



## Remember the 2% wage tax for LBJ? None is going to the hospital

FAIPULE SAY ASG IS HOLDING LBJ HOSTAGE FOR A 2003 LOAN

by Ausage Fausia  
Samoa News Correspondent

The House Budget and Appropriations Committee met to discuss two House bills yesterday morning.

One bill appropriates \$198,621 to fund the local share of the cost of purchasing eleven 2018 Harley-Davidson police motorcycles (see separate story for details), and the other is a bill repealing a 2003 law in which the government loaned \$5 million to the LBJ Medical Center.

Deputy Treasurer Tina Va'a was a witness during the hearing, chaired by committee chairman, Rep. Vailiutama Steve Leasiolagi.

According to the preamble, the American Samoa Government has long desired to forgive and write-off a loan it provided to the American Samoa Medical Center in 2003 in the amount of \$5 million.

"So that both ASG and ASMC can provide

more accurate accounting and reporting of their finances, this bill shall become effective upon passage by the legislature and approval by the Governor."

However, during the hearing, faipule found out that Treasury is using the loan as an excuse to withhold 2% wage tax revenues that are earmarked for LBJ, as well as delay sending the hospital its monthly ASG subsidy.

Va'a explained to lawmakers that this loan has been on the government's books for many years and in order for the loan to be written off, appropriate legislation needs to be enacted into law.

She said the loan was made when LBJ was in a financial bind, and it must be paid back to ASG.

House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale asked if ASG owed any money to LBJ, and Va'a said yes — ASG is still holding over \$4 million from Fiscal Year 2016 that was supposed to be paid to

(Continued on page 10)

## Trio of local residents file suit against ANZ Bank

TWO OF THE PLAINTIFFS HAVE BEEN OVERCHARGED INTEREST OF MORE THAN \$6K

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

Three American Samoa residents have filed a civil lawsuit at the federal court in Guam, against ANZ Guam Inc., the parent company of ANZ Amerika Samoa Bank in Pago Pago.

Filed Mar. 21 (which is Mar. 20th in American Samoa), the lawsuit identifies the plaintiffs as Ronald Parker, Fa'afetai Parker and Tualagi Gaoteote, on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated.

According to the suit, the defendant is wholly owned by one of the largest financial institutions in the world, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited.

The complaint alleges that ANZ is liable for its systematic violations of the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) of 1968, for failing to provide homeowners with accurate periodic statements regarding the mortgages it services. Violations cited are:

- Systemic violation of TILA for failing to provide adequate notice to homeowners when it changes the interest rates for its adjustable rate mortgages (ARM);
- systemic breach of the mortgage contracts it services when it charges excessive late charges for incomplete payments;

- late fees; and
- breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing related to servicing residential mortgages.

(Continued on page 12)



Alataua Lua Elementary School 3rd grader, Julynn Toeasoimalua Aitui, pictured in front of her project titled: "Futiga Landfill: Can We Build It Better?" on Tuesday at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium during the 2018 Elementary School Territorial Science Fair competition. Julynn took first place in the Environmental Science category for grades 3-5.

The overall Science Fair results will be announced tomorrow after today's high school division competition. Julynn, daughter of Tuamasaga Jr., and Rosaline Aitui of Futiga and Seetaga, took home top honors in the same category, during her first and second grade years.

[Courtesy photo]



O le ata na tusia e Manu Thomas, o se tamaititi a'oga i le ASCC Fine Art Class ma ua fa'aalia i le Gov. Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center i Utulei, o lo ua fa'aalia ai le Alamea. Ua i ai fo'i le alagaupu fa'asamoa e afua mai i lea i'a o le Sami, "E fofo e le Alamea le Alamea!"

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

## Manu'a faipule says the alleged mistreatment of prisoners needs federal attention

HOUSE SPEAKER DOESN'T AGREE: "... HALF A LOAF IS BETTER THAN NOTHING"

by Ausage Fausia  
Samoa News Reporter

Manu'a faipule, Rep. Toeaina Fauano Autele says the alleged mistreatment of inmates by prison guards at the TCF is not a joke, and he will do whatever he can to make sure the issue reaches the federal court.

Toeaina made the comment after a hearing that was scheduled this past Monday by the House Legal Affairs/Judiciary Committee to discuss the issue was cancelled, due to the unavailability of witnesses that were subpoenaed to testify.

He assured lawmakers that he would be sending a letter to the federal court with all the information about the alleged issue.

House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale, who doesn't support Toeaina's suggestion, told faipule that they must consider the fact that those who are doing time at TCF are convicts and they are all under the supervision of the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

"I want you keep that in mind," Savali said, adding that inmates have been convicted and therefore, ordered by the court to serve jail time. "They should be thankful they're receiving good treatment at the prison, because half a loaf is better than nothing."

(Continued on page 10)

# DPS wants new motorcycles but there isn't enough money to buy them

COMMISSIONER LE'I WANTS 4, BUT THE HOUSE BILL NOTES 11

by Ausage Fausia  
Samoa News Reporter

The House Budget and Appropriations Committee is awaiting financial reports from the ASG Treasury Department before they make a decision on two House bills that were discussed during a hearing yesterday morning.

One House bill appropriates \$198,621 to fund the local share

of the cost of purchasing eleven 2018 Harley-Davidson police motorcycles, and the other is a bill repealing a 2003 law in which the government loaned \$5 million to the LBJ Medical Center. (See separate story)

Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson and Deputy Treasurer Tina Va'a were the only witnesses who turned up for the hearing, chaired by com-

mittee chairman, Rep. Vaili-uama Steve Leasiolagi.

It was revealed during the hearing by the deputy treasurer that there isn't enough money in the "ASG — Traffic Rehabilitation Account" into which law enforcement cost offsets of \$10 per traffic conviction are deposited, to buy new motorcycles for DPS. The cost of the model year 2018 Harley-Davidson police motorcycles amount to \$27,946 per unit. The total federal share will be \$111,784, funded by grants through the Office of Highway Safety. The local share will be \$198,621.

Va'a told the committee that based on the House bill, ASG needs over \$190,000 to fund 11 new motorcycles; but the truth is, "there's a little over \$103,000 left in the ASG-Traffic Rehabilitation account". That means, ASG has to use money from the General Fund to fill-in the total amount needed.

Le'i told lawmakers these are the same figures that were provided to him by his finance staff, which also informed him that there is enough money in the account to purchase 4 new motorcycles for DPS.

Vailiama interjected telling Le'i that according to the version of the House bill in front of him, DPS is asking for 11 new motorcycles, not 4. He said the committee is confused as to the right number of motorcycles DPS wants to buy.



Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson and Deputy Treasurer Tina Vaa appeared before the House Budget and Appropriations Committee yesterday to testify on a bill to buy new motorcycles for DPS.

[photo: AF]

Le'i explained that DPS only asked for 4 motorcycles — \$27,946 per unit — at a total of a little over \$111,000.

He promised the committee that he will bring with him a copy of the report that was provided by his staff when he shows up for another hearing this morning, for which he's also subpoenaed to testify.

House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale said it's hard for the committee to reach a solution because what they have in front of them conflicts with what Va'a and Le'i are saying.

He said he fully supports the bill because DPS needs to have more equipment like vehicles and motorcycles in order for

them to serve the community.

Several representatives praised Le'i for the improvement in police services not only on the road but also in the community. Vice Speaker Rep. Fetu Fetui Jr. said one of the things he sees every morning when he heads to work is the presence of police officers and units on the public highway. A former cop, Fetu said when people see police on the side of the road, that's when they start to comply with traffic rules, including following the speed limit and buckling up.

Fetu asked Le'i to consider a promotion and pay raise for police in Manu'a, and also a fire truck.

## Trump targets China as US businesses await backlash

By PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farmers, electronics retailers and other U.S. businesses are bracing for a backlash as President Donald Trump targets China for stealing American technology or pressuring U.S. companies to hand it over.

The administration is expected Thursday to slap trade sanctions on China, perhaps including restrictions on Chinese investment and tariffs on as much as \$60 billion worth of Chinese products.

Dozens of industry groups sent a letter last weekend to Trump warning that "the imposition of sweeping tariffs would trigger a chain reaction of negative consequences for the U.S. economy, provoking retaliation; stifling U.S. agriculture, goods, and services exports; and raising costs for businesses and consumers."

The announcement will mark the end of a seven-month U.S. investigation into the hardball tactics China has used to chal-

lenge U.S. supremacy in technology, including dispatching hackers to steal commercial secrets and demanding that U.S. companies hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market. The administration argues that years of negotiations with China have failed to produce results.

"It could be a watershed moment," said Stephen Ezell, vice president of global innovation policy at the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, a think tank. "The Trump administration's decision to go down this path is illustrative that previous strategies have not borne the hoped-for fruit."

Business groups mostly agree that something needs to be done about China's aggressive push in technology — but they worry that China will retaliate by targeting U.S. exports of aircraft, soybeans and other products and start a tit-for-tat trade war of escalating sanctions between the world's two biggest economies.

"The sanctions are a very big deal," says Mary Lovely, a Syracuse University economist and senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "The Chinese see them as a major threat and do not want a costly trade war."

The move against China comes just as the United States prepares to impose tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum — sanctions that are meant to hit China for flooding the world with cheap steel and aluminum but will likely fall hardest on U.S. allies like South Korea and Brazil because they ship more of the metals to the United States.

Trump campaigned on promises to bring down America's massive trade deficit — \$566 billion last year — by rewriting trade agreements and cracking down on what he called abusive commercial practices by U.S. trading partners. But he was slow to turn rhetoric to action. In January, he imposed

(Continued on page 14)

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# Definition of cultural fishing in Am Samoa still being hashed out

ASG REP ON COUNCIL: LACK OF EDUCATION OF ALIA FISHERMEN TAINTS THEIR RESPONSES

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

One of the three members from American Samoa on the Western Pacific Fishery Regional Fishery Management Council has called for “more thorough research” into the definition of cultural fishing in American Samoa, as it will set a precedence for future federal rule making pertaining to territorial waters.

