

Friends and families come together to support and enjoy the Fagaitua High School Alumni Association's Valentine's Ball held last Friday at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium — fale laumei — in Utulei, in preparation for Fagaitua High School's 50th year anniversary celebration in July of 2018.

[Courtesy photo]



Beloved Queen Mother of Tonga, Halaevalu Mata'aho, passes
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Ioē i moliaga o le talepe fale
Le Lali



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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017

\$1.00



Airport land-use change agreement signed with FAA

ASG TO PAY SUBSIDY TO AIRPORT FOR NEXT 10 YEARS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The U.S Federal Aviation Administration has signed the appropriate document authorizing the American Samoa Government to use more than 300 acres of airport land, which the federal agency's audit two years ago found to be used by ASG, without benefiting the Pago Pago International Airport.

Additionally, the territorial government has agreed to pay just over \$2 million for improvements of the Tafuna airport.

The FAA land use audit report in 2014 found that of approximately 865 acres of land approved

by the FAA in 1973 for airport use, about 325 acres had been removed from the airport and used for other ASG purposes — including the Tafuna Industrial Park, the American Samoa Power Authority compound in Tafuna and continuing all the way to the Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Faced with a loss of millions of dollars in FAA funding, ASG was required to have a corrective action plan, which was submitted in February last year to address findings in the FAA audit. The FAA sent out a letter, dated May 3, 2016, accepting the corrective action plan, which includes American Samoa providing “\$2.5 million annual subsidy for a minimum of 10 years to

(Continued on page 2)



Published storyteller Azariah Usoali'i Mathew Maiava, seeing the micro grids in Ta'u, Manu'a firsthand, says his island home could be a tourist attraction if energy efficiency continues to be a top priority. [Courtesy photo]

Manu'a HS student sees great potential in island home

“THE VISION AND FUTURE OF AMERICAN SAMOA”

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

When the director of the Pacific Storytellers Cooperative, Daniel Lin, visited the Manu'a Islands last month to host a weeklong workshop for the high school students there, he didn't imagine that the end result would be spectacular.

A handful of young Segaula took part in the project and all of their stories are now part of the Pacific Storytellers Cooperative — an Internet platform for place-based stories from all Pacific Islands to be shared with a global audience.

Azariah Usoali'i Mathew Maiava, who authored a short piece, entitled; “The Vision and Future of American Samoa,” was one of the participants and his story focuses on the positive effects of the new solar micro grids in Manu'a.

The goal of the workshop

was to give students the chance to tell their story, in their own words, and snap photographs that center around their thoughts on the island group's recent switch to solar energy.

“As a territory of the United States, American Samoa is trying to place solar power plants (or micro grids) into our communities and our lives,” Maiava wrote. “Due to the large extent of carbon dioxide emissions, we are aware of the numerous environmental issues that burning fossil fuels has caused, from coral bleaching to global warming to climate change.”

With the installation of the new micro grids and since the conversion to solar power, the island of Ta'u, according to Maiava, now saves almost 110,000 gallons of diesel, a year.

(Continued on page 6)



Whether it be in a crowd or just four cub scouts, Reggie Meredith is not shy about sharing her talent with the young people of American Samoa. Pictured with three cub scouts from Pack #392 (l-r) Samoa Ga'opo'a, Joshua Pen Maiava and Dallin Fepulea'i, Reggie helped them earn their Art Explosion Adventure Pin during an Art Class last week. Incorporated into their art were the words Loyal, Courteous and Kind which are some of the values that the Cub Scouts live by. [Courtesy photo]

Beloved Queen Mother of Tonga, Halaevalu Mata'aho, passes

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has joined leaders of the Pacific in expressing “deepest sadness” over the “passing of the beloved Queen Mother of Tonga, Halaevalu Mata'aho.”

The Royal Palace in Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa, issued a public message on Feb. 21s announcing that “The Queen Mother peacefully passed away” the evening of Feb. 19 at a hospital in Auckland, New Zealand.

The public announcement, which was posted on the Tonga Ministry of Information and Communications website, didn't reveal the cause of death.

The Associated Press reported early last week that the Queen Mother was 90 years old and was the mother of two kings: George Tupou V, who died in 2012, and the current monarch, King Tupou VI.

The Queen Mother's “lifetime of contribution to the kingdom of Tonga and the Tongan people around the world will be long remembered,” wrote Lolo in a condolence message yesterday to Tonga's King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau'u, via the Tongan government Ministry of Information and Communications.

Lolo recalled that during his tenure as Senate President a few years ago, he “had the honor and privilege to meet the Queen Mother at Foamotu” during King Tupou V's coronation.

“I shall always remember her warmth and generosity of her spirit,” Lolo wrote of the Queen Mother. “She was an inspira-



Her Majesty Queen Mother of Tonga Halaevalu Mata'aho.

Picture: SUPPLIED

tion to all, and will be fondly remembered by members of the Tongan community here in the territory.

On behalf of first lady, Cynthia Malala Moliga, Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga and on behalf of all the people of American Samoa, “our most sincere condolences go out to you and the Royal Family and to people of Tonga, for your profound loss,” the governor concluded.

According to the Tongan government the Queen Mother's remains were returned home in Tonga yesterday (Tuesday in Tonga) and taken to the Royal Palace for the ‘Takipo Ceremony’ and will be laid to rest today (Wednesday, Mar. 1 in Tonga, with the Worship Service at the Royal Tombs, Mala'e Kula. There will be a 10-day period of mourning to follow by the Royal Family.

“We are moved with profound sadness at the loss of the tiled ‘Kakala’ whose essence has been the sanctuary and the foundation of love for the Royal House of Tupou,” according to the Royal Palace statement.

According to the AP, the queen mother married Tupouto'a Tungi, the eldest son of Queen Salote Tupou III, in a royal wedding in 1947. Her husband became King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV after Queen Salote died in 1965 and reigned until his death in 2006.

