Moesha Metuli, IAKINA
Fanolua Jr. Toilolo, LAULI’I
Fa’asala Sale, LE’ATELE
Vivian Fa’amoe, LEONE MIDKIFF
Julieann Filipo, LUPELELE
Alexander Toleafoa, MANULELE
Ashie Fruean, MANUMALO
Ulalia Etuale, MARIST ST. FRANCIS
Blanch L.L. Taise, MATAFAO
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Rosina Fepuall, PAVA’IA’I
Keyton Smith, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Ezekiel Toafa, SBA
Monalise Danielson, SPA
Princess Viesca, ST. THERESA
Ruth Fiaavae, SILIAGA

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Valerie Gago, ALATAUA II
Dayshaun Fa’afetai, A.P.LUTALI
Solia Filipo, AUA
Issac Lilomalava, COLEMAN
Melisa Filimigo, FALEASAO

Malaeti’a Letioa, FAGALI’I
Harmony Leo, IAKINA
Kenneth Fiaui, LAULI’I
Shaena Delen, LEONE MIDKIFF
Lorraine Lemalu, LUPELELE
Andrew Ioane, MANULELE
Telecia Fa’apu’e, MANUMALO
Elena Pereira, MARIST ST. FRANCIS
Shuling Mah Kwan, MATAFAO
Toagamua Tavila, PAVA’IA’I
Addyelle Dizon, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Leilani Wall, SBA
Jimmy Dong, SPA
Heleina Willis, ST. THERESA
Francis Vaofanua, SILIAGA

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Mary Laulima, ALATAUA II
Apotala Su’a, A.P.LUTALI
Paulina Allen, AUA
Odeja Pila, COLEMAN
D’Angelo Si’imalevai, FALEASAO
Niulani Harmon, FAGALI’I
Meghan Ainiui, IAKINA
Jaydah T. Mano, LAULI’I
Kanoa Satele, MANUMALO
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Letoe’e L. Launui, PAVA’IA’I

Angela Chen, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Fola Fa’aita, SBA
Jacobson Ierome, SPA
Monica Maeata’anoa, ST. THERESA
Va’afuti Va’afuti, SILIAGA

Level 9:
Avril Regis, FA’ASAO MARIST HS
Jacob Ta’ala, FAGA’ITUA HS
Elina Liaina, LEONE HS
Kalala Tautolo, MANUMALO
Silvenan S. Distor, NVTHS
Leilani Galea’i, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Rosalia Pereira, SAMOANA HS
Zoey Mavaega, SPA
Lene Kruse, TAFUNA HS

Level 10:
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Merry Va’a, FAGA’ITUA HS
Serenalia Iona, LEONE HS
Peter Reid, MANUMALO
Elizandrea Tuato’o, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Erin Jessop, SAMOANA HS
Keith Taliau, SPA
Angelika Nair, TAFUNA HS

Level 11:
Hans Paul Leaban, FA’ASAO MARIST HS

Derrick Togafau, FAGA’ITUA HS
Elizabeth Elisara, LEONE HS
Aitulagi Afoa, MANUMALO
Stuart Tuigamala, NVTHS
Alia Tuilosega, PACIFIC HORIZONS
Melelene Salave’a, SAMOANA
Sophie Young, SPA
Annie Risati, TAFUNA HS

Level 12:
Carl D. Balauro, FA’ASAO MARIST HS
Sinapapa Taylor, FAGA’ITUA HS
Joshua Reed, IAKINA
Pricilla C. Tuese, NVTHS
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333 tagata, 105 aiga fa'asoa i ai Alofa Foa'i Fua - Kerisimasi 2017

tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

Mai i fa'amaumauga a le Alofa Foa'i Fua ma le Pacific Global Citizens, ua fa'amautu ai le aofaiga o e na soloa'i atu ma fa'aaogaina le foa'i a lea sosaiete alofa e 333 tagata, aiga e 105 sa latou mauaina ni mea o mo'omia mo le fanau i totonu o latou lotoifale, e ala lea i lava-lava, seevae ma nisi o sapalai e fa'aaoga mo latou aiga.

E le gata i le foa'i sa fa'atautaia i le Fale Laumei i le aso To'ona'i, ae ua mae'a fa'ataunu'u fo'i le latou foa'i o mea ta'alo e fa'afiafiaina ai le fanau o lo'o mama'i i le Pediatric Ward i le falema'i tele i Faga'alu. E to'a 25 i latou na taua'aoina i ai meaalofo i le aso Faraile, 12:00 i le aoauli, a'o lumana'i le foa'i tele i aiga o i ai le mana'omia ma le mamalu lautele. O nofoaga fa'apitoa fo'i o lo'o alaala le tumau ai aiga ua a'afia latou lotoifale i sauaga, ua mae'a taua'aoina i ai nisi o mea fale ma masini e fa'aaoga mo le fa'avelaina o mea taumafa i umukuka i totonu o maota ma laoa, lea ua mae'a taua'ao i ai nei foa'i atoa ma mea'ai tu'u apa, lavalava ma isi sapalai.

O mea uma nei sa maua mai le foa'i mai a le atunu'u lautele, i tagata ta'ito'atasi, aiga, ae maise o pisinisi, fale-oloa ma Kamupani i le atunu'u. Fa'afetai i lo outou sao lea ua mae'a taua'aoina nei mea uma, ina ia fa'afiafiaina nei aiga uma sa i ai le mana'omia.

"Itiiti pe tele, ae ua e foa'i ma le loto," o se tasi lea o auau o le tautalaga a le Kovana Sili Lolo Moliga i lenei tausaga i le atunu'u. O se mea sili ona lelei, ona o le Alofa Foa'i Fua o se poloketi o lo'o fa'atautaia mai e tupulaga talavou o le atunu'u, i latou ua mafai ona faigaluega, ma ua latou manatu e ao ina tutusa ona fa'afiafiaina uma le fanauiti ma latou aiga, e pei fo'i o i latou, i lenei vaitau fiafia o le tausaga. I lea aso ma lona fa'amoemoe maua luga e fa'asoa atu i le 105 aiga na aga'i atu e talia le vala'au e saili ai ni mea o mana'omia i le Alofa Foa'i Fua, na ta'i 20-25 sui e aga'i i totonu i le vaega lona lua o i latou na maimoaina ma filifili i oloa sa folasia i luga o laulau i totonu o le Fale Laumei.