Taotasi Archie Soliai made the verbal call at last Thursday’s Council meeting in Honolulu, where among the presentations made was the outcome of a survey conducted last month in the territory in which Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources director, Va’amua Henry Sesepasara questioned whether the Samoan translator used during the interview had expressed the “real feelings” of local alia fishermen.

“One of the problems that our alia fishermen have is that they lack the education. They’re not as educated as most people. And they cannot express themselves real well,” said Va’amua the other American Samoa member on the Council.

Results of the survey were presented by Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center (PIFS) research Danika Kleiber, who was asked by Va’amua if there was a Samoan interpreter when the PIFS interviewed local alia fishermen.

“We did use an interpreter when they asked for it. In most cases, they felt comfortable speaking to us in English,” was Kleiber’s response.

Va’amua explained that one of the fishermen showed up at his office, “sort of complaining [that] he was not sure if the interpreter was expressing exactly what he wanted.” Va’amua said the fisherman wanted him to do the interpretation, but he wasn’t available during the time of the study.

While the Samoan interpreter was not identified by name, it appears the person works for NOAA in the territory. According to Va’amua, the “NOAA employee down there is more educated-English than Samoan.”

### CULTURAL FISHING

The Council’s move on gathering information for the formation of the culture fishing definition followed last year’s Honolulu federal court decision, which invalidated the 2016 final rule by the US National Marine Fisheries Service that reduced the large vessel prohibited area (LVPA) in territorial waters to help the struggling US longline fleet based in American Samoa.

According to the federal

court’s decision, the Deeds of Cession required the United States to preserve and protect cultural fishing practices in American Samoa.

One of the Council’s advisory panel, Scientific and Statistical Committee, suggested that “cultural fishing” — which is a “relative new term and it is not well define generally” — could be defined in such a way that it captures Samoan values as they are embodied in the Fa’a Samoa and Samoan practices such as ‘tautua’, or service, especially to chiefs.

It was noted that it could include the Samoan practice of a broad collective sharing of resources within the aiga managed by the matai, and of customary practices of sharing of labor, resources, income, and social and political support to strengthen the aiga, village and the role of the chiefs in perpetuating Fa’a Samoa.

During the cultural fishing presentation, Kleiber said “this is just the beginning of this work”, adding that they’ve yet to interview US based longline captains and crew as well as local leaders. Additionally, it’s also “important to go to the other islands” as results of the survey focused on Tutuila only.

The study, in which 14 people from the local American Samoa alia and US longline fisheries participated, was carried out from Feb. 6- 8. While 13 people were interviewed in person, the last interviewed was conducted via phone from Honolulu.

PIFS planned to continue in-person interview on Feb. 9 and had meetings set up the following week with the Office of Samoan Affairs and other organizations to focus on other elements of the discussion, especially the views of government and cultural experts, as well as people receiving the fish provided by the newer fisheries.

However, Kleiber said they were called back to Honolulu due to the approaching Tropical Storm Gita on Feb. 9th. “While we reached out to other contacts, the aftermath of the storm caused many people to redirect their priorities,” according to the cultural fishing report, which notes that the study was to examine the alia and monohull longline fisheries with respect to their cultural fishing practices.

Kleiber did not clearly state at the meeting whether the team is returning to the territory for more research, saying that she would defer the issue — which was raised by Taotasi — to her superiors.

“I think it will be very irre-

sponsible to not continue the research when it comes to the cultural fishing aspect of the work you are trying to do, because it will do an injustice for the people and for the community that this work is geared towards,” Taotasi informed Kleiber during the discussion portion of the report.

“And it behooves all parties to make sure that the process is continued, the process is done so that there is no injustice to the communities that are being served,” he said and noted that a “broader base” audience needs to be interviewed” meaning more outreach to be done, and not just on Tutuila but the neighboring islands.

“I would highly encourage that, through your office and even through the council, to provide what ever it takes to further that work,” he said, because the definition of “cultural fishing will set the precedence moving forward.”

Taotasi commended Kleiber on this “very bold task” the PFIS had taken on, and to have it done in a very short period of time, but “I strongly urge for more thorough research.”

Another Council member noted that there’s also a recreational fishing community in the territory and, they are boat-based Samoans, who fish within the zones and give away more fish than they keep. PFIS was encouraged to include this group in the research.

Kleiber responded that some of the alia fishers who participated in the interview, are recreational fishers as well. However, she said, “We weren’t able to talk to the head of that association” during the visit and agreed to also include them in the study.

Another American Samoa member on the Council, Christinna Lutu-Sanchez, noted that 10 of the people interviewed for the study were alia fishers, and she asked if they gave similar responses to amending the LVPA.

“Yes I would say so. It was pretty clear agreement amongst the alia fishers about their preference on the LVPA,” said Kleiber, adding that while the US longliners were “very clear about opening the LVPA to longline fishery, the alia fishers pretty much agreed, that they wanted the LVPA to remain at 50 miles.”

The PFIS report is broken down in several sections including “identity”, and Lutu-Sanchez sought further information on the people’s perception of who is considered “indigenous” when it comes to

(Continued on page 14)

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**Benigno B. Ruiz** .....Opening Comments  
*Federal Coordinating Officer*

**To Be Determined**..... Discuss how programs assists the Access Functional Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) and Unmet Needs (AFN) community

**Yolanda Stokes** ..... Programs geared to help  
*Small Business Administration* businesses and individuals

**Jacqueline Haylinger** ..... DRC (IA) process and  
*Chief of Staff* closing comments

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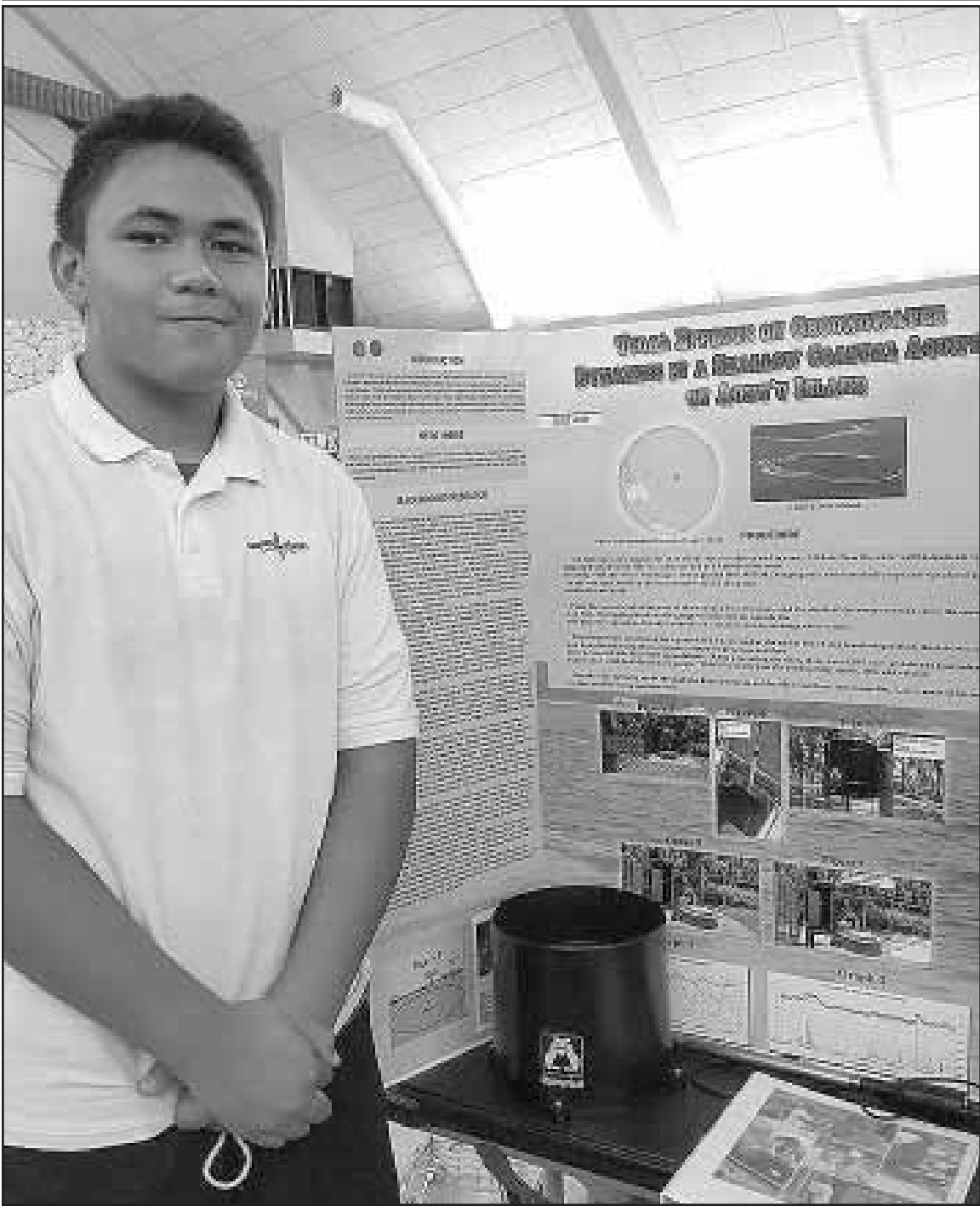
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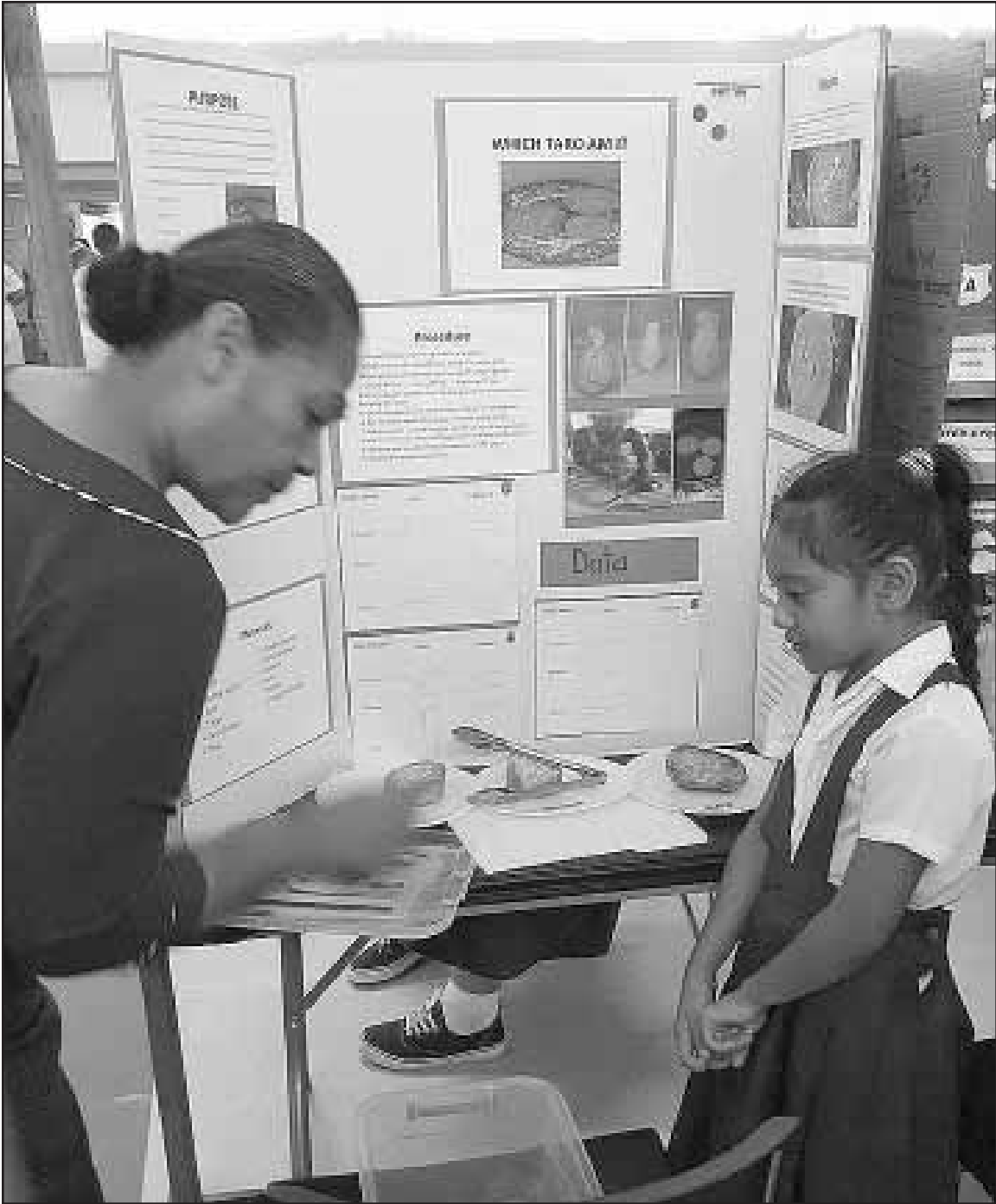