As well as the king, the queen mother is survived by her daughter, Princess Salote Mafile'o Piloevu Tuita, 11 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

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✦ Airport ...

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cover airport, maintenance and capital improvements.”

However, ASG was required to revise the language of ASG's proposal to reflect that the request is for “Land-Use Change, authorizing the use of 325 acres for non-aeronautical and revenue generations purposes” instead of transfer.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries as well as an update on this case, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor pointed out that ASG has “agreed” to pay the airport \$2.5 million a year for a 10-year period in exchange for FAA approval of a “Land-Use Change” authorizing an inter-departmental change in jurisdiction for the 325 acres rather than a “release” for the disposal of airport property.

“The ‘Land-Use Change’ authorization was executed by the FAA and ASG on Jan. 20, 2017 and considered resolved,” Gregor told Samoa News via email last Friday from Los Angeles. “We will monitor the situation to ensure ongoing

compliance with the corrective action plan.”

Last September, the governor requested and the Fono approved a Concurrent Resolution confirming to the FAA that ASG would agree to fund and subsidize operations of Pago Pago International Airport in the amount of \$2.5 million per year for a period of 10-years, in exchange for the 325 acres of airport land.

Samoa News understands that the Fono approved resolution as well as the update on ASG's corrective action plan was submitted to the FAA last December. ASG's FY 2017 budget included the \$2.5 million subsidy for the airport.

ASG, in the corrective action, estimates that of the 325 acres, only 150 acres are available to be leased at market rate — approximately 100 acres from the Industrial Park area; 50 acres from general ASG land area, Administrative Service area and Parks and Recreation areas. (See Samoa News edition Aug. 29 and 30, 2016 for more information on ASG corrective action plan.)

During his recent Senate

confirmation hearing, Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele was asked about the status of the industrial park land, which involved the dispute with the FAA.

Lafaele first explained all land covered in the FAA dispute is now resolved with the agreement that ASG provides funding to the airport and to charge the fair market rate, which in accordance with FAA correspondence, is 45 cent per square foot and ASG has agreed to it.

He reminded senators that millions of dollars in FAA was held up until this issue was resolved. When asked by the committee how much is paid per square foot at the industrial park, Lafaele says ASG has started to comply with the FAA's market rate of 45 cents, starting with all new leases as well as renewable leases.

However, if a new tenant requests some help, the government can work on starting with a lower rate for at least by two or three years, and it would eventually reach 45 cents, according to the DOC director.

(Continued on page 5)



COURT REPORT...

Translated by Samoa News staff
MAKERITA LEITUANE

A former American Samoa Power Authority employee, who worked at ASPA's Aunu'u office, has been charged with one count each of felony stealing and embezzlement — also a felony — as a result of alleged missing money of just over \$18,000, which was paid by customers for debit meter service.

The charges against Makerita Leituane were filed in District Court more than a week ago and the case was bound over to High Court last Friday, where the defendant pled not guilty — through her attorney, during an arraignment hearing.

Court information states that ASPA presented to the government the outcome of its internal probe of the alleged theft; and this resulted in a police investigation against the defendant, who had overseen the accounting of money collected from Aunu'u customers for debit meters.

It also says that for a long time, the ASPA main office on Tutuila didn't receive accounting and money collected at the Aunu'u office, and it's the reason Leituane was questioned, but she allegedly responded that the Aunu'u office was robbed and all of the money — a total of \$18,050 — was stolen.

As the investigation continued, court information says, the defendant then allegedly recanted her original story and now alleges that she used the money for herself and was prepared to repay it.

As of last Friday, the defendant remained in custody unable to post a \$10,000 bail, with another court hearing currently scheduled for early April. If she is able to post bail, the court set several conditions, which includes that she makes no contacts with government witnesses and remains a law-abiding citizen.

Felony stealing as well as embezzlement are each punishable by not more than 7 years imprisonment, or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both. The alleged theft of ASPA funds occurred last year.

ELIJAH LEASAU

The government has charged Elijah Leasau with one felony count of illegal possession of marijuana and the defendant appeared last week in District Court, which has since scheduled for later this week a preliminary examination hearing.

According to court information, it was last December that police stopped Leasau on the road as he was suspected of driving while under the influence of alcohol; and it was during this stop that

police allegedly discovered a small amount of marijuana inside Leasau's car. Police also noticed that Leasau's eyes were red.

While the defendant is out on bail, he has been ordered to comply with various conditions of release such as being a law-abiding citizen and is prohibited from consuming alcohol or taking any illegal drugs.

AVETONU ALOTU

A man accused of assaulting his girlfriend, is charged with three counts of third degree assault and one count of public peace disturbance — all misdemeanors.

Besides allegedly assaulting his girlfriend, Avetonu Alotu is also accused of assaulting a cousin who was trying to protect the victim, who ran towards the home of the defendant's uncle. It's also alleged in court filings that the defendant threw a chair towards his uncle.

The alleged assault stemmed from a dispute between Alotu and his girlfriend.

Alotu made his initial appearance last Wednesday in District Court. Bail, which was initially set at \$500, was reduced to \$300 by District Court Judge Fiti Sunia following a request by Alotu's attorney, public defender Mathoni McCormick. It's not clear as of yesterday, if Alotu was able to post bail.

If able to post bail, the defendant has been ordered by the court not to make any contact with any government witnesses in this case — including the girlfriend, the uncle and the cousin, and is prohibited from consuming alcohol and taking illegal drugs.

In explaining the reason for the court setting bail, Sunia said court records show that the defendant had previously been convicted with third degree assault and public peace disturbance five years ago. He says Alotu is again before the court on similar charges.

PALEMIA SALANOA

The High Court last week accepted Palemia Salanoa's request for another chance to be with his family, after he was convicted of violating a condition of his 24-month probation, from a previous crime.

However, Chief Justice Michael Kruse cautioned Salanoa that any more violations of probation conditions, and he will be ordered by court to leave the territory and not return during the probation period.