O le vaega muamua na aga'i i totonu o sui o Aiga na aofia i le Lisi ma'oti o i latou ua fa'amaonia e le Alofa Foa'i Fua ma le Pacific Global e matua sili ona mana'omia e i latou lenei foa'i. E to'a 44 i latou na ofo mai o latou taimi, o tupulaga talavou

uma fo'i, ina ia fesoasoani i le fa'amoemoe o lea aso, ma fa'agaioia ai le galuega foa'i e o'o lava i fa'amaumauga.

E to'a 15 i latou na foa'i sa aofia fa'atasi ma le Alofa Foa'i Fua i lea fa'amoemoe, ma sa aofia ai ma le Tausala Lalelei o le Pasefika i lenei vasega o e na fesoasoani. I le taimi nei o le Alofa Foa'i Fua o lo ua avea nei Patrick Ti'a Reid ma Peresetene, Sui Peresetene ai Aioletuna Sunia, ae failautusi ai le tama'ita'i o Jewel Tuiasosopo.



O i latou na tofua sao i le taumafaiga e tufatufaina atu meaalofo tau lavalava, se'avae ma isi oloa tau le tausiga o aiga. O i latou nei o Aioletuna Sunia, sui peresetene o le Alofa Foa'i Fua, ma le Tausala Lalelei o le Pasefika Matau'aina Toomalatai ma le ali'i peresetene o le Alofa Foa'i Fua - Ti'a Reid.

[ata: foa'i]

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Tuumalo se tasi o Tusiupu Lauiloa - Eti Sa'aga

O se va'aiga i le 'au na Siamupini i le Ta'amilosaga Soft Ball a le Malo lea sa fa'atautaia e le Matagaluega o Paka ma Malae Ta'alo i le fa'aiuga o lenei tausaga. O i latou nei e o mai i isi matagaluega, ae o lo'o sapaia le latou taumafaiga e le EMS. O le tama'ita'i na mauaina le Ipu o le Ta'alo lelei i lea ta'amilosaga, o Anasetasia Malu'ia mai le Matagaluega DJSS WIC. [ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

Mai le tele o tausaga, sa galue lenei tusiupu, Eti Sa'aga, e avea ma so'otau'au ma le lautele o le atunu'u i galuega fa'aliliu upu, tusi upu ma tapenaga o tautalaga ma folasaga fa'apitoa mo le sui i le Konekeresi, le tofa Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, se'ia o'o mai i le toe tausaga o lana nofoa'iga i le Konekeresi.

Peita'i o lona soifuaga atoa, e le'i manatu Sa'aga i se mea e ta'uta'ua ai, ae o se tasi na te tapenaina ta'ita'i mo latou tiute fai i le va ma le atunu'u. O ia o se 'Tagata Faigaluega! piliota.'

O lona agaga atoa sa ia folasia lea i lana solo na tusia, "O a'u o le Leipa!" O lona lea solo, sa na tusia ma fa'asalalauina fa'alaua'itele o se galuega, e toe saili atili ai e fanau a'o'oga loloto faafilosofia po'o le atamai anoa, lea e taumafai e pu'epu'emaui le agaga na tusia ai lea solo. O ona lagona fa'aalia na, sa 'au'au i ai ona naunauta'iga ina ia soifua fa'apena.

O Sa'aga i lona tupuga mai o le atali'i o le Faife'au LMS o Rev. Sa'aga i Malua. E tuaoi lelei lo latou fale ma le pa a Malua le a'ai o le Ekalesia LMS a'o e le'i o'o mai i Sale'imoa.

Peita'i o ona lagona fa'aalia, e matua ese lava, ma e le iloga ia te ia se tasi na soifua a'e i se li'o o le aiga o se Fa'afeagaiga Taulagi. I lona lagona, o lona lea Tagata ua ia manatu e ola ai, e sa'oloto e fa'aailoa ona lagona ma ona manatu e tusa o lona fa'augaina o mea e o'o mai ia te ia.

Ina ua ma'ea lana fa'asikolasipi i Niu Sila, lea sa agava'a ai ina ua mae'a ana a'oa'oga i le Samoa College i Samoa, sa maofa tagata uma i se tasi na mua'i fa'aalia le ituaiga olaga o le "Hippie i Samoa, e fa'a-afro fo'i ma le sikaili o lona lauao!" Lona lua, e le fia faigaluega i se ofisa, ae aveave masini sua eleele.

I le taimi e faigaluega ai e sua palapala i masini tetele a le Public Works, e fa'asausau, ma ua iloga ai le ese o lea fo'i ituaiga filosofia. Ia Sa'aga, e na te fa'aigaina lea ituaiga olaga o le "Fa'a-Kuoli" ae le manatu ina ia fa'aogaina sona atamai mai a'oga i le faigaluega i se kesi i totonu o le Ofisa.

O lona fa'aliliuga lea o le upu fa'aperetania - "Qualified" i so'o se mea o le olaga e o'o mai, pe tu'u atu e fai. Na avea ma tusitala i le Samoa Times, faatasi ai ma Sano Malifa ma lona vaega o lo'o fa'aauauina pea lea faiva i le taimi nei, ae o lea ua avea ma Samoa Observer.

Peita'i ina ua fa'aipoipo o ia ia Otila Hunkin Sa'aga, ma amatalia le aiga, ona masi'i mai ai loa

lea o lona aiga tau atia'e i Amerika Samoa ma amata ai lana tautua i Amerika Samoa.

Na avea ma tusiupu i le Matagaluega o A'oga, na tautua fo'i i le KVZK-TV. Sa galue foi i le leitio Fa'asalalau a le KSBS FM ae maise lava i vaitau o le Sisigafu'a ma tu'uaga vaa o le Fu'a. Sa ia tusia ana solo ma sa lolomia i mekasini o galuega tusitusi a tusi solo a le vasa pasefika, e toatele sui mamalu o lenei malo sa tusia e ia latou tautalaga, lauga ma folasaga.

Peita'i o lona galuega sa toe iloga ai lona lea tomai, sa ia fa'aliliu upu ia Faleomavaega.

O se tasi o taleni e iloga ai, o lona fiafia lea i le musika ma le tata Kitara. O lona leo e matua pau ma maulalo, e matagofie i tautalaga i luga o le ea po'o ala leo fa'asalalau, ma ua faapena fo'i i le malu o pese fa'agauloto ma malie i le fa'afofoga.

Ua tu'uua e ia ona faiva, ae ua iloga sana tautua, o ia lava o le Leipa i lona malo na soifua a'e ai, Samoa Tuto'atasi i le malo fo'i ua avea ma nofoaga e tautua ai, le teritori o Amerika Samoa.