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“Tidal Effects on Groundwater Dynamics in a Shallow Area in Aunu’u Island” was the title of William Spitzenberg’s project that was on display this past Tuesday during the Territorial Science Fair competition at the Fale Laumei.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



A youngster from Aunu’u Elementary School answering questions from one of the judges during the Territorial Science Fair competition this past Tuesday at the Lee Auditorium. Today, high school students will show off their projects, while the awards ceremony and the announcement of the overall winners is set for Friday.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

# Group care for pregnant women is underway in the territory

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

To encourage pregnant women to show up for their medical check-ups and to make the process less of a burden for mothers-to-be, the LBJ Medical Center has come up with a program that’ll provide, among other things, nutrition education and caring for the infant.

The Strong Together Raising Our Next Generation (STRONG) pilot-program between LBJ and Yale University School of Public Health, puts together in a group, women who are due the same month, for a scheduled prenatal care appointment where, while waiting their turn to see the doctor, issues such as dieting are addressed.

The Group Prenatal Care curriculum follows the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology guidelines and has been adapted from the established ‘Expected With Me’ prenatal care curriculum that is insurance and Medicare supported and used in over 400 sites across the US, according to information from the STRONG study summary.

The group care includes a midwife — Kima Faasalele-Sauvasa — and others providing health tips and other information for local pregnant women. Fa’asalele-Sauvasa facilitates the group sessions, while LBJ obstetrician Dr. Bethel Muasau conducts the clinics.

Fa’asalele-Sauvasa along with Yale University assistant professor, Dr. Nicola Hawley, is involved in the study.

Hawley, who has been working on island for about 8 years, said one of the things that she and her colleagues have seen a lot of at LBJ, are pregnant women waiting for a long time for prenatal care.

“The woman goes in to see the doctor and takes 10 minutes for the appointment, but they have been there [waiting] for two hours,” Hawley said in a Samoa News interview last week. She said it’s usually difficult for women to keep their routine appointment with the doctor, and then to have them go in together and participate in some other program.

“We said, ‘how do we put together something to fill those two hours?’ One way is providing educational information, to be integrated together with the routine appointment, all at one time,” she explained.

“So the idea is we put them together in one scheduled prenatal care appointment, where they get both a check-up with the doctor and the mid-wife, as well as education on diet, physical activity, breastfeeding, health, labor and delivery, caring for the baby postpartum,” she said. “This is all during the same appointment.”

The pilot-program calls for group of between 8 to 10 women, who are all due the same month. The women in the program are 14 weeks into pregnancy.

“So they’ll be having exactly the same experiences — they’ll be feeling the same body pain, so they’ll be able to get a lot of support from one another,” Hawley explained, adding that group prenatal care has been done in the US consistently over the last 10 years “and have had some really amazing outcomes.”

The group program “really helps women with healthy pregnancies, as well as the newborns,” she added.

The program’s goal is to determine whether group prenatal care can be effective in establishing lifelong changes in behavior that lead to good health during and after pregnancy, according to the STRONG study summary.

The group care curriculum will engage women to address the broad range of needs that can affect their health — from basic and safety needs to social support and medical issues.

Furthermore, the curriculum allows for a unique range and depth of discussion on matters important to both healthy behaviors and healthy outcomes for mothers and babies.

Other examples of aspects of good health in-group discussions include stress reduction, healthy eating and physical activity, healthy labor and delivery, and parenting.

Each woman gets one-on-one time with her provider during medical checks, where she can ask questions privately. Women learn to engage in self-care behaviors by monitoring their own weight and blood pressures during and between sessions.

“This model of care provides a setting with strong social support for women, and is empowering as each mom-to-be learns to take charge of her own healthcare and gains skills to live the healthiest life she can — throughout pregnancy and beyond,” according to STRONG.

For more information on the prenatal group care or to sign up, call 256-8219 or 770-3918.

Sign ups can also be accepted at the DoH Tafuna Health Center prenatal clinic and the LBJ OBGYN clinic.



# American Samoa receives \$2.5 Million for Sportsmen & Conservation Funds

PART OF \$1.1 BILLION DISTRIBUTED NATIONALLY

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced \$2.5 million in funding to American Samoa to support critical state conservation and outdoor recreation projects.

The announcement is part of \$1.1 billion in annual national funding going to state wildlife agencies from revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration (PRDJ) acts. To date, more than \$20.2 billion in funds, which are authorized by Congress, have been distributed to U.S. states and territories.

American Samoa apportionments include \$1,173,058 in Sport Fish Restoration funds and \$1,328,563 in Wildlife Restoration funds.

“American Samoa sportsmen and women are some of our best conservationists and they contribute billions of dollars toward wildlife

conservation and sportsmen access every year through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts,” said Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “For nearly eighty years, states have been able to fund important conservation initiatives thanks to the more than \$20 billion that has generated nationwide. Every time a firearm, fishing pole, hook, bullet, motor boat or boat fuel is sold, part of that cost goes to fund conservation. The best way to increase funding for conservation and sportsmen access is to increase the number of hunters and anglers in our woods and waters. The American conservation model has been replicated all over the world because it works.”