For violation of his probation, the court sentenced Salanoa to be jailed until Mar. 10 this year, and upon release, he is given 90 days to find a job and be with his family. However, if the defendant fails to find a job, within the 90-day period, he will be ordered to

leave the territory and remain outside of American Samoa during the 24-month probation.

FREDERICK CRICHTON & TONY KOME

Two young men, accused of assaulting an Ili'ili homeowner, will go to trial later this year after the defendants maintained their innocent, despite a plea agreement offer from the government.

Frederick Crichton and Tony Fa'atau Kome are each charged with two felony counts of second-degree assault and attempted first-degree burglary. The pair is accused of assaulting a homeowner in Ili'ili on the evening of Nov. 12.

After the alleged assault, the homeowner, a male, was able to get into his home, according to court information, which also said that Kome and Crichton then tried to kick down the door to the house calling out to the homeowner to come out to fight or else they would burn down his house.

At a High Court hearing last week, Public Defender Douglas Fiaui requested a trial date for his clients, saying that his clients have rejected the charges as well as a plea agreement from the government, which has already presented discovery in the case.

Crichton and Kome — both in their early 20s — are set to go to for trial in October and remain in custody unable to post bail.

(Original Samoan stories in last Friday and yesterday's Lali section of Samoa News.)



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Letter to the Editor

"TO HEALTH DIRECTOR MOTUSA: STOP BLAMING PREVIOUS ADMIN"

Dear Editor;

I would advise Department of Health director, Mr. Motusa Tuileama Lua, to stop blaming the previous administration and its DOH leaders for problems at the department (Samoa News of 2/17/2017 and 2/24/2017). The DOH has existed long before him, and his own current effort should be worth the sacrifice of the many leaders of the past in Public Health.

It is demeaning to oneself for a person of such a capacity as the DOH director is regarded as the top health official in the territory by the deal government, WHO, and regional governments. Habitually blaming others from within his positions' scope of duty would only reveal the kind of person and leadership, and it seemed that Mr. Motusa has been the only director with such demeanor during the recent confirmation hearings and also during governor Lolo's first term.

Our job, as appointed cabinet members, is to take full responsibility, work towards corrective actions, and move on.

It is important for director Motusa as a political appointee to understand that despite the politics and of which administration; ASG is our government and belongs to us all. As we come to Governor Lolo's final four years, the Togiola administration is history in itself, and we all now support the Lolo Administration for the good of the American Samoa Government.

I thank Samoa News for deducing the director's statement to relevant specifics as it was generally too political in motive.

Respectfully,

Tuiasina Dr. Salamo Laumoli

Retired Chief of Dentistry, LBJ Hospital

And former DOH Director, American Samoa Government



Students from Leone High School were part of the lucky group of locals who took a tour of the NOAA ship Okeanos Explorer last week. [photo: NMSAS]

There is a reduction of juvenile cases from previous year says Public Defender Fiaui

SOME CASES OF KIDS BREAKING INTO STORES, BECAUSE THERE IS "NOTHING TO EAT"

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Sen. Fonoti Tafa'ifa Aufata strongly recommends that the Public Defender's Office encourage parents to get involved when their children are charged in the criminal justice system, while Public Defender Douglas Fiaui shared with senators what he says are "sad cases" of kids breaking into stores, because there is "nothing to eat".

The Tualauta senator gave the advice during a recent Senate confirmation for Fiaui for another term as Public Defender, overseeing the Office of Public Defender, which represents not only adults but juveniles in the criminal justice system. The Fono has since officially confirmed him.

During the nearly one hour hearing, Fonoti asked about the number of cases handled by the PD's Office that involved students. Fiaui said that last year his office handled around 150 juvenile cases, which "is actually a reduction" in the number of cases from previous years.

"We had as many as 220 [cases]," he said to which Fonoti sought additional information as to the nature of the cases, or the problems on why these students ended up getting charged and represented by the PD's Office.

Fiaui responded that "about half or more of our cases are fighting in school", although there are some cases where there are "serious offenses" such as burglary, "and in some cases it relates to the problem with narcotics — drugs. We've seen that in several instances and last year about a dozen cases."

The PD's Office has also seen youth cases involving property crime "related to neglect and poverty — kids who are breaking into stores because there's nothing to eat — those kinds of things and we see that occasionally. And those are the sad cases."

"But by large, many cases related to inter school fighting," Fiaui said at least three times, during questioning from Fonoti, who then asked if the Public Defender gives any advice to parents, who come to the PD's Office about their children's cases.

"Sure we advise them," was Fiaui's reply, "but it could be difficult for some of these parents. They have a very difficult time supervising their children and sometimes they have many children, [and] sometimes one parent is missing."

"We do our best to involve the parents and the court does as well. We're not the only piece of the puzzle. The court

will have the parents supervise their children," Fiaui said.

Fonoti told Fiaui, "my advice to you, involve the parents, it's their responsibility, and advise them to go to the church."

Samoa News notes that all juvenile cases are closed to the public when the case goes to court.

Another question from the committee dealt with attorneys who are hired for the PD's Office and Fiaui said their attorneys are recruited from off island and in the last four years, during his tenure as Public Defender, they've only hired four attorneys — handling both adult and juvenile cases — along with himself.

"Generally, the attorneys from off island working in my office, stay for the duration of their two-year contract," he explained. Fiaui also said that some attorneys have renewed their contracts and the PD's Office most senior attorney has been here for 7 years.

And another attorney, who recently left the territory, had been here for five years, he said adding that it's not often that his office brings in new attorneys.

Currently there are only four attorneys in the PD's Office, not including Fiaui, who served as legal counsel in the Governor's Office during the Togiola Administration.

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▶ Airport land-use change ...

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Responding to other committee questions, Lafaele says that there are very old leases at the rate of 12 or 13 cents per square and other recent ones around 20 cents. But when these leases are up for renewal, it will be 45 cents, he said, and stressed that ASG will still work with new tenants, who seek a break to start off their lease.