I se vaitau o lona soifua talavou, na a'e mai ai le ata o "Iesu Keriso" ae fa'atino i pesega, "Jesus Christ Superstar," o Sa'aga, o ia lea sa avea ma "Iesu Keriso" i lea fa'atinoga e ali'i ma tama'ita'i o le SCOPA po'o Tama ma Teine Tuai o le Samoa College i Samoa.

E ia te ia le agaga o le tagata Atisi, ona o lona soifua e fiafia e tusitusi ona lagona i solo, tala ma fa'atinoga fa'amatalaloto ai lagona. O se meaalofo taua lea na ia maua mai lona faia'oga o le Gagana Peretania i le Kolisi Samoa, le ali'i Tusitala lauiloa o Samoa, Albert Wendt.

O lona solo sili ona fiafia ai le to'atele, ona ua fa'aailo ai lava lona tagata moni ma lona iloa i le olaga e fia soifua ai, "O a'u o le Leipa!" Ua fa'aaogaina lea solo i aoaoga a le fanau a'oga i Iunivesite ma Kolisi i malo o le Atuvasa.

O lona gasegase na fa'ato'a po'ia ai o ia e tusa o le 6 tausaga talu ai. Na tele taimi sa fe'avea'ia ai o ia i le falema'i iinei ma Hawaii, peita'i o lona toe malaga lenei i Honolulu mo togafitiga ua le toe fo'i mai ai le malaga, ae ua amia filemu ai i le Falema'i o Kuakini Medical Center i Honolulu.

"O Eti o se tasi e iloa lelei upu e fa'aaoga e fa'aalia ma fa'amatalaloto ai lagona natia, o se taleni lena sa mafai ai ona uiga ana solo ma tala tusia, lea e fa'aaogaina tele i Iunivesite ma Kolisi mo a'oa'oga o tomai fa'asilosofia eseese," o se tala lea a Wendt.

O lo'o soifua lana fanau Che, Robert, Wilie and Terri ma latou pelega.



O nisi o le to'a 44 o Sui na ofo mai le latou tautua i le Alofa Foa'i Fua i le taimi na tatala ai le latou foa'i i le aso To'ona'i na te'a i Utulei. [ata: Foa'i]





O le ali'i tata fa'aili lauiloa i le tatou nei fo'i malo ma Samoa, Ulale ma si ona tina matua i le taimi na tapena ai e le Kovana ma lana Faigamalo le aso fa'apitoa mo Tama ma Tina Matutua uma o le atunu'u i le fale ta'alo i Pago Pago.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



O se va'aiga i le atali'i lea e fa'aauau lana fagafao o le tama o Laumei! E fiafia lea ali'i fa'amaimoa le to'atele i lana Laumei, a uma ona toe tu'u fo'i lea i lona apa taele se'ia o'o i le isi aso fou ona toe ave fo'i lea e fa'aauau. "Alofa i la'u Laumei!"

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



O nai tama'ita'i galulue malosi nei i so'o se taimi i le Falema'i Tele i Faga'alu i le vaega a le Communications, e taulai uma atu ia i latou telefoni mo le feso'ota'i atu i so'o se vaega o le falema'i tele i Faga'alu. Avatu le fa'amalo ia te outou i la outou galuega mae'ae'a i aso uma, ma taimi uma. Tatou aga atu i se tausaga fou manuia.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

\$2.6MIL TUPE MO LE MALO AMERIKA SAMOA - SALA STAR KIST:

Ua fa’ailoa mai ua mae’a toe taga’i ma ua pasia e le USEPA le latou fa’aiuga tamau mo le sala tupe e ao ina totogia e le StarKist Company ma ana Kamupani Fa’apa’aga e aofia ai le StarKist Samoa Company, ina ia agatonu ai vaega o tulafono tau le tausia lelei o le Siosiomaga ua fa’amaonia ua solituina a’o fa’ataunu’u galuega gaosi a le Kamupani I’a lea i inei. O le sala na mua’i fa’atulaga e le USEPA e \$6.5 miliona ia Setema 2017.

Peita’i e ese mai lea \$6.5miliona, ua fa’aopoopo i ai ma le \$200,000 e afua mai lea ina ia usita’ia tulafono o le Suavai Mama [Clean Water Act] lea fo’i na mua’i maua o solituina a’o le’i fa’ailoa lea sala e le Fa’amasinoga.

O se tasi o suiga ua i ai i le maliliega fou ua fa’ataoto mai nei, ua avea Amerika Samoa ma se tasi o vaega e totogia i ai se vaega tupe o lenei sala a le Kamupani I’a, StarKist Samoa. O le \$2.6 miliona o le a totogia lea ia Amerika Samoa, ae o le \$3.9 miliona e totogia lea i le Iunaite Setete o Amerika.

E ese mai lea sala, ua fa’atulaga fo’i e ao ina auina mai e le Kamupani I’a ni mea faigaluega e e faaaoga i fa’alavelave fa’afuase’i i le latou lala i Amerika Samoa nei, ina ia lelei ona tali atu i nisi o fa’aletonu e ono a’afia ai tagata i kasa o’ona e pa atu i le siomaga o le atunu’u. O le tau o ia masini e o’o i le \$88,000.

“O lenei maliliega ua fa’amautu mai e ao ai i le StarKist ona fa’aleleia tulaga o le suavai tatafe i vaitaimi o timuga tetele, lea e ao ina le a’afia ai le sami o Pago Pago i le mau lapisi o le a fa’amautu mai i ai ona o tafega,” o se fa’amatalaga lea a Alexis Strauss o le Pulega a le USEPA i ona Teritori ma Setete i le Pasefika i Saute.

Ua ia fa’ailoa mai fo’i, “Ua mae’a fa’atulaga le matou so’otaga lelei ma le ASEPA ina ia mataituina le faagaosloga o galuega uma nei e ao ina toe fa’aleleia, ia mautu ai le agava’a o lea Kamupani e fa’aauau ana galuega gaosi, ina ua mae’a usita’ia fa’aiuga uma o lenei maliliega ma le USEPA.”

O lo ua aofia ai fo’i i lenei maliliega le toe fa’aleleia e le StarKist o le tulga tau le suavai tatafe lea ua maua ane o lo’o sasa’a atu sa’o i le ogasami o Pago Pago ae le’i mua’i fa’atagaina.

O le suiga ua i ai nei, e ao i le StarKist ona sailia se latou fa’atagaga e fa’auia ai tafega o latou suava lapisia i le sami o Pago Pago, fa’ailoa atu i ai ala e fa’aitiitia ai lea tulaga ma i’u ai ina

matua’i le toe i ai nei suavai lapisia e tatafe aga’i atu i le sa’o atu i le sami.