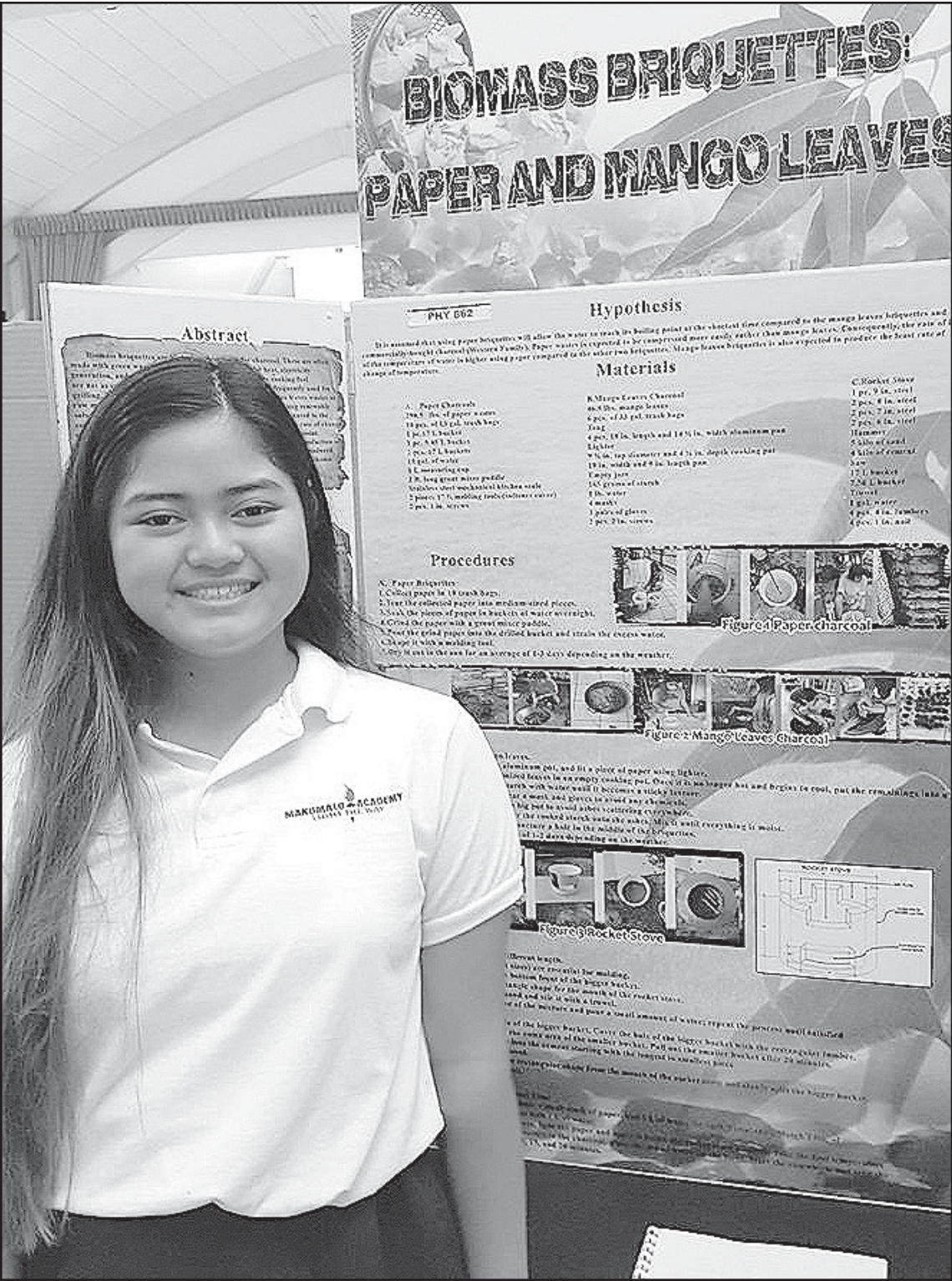
The funds, which are distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are derived from excise taxes paid by the hunting, shooting, boating and angling industries on firearms, bows and ammunition and

sport fishing tackle, some boat engines, and small engine fuel.

“Revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts provides funding to states to protect and conserve our nation’s fish and wildlife heritage today and for generations to come,” said Virgil Moore, President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Director of Idaho Fish and Game. “This funding mechanism serves as the foundation for fish and wildlife conservation in our country.”

Nationwide, the recipient state wildlife agencies have matched these funds with approximately \$6.7 billion throughout the years, primarily through hunting and fishing license revenues.

For more information about the WSFR program visit <<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/>>



Kirsten De Lara, from the Home of the Flames, with her project entry entitled: “Biomass Briquettes: Paper and Mango Leaves” this past Tuesday during the Territorial Science Fair competition at the Fale Laumei.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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Every effort will be made to maintain continuous two way traffic however there will be times when traffic may be reduced to one lane.

We will also be working around houses in the village areas as we do house connections and install lateral lines

There may be some disruption to access in these areas however we will endeavor to keep this to a minimum

Thank you for your patience and assistance with completing this most important infrastructure project for the American Samoa Power Authority

The Manager,

Fletcher Construction



Pacific Island  
News in Brief

Compiled by Samoa News staff

**COMPULSORY VOTING  
LOOMS**

Mandatory voting for all registered voters in Samoa will be a must in the upcoming 2021 General Elections, subject to approval of the Electoral Bill 2018 now before parliament.

The 2018 Bill will repeal the 55-year old Electoral Act 1963 and contains close to 80 amendments.

One the amendments is for compulsory voting for all registered voters cited in Clause 63, which provides that it is a compulsory for every registered person to cast a vote.

“Failure to do so will incur a penalty of \$100.00 unless valid or sufficient reasons for not voting are provided to the Commissioner,” according to the new pending law.

Currently, its compulsory

for those who have satisfied the eligibility requires under the electoral act to register but not mandatory for them to cast their ballots during elections.

Also included in the new amendments is the time frame for voters transfer.

(Source: Press Secretariat)

**CRYPTOCURRENCY  
WARNING**

The Central Bank of Samoa (C.B.S.) yesterday issued a warning about the rising number of cryptocurrency promotions taking place in Samoa.

Cryptocurrency is a form of digital money that is designed to be secure and, in many cases, anonymous. It is a currency associated with the Internet that uses cryptography, the process of converting legible information into an almost un-crackable code, to track purchases and transfers.

According to the Central Bank of Samoa, cryptocurrency remains unregulated, which makes things even more difficult.

“It has come to our attention that there are promotions such as Onecoin cryptocurrency that are currently being promoted in Samoa,” the Bank warns.

“How it works is that people are encouraged to sign up an account and purchase a package of tokens, these tokens can then be used to invest in a cryptocurrency, as the value of the cryptocurrency goes up, so too will your proposed reward.

“In essence, you invest in the cryptocurrency and are guaranteed a substantial return on the rewards in a certain period of time.”

The C.B.S. advises that such a scheme is very risky and people who invest in it stand to

lose their investment.

“The great risk here is that once these funds are lost then there is a huge possibility that these funds will never be recovered. C.B.S. does not endorse this cryptocurrency venture due to the high risks that it poses to unsuspecting people.”

The Bank has also confirmed from multiple credible media sources that the founder and main Onecoin headquarters in Bulgaria has been raided by Bulgarian Police as part of a ‘centralised cryptocurrency pyramid scheme’.

“Onecoin is also banned from countries such as Germany.

“Several crypto currency promoters have contacted C.B.S. seeking endorsement for their business and product; however they were not able to satisfy the government’s requirement of providing the relevant information for due diligence purposes (where the Central bank thoroughly scrutinizes a company and its products, if we do not have all the information to make an informed decision.

“As a result, C.B.S., on behalf of Government, has refused to endorse such ventures. C.B.S., as the Regulator for financial institutions in Samoa, does not wish to prohibit new ventures that will benefit Samoa’s public and economy; however, as with every new venture such as cryptocurrency, there are always risks involved.”

Cryptocurrency at this current stage is unregulated.

The Bank says this makes it difficult to put in place procedures that will protect the public because the “lack of regulation will attract criminal participation such as fraudsters and scammers (pyramid schemes).

“It can also be used for money laundering purposes and tax evasion.

“There is also a high risk to Samoa’s economy, as certain cryptocurrencies may pose a security risk, such as vulnerability to cybercrime, and as a result, cause significant damage to our financial system and infrastructure.

Should you require any further details on this, please contact the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Central Bank of Samoa.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

**CLAIMS RUBBISHED**

Deputy Prime Minister, Fiamē Naomi Mata’afa, has called some Members of Parliament liars. She has also accused them of being irresponsible.

Fiamē did not name anyone in particular.

But she was responding to claims from certain Members of Parliament that the Alienation of Customary Land Amendment Bill 2017 violates the Constitution.

“Mr. Speaker, some Members have said we have over-

stepped the Constitution,” she said.

“I am in shock because these comments are brainwashing the public.”

This is far from the truth, she said.

“Why were we elected by our constituencies? To make hard decisions for the betterment of Samoa, and that is the spirit behind this Bill.

“However, some comments that been uttered are literally brainwashing our Chiefs and our children. They are irresponsible comments.

“This is not what the Members of Parliament should be doing; lying to the public. It is not true that the Constitution has been violated. I want to set the record straight, the Constitution has not been violated.

“We can change the Constitution, but in accordance with the law.”

The Bill in question is designed to strengthen the provisions relating to leasing and licensing of customary land and facilitate the mortgaging of leases over customary land.

In Parliament yesterday, Fiamē said there has been a mixture of comments on the issue, which is understandable given the Bill affects all Samoans.

“Overall, it’s evident that the members are concerned that we might lose our customary lands,” she said.

“The Prime Minister has been vocal about the issue not only in Parliament, but also outside of this place, expressing the views of the Government on the said issue.”

The Deputy Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, made it clear there is no hidden agenda.

“There is nothing in the Bill that would allow for the customary lands to be sold or lost to the investors.”

Fiamē said other M.Ps have raised concerns about the beneficiaries of the leases.

“Another concern is whether only overseas investors are eligible to lease the customary lands,” she said.

“No, this option is applicable to anyone, even Samoan families who want to lease the land.

“I also want to address a point that has been mentioned in the background and from previous Members who expressed concerns pertaining to our lands.

The chiefly title goes hand in hand with our customary lands. It is a general understanding that our lands belong to all of us, not just the high chief.

Fiamē pointed out that back in the days, there was one High Chief who oversees the lands and allocates which land each family is entitled to.