When asked about any leases at 60 cents per square foot, Lafaele does not believe there is lease at 60 cents per square foot.

In its audit report, the FAA raised concerns that the airport is not able to be financially self-sustaining because it does not earn any income from the land that was formerly part of the airport, which today may not be receiving fair market value rental rates from tenants who presently use airport property for non-aeronautical commercial purposes.

Previously rates at the industrial park vary, depending on the business and the agreement reached with ASG. An ASG official told Samoa News last

week that in recent years, the average rate is about 20 to 25 cents per square foot.

Samoa News notes that all ASG leases, which are 10 years or more, require Fono approval.

In addition, Samoa News should point out that ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaiepa reminded lawmakers during his confirmation hearing this month that approval of subsidies, which are included in the annual budget, is only a “forecast” and government spending depends on collections; and if collections do not meet obligations then ASG pays priorities first, such as payroll.

Tonumaiepa was answering a comment from a faipule about non-payment in full of subsidies to semi autonomous agencies, such as LBJ Medical Center and the American Samoa Community College, being a serious issue.

The governor in one of his cabinet meetings last year said the same thing — that payment of subsidies is not a priority, payroll is.



Work on the main highway between Vatia and Afono is now complete and motorists couldn't be happier.

Workers from Paramount Builders worked through the heavy rainfall last week to mill the existing asphalt pavement and re-pave the section of the main highway that serves the residents of the two east side villages.

According to project engineer JR Mirasol, the work took eight days to complete and the end result is a smooth surface that replaces the huge potholes and cracked road that was there before.

The project covered a surface of about 5,000 feet and was locally funded, through the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Samoa News spoke to a resident of Afono who said, “Thank goodness for the new road. Before this, our vehicles were put through hell as we tried to avoid the bumps and potholes when driving to and from work. It's about time something was done about it.”

Residents in the Tafuna area noticed that the asphalt plant, across from the Veterans Memorial Stadium, was fired up last week, pumping out asphalt for the aforementioned project.

While complaints usually come in about the asphalt plant emitting a bad odor and black smoke, this time, everything burned clear and there was no foul smell in the air.

An east side resident summed it all up by saying, “If only all the pothole infested roads — especially those in back villages — were re-paved like this one, our cars would last longer and everyone would know what a ‘smooth ride’ feels like.” [photo: Samantha Leulu]



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council announces the following public meetings on fisheries management in offshore waters of Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Pacific Remote Island Areas. For more information and complete agendas, go to www.wpcouncil.org or contact the Council by email at info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov, by fax at (808) 522-8226 or by phone at (808) 522-8220.

125th Scientific and Statistical Committee

March 7-9 (T-Th) 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Council office, 1164 Bishop St., #1400, Honolulu

Major agenda item: Analysis of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan management unit species for ecosystem component designation.

Joint Advisory Group Meeting (including the Council's Advisory Panel, Non-Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee, Fishing Industry Advisory Committee and Community Demonstration Projects Program Advisory Panel)

March 15-16 (W-Th) 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ala Moana Hotel, Garden Lanai, 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu

March 17 (F) 8:30 a.m. to noon Ala Moana Hotel, Garden Lanai, 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu

Major agenda items: National and regional fisheries, Council program areas and process, Grants and communications training, & Council advisory groups' roles and planning.

Standing Committees

March 20 (M) 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Council office, 1164 Bishop St., #1400, Honolulu

Major agenda items: Program Planning Standing Committee (8:30-10 a.m.) - Fishery Ecosystem Plan management unit species for ecosystem component designation, Aquaculture programmatic environment impact statement scoping and draft alternatives, and Council's 2016 program review. Hawaii Archipelago Standing Committee (10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) - Fishing regulations in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) marine national monument expansion area, 2016 Hawai'i coral reef fish stock assessment, annual catch limits re-specification for 2017 and 2018 and Hawai'i fish flow. Pelagic and International Standing Committee (1:30-3 p.m.) - Tropical tuna management and Hawai'i longline foreign crew. Executive and Budget Standing Committee (3:30-5 p.m.) - Financial and administrative matters, Upcoming meetings and workshops, and Council staff and advisory changes.

169th Council Meeting

March 21-23 (T-Th) 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ala Moana Hotel, Garden Lanai, 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu

Major agenda items: Fishery Ecosystem Plan management unit species for ecosystem component designation and Fishing regulations in the NWHI marine national monument expansion area.

Fishers Forum on Using Fisher Knowledge to Inform Fisheries Management

March 22 (W) 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Ballroom 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu

Written comments on agenda items for the 169th Council meeting received by March 10, 2017, will be copied and distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. Direct comments to Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, WPRFMC, and mail to 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; fax to 808 522-8226; or email to info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov. Special Accommodations: The host sites are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522-8220 (voice) or (808) 522-8226 (fax), at least five days prior to the meeting date.

**In The High Court
of American Samoa
TRIAL DIVISION**

PR NO. 05-17

*In the Matter of the Estate of
FRANK PRITCHARD, SR.
Decedent*

*By **SARAH SUA**
Petitioner*

**NOTICE OF HEARING
ON PETITION
FOR LETTERS OF
ADMINISTRATION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a petition for letters of administration has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Territory of American Samoa by Sarah Sui for the Estate of Frank Pritchard J. (Deceased) who died on October 30, 2002.

A hearing on the petition will be held on May 11, 2017 at 9am before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa at the Court-house in Fagatogo, American Samoa. All interested parties may appear before the Court on said date to respond to this petition.

Dated: February 21, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 02/28, 03/07, 03/14/17



Classmates, former administrators, current government officials and good friends of Fagaitua High School — past and present — came together to celebrate at the Fagaitua High School Alumni Association Ball held at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium last Friday in Utulei.