Pe afai e usita’ia uma nei aiaiga o suavai lafoa’i ua fa’atulaga o le a fa’aitiitia le aotelega o nei suavai lafoa’i ma latou lapisi e tusa o le 85%, silia lea ma le 13miliona pauna.

O lenei i’uga ua malilie fa’atasi i ai le USEPA ma lea Kamupani e tu’uina mai mo le 30 aso e fa’ailoa atu ai ni manatu o le mamalu lautele i itu na lua, ona faa’to’a fa’amauina lea ua pasia ma fa’amalosia loa ona totogia sala fa’atulaga.

O le ulua’i talosaga na toe fa’aulu fa’atopetope e le Sui o Amerika Samoa i le Konekeresi, Aumua Amata, ina ia totogia mai se vaega o lea sala a le Kamupani ia Amerika Samoa ina ia fesoasoani i tagata faigaluega lea ua motusia galuega ona o le toe fa’asa’oina o mea uma ua fa’atulaga mai e le USEPA i le StarKist Samoa, na ala ai ona toe iloilo se maliliega fou. Fa’afetai foi i le sao o le tatou sui faipule i le Konekeresi mo lana taumafaiga ua fa’aopoopo mai ai lea seleni mo le tatou malo.

E LE’I TELE NI SOLITULAFONO O LE VAITAU KERISIMASI 2017

I le taimi o poloka a leoleo sa fa’atino mo le tau taofiofia mai o le mamalu lautele i le so’ona fiafia ma a’afia ai mafutaga pele ma mamae i fa’alavelave fa’afuase’i i luga o alatele ma feoaiga a le atunu’u, ua maua mai a latou fa’amaumaga, e matua maulalo lava pe a fa’atusa atu i le tele o tausaga ua mavae.

E na’o le 27 nisi na saisaitia e leilei i le vaitau lenei o le Kerisimasi e afua mai le taimi na amata ai poloka a leoleo i luga o alatele se’ia o’o mai i le aso Lua na te’a nei. E to’a 17 i latou na fa’asoesa ma malomaloa ua lepetia ai le nofo filemu, ma o le tele lava e afua mai ona ua fa’asua’ava ma fia malosai ai.

Peita’i e nao le to’afitu lava na maua i le ‘ave ta’avale fa’asua’ava i luga o le alatele. O le poloka lea a leoleo, ua aoga tele i nei tausaga uma ua fa’atautaia ai, aua ua mafai ai ona tu’u eseeseina mai i latou e solia le tulafono ma i latou o tumau e tausii tulafono.

“O le mea taua lava e leai ma se tasi na maliu i se fa’alavelave fa’afuase’i ona o feoaiga i ta’avale, o lea ua iloga ai, ua nofo filemu mai tagata i lenei tausaga,” o se saunoaga fa’apitoa lea a le susuga le Komesina o Leoleo, le tofa ia Le’i Sonny Thompson.

Pau o le mea tele na tupu i lenei vaitau, ona ua mafai ona ua mae’a ona fa’amalosia le tusi saisai mo le sui na tafanaina le ta’avale a leoleo i Tafuna.



In this photo taken early Dec 27, 2017 and released by China Aid, Li Aijie poses for a photo with one of two photos she has of her husband Zhang Haitao after authorities confiscate her electronic devices after arriving in the U.S. in Midland, Texas. Li is seeking political asylum in the U.S. Zhang who was sentenced to 19 years in prison had been a rare voice in China, a member of the Han ethnic majority and salesman by day who complained on social media about government policies he said were unfair to Muslim minority Uighurs.

(China Aid via AP)

As China smothers Xinjiang, even mild critics are silenced

BEIJING (AP) — Zhang Haitao was a rare voice in China, a member of the ethnic Han majority who for years had criticized the government on social media for its treatment of the minority Muslim Uighurs.

Zhang’s wife had long feared some sort of backlash despite her husband’s relative obscurity. He was a working-class electronics salesman, unknown even to most Uighur activists. So she worried that authorities might block his social media accounts, or maybe detain him. Instead he was arrested and prosecuted for subversion and espionage. His punishment: 19 years in prison.

“They wanted to make an example of him, to scare anyone who might question what they do in the name of security,” Zhang’s wife, Li Aijie, told The Associated Press earlier this week, one day after she arrived in the United States and asked for political asylum. “Even someone who knows nothing about law would know that his punishment made no sense.”

Elsewhere in China, Zhang would have been sentenced to no more than three years, said his lawyer, Li Dunyong, and may not have been prosecuted at all.

But Xinjiang, the tense northwestern region where most Uighurs live, has been enveloped in recent years in a vast dragnet of police surveillance , which authorities insist is needed to root out separatism and Islamic extremism. Zhang, who moved to Xinjiang from central Henan province more than a decade ago in search of work, wondered in his social media posts whether these policies were stoking resentment among Uighurs. He warned that China’s restrictions on the Uighurs’ religious practices risked sparking an insurgency.

But questioning government policies in Xinjiang has become an untouchable third rail in today’s China.

Court records say Zhang was convicted of sending 274 posts from 2010 to 2015 on Chinese social media sites Weibo and WeChat that “resisted, attacked and smeared” the Communist Party and its policies, earning him 15 years in prison for inciting subversion of state power. He was given another five years for talking to foreign reporters and providing photos of the intense police presence in the streets of Xinjiang. That, the court said, amounted to providing intelligence about China’s anti-terror efforts to foreign organizations.

The court said it would combine the two punishments and sentence him to 19 years in prison.

He was convicted in January 2016. An appeals court in December 2016 refused to hear his petition, noting he had never expressed regret or admitted guilt.

Hoping to draw attention to

Zhang’s plight, Li provided her husband’s court documents and letters from jail to the AP, as well as her own account.

The daughter of a farming family in Henan’s hardscrabble hill country, Li met Zhang in 2011 after stumbling across a personal ad he had arranged to have placed in a local park where singles sought partners. The flier said he sold wireless routers and listed his modest height: 168 centimeters (5-foot-6). On their first date, when Zhang was back home in Henan, he wore a jacket with threadbare cuffs but showed Li his identity card in an awkward attempt to prove he was genuine.

That simple directness was something she grew to love, Li said, but it was also Zhang’s downfall. He had been repeatedly warned by police about his social media activity, but he always ignored them.

When the authorities finally arrested him in 2015, they told Li he was suspected of inciting ethnic hatred. The charges were raised to subversion and espionage, Li suspects, after he refused to confess. In a letter he wrote to Li and his sister earlier this year, Zhang described how Nelson Mandela, who spent nearly three decades in prison, had become an inspiration.