“Nowadays it has changed. Every family seeks to have their

(Continued on page 14)



**AMERICAN SAMOA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Department of Agriculture Community and Natural Resources (ACNR)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Position Title: **COMPUTER LAB TECHNICIAN**  
Employment Status: **Full Time 12 months (Career Service)**

**General Description:**

Under the supervision of the ASCC ACNR Network Specialist, the Computer Lab Technician assists ACNR students who need access to a computer in order to fulfill course requirements and to keep current with the growing research and information resources found on the Internet. The successful candidate will be responsible for monitoring the daily operations of the ACNR Computer Lab as well as assisting students with its use. He/she will work with the Network Specialist on the procedural and operational functions of the computer lab.

**Job Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Monitor the daily operations and functions of the lab, and use of the computers and equipment.
- Assist students in use and care of the computers.
- Keep daily records on the usage of the lab, write and submit reports, request forms, and provide feedback and evaluation on the operations and functions of the computer lab.
- Setup and maintain lab hardware and software. Familiar with MS Windows 7, 8.1, 10; Mac OS X up to current version; MS Office 2013 and later.
- Perform other duties as assigned by supervisor.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Associate of Arts/Science degree in an Information Technology-related field from an accredited community or technical college or equivalent combination of relevant education and experience.
- Ability to recognize, analyze and resolve computer and network problems.
- Ability to support the technical architecture of ASCC ACNR Local Area Network.
- Must be physically able to lift heavy equipment and flexible for network installation.

**Salary:** GS:12/03-07: \$ 15,073.00 - \$ 17,673.00 per annum.

**Application Deadline:** April 5, 2018 no later than 4:00pm.

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

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# Police: Maryland school shooter apparently was lovesick teen



*This undated photo provided by the Willey family shows Jaelynn Willey. A teenager armed with a handgun shot and critically wounded Willey inside a Maryland school on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, and the shooter was killed when a school resource officer confronted him moments after the gunfire erupted. A third student was in good condition after he was shot.*

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT and BRIAN WITTE**, Associated Press  
GREAT MILLS, Md. (AP) — Tuesday’s school shooting in southern Maryland that left the shooter dead and two students wounded increasingly appears to be the action of a lovesick teenager.

Authorities on Wednesday released a few additional details into the shooting at Great Mills High School in St. Mary’s County.

Austin Rollins, 17, was killed after shooting a schoolmate, 16-year-old Jaelynn Willey. A school resource officer got there within a minute and fired a shot at Willey, but it’s not yet clear whether Rollins was killed by the officer’s bullet or took his own life.

A 14-year-old boy who was shot in the thigh during the encounter was released Wednesday from a hospital.

The St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office said Wednesday that Rollins and the girl had been in a relationship that recently ended. Authorities had previously only said that the two had had a relationship of some sorts.

“All indications suggest the shooting was not a random act of violence,” police said in a statement.

St. Mary’s County Sheriff Tim Cameron said earlier that a precise determination of Rollins’ motive may be impossible now that he is dead.

The girl, Jaelynn Willey, was still fighting for her life at the University of Maryland Prince George’s Hospital Center. A

fundraising page to help Willey’s family has raised more than \$54,000.

Hospital spokesman Michael Schwartzberg said in an email Wednesday night that she remained in critical condition.

Attempts to reach Rollins’ family were unsuccessful.

A day after the eruption of gun violence in one of the sleepy community’s schools, the few residents who ventured out amid a snowstorm blanketing the East Coast praised the school resource officer who responded, Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill.

“He did a very, very good job,” said Sharon Eglinton, manager of a cafe in nearby Leonardtown.

Eglinton, herself a Great Mills alumna, noted that Rollins, was by all accounts a good student who had not shown any warning signs. She said she thinks the best way to prevent future school shootings is to install metal detectors at schools.

“I have no problem paying for it,” she said. “If you can protect people getting on a plane with metal detectors, you can protect people in schools.”

While investigators are still determining whether Rollins took his own life or was killed by the officer’s bullet, Cameron credited Gaskill with preventing any more loss of life.

Cameron said Gaskill, a six-year veteran with SWAT team training, responded within a minute and fired his weapon simultaneously with a final shot

(Courtesy of the Willey family via AP)  
fired by Rollins. The officer was unharmed.

Gaskill was praised a couple of years ago for his handling of a confrontation with an armed suspect.

A Maryland man was charged in 2016 after he was accused of confronting Gaskill with a gun at an apartment in an incident captured on body camera video. Gaskill can be heard in the video giving several commands to drop the gun before the man eventually complies.

The Enterprise, a local newspaper, reports Cameron said at the time that Gaskill had “used exemplary judgment.”

On Wednesday, authorities said the Glock handgun used in the shooting was legally owned by Rollins’ father. In Maryland it is illegal for anyone under age 21 to possess a handgun unless it is required for their employment.

People who knew Rollins were trying to make some kind of sense of Tuesday’s hometown horror.

“Never in a million years could I have imagined he would do something like this,” said Adlai Traver, 18, who attended Great Mills and knew all three kids involved in the shooting. He recalled playing cards with Rollins during band class when the fellow percussionists had a little down time during class. “I was in the car when I heard it was him. I pulled over and almost puked.”

# IS suicide bomber kills 33 as Afghans celebrate new year

By **RAHIM FAIEZ**, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An Islamic State group suicide bomber struck on the road to a Shiite shrine in Afghanistan’s capital on Wednesday, killing at least 33 people as Afghans celebrated the Persian new year, authorities said.

Wahid Majro, spokesman for The Public Health Ministry, said 65 others were wounded in the attack, which was carried out by a bomber on foot.

IS claimed responsibility in an online statement, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites. The group said the attack targeted “a gathering of Shiites celebrating Nowruz.” The Persian new year, known in Afghanistan as Nowruz, is a national holiday, and the country’s minority Shiites typically celebrate by visiting shrines. The Sunni extremists of IS have repeatedly targeted Shiites, who they view as apostates deserving of death. The attack took place near Kabul University and a government hospital, around one kilometer (mile) away from the Sakhi shrine, where people were gathered to celebrate the new year, said Gen. Daud Amin, Kabul’s police chief.

Daud said the attacker managed to slip past police checkpoints set up along the road. He said an investigation into the security breach is underway, and that anyone found to have neglected his duties would be punished.

Earlier this month another Islamic State suicide bomber targeted Afghanistan’s ethnic Hazaras, killing nine people and wounding 18 others. The bomber blew himself up at a police checkpoint near a gathering of the minority Shiites in western Kabul. The bomber was on foot and was trying to make his way to a compound where the Hazaras had gathered to commemorate the 1995 death of their leader, Abdul Ali Mazari, who was killed by the Taliban. Kabul has recently seen a spate of large-scale militant attacks by both the Taliban and the Islamic State group. In late January, a Taliban attacker drove an ambulance filled with explosives into the heart of the city, killing at least 103 people and wounding as many as 235. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in a statement condemned Wednesday’s attack, calling it a “crime against humanity.” The U.N. Security Council condemned “the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack” in the strongest terms and underlined the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors to justice. U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan John R. Bass said he was saddened by the “shameful” attack.

“I continue to hope that every citizen of Afghanistan soon will be able to live in peace, without fear of indiscriminate attacks by terrorists who have no respect for human life,” he said in a statement. “The United States and its people remain steadfast in their commitment to working with our Afghan partners to combat terrorism and to secure peace in the year ahead.”

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[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



(Continued on page 15)





Mrs. Daisy Maiava and her first grade students, following their quarterly awards ceremony yesterday.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



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**Carls Catch Delux Sandwich with Swiss Cheese**

# Lent Season





# IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Courtesy)

## Remember...

Continued from page 1

LBJ. She said it was the Treasurer's plan to use this \$4 million from the 2% wage tax to offset the \$5 million loan LBJ owed to ASG.

Savali said it's really sad to hear that not only is LBJ not paying the loan, but they are also not receiving the full amount from ASG under the 2% wage tax.

"We can't act on this bill to repeal the \$5 million loan if ASG also owes LBJ more than \$4 million from the wage tax," Savali said.

Fetu did not mince words when telling the deputy treasurer that ASG has no authority to withhold any cent collected from the 2% wage tax that was passed by law for the LBJ.

Manu'a faipule, Rep. Vesi

Talalelei Fautanu Jr., the House Health Committee chairman, voiced the same concern, saying that although ASG owes money to LBJ, the hospital is still in operation, doing its best to serve the needs of the community.

"We don't have enough supplies, not enough doctors and nurses and many other needs because LBJ can't afford it with the little money they have, but look at this huge amount of money ASG owes the hospital. It's sad but my hat goes off to the LBJ management and staff for putting forward good work every day," Vesi said.

Rep. Faimealelei Anthony Fu'e Allen, a member of the LBJ Board, shared the same thoughts. He said ASG is holding LBJ by the neck by not

paying the \$4 million from the wage tax because of the hospital's \$5 million loan.

He said the law is clear, all money from the wage tax must be paid to the hospital, but it's very sad to hear that not only is ASG not paying the wage tax to the hospital, the ASG subsidy is not being paid on time as well.

(Samoa News should point out that the position of the current government is that "subsidies" to any department, agency or semi-autonomous agency are only paid when there is enough money to pay them — it is not an 'obligation'.)

The committee will now wait for Treasury to provide all the reports they need, before they render a decision on this bill.

## Manu'a...

Continued from page 1

He added, "It's our responsibility to find ways to assist the Police Commissioner and those who are in power, especially those who are looking after the inmates, instead of us trying to protect the inmates and point fingers at the prison guards."

The House Speaker advised faipule to find ways to lighten the burden of the Police Commissioner and his staff, instead of calling hearings and subpoenaing them to appear before each committee.

Savali said the Commissioner understands what is best for the community and the inmates, and it's the Fono's responsibility to give the police support and applaud them for the work they do in keeping the community safe.