[Courtesy photo]

▶ **Manu’a HS...**

Continued from page 1

“We can safely say that we

will be saving more money, and that 2.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide will not be released into the air,” Maiava pointed out, adding that “our

island is now 98% green because of this decision made by our current Governor, Lolo Matalasi Moliga, who is also an alumnus of Manu’a High School.”

Maiava continued, “We are now playing a role in saving our world. We, as a community, have a vision that our territory will one day become 100% energy green.”

For his write-up, Maiava interviewed WorldTeach volunteer Margret McGovern, 23, a graduate of Harvard University, who said, “Within 100 or more years, I see American Samoa becoming more independent, self-sustaining; and will be self-reliant instead of relying on the many western culture contributions.”

McGovern hopes that the territory will be capable of creating its own autonomy, which will open people’s minds to more conservation efforts.

“Knowing that our territory has very few hybrid or electric cars, in many years to come, we should have more that roam our islands, reducing the amount of carbon monoxide and exhaustion fumes,” Maiava wrote.

The young author was able to speak with yet another teacher at Manu’a High School, Rutgers University graduate Leticia Nascimento, 29, who said, “Ta’u, Manu’a, is heavily dependent on Tutuila for resources.

So, having this project will help this island excel in the future. Not only that, but hopefully it will be the first for many to come.”

Maiava said, “Understanding that our island does not have its own economic system, our possible challenges are to have our crops and other goods transported out to the world.”

He added that by accomplishing many of these goals and aspirations, “we may even bring a lot more attention to our island, which may even attract curiosity and tourism.”

Maiava concluded, “Living here in Ta’u, Manu’a, I can say that this new solar project has helped our community become more aware of our surroundings and the many conflicts that we

are facing. Since our island is now 98% energy efficient, we can save 110,000 gallons of diesel and 2.5 million pounds of CO2 each year. Fortunately, we are playing a good role in our world to stop air pollution and many other hazardous environmental practices. Hopefully, we will have more valuable projects here in American Samoa to attract tourists and build our islands into something better than what it is now.”

Maiava and four of his schoolmates from Manu’a High School are part of the Manu’a Storytellers, a group of young people from the Motusa who are members of the Pacific Storytellers Cooperative, focused on sharing stories about their island home with the world.

Lin, who is a freelance photographer for National Geographic and a Senior Policy Specialist for the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) in Honolulu, Hawai’i is proud of his Segaula class.

“Their published work is a reflection of the collective voice of their community, as well as a testament to their capacity for using everyday devices — phones, tablets, computers — as powerful tools for telling stories,” Lin said in an initial interview.

“I couldn’t be prouder of this young bunch and I challenge people of all ages in American Samoa to do the same.”

Lin hopes that he could talk the local Department of Education to allow such a program to be carried out in classrooms on Tutuila Island.

Stories and photographs compiled by the Manu’a High School students have been published online and can be found at mapta.com

The Cooperative accepts submissions in all forms from Indigenous Pacific Islanders and residents, including written stories, photos, videos, and poetry.

If anyone wishes to contribute stories to PREL’s Pacific Storytelling Cooperative (www.storytellers.prel.org), please contact Lin at lind@prel.org.

In Loving Memory



James Justin Mahoney III

Sunrise: September 10, 1939 - Sunset: February 20, 2017



CHURCH SERVICE

Tuesday, Feb 28, 2017

2:30pm at Nuuli Catholic Church

Fate of Samoa's Police Commissioner unclear despite being cleared of all charges

by Joyetter Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu
Samoa News Reporter

Apia, SAMOA — It's unclear when the suspended Police Commissioner, Fuiavaili'ili Egon Keil will return to his post, as the cabinet has yet to receive any official notice from the court that the criminal charges were dismissed last week. This is according to Samoa's Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, during his weekly radio program on SamoaFM.

The 256 criminal charges against the Commissioner were withdrawn in the Supreme Court, on Monday by Supreme Court Justice Mata Tuatagaloa following recommendations by Independent Prosecutor (IP) New Zealand based attorney, Kenneth Nigel Hampton, QC that the matter had not been properly investigated and that interviews of potential witnesses of an acceptable certain standard were not done and that legal advice was not sought prior to arresting the suspended Commissioner.

During his radio program, Tuilaepa stated that police officials and police officers are not following orders from their "boss".

"Within every government ministry, the staff follows orders from their boss, because if they are against their boss, who is appointed by the cabinet, it means that they are against the Cabinet and the government of Samoa. It's ironic that it's happening within the ministry of police, who are suppose to be following orders."

He said the police are forgetting their main responsibility is to serve the public — rather the officials are building their own empire in the ministry.

This week Radio New Zealand reported a leaked "cabinet decision" document indicating that there will be no more assistant commissioners and the position for deputy commissioner will be reinstated. Currently there are four assistant police commissioners, who oversee the different agencies, within the Ministry of Police. According to RNZI the move will be effective once the current Assistant Commissioners' three-year contracts are complete.

As Samoa News first

reported back in December 2016, Tuilaepa hinted this would happen He pointed out, at that time, that with the four Assistant Police Commissioners each of the AC are assigned to different Departments in the Ministry and they may go back to the way it was in the past — where there was only one AC who served as Acting when the Commissioner was away.

The Prime Minister noted that when there are "too many cooks it spoils the soup" — with so many ingredients put in, because there are too many chefs and only one soup.

He said that having four Assistant Commissioners may be the reason for all of the problems at the Police Station and that cabinet has considered going back to having only one AC.