“Life must have greater meaning beyond the material. Our mouths are not just for eating, but also for speaking out,” Zhang wrote.

While the severity of Zhang’s sentence stands out, others in the region have been punished for mild criticism.

Ma Like, a Muslim hostel owner in the ancient Silk Road city of Kashgar, was accused in April of “propagating extremism” because he had retweeted two Weibo posts — one about how Chinese policies were alienating Uighurs, the other a veiled reference to restrictions on the Islamic headdress — according to two of Ma’s friends, who provided copies of Ma’s indictment and spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of government retaliation.

Wang Lixiong, a Han Chinese writer and dissident, said that when it comes to Xinjiang, even calls for dialogue can result in imprisonment.

“The government removes the middle road so it leaves two extremes,” Wang said. “You’re either their mortal enemy or their slave.”

Zhang was arrested when Li was three months pregnant. She gave birth to their son two years ago, while he was being held in a desert prison. She returned home to Henan to raise him and began blogging and speaking to the overseas media.

The authorities tried to silence Li, pounding on her front door as she did a phone interview, for example, and threatening to derail the careers of her two brothers, low-level government workers.



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In this Dec. 26, 2017, photo, Old Kai Distribution cofounders Matthew Mandelker, right, and Lucas Seymour, who are licensed cannabis distributors, pose for a photo beside a delivery van loaded with product at their warehouse near Ukiah, Calif. Workers for the company were transporting the marijuana from a cultivator when they were pulled over Friday by a California Highway Patrol officer, according to Joe Rogoway, an attorney for the company. The workers showed the officer the company, Aōs cannabis license and a manifest for the marijuana, but the officer insisted it was illegal, called for backup and arrested the men.

(Alvin Jornada/The Press Democrat via AP)

California company has pot license, workers still arrested

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The confusing rollout of marijuana regulations in California has been underscored in Mendocino County, where local authorities licensed a company to deliver pot only to have state police arrest two employees who were trying to do just that with nearly a ton of weed.

The workers for Old Kai Distribution were transporting the marijuana from a farm when they were pulled over Friday afternoon by a California Highway Patrol officer on Highway 101 near Ukiah, according to Joe Rogoway, an attorney for the company. They were driving an unmarked van and were stopped for a traffic violation.

The workers showed the officer the company’s county license and a manifest for the marijuana, but the officer insisted it was illegal, called for backup and arrested the men.

The company argues it can transport marijuana within the county with its local license, and county spokeswoman Sarah Dukett backed that interpretation. She said Old Kai was issued a distribution license last week that allows it to legally transport marijuana under two local ordinances passed earlier this year.

The workers were cited for unlawful transportation of marijuana and unlawful possession for sale. Investigators also seized all of the marijuana and the company’s van.

“It is incomprehensible that this has occurred,” said Rogoway, who sent a letter to CHP demanding that the charges be dropped and the marijuana returned to Old Kai.

Acting California Highway Patrol Commissioner Warren Stanley said the arrest was appropriate because a state license also is required for legal transport and those permits don’t take effect until Monday, when broad legalization arrives in California.

“They are following the laws that are in place now,” Stanley said Wednesday, referring to his officers. “And when Jan. 1, 2018, comes they’ll start following the laws that come into effect on

that date.”

The officer who made the Ukiah stop was not targeting the business, said Stanley, who is not aware of any other arrests of a locally licensed marijuana operation. CHP primarily is concerned with drivers who could be high behind the wheel and the agency has trained 97 percent of its officers and sergeants in advanced drugged driving recognition skills, he said.

Stanley commented after a ceremony for CHP Officer Andrew Camilleri, who was killed on Christmas Eve by a driver believed to be drunk and high.

California has had legal medical marijuana for two decades. In 2016, voters approved broad legalization and the state and communities that want such “adult use” marijuana businesses spent the last year writing complex regulations.

Some didn’t get their regulations finalized in time to start issuing local licenses by Jan. 1 while others decided to outlaw recreational pot altogether. Meantime, all forms of pot remain illegal under federal law.

The marijuana that was seized in Mendocino County, about 115 miles (185 kilometers) north of San Francisco, had been collected from a family-owned farm and was being brought to a distribution center to be sorted and tested.

“This was basically their entire harvest,” Rogoway said. “Their entire year was in the back of this vehicle. If that cannabis is destroyed, it really puts at risk the safety and well-being of their family.”

He worried the arrest could have a chilling effect as the state and local governments encourage marijuana businesses to come out of the shadows and adhere to regulations to ensure a level playing field for all.

“This incident highlights the fear that many people have,” he said. “It takes a lot to be a compliant operator. Even if they follow through with the whole process, something bad can happen. This is a perfect example.”

Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar's office for the registration of the Matai Title **LAULUSA** of the village of GATAI'VAI/UTULEI by KENI KEKE of the village of GATAI'VAI/UTULEI, county of MA'OPUTASI, EASTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title LAULUSA shall be registered in the name of KENI KEKE in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: NOVEMBER 21, 2017 thru JANUARY 22, 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registra

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga lenei ua faasalalaquina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauina o le suafa matai o **LAULUSA** o le nu'u o GATAI'VAI/UTULEI e KENI KEKE o GATAI'VAI/UTULEI faalupega o MA'OPUTASI, falelima i SASAE.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai lenei fa'aaliga. Afai o lea leai se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o KENI KEKE e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

11/28 & 12/28/17

Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar's office for the registration of the Matai Title **TE'O** of the village of VAILOATAI by FETAI TE'O-LEACH of the village of VAILOATAI, county of TUALATAI, WESTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title TE'O shall be registered in the name of FETAI TE'O-LEACH in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: NOVEMBER 22, 2017 thru JANUARY 22, 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registra

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga lenei ua faasalalaquina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauina o le suafa matai o **TE'O** o le nu'u o VAILOATAI e FETAI TE'O-LEACH o VAILOATAI faalupega o TUALATAI, falelima i SISIFO.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai lenei fa'aaliga. Afai o lea leai se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o FETAI TE'O-LEACH e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

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THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title ATIULAGI shall be registered in the name of FA'ALAA P. SAIAANA in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: NOVEMBER 20, 2017 thru JANUARY 19, 2018
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registra

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga lenei ua faasalalaquina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauina o le suafa matai o **ATIULAGI** o le nu'u o TA'U (LUMA) e FA'ALAA P. SAIAANA o TA'U (LUMA) faalupega o TA'U, falelima i MANU'A.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai lenei fa'aaliga. Afai o lea leai se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o FA'ALAA P. SAIAANA e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa.