In response, Toeaina said he hopes the issue about the alleged mistreatment of inmates is discussed during today's hearing before the House Government Operations Committee, where Police Commissioner, Le'i Sonny Thompson is scheduled to testify on the issue concerning firefighters guarding inmates at the TCF. Other witnesses subpoenaed to testify include the Fire Chief, the warden, and two DPS deputy commissioners.

Other issues set to be discussed during the hearing involve the new driver's license card, a pay raise for cops, and the updated list of officers certified to be armed.

Toeaina emphasized the importance of the issue regarding the TCF, and said lawmakers need to look at it and find ways to stop it.

"I don't want our people to think the Fono knew about what was happening at the TCF but turned away and discussed other issues. I think it's about time for us to look at these sensitive issues. Mistreatment of inmates inside the prison by police officers is against the law. Things like this happened in the past and I don't want a repeat," Toeaina said.

It was revealed during the house session this week that several faipule received plenty of positive feedback from their constituents, supporting them in their efforts to address TCF issues.

Fofo faipule, Rep. Fagaoatua Dorian Salavea said that after Samoa News published the story about the issue he raised last week concerning firemen being transferred to the TCF to guard prisoners, he received a lot of positive feedback from other firemen.

It was Fagaoatua who requested a hearing with Le'i, to explain why the Fire Division has been removed from the Leone Substation, with some of the employees now assigned by Le'i to guard the two inmates who escaped twice from prison this year.

One of the escapees told a judge earlier this month that he suffers beatings at the TCF.

According to Toeaina, issues like this were reported in the past, which resulted in the federal government stepping in and charging police officers working at the TCF at the time, including the Warden, for assaulting an inmate. (See Background for details)

He acknowledged the order made by Acting Associate Justice Elvis P. Patea which was reported by Samoa News Mar. 02, that the government attorney who is prosecuting the case of the escapee who claims to have been beaten by police officers, forward a copy of the court proceedings to the AG.

### BACKGROUND

Former TCF warden, the late Amituana'i Mika Kelemete was arrested here and taken to Honolulu where he was charged in federal court, in connection with the beating of an inmate on TCF grounds. He later pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate the civil rights of an inmate.

Under a plea agreement with the federal government, Amituana'i admitted that in August 2003, he ordered two correction officers to remove an inmate from his cell and bring him to the center of the TCF where the inmate was handcuffed to a pole.

At that point, Amituana'i used a board to strike the inmate on the head and back until the board broke. In 2008, Amituana'i was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised released.

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# Peru president undone by corruption scandals he vowed to end



A street artist performs as a Peruvian national soccer player in Lima, Peru, Wednesday, March 21, 2018. Peru's political drama, coming three weeks before U.S. President Donald Trump is set to visit for a regional summit, threatens to thrust the country into a period of political instability

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

By FRANKLIN BRICENO and JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — He took office in 2016 as a political outsider boasting that his strong business credentials would buoy Peru's economy while sweeping away endemic corruption. But with his offer of resignation, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski joins a long list of recent Peruvian presidents undone by scandals that have destroyed voters' trust in their elected officials.

Kuczynski, flanked by his cabinet, announced his decision to resign Wednesday in a nationally televised address, accusing opponents led by the daughter of former strongman Alberto Fujimori of plotting his overthrow for months and making it impossible to govern.

Shortly after, he exited the back door of the baroque presidential palace built by Spanish conquerors and was driven off, all alone, in an SUV.

Congress was expected to vote Thursday to accept his resignation, or if not, to impeach him.

It was an ignominious end to a presidency that started with the highest of expectations.

When Kuczynski, a former Wall Street investor, was elected in 2016, he was immediately thrust to the helm of a conservative revival in South America. Voters had grown tired of once-dominant leftist governments marred by corruption and blamed for squandering a decade-long commodities boom that had ended abruptly.

At home, he promised an investment windfall from old business buddies in the U.S., where he lived for decades and met his current and former American wives. He also sur-

prised many by speaking out forcefully against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro and leading a coalition of like-minded leaders to isolate the socialist leader for human rights abuses.

But the 79-year-old was hobbled almost immediately out of the gate. His self-tailored party, named for his own PPK initials, won just 18 seats in the 130-member congress. And instead of courting supporters on the left who pushed him to victory by a razor-thin margin over opponent Keiko Fujimori, he tried in vain to form an alliance with the former strongman's power-hungry, vindictive allies. Aides privately complained of stubbornness and political naiveté.

"When Kuczynski came in, everyone hailed him as Peru's salvation," said Laura Sharkey, a Bogota-based analyst at Control Risks consultancy. "But he just completely underestimated the strength of the opposition."

Even on the economy, his strong suit, Kuczynski fell short, as growth has slowed and promised mining and infrastructure projects never got off the ground.

What most outraged voters, however, was his seeming dishonesty, something that has long dominated Peruvian politics and he had vowed to end.

For months, as three of his predecessors were probed and one even jailed for taking bribes from Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht, Kuczynski steadfastly denied having any business or political ties with the company at the heart of Latin America's biggest graft scandal.

Then, Fujimori's party produced confidential bank documents from Odebrecht showing \$780,000 in decade-old pay-

ments to his consulting firm. Kuczynski said he had no knowledge of the payments that overlapped with his years as a government minister and said

that in any case had paid taxes on all of his earnings.

To save his skin he cut the sort of closed-door deal that Peruvians have grown to abhor. A group of lawmakers led by Kenji Fujimori defied his sister's leadership of the Popular Force party to narrowly block Kuczynski's impeachment. Days later, Kuczynski pardoned the feuding siblings' father from a 25-year jail sentence for human rights abuses committed during his decade-long presidency.

Ultimately that alliance spelled his downfall. Popular Force this week revealed secretly shot videos of Kenji Fujimori and other presidential allies allegedly trying to buy the support of an opposition lawmaker with promises of state contracts.

Kuczynski denied any bribery attempt, but for Peruvians traumatized by the videos of Fujimori's longtime spy chief, Vladimiro Montesinos, handing out huge stacks of bills to politicians, military officers and media moguls, the damage was done.



To be sure, Keiko Fujimori seems unlikely to be able to fill the void. An Ipsos poll taken this month showed that while a dismal 19 percent of Peruvians

approve of Kuczynski's presidency an even smaller number, 14 percent, have a favorable view of congress, where Fujimori's party is dominant. The poll had a margin of error of 2.8 percentage points.

In addition to the bitter feud with her brother, Fujimori herself is facing accusations that her own 2011 presidential campaign received never-declared contributions from Odebrecht, something she denies.

For many Peruvians, the clandestine videos that did Kuczynski in are a reminder of the corrupt, deceit-filled politics of the Fujimori era that they had hoped was behind them. In the coming days, as Peru works its way through a messy presidential succession, that widespread outrage is likely to fuel louder calls for early elections — for both congress and the presidency.

"The only public institution with moral authority left in Peru is the fire department," said Oscar Mendoza, a lawyer standing outside the presidential palace moments after Kuczynski waved goodbye to aides. "All the rest, when you touch them with your finger, puss comes out because they are fully corrupted by graft."



American Samoa Government  
DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
Tel: (684) 633-5155 • Fax: (684) 633-4195

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**  
**Substantial Amendment to the Program Years (PYs)**  
**2014 to 2017 Annual Action Plans**  
**and**  
**Reprogramming of CDBG Funds**  
**From PYs 2014 to 2017**

This Public Notice is posted to advise the community that a request will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development to reprogram funds listed below.


From:	Amount		Status
Fire Trucks for Manu'a & Aunu'u	\$6,580.00		Existing Project
Fagatogo Playground	\$27,109.13		Existing Project
Multipurpose Trades Building	\$1,283.66		Existing Project
Land Acquisition HOME Partnership	\$229,219.89		Existing Project
School Vans for Manu'a	\$13,402.00		Existing Project
Manu'a HS Greenhouse	\$10,000.00		Existing Project
Matatula Greenhouse	\$7,000.00		Existing Project
Pago Pago Harbor Boardwalk	\$205,405.32		Existing Project
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>		

To:	Amount	Status
Debris Removal & Gita Disaster Relief Efforts	\$500,000.00	New Project
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>	

In accordance with the American Samoa Government citizen participation plan the public is invited to comment during normal business hours for 30-days following the date of publication at the Department of Commerce, located on the 2nd floor of the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building in Utulei. Comments must be submitted in writing to Lina Petaia-Suisala, CDBG Manager.

As a result of damages caused by Cyclone Gita and President Trump's disaster declaration, ASG has requested a waiver of the 30-day comment period noted above. Should HUD approve the waiver, the comment period for this notice will be 7 days from the date of this publication. If HUD does not approve the waiver, the comment period will be the 30-day comment period noted above.

For more information regarding this notice, please contact the Department of Commerce at 633-5155, Ext. 271

  
**Keniseli F. Lafaele**  
Director of Commerce

# Facebook’s Zuckerberg apologizes for ‘major breach of trust’

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY, DANICA KIRKA and GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Breaking five days of silence, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg apologized for a “major breach of trust,” admitted mistakes and outlined steps to protect user data in light of a privacy scandal involving a Trump-connected data-mining firm.

“I am really sorry that happened,” Zuckerberg said of the scandal involving data mining firm Cambridge Analytica. Facebook has a “responsibility” to protect its users’ data, he said in a Wednesday interview on CNN. If it fails, he said, “we don’t deserve to have the opportunity to serve people.”

His mea culpa on cable television came a few hours after he acknowledged his company’s mistakes in a Facebook post ,

but without saying he was sorry. Zuckerberg and Facebook’s No. 2 executive, Sheryl Sandberg, had been quiet since news broke Friday that Cambridge may have used data improperly obtained from roughly 50 million Facebook users to try to sway elections. Cambridge’s clients included Donald Trump’s general-election campaign.