Samoa's Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, during his weekly radio program on SamoaFM. [Courtesy photo]

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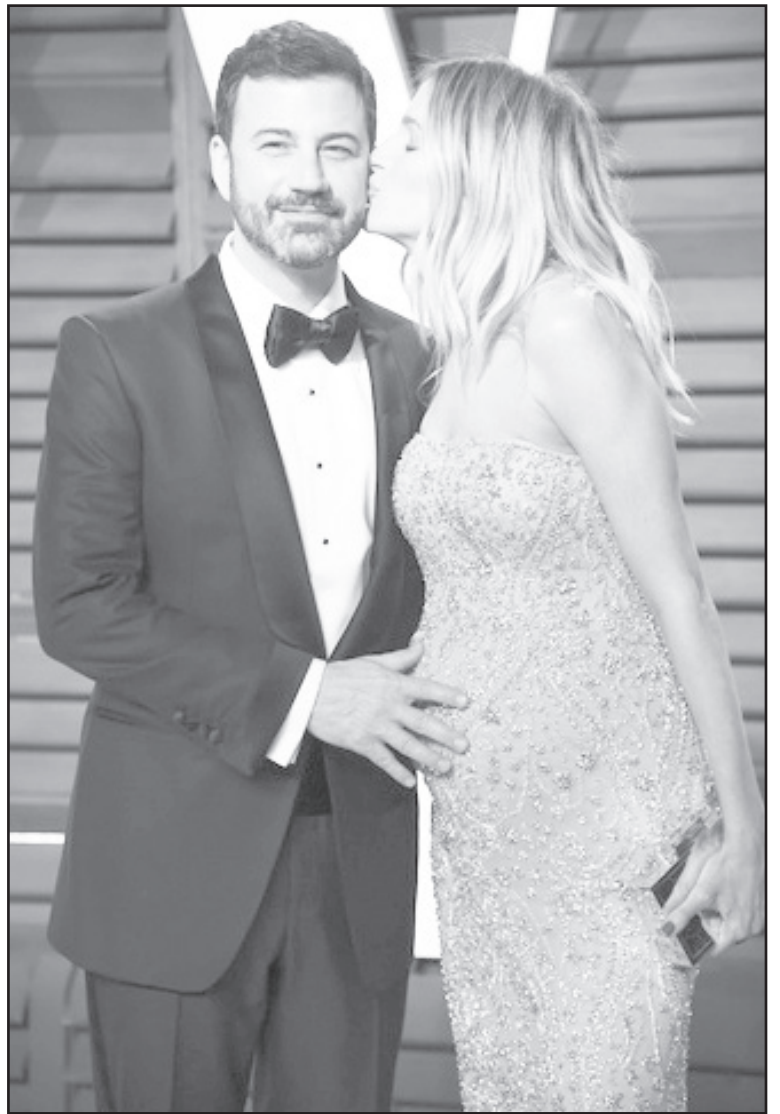
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Jimmy Kimmel, left, and Molly McNearney arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party on Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

(Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP)

Jimmy Kimmel shares insights on best picture Oscar gaffe

LOS ANGELES (AP) — winner wrong.’ ...So you just kind of figure, well, the host will go onstage and clear this up. And then I remember, oh I’m the host.”

Oscars host Jimmy Kimmel shared his perspective on the show’s best-picture gaffe during his Monday monologue on “Jimmy Kimmel Live !”

Three “La La Land” producers gave acceptance speeches before the error was corrected and “Moonlight” received the award.

“As I’m sure you’ve at least heard, ‘La La Land’ was simultaneously somehow the biggest winner and loser last night,” Kimmel said.

Kimmel said it was “mass confusion” when he got onstage and no one seemed sure what to do. Then Denzel Washington, sitting in the front row, got Kimmel’s attention and shouted, “Barry!”

Presenters announced “La La Land” as the best picture winner at Sunday’s Academy Awards, though “Moonlight” was the actual winner. Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway had been given the best actress envelope to open instead of best picture. The accounting firm responsible for the integrity of the awards has taken responsibility for the error and apologized to all involved.

“Thank God Denzel was there to make sense.”

“It was the weirdest TV finale since ‘Lost,’” Kimmel cracked.

After ending the show, Kimmel spoke to Beatty backstage, who showed him the envelopes. Dunaway, “made quite a getaway,” Kimmel said, leaving immediately after the show.

He said the plan had been for him to end the Oscar show in the audience, seated next to Matt Damon, when rumblings began that there’d been a mistake.

“Have any of you here ever hosted the Oscars before?” Kimmel joked with his Monday night audience. “Well, except the stage manager say they got the



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Materials Management Office**

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.021.ESD-WTR Closing Date & Time: March 23, 2017
Issuance Date: February 21, 2017 No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for the:

“In-line Meters Installation Project Phase II”

Submission

An Original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP NO. ASPA17.021.ESD-WTR In-line Meters Installation Project Phase II”. Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Thursday, March 23, 2017:**

Materials Management Office
American Samoa Power Authority
P.O. Box PPB
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: Procurement Manager

Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Late submissions will not be opened or considered and will be determined as being non-responsive.

Document

The RFP package outlining the proposal requirements is available at The Materials Management Office at ASPA s Tafuna Compound and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

Pre-Proposal Meeting

A one-time pre-proposal meeting will be held on February 28, 2017, 9:00 a.m. at the Materials Management Office conference room located at ASPA’s Tafuna Compound.

Right of Rejection

American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Power Authority or the public.

Approved for Issuance: **Utua Abe Malae, Executive Director**

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WHOLE CHICKEN		\$1.49/per lb
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LAMB RACK.....		\$4.99/per lb
LAMB SHOULDER.....		\$3.50/per lb
LAMB LEG.....		\$3.75/per lb

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WESSON OIL.....	24 OZ	\$2.35/pc
WESSON OIL	48 OZ	\$3.95/pc
WESSON OIL	64 OZ	\$7.50/pc
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STARKIST CHUNK LIGHT	5 OZ	\$2.35/pc
CHEF'S CHOICE	15 OZ	\$1.00/pc



FILE - In this Jan. 18, 2017, file photo, Commerce Secretary nominee Wilbur Ross testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Commerce Committee. Ross was confirmed as Commerce Secretary on Feb. 27.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

Senate confirms billionaire investor as commerce secretary

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Monday confirmed billionaire investor Wilbur Ross as commerce secretary as President Donald Trump adds to his economic team.