11/28 & 12/28/17



Manumalo Academy's year-end Christmas staff dinner was hosted at director Papalii's home in Malaemi to coincide with his wife's birthday. Pictured are high school principal Tiana Trepanier, kindergarten principal Puamemea Ifopo, and special assistant to the director, Tish Peau.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

DA won't file charges against officers in Kansas man's death

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The local district attorney announced Wednesday that he does not plan to file criminal charges against two Kansas police officers in the fatal shooting of a black man earlier this year, saying the man struggled with the officers and reached for a gun he had attempted to hide.

Shawnee County District Attorney Mike Kagay released a seven-page legal analysis that was in line with the initial account Topeka police gave of the Sept. 28 shooting of 30-year-old Dominique White near a park. Kagay's report described White, who had spent seven months in prison on a felony gun charge, as acting suspiciously after the officers responded to a call about shots being fired.

The district attorney's analysis said police found a firearm loaded with eight rounds of ammunition on White, along with two loaded magazines and a knife. The report described

White as "uncooperative and combative throughout the incident."

"It was Mr. White's actions that escalated these events," Kagay said in his report, adding later that "no reasonable judge or jury would find the actions of either officer involved in this matter to be unlawful."

The city has faced criticism over the handling of the shooting. It has not released the names of the officers involved, and police body camera footage wasn't made public until Kagay showed it to news reporters Wednesday.

In the footage, which some media including The Topeka Capital-Journal posted online, the officers try to search White. He struggles briefly with the officers when one of them grabs his hands and wrists. They repeatedly urge him to stop, and he breaks away to flee from them. Moments later, multiple shots are fired at him.

White's death certificate shows he died from gunshot wounds to his back. Kagay's report confirms he was shot in the back. White's family members said in a statement that they are "incredibly disappointed" by the district attorney's decision. "My son was shot in the back while attempting to run away from officers," White's mother, Mary Theresa Wynne, said in the statement. "The video shows that they did not need to shoot and kill him."

The family's attorney is Gillian Cassell-Stiga of Beldock Levine & Hoffman, the same law firm that represented the family of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man who was stopped by police on Staten Island in 2014 for selling untaxed cigarettes and died after a white officer placed him in a chokehold. While no one was prosecuted over Garner's death, the city paid \$6 million to settle a civil court lawsuit.

Topeka city spokeswoman Molly Hadfield said the Police Department will complete its own follow-up internal investigation before deciding whether to release the officers' names.

Kagay's report noted that the area on Topeka's east side where White was shot has had nearly weekly reports of gunshots, 32 reported robberies and two homicides in the past five years. The report described the two officers as police veterans familiar with the area. White had been out of prison less than five months. He was ordered to serve probation after pleading guilty to a burglary charge in 2015, went to prison in October 2016 after pleading no contest to illegally possessing a firearm and was not supposed to have a gun. According to Kagay's report, White tried to walk away from officers when they arrived at the scene and ignored multiple requests to stop before they caught up with him. The report said his blood later tested positive for the presence of marijuana and methamphetamine.



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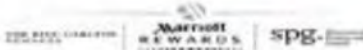
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In this Friday, Dec. 15, 2017 photo, Debbie Neckel sits in her home. Neckel was the lead detective in a 2008 case in St. Johns, Arizona, where an 8-year-old boy was accused of killing his father and his father's friend. The boy, who pleaded guilty to a negligent homicide charge, is nearing the end of probation.

(AP Photo/Felicia Fonseca)

Judge praises teen for progress since killings when he was 8

ST. JOHNS, Ariz. (AP) — An Arizona judge and the family of a teenager who fatally shot two men in 2008, including his father, heaped praise on him Wednesday for the progress he's made as his time on probation comes to an end.

Judge Monica Stauffer told the boy she knows the past nine years haven't been easy but admired him for the way he's handled it. She turned toward the phone in a small courtroom in St. Johns, where he was listening in, her eyes filling with tears.

"I'm real proud of you and you're going to do great things," she said. "So much of your life is still for you to live and enjoy."

Those attending the hearing were not specific about progress the teen has made but said he

has shown remorse, learned to manage finances, has set goals for himself and has a good heart.

Wednesday marked the final hearing in the case that troubled police and prosecutors because the boy was 8 at the time of the shootings. The criminal charges were resolved in juvenile court with the boy pleading guilty to negligent homicide in the death of 39-year-old Tim Romans, whom he called for from inside his home and shot with a .22-caliber single-shot rifle as Romans walked up to the door.

Prosecutors said that acknowledging legal responsibility for the death of his father, 29-year-old Vincent Romero, would be too heavy of a burden for a boy to carry and dropped that charge. Romans rented a room in the two-story blue house that Romero shared with his new wife and son.

The boy thanked those who have listened to him and helped him identify what he needs to transition into adulthood Friday when he turns 18. Speaking on the phone, he sounded much older than the days when he sat in the courtroom fidgety and looking nervously at his family.

"I'm just very grateful to everyone in the case," he said.

Other than a trio of probation violations in 2012, the boy hasn't been in trouble.

Stauffer said his life turned dramatically with the involvement of clinical psychologist Dr. Alan Lewis, who helped him mature and understand that he could be known for his future, rather than his past.

The Associated Press is not identifying the boy because of his age at the time of the crimes.

Stauffer credited the boy's grandmother, Liz Castillo, for ensuring the case moved along with the boy's best interest in mind. Castillo sat in the front row of the courtroom with her daughter and sister nearby, wiping tears from her eyes. She said the last nine years have been treacherous but was grateful for the consideration put into the case.

She said Romero and Romans always would be in her family's mind and hearts.

"We hoped and prayed we could get through this, and the time is here," she said.

Castillo told Stauffer she'd hoped the county would examine juvenile proceedings so people who are appointed to represent children are more involved. Romans' widow, Tanya, urged change, too. She listened as people in the courtroom thanked each other for involvement in the case but wondered why there was little emphasis on the victims.

"Not once, 'How are your girls? How's everything going?'" she said as her voice cracked over the phone.