Facebook shares have dropped some 8 percent, lopping about \$46 billion off the company’s market value, since the revelations were first published.

In the CNN interview, Zuckerberg offered equivocal and carefully hedged answers to two other questions. He said, for instance, that he would be “happy” to testify before Congress, but only if it was “the right thing to do.” He went on to note that many other Facebook officials might be more appropriate witnesses depending on what Congress wanted to know.

Similarly, the Facebook chief seemed at one point to favor regulation for Facebook and other internet giants — at least the “right” kind of rules, he said, such as ones that require online political ads to disclose who paid for them. In almost the next breath, however, Zuckerberg steered clear of endorsing a bill that would write such rules into federal law, and instead talked up Facebook’s own voluntary efforts on that front.

Even before the scandal broke, Facebook has already taken the most important steps to prevent a recurrence, Zuckerberg said. For example, in 2014, it reduced access outside apps had to user data. However, some of the measures didn’t take effect until a year later, allowing Cambridge to access the data in the intervening months.

Zuckerberg acknowledged that there is more to do.

In his Facebook post, Zuckerberg said it will ban developers who don’t agree to an audit. An app’s developer will no longer have access to data from people who haven’t used that app in three months. Data will also be generally limited to user names, profile photos and email, unless the developer signs a contract with Facebook and gets user approval.

In a separate post, Facebook said it will inform people whose data was misused by apps. Facebook first learned of this breach of privacy more than two years ago, but hadn’t mentioned it publicly until Friday.

The company said it was “building a way” for people to know if their data was accessed by “This Is Your Digital Life,” the psychological-profiling quiz app that researcher Aleksandr Kogan created and paid about 270,000 people to take part in. Cambridge Analytica later obtained information from the app for about 50 million Facebook users, as the app also vacuumed up data on people’s friends — including those who never downloaded the app or gave explicit consent.

Chris Wylie, a Cambridge co-founder who left in 2014, has

said one of the firm’s goals was to influence people’s perceptions by injecting content, some misleading or false, all around them. It’s not clear whether Facebook would be able to tell users whether they had seen such content.

Cambridge has shifted the blame to Kogan, which the firm described as a contractor. Kogan described himself as a scapegoat.

Kogan, a psychology researcher at Cambridge University, told the BBC that both Facebook and Cambridge Analytica have tried to place the blame on him, even though the firm ensured him that everything he did was legal.

“One of the great mistakes I did here was I just didn’t ask enough questions,” he said. “I had never done a commercial project. I didn’t really have any reason to doubt their sincerity. That’s certainly something I strongly regret now.”

He said the firm paid some \$800,000 for the work, but it went to participants in the survey.

“My motivation was to get a dataset I could do research on,” he said. “I have never profited from this in any way personally.”



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- Analyze, install and administers the technical architecture of ASCC ACNR Local Area Network.
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- Set up and maintain workstation hardware and software, and understand and adhere to ACNR computer use policy.
- Install communication media (includes pulling indoor and outdoor cabling) to expand network as needed.
- Research, run tests, evaluate, and recommend solutions to network systems technical issues.
- Identify areas of operation that need equipment upgrades, such as modems, fiber optic cables, and telephone wires.
- Conduct inventory and surveys to determine user needs.
- Read technical manuals and brochures to find equipment that meets establishment requirements.
- Document work performed, technical configurations, and usage requirements.
- Perform other duties assigned by network specialist.

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- Associate of Arts/Science degree in an Information Technology- related field from an accredited community or technical college, or successful completion of a two year certificate program in a relevant area, or equivalent combination of relevant education and experience.
- Ability to recognize, analyze and resolve computer and network problems.
- Familiar with MS Windows 7, 8.1, 10; MacOS X up to current version; MS Office 2013 and later.
- Must be physically able to lift heavy equipment and flexible for network installation.

**Salary:** GS:13/03-10: \$ 17,560.00 - \$ 23,020.00 per annum.

**Application Deadline:** April 5, 2018 no later than 4:00pm.

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

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### ► Trio of...

*Continued from page 1*

The complaint notes that residents of American Samoa are a captive market with very limited banking options, and ANZ and its predecessors have acted as the sole residential mortgage lender in American Samoa for years. Plaintiffs allege that each of them have mortgages on their homes in American Samoa that were originated, are owned, and have been serviced continuously by ANZ or its predecessors.

When the Plaintiffs submit their monthly payments of principal and interest to the Bank, the Bank fails to provide them with basic information about their debt in return, the complaint alleges.

“Specifically, the Bank does not provide Plaintiffs with a simple periodic bank statement that shows, for example, how much they currently owe, how much they have recently paid, and how much they will soon owe if they do not make a timely payment,” the lawsuit notes.

Not only do TILA and its Regulation Z detail the information that must be given to homeowners in a monthly statement but the US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau repeatedly emphasizes how important it is for mortgage services to provide this information in a clear and understandable manner, the suit alleges.

It also states that both the Parkers and Gaoteote have been

unable to properly understand what they owe and how their payments have been applied or calculated — and even why they have been charged late fees — because of ANZ’s failure to provide a proper monthly statement.

The suit notes that the Plaintiffs’ mortgages are ARMs whose interest rates reset once a year. In order to protect borrowers, TILA also requires a mortgage servicer to provide important information to homeowners about these rate changes at least 60 days before a change is effective. These requirements allow borrowers to adjust their finances to the actual amount of the increase in their mortgage payments. “However, ANZ repeatedly informs the Plaintiffs of their increased rate and interest payment weeks short of the 60 day requirement, and provides surprisingly little information to Plaintiffs about the index underlying the interest rate,” the complaint says.

“This lack of information has compounded the confusion and frustrations that the Plaintiffs have faced trying to monitor their mortgage payments, particularly since the Bank recently confirmed that it had miscalculated the Parkers’ interest payments for years, overcharging them more than \$6,000,” it says. (See tomorrow’s edition for more details)



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► Pacific...

Continued from page 6

own land, and those are the new changes, which is the reality of today.

“I am not saying it is good or bad, rather this is the reality.”

The Deputy P.M. said Article 102 of the Constitution outlines the Alienation of Customary Lands Act 1965, which was established three years after the independence and the Taking of Lands Act 1963.

“Why? Because the Government saw the need to develop the land to allow the work on the roads and installation of water and electricity that will go through the customary lands.

“It is allowed under our Constitution through the Taking of Lands Act 1963.

“It is to develop Samoa, not only for the Government but also the families utilizing their leases.

“However, Mr. Speaker, some Members have said we have stepped over the Constitution.

Fiaame urged the Members of Parliament to take a closer look at the Bill.

She also hit out at criticisms of the Government’s plan to encourage development.

“What is the purpose of the Government in the first place? Why were we elected in the first place?

“If we listen to the concerns raised in Parliament then we

will do nothing. About 80 per cent of our customary lands will just be left there for nothing and we will get nothing.”

Fiaame said they are pushing to allow the mortgaging of the lease of the customary lands. She added that it is not an easy process.

According to Fiaame, the plan has been in the pipeline 10 years.

She urged the Members to be bold in their decision-making.

“The outcome is to improve the people’s standard of living through promoting greater economic use of customary land via leasing, licensing and mortgaging of leases over customary land. All Samoans stand to benefit from these amendments.”

(Source: Samoa Observer)  
**SAMOA’S HISTORIC AGGIE GREY’S HOTEL TO REOPEN IN JULY**

*Samoa’s historic Aggie Grey’s Hotel, which was badly damaged by Cyclone Gita is set to reopen in July.*

*The Samoa government newspaper Savali reports work has been going on to restore the waterfront hotel after it was badly flooded during the cyclone last month.*

*Most of the Sheraton-run resort in the capital Apia was flooded and furniture and equipment damaged in the storm.*

(Source: RNZI)

# White House issues threat over leaked Trump briefing papers

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tempest over President Donald Trump’s congratulatory phone call to Vladimir Putin quickly grew into an uproar over White House leaks, sparking an internal investigation and speculation over who might be the next person Trump forces out of the West Wing.

The White House, which has suffered frequent leaks — at times of notable severity — said in a statement Wednesday it would be a “fireable offense and likely illegal” to leak Trump’s briefing papers to the press, after word emerged that the president had been warned in briefing materials not to congratulate the Russian president on his re-election.

Trump did so anyway, and on Wednesday he defended the call, saying George W. Bush did not have the “smarts” to work with Putin, and that Barack Obama and his secretary of state, Hillary Clinton “didn’t have the energy or chemistry” with the Russian leader.

Aides had included guidance in Trump’s talking points for the call to Putin stating: “DO NOT CONGRATULATE,” a senior administration official

said Wednesday, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the official had not been authorized to discuss internal matters.

The document had been accessible only to a select group of staffers, two officials said, and had been drafted by aides to National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster. They also said there now is an internal probe of the leak but provided no other details. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive internal deliberations. The White House is not formally acknowledging the veracity of the presidential guidance first reported by The Washington Post.

Trump defended his decision to congratulate Putin in his Wednesday tweets, saying Obama did the same in 2012.

“Getting along with Russia (and others) is a good thing, not a bad thing,” Trump said, adding that Russia can “help solve problems” from North Korea to “the coming Arms Race.”The White House statement earlier Wednesday about a possible firing was an unusual threat and an indication of the seriousness with which the administration is treating the latest breach. Trump and Chief of Staff John Kelly are both

angry over the disclosure, officials said, especially because of the small circle of distribution.

Trump has told confidants that he believes the leak was meant to embarrass and undermine him, said White House officials and outside advisers familiar with the president’s thinking but not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

The president has suggested it was done by “the deep state,” they said. That’s the catchall phrase for career officials and the Washington establishment who, Trump believes, have tried to protect their own grasp on power by sabotaging him.