The vote was 72-27.

Breaking with Republican orthodoxy, Ross said the Trump administration will work quickly to re-do the North American Free Trade Agreement. That's the massive trade pact with Canada and Mexico that has boosted trade but still stings laid-off workers across the Midwest.

Senators from both political parties were deferential to Ross at his nearly four-hour confirmation hearing, which was much more subdued than the confirmation hearings of other Trump nominees. Former commerce secretaries have praised him, including one who served under former President Barack Obama.

"Mr. Ross will bring decades of business, entrepreneurial and civic experience to this important position," said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., chairman of the Commerce Committee. "I believe his extensive management experience in the private sector, and his understanding of the challenges faced by workers and businesses alike, will equip him well for the job of leading the Department of Commerce."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts criticized Ross' business ties to Russia and the way he ran a mortgage lender during the housing crisis.

"Mr. Ross has extensive ties to Russia. He plans to keep making money from his major oil shipping companies while working as Commerce Secretary. He's made billions off the backs of struggling home owners," Warren said Monday. "He is practically a cartoon stereotype of a Wall Street fat cat."

As part of his ethics agreement, Ross is giving up his position at Diamond S. Shipping, but he will retain a stake in the company, which ships petroleum and other products. As part of the agreement, Ross has promised not to take any action as commerce secretary that would benefit any company in which he has a financial interest.

At his confirmation hearing, Ross was not asked about business ties to Russia or his work as a mortgage lender, and he did not address the issues.

Senators did note that Ross is divesting from much of his business empire.

Worth an estimated \$2.9 billion, Ross has extensive business ties around the globe. In 2000, he founded WL Ross & Co., a private equity firm. As part of his ethics agreement, Ross will divest from the firm.

So far, the Senate has confirmed 15 out of 22 Trump Cabinet or Cabinet-level picks requiring confirmation. Senators also moved forward Monday on Trump's nomination of Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke to lead the Interior Department, voting 67-31 to limit debate. A final vote on confirmation could occur on Tuesday or Wednesday.

During the presidential campaign, Trump criticized U.S. trade deals, including NAFTA. Trump's stance on trade is at odds with many Republicans in Congress, but it endeared him to some voters in the Midwest who believe trade deals cost American jobs.

NAFTA was negotiated and signed by President Bill Clinton, with broad support among Republicans in Congress.

Ross said all free trade agreements should be systematically re-opened every few years to make sure they are working in the best interests of the U.S.

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Big surge for military in Trump budget, big cuts elsewhere



Budget Director Mick Mulvaney speaks to reporters during a daily press briefing at the White House in Washington, Monday, Feb. 27, 2017. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is proposing a huge \$54 billion surge in U.S. military spending for new aircraft, ships and fighters in his first federal budget while slashing big chunks from domestic programs and foreign aid to make the government “do more with less.”

The Trump blueprint, due in more detail next month, would fulfill the Republican president’s campaign pledge to boost Pentagon spending while targeting the budgets of other federal agencies. The “topline” figures emerged Monday, one day before Trump’s first address to a joint session of Congress, an opportunity to re-emphasize the economic issues that were a centerpiece of his White House run.

Domestic programs and foreign aid would as a whole absorb a 10 percent, \$54 billion cut from currently projected levels — cuts that would match the military increase. The cuts would be felt far more deeply by programs and agencies targeted by Trump and his fellow Republicans, like the Environmental Protection Agency as well as border security, additional law enforcement functions and some other areas.

“We’re going to start spending on infrastructure big. It’s not like we have a choice — our highways, our bridges are unsafe, our tunnels,” the president told a group of governors at the White House on Monday.

He added, “We’re going to do more with less and make the government lean and accountable to the people.”

However, Trump’s final version of the budget is sure to leave large deficits intact — or even add to them if he follows through on his campaign promise for a huge tax cut.

His plan faces strong opposition from Democrats, who possess the power to block it. The immediate reaction from Republicans was mixed, with prominent defense hawks like Sen. John McCain of Arizona saying it would do too little to help the

Pentagon and fiscal conservatives and supporters of domestic agencies expressing caution.

The White House indicated that the foreign aid cuts would be particularly large.

Asked about those plans, top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell of Kentucky would say only, “We’ll see how it works out.”

A congressional showdown is inevitable later this year, and a government shutdown a real possibility.

White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said the spike in Pentagon spending would bring the total defense budget to a record \$603 billion — and that’s before including tens of billions of dollars for overseas military operations.

The United States already spends more on defense than the next seven countries combined, but military leaders have complained repeatedly that aircraft are aging. Congress was told recently that the average age of Air Force aircraft is 27 years, and more than half of the service’s inventory would qualify for antique vehicle license plates in Virginia.

“It is a true America first budget. It will show the president is keeping his promises and will do exactly what he said he was going to do,” Mulvaney said. “It prioritizes rebuilding our military, including restoring our nuclear capabilities, protecting the nation and securing the border, enforcing the laws currently on the books, taking care of vets and increasing school choice.”

The border wall would cost \$2.9 billion in 2018, according to draft documents for the Department of Homeland Security, which assume the agency would hire 500 new members of the Border Patrol and 1,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents next year. Detention beds for apprehended immigrants would receive \$2 billion over current-year spending. The Transportation Security Administration ticket fee would increase by \$1 to \$6.60 for each one-way flight.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York

said, “It is clear from this budget blueprint that President Trump fully intends to break his promises to working families by taking a meat ax to programs that benefit the middle class.”

Mulvaney said the plan wouldn’t add to the budget deficit — currently projected to hit about \$500 billion next year — but it wouldn’t reduce it, either. The administration again made clear that the government’s largest benefit programs, Social Security and Medicare, would be exempt from cuts when Trump’s full budget submission is released in May.

GOP Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho, a member of the Appropriations Committee, said the large cuts Trump envisions making to domestic programs won’t fly.