American Samoa
Power Authority

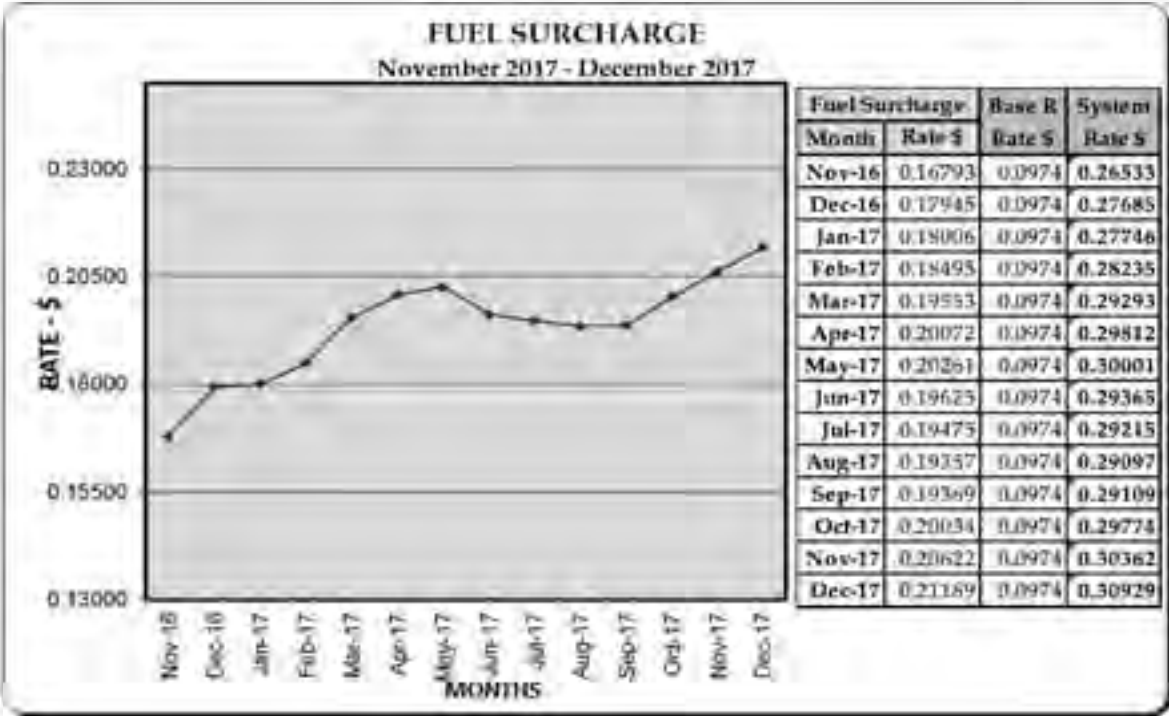
December 15, 2017

Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

The American Samoa Power Authority is informing its customers about the monthly fuel surcharge rate, which is the direct cost of fuel to generate electricity. The charge for each kilowatt hour (kWh) comprises the "base rate" and the "fuel surcharge rate."

The base rate, which remains the same monthly for all electric customer classes, pays for ASPA's operating costs and for infrastructure upgrades needed to get power to your home and business.

The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a "pass-through" revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.



The fuel surcharge rate also includes the "Renewable Reduction" from electricity produced by the ASPA Photo Voltaic panels. The avoided fuel costs or fuel being saved from producing electricity through the Photo Voltaic panels, is passed on to customers as the "Renewable

Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for December 2017			
Rate - \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.22190	0.22190	0.2219
Renewable Reduction	-0.01001	-0.01001	-0.01001
Fuel Surcharge	0.21169	0.21169	0.21189
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.10650	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.30929	0.31839	0.30149

Reduction" savings. There are seven active sites, with more sites in progress to increase ASPA's renewable energy portfolio. As ASPA increases renewable energy capacity, more savings will be realized and passed on to customers.



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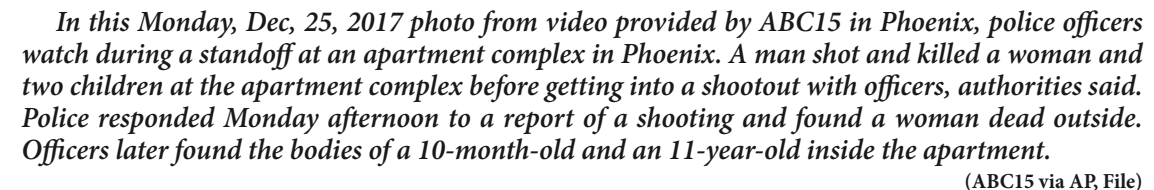


LITTERING IS ILLEGAL

For more information, please contact AS-EPA at 633-2304

Seven government agencies (AS-EPA, ASPA, DOH, DMWR, DPR, DPS, and OSA) are authorized to enforce this new law. Violators will be prosecuted. Fines range from \$50 to \$1,000.





PHOENIX (AP) — Iris Ross had a cordial telephone conversation with her estranged husband on Christmas Day before she left to pick up their two children at his apartment in Phoenix, a friend said Wednesday.

Ross and the children were later gunned down by her estranged spouse, Anthony Milan Ross, police say.

Alexander, whose daughter was a roommate of Iris Ross, said all three of them had been preparing the house for more than 20 guests for a Christmas

"There was nothing that would indicate at that time any sort of conflict that had arisen," Alexander said. "He called her later and she left the house a little before 3 p.m. Quickly after that, it all just went to hell."

Anthony Ross was being held Wednesday without bail on three counts of first-degree murder and other charges. It was not clear if he had an attorney.

The shooting came just hours after Anthony Ross posted a video on Facebook in which he and his 11-year-old son, Nigel,

Both parents agreed Nigel and their 10-month-old daughter, Anora, should stay a few hours longer with their father because the infant was fighting a cold, Alexander said.

Alexander met Iris Ross and her kids for the first time after arriving to visit her daughter last week. She said it was beyond surreal to go from playing with the children Christmas Eve to helping the family with a GoFundMe page to raise money for three funerals.

NEW YORK (AP) — A co-creator of MTV's "Unplugged" has died of injuries suffered when he was hit by a taxi while walking his dog.

Jim Burns was walking the dog on Saturday morning when he was struck by a cab making a turn onto Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, police said. Burns, 65, suffered a serious head injury and died from his injuries on Tuesday.

The taxi driver remained at the scene. Police still were investigating on Wednesday.

An MTV spokeswoman said the network was deeply saddened to learn about the death of Burns, who created "MTV Unplugged" with Robert Small.

"As co-creator of the beloved 'Unplugged' franchise, his groundbreaking work continues to resonate with audiences around the world," MTV said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones."

Small said Burns was “a terrific human being.”

“He could make fun of people without making them feel bad,” Small told the New York Post. “He just had a knack for making people happy.”

The wildly popular “Unplugged” debuted in 1989 at the height of MTV’s musical and cultural influence in America. It features artists such as Nirvana, Eric Clapton,

Mariah Carey, Jay-Z and Bob Dylan in intimate venues performing stripped-down versions of their songs.