Trump has insisted that maintaining a strong personal relationship with Putin is the United States’ best chance of improving ties with Russia and has signaled to allies that he trusts his own instincts in dealing with the Russian president.

Other leaks of classified material — including partial transcripts of Trump’s calls with foreign leaders — have not garnered specific warnings of termination or criminal action. It was not clear whether this week’s document was classified, but it was included with other classified papers.

► Definition...

Continued from page 3

alia and longline fisheries.

“I think there’s different ways in which people perceived the fisheries,” according to Kleiber, who also says that there’s a different perception by many people in that the alia fisheries was local, and “that it was indigenous American Samoan participating in it, whereas Alia fishers talked about the longline fishers in different terms. When they were talking about people participating, they mostly focused on longline owners.”

“And the longline owners also talked to us about what they think is a misperception and efforts they had taken to educate people. They thought they’d being confused with the

foreign longline fleet and the purse seiner [fleet] coming in, therefore people didn’t understand that these (US longline based in the territory) were owned by local people,” she said.

Lutu-Sanchez responded that she hopes there’s a chance to ask more people because the “results weigh a little bit more heavily on one side.”

She also pointed out, “How misinformation is exaggerated in a community, then people have perceptions based” on information that is not true and that’s “unfortunate”. However, she believes that “it’s useful to understand how people actually feel, because otherwise you

won’t know where the confusion is at.”

“It is important that, we work together as a community — both federal and local — to make sure that accurate data and facts on who the fishermen are, who’s participating in the different fisheries, what are they doing — they’re producing food for the community, [and] that they’re helping the economy,” Lutu-Sanchez said.

She stated several times during the three-day Council meeting that the US longline fleet based in American Samoa is owned by American Samoans.

► Trump...

Continued from page 2

tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines. Then he unveiled the steel and aluminum tariffs, saying reliance on imported metals jeopardizes U.S. national security.

To target China, Trump has dusted off a Cold War weapon for trade disputes: Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, which lets the president unilaterally impose tariffs. It was meant for a world in which large swaths of global commerce were not covered by trade agreements. With the arrival in

1995 of the World Trade Organization, which polices global trade, Section 301 fell largely into disuse.

At first it looked like Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping were going to get along fine. They enjoyed an amiable summit nearly a year ago at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. But America’s longstanding complaints about Chinese economic practices continued to simmer, and it became more and more apparent that the U.S. investigation into China

technology policies was going to end in trade sanctions.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang this week urged Washington to act “rationally” and promised to open China up to more foreign products and investment. “China has been trying to cool things down for weeks. They have offered concessions,” Lovely says. “Nothing seems to cool the fire. I fear they will take a hard line now that their efforts have been rebuffed. ... China cannot appear subservient to the U.S.”



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# Austin bombing suspect's uncle says he was smart, kind

By DAVID WARREN, REESE DUNKLIN and P. SOLOMON BANDA, Associated Press

A 23-year-old suspected of planting deadly bombs that struck fear across Austin was described Wednesday by his uncle as a smart and kind “computer geek” and a friend said he was an assertive person who would end up being “kind of dominant and intimidating in conversation.”

Neither had any idea what might have motivated Mark Anthony Conditt, who authorities say died after detonating a bomb in his sport utility vehicle as officers moved in for an arrest near Austin. The attacks in the Texas capital and suburban San Antonio killed two people and wounded four others.

“I mean this is coming from nowhere. We just don’t know what. I don’t know how many ways to say it but everyone is caught off guard by this,” Conditt’s uncle, Mike Courtney of Lakewood, Colorado, told The Associated Press.

At a news conference Wednesday evening, Austin Police Chief Brian Manley said he considers a 25-minute recording on a cellphone found with Conditt a “confession,” in which Conditt talks in great detail about the differences among the bombs he built.

But Manley suggested that there might never be a clear motive, noting where the explosives were placed or addressed seems random.

Conditt grew up in Pflugerville, a suburb just northeast of Austin where he was still living just a few miles from his parents’ home after moving out. On Wednesday, authorities recovered homemade explosives from inside the residence, which he shared with roommates.

Conditt’s family said in a statement they had “no idea of the darkness that Mark must have been in.”

Conditt was the oldest of four children who were all home-schooled.

Jeff Reeb, a neighbor of Conditt’s parents in Pflugerville for about 17 years, said he watched Conditt grow up and that he always seemed “smart” and “polite.” Reeb, 75, said Conditt and his grandson played together into middle school and that Conditt regularly visited his parents, whom Reeb described as good neighbors.

Conditt attended Austin Community College from 2010 to 2012 and was a business administration major, but he did not graduate, according to college spokeswoman Jessica Vess. She said records indicate that no disciplinary actions were made against Conditt.

Although he worked for a time at an area manufacturing company, Gov. Greg Abbott told KXAN-TV in Austin that Conditt apparently was unemployed more recently and had no criminal record.

Conditt left little discernable trace on social media. Aside from a few photos of him on his family’s Facebook pages, he addressed a range of topics in an online blog he created in 2012. Vess said he had created the blog as part of a U.S. government class project.

In the blog titled “Defining my Stance” he gives his opinion on several issues, often in response to commentary by someone else. Conditt wrote that gay marriage should be illegal, argued in favor of the death penalty and gave his thoughts on “why we might want to consider” eliminating sex offender registries.

Of gay marriage, Conditt wrote: “Homosexuality is not natural. Just look at the male and female bodies. They are obviously designed to couple.”

In the “about me” section of the blog, Conditt wrote that he wasn’t “that politically inclined,” saying he viewed himself as conservative but didn’t think he had enough information “to defend my stance as well as it should be defended.” He said he hoped the

class would help him do that.

A friend of Conditt described him as smart, opinionated and often intimidating. Jeremiah Jensen, 24, told the Austin American-Statesman that he was close to Conditt in 2012 and 2013. Jensen said they were both home-schooled and he would often go to the Conditt home for lunch after church on Sundays and they attended Bible study and other activities together.

“I have no idea what caused him to make those bombs,” Jensen told the newspaper.

He called Conditt a “deep thinker.”

“When I met Mark, he was really rough around the edges,” Jensen said. “He was a very assertive person and would ... end up being kind of dominant and intimidating in conversation. A lot of people didn’t understand him and where he was coming from. He really just wanted to tell the truth. What I remember about him he would push back on you if you said something without thinking about it.”

Jensen said “the kind of hate that he succumbed to” was not what Conditt believed in during high school.

“I don’t know what happened along the way,” Jensen said.

Jensen said Conditt had attended regular church services at Austin Stone Community Church but he didn’t know if Conditt “held onto his faith.” A spokesman for the church said no records of past engagement or past involvement by Conditt were found.

Congressman Michael McCaul told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the suspect matched the FBI’s initial profile suspicion that the bomber was likely a white male. But McCaul said a psychological profile probably won’t be known until investigators go through Conditt’s writings and social media postings.



*This undated photo from a Facebook posting shows Mark Anthony Conditt. The suspect in the deadly bombings that terrorized Austin blew himself up early Wednesday, March 21, 2018, as authorities closed in on him, bringing a grisly end to a manhunt.*  
(Facebook via AP)

## ► Peru...

Continued from page 8

bribes from Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht, Kuczynski steadfastly denied having any business or political ties with the company at the heart of Latin America’s biggest graft scandal.

Then, Fujimori’s party produced confidential bank documents from Odebrecht showing \$780,000 in decade-old payments to his consulting firm. Kuczynski said he had no knowledge of the payments that overlapped with his years as a government minister and said that in any case had paid taxes on all of his earnings.

To save his skin he cut the sort of closed-door deal that Peruvians have grown to abhor. A group of lawmakers led by Kenji Fujimori defied his sister’s leadership of the Popular Force party to narrowly block Kuczynski’s impeachment. Days later, Kuczynski pardoned the feuding siblings’ father from a 25-year jail sentence for human rights abuses committed during his decade-long presidency.

Ultimately that alliance spelled his downfall. Popular Force this week revealed secretly shot videos of Kenji Fujimori and other presidential allies allegedly trying to buy the support of an opposition lawmaker with promises of state contracts.

Kuczynski denied any bribery attempt, but for Peruvians traumatized by the videos of Fujimori’s longtime spy chief, Vladimiro Montesinos, handing out huge stacks of bills

to politicians, military officers and media moguls, the damage was done.

To be sure, Keiko Fujimori seems unlikely to be able to fill the void. An Ipsos poll taken this month showed that while a dismal 19 percent of Peruvians approve of Kuczynski’s presidency an even smaller number, 14 percent, have a favorable view of congress, where Fujimori’s party is dominant. The poll had a margin of error of 2.8 percentage points.

In addition to the bitter feud with her brother, Fujimori herself is facing accusations that her own 2011 presidential campaign received never-declared contributions from Odebrecht, something she denies.

For many Peruvians, the clandestine videos that did Kuczynski in are a reminder of the corrupt, deceit-filled politics of the Fujimori era that they had hoped was behind them. In the coming days, as Peru works its way through a messy presidential succession, that widespread outrage is likely to fuel louder calls for early elections — for both congress and the presidency.

“The only public institution with moral authority left in Peru is the fire department,” said Oscar Mendoza, a lawyer standing outside the presidential palace moments after Kuczynski waved goodbye to aides. “All the rest, when you touch them with your finger, puss comes out because they are fully corrupted by graft.”

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Classmates — Skye Whitey Fruean and Neomai Elaine Halatuituia, smiling for the Samoa News camera yesterday, during the awards presentation for the first grade class at the Home of the Flames.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



This is the look of excitement, captured moments before these youngsters took center stage at Manumalo Academy, for the school's quarterly awards ceremony yesterday.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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