“There’s a lot of members that have a lot of interest in a lot of these programs,” Simpson said. “There’s more to our government than just defense.”

But McCain said Trump’s Pentagon plans would fall short by almost \$40 billion and represent just a small increase over former President Barack Obama’s recent Pentagon wish list.

“With a world on fire, America cannot secure peace through strength with just 3 percent more than President Obama’s budget,” said McCain, chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

On Monday, tentative proposals for the 2018 budget year that begins Oct. 1 were being sent to federal agencies, which will have a chance to propose changes.

Before the new budget year, there’s an April 28 deadline to finish up spending bills for the current 2017 budget year, which is almost half over, and any stumble or protracted battle could risk a government shutdown then as well.

There’s expected to be an immediate infusion of 2017 cash for the Pentagon of \$20 billion or more, and also the first wave of funding for Trump’s promised border wall and other initiatives like hiring immigration agents.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-035-2017

Issuance Date: February 21, 2017

Closing Date: March 8, 2017
No later than 2:00 p.m. (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide “Route 003 Taputimi (Le’ala) Village Road Embankment and Shoreline Protection Project” for the Department of Public Works.

2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Friday, February 24, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Office of Procurement Conference Room.

4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

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

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

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Bright like a diamond: Harvard honors Rihanna's philanthropy

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Harvard University thinks Rihanna shines bright like a diamond when it comes to philanthropy. The Grammy Award-winning singer is being honored Tuesday as Harvard's 2017 Humanitarian of the Year. The university says it chose Rihanna for her involvement in a number of charitable causes. She built a state-of-the-art center for oncology and nuclear medicine to diagnose and treat breast cancer in her home nation of Barbados.

She also created the Clara Lionel Foundation scholarship program — named for her grandparents — for students from the Caribbean who attend college in the U.S. Rihanna also supports the Global Partnership for Education and Global Citizen Project, providing children with access to education in more than 60 developing countries. Previous winners include actor James Earl Jones and activist Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH'-lah YOO'-suhf-zeye.)



FILE - In this Feb. 12, 2017, file photo, Rihanna arrives at the 59th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. The Grammy Award-winning singer is being honored Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, as Harvard's 2017 Humanitarian of the Year. (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP, File)

Antonin Scalia's widow among Trump's joint address guests

WASHINGTON (AP) — A young woman who has survived incredible odds. The widows of two California police officers killed by a man living in the country illegally. The widow of former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Those are some of men and women who will attend President Donald Trump's first address to a joint session of Congress as special guests, the White House announced.

The group appears selected to highlight some of the president's early actions in office, including his crackdown on people living in the country illegally with criminal backgrounds and his selection of Judge Neil Gorsuch to succeed the late Justice Scalia. The guests who will be seated with first lady Melania Trump during the president's speech are:

(Continued on page 12)



IN THE COMMUNITY

LDS Faleniu 3rd Ward Conference [courtesy photos]





Tualauta District Representative Sam Meleisea took time out from his busy schedule to meet with the Scout Troop & Pack 392 of the Tafuna 3rd Ward, to discuss ways that the Boy Scout can help "Make the World a Better Place". Rep. Meleisea shared with these future leaders ways they can make their homes and community a better place.

[Courtesy photo]

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RED HOOK BREWERY
BEER-BATTERED COD FISH SANDWICH
 Sandwich \$4.95
 Combo \$7.95

FISH 'N' CHIPS
 3 pc Fish & Chips \$5.95
 Drink additional charge

Carls Jr.
 CHARBROILED BURGERS

▶ Antonin Scalia's widow ...

Continued from page 11

— Maureen McCarthy Davis Jr. and Danny Oliver, Scalia, the widow of late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. She was also in the audience when Trump announced that federal appeals court judge Neil Gorsuch was his choice to succeed Scalia on the Supreme Court.

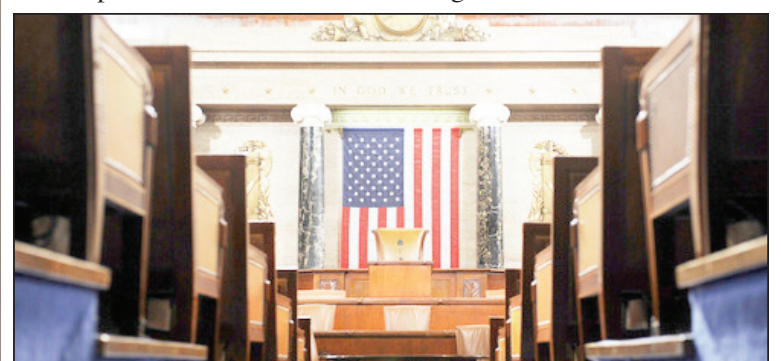
— Megan Crowley, who at 15 months old, according to the White House, was diagnosed with Pompe Disease, a rare and deadly inherited muscle-weakening condition. Crowley wasn't expected to live more than a few years until her father founded a pharmaceutical company that helped develop a drug that kept her alive. Her story has been chronicled for years by the Wall Street Journal. She is now 20, according to the White House, and a sophomore at Notre Dame.

— Jessica Davis and Susan Oliver, whose husbands, California police officers Michael

and Danny Oliver, were killed in the line of duty in 2014 by a man living in the country illegally. The men are the namesakes of a bill aimed at stricter immigration law enforcement.

— Jamiel Shaw, Sr., whose son, a high school football player, was shot and killed by a person living in the country illegally in 2008 in California. Shaw spoke at many of Trump's campaign rallies and delivered a searing speech about his son at the Republican convention.

— Denisha Merriweather, who has written about how her life changed because she was able to use the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship program to attend a private high school. The president has advocated expanding such "voucher" programs as part of an effort to give parents more choices when it comes to where their kids go to school.



FILE - This Dec. 8, 2008, file photo shows the House Chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington. A presidential speech to Congress is one of those all-American moments that ooze ritual and decorum.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

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