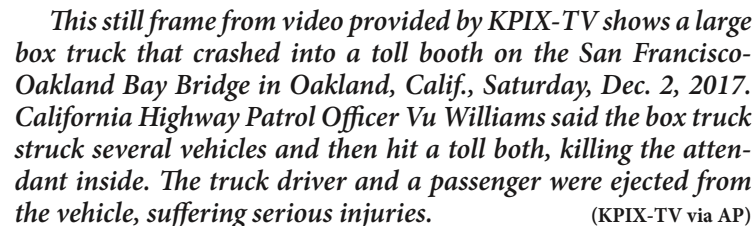
According to Billboard, Clapton's *Unplugged* album sold 7.7 million copies after its 1992 debut, the most ever for the series. Nirvana's *Unplugged* album sold 5.1 million copies when it debuted in November 1994 at No. 1 on the Billboard 200. It was the band's first album after lead singer Kurt Cobain's suicide that year.

The music series wasn't aired as frequently during the 2000s, but it returned to the air this year, with performances from locations around the country that hold meaning for the artists performing. It premiered in September with Shawn Mendes.

Police initially said Burns was with a guide dog when he was struck, but that account was contradicted by family friends, who said he didn't have vision problems and the dog was a pet.

The dog, named Jules, wasn't injured and was being cared for by a neighbor, Burns' friend Paul Ward told the Daily News.

“Many of his friends have taken comfort in knowing that the end of his life came doing his favorite thing ... walking Jules to Central Park,” Ward said.



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Trump, GOP congressional leaders to plot agenda in January

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Eager for more legislative achievements before Washington’s focus shifts to the midterm elections, President Donald Trump plans to start the new year by meeting with Republican congressional leaders to plot the 2018 legislative agenda, the White House said.

After returning to Washington from Florida, where he is spending the holidays, Trump will host House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky at the rustic Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland during the weekend of Jan. 6-7.

Spokesmen for Ryan and McConnell have confirmed they will attend.

The powwow will follow the recent enactment of legislation to cut taxes, beginning next year, for corporations and individuals at an estimated cost of \$1.5 trillion added to the national debt over 10 years.

The bill marked the first big legislative achievement for Trump and congressional Republicans, who made cutting taxes a must-do this year after the Senate failed to close the deal on another top GOP promise: to repeal and replace

the Obama health care law.

While the tax bill ends the requirement that all Americans buy health insurance or pay a fine, which is a key component of the Affordable Care Act, it leaves intact other features of the health care law. No Democrats voted for the tax bill, which Trump signed during a hastily arranged White House ceremony, without any lawmakers present, before he flew to Florida last Friday.

The agenda for next year is already lengthy, and 2018 is still a few days away.

Trump predicted in a tweet earlier this week that Democrats and Republicans will “eventually come together” to develop a new health care plan. The president is also forecasting unity between the parties on spending to upgrade aging roads, bridges and other transportation. The White House has said Trump will unveil his long-awaited infrastructure plan in January.

Ryan, meanwhile, has talked about overhauling Medicaid and Medicare and other welfare programs, but McConnell has signaled an unwillingness to go that route unless there’s Democratic support for any changes. Trump has also said he wants to pursue “welfare reform” next year because “people are taking

advantage of the system.”

Congress, meanwhile, will open the year facing a backlog from 2017.

The list includes agreeing by Jan. 19 on a government funding bill to avert a partial government shutdown and to boost Pentagon spending. Lawmakers also must agree on billions in additional aid to help hurricane victims, lifting the debt ceiling so the United States can pay its bills, extending a children’s health insurance program and drafting protections for immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Trump tweeted earlier in the year that he was ending the program for the immigrants. He gave lawmakers until March 5 to come up with a legislative solution, or the individuals will begin to face the risk of being deported.

Much of the work will need to be done before Republicans shift their focus to retaining their House and Senate majorities in midterm elections taking place in November 2018. The GOP’s already slim Senate majority will get even slimmer come January, when Democrat Doug Jones of Alabama is sworn in, leaving Republicans with a 51-49 edge in the chamber.

Ferry gets stuck on sandbar with 27 people aboard off NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — A ferry carrying more than two dozen people hit a sandbar and got stuck for hours Wednesday, spurring an evacuation on a frigid night in the waters off New York City.

No injuries were reported in the second stranding in a month for the city’s newly-expanded ferry service.

The city-sponsored, privately run ferry left the Rockaway peninsula in Queens at 5:15 p.m., bound for lower Manhattan on a 20-degree evening. About 10 minutes into the trip, “we just came to a screeching halt,” passenger Jake Nicholson said.

“Everyone pretty much went flying,” he later told The Associated Press by phone from the boat, stuck in the waters between Rockaway and Brooklyn. He said he was nearly tossed over

the row of seats in front of him, and his phone ended up a few rows away.

Nicholson, a 21-year-old senior at Loyola University Maryland, said passengers initially were told that there was a mechanical error, then that the boat had hit a sandbar and that the captain tried to back the boat off it.

Four hours later, he, his brother and a friend were waiting their turn to get off the chilly ferry in the small, inflatable boats rescuers were using because of the shallow water. By then, passengers were “just sitting down, trying to stay warm,” said Nicholson, who’d missed the Washington Capitals-New York Rangers game that was the reason for his ferry trip.

Firefighters said the ferry

owners originally were arranging to have the vessel towed off the sandbar, but the evacuation of the 27 people aboard got underway around 7:30 p.m.

Phone and email messages to the ferry company, Hornblower Inc., weren’t immediately returned.

The ferry to and from Rockaway is part of a \$335 million effort, launched this summer, to use the waterways to ease strains on New York’s public transportation system. The \$2.75-a-ride service is separate from the famous free ferry that has long traveled between Manhattan and Staten Island.

Last month, more than 100 passengers were rescued from a Rockaway-bound ferry that ran aground off lower Manhattan.

Border Patrol agent, 2 others dead after collision with hog

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Border Patrol agent and two other people have died after a sport utility vehicle collided with a wild hog in Southwest Texas, authorities said.

The accident happened late Monday on a rural road near Uvalde, about 110 miles (177

kilometers) southwest of San Antonio. Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Conrad Hein said Tuesday that a preliminary investigation indicates a Ford Expedition collided with the hog, which caused the vehicle to swerve into oncoming traffic and hit a

Mercedes SUV head-on. The Expedition’s driver, 51-year-old Ruby Garza, and the driver of the Mercedes, 27-year-old Antonio Cordova, were pronounced dead at the scene. A passenger in the Expedition, 51-year-old Julia Vasquez, died later at a hospital. Border Patrol officials in Del Rio, Texas, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Cordova was a Border Patrol agent and was driving home after finishing a shift at the station in Uvalde.





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