

Proposed amendment to election law would allow background checks

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Illegal trash dumping a problem especially in outer village areas

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Ua leva ona i ai fa'afitauli o fualaau fa'asaina totonu aoga i le atunu'u

Le Lali



The hard working employees of the Pacific Tires & Auto Parts celebrating their one year anniversary last Saturday in Tafuna, with great huge prizes, food and loyal customers. See story inside. [Photo: Ese Malala]



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\$16M deficit likely for FY2017 if ASG spending isn't curbed

SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED UNDER TRUMP ADMIN SO FAR, SAYS GOVERNOR

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

If the government doesn't curb financial spending from its current trend, Lolo said ASG may end the current fiscal year 2017 with a \$16 million deficit, while the financial climate remains unchanged at this time under President Donald J. Trump's administration.

Speaking at last week's cabinet meeting, Lolo, who recently returned from several meetings in Washington D.C., said that the financial climate for the local government as well as throughout the world is no longer the same as before and there is a need to prepare for possibly difficult times ahead for American Samoa.

For the governor and those cabinet directors who were in the nation's capital in February, Lolo said they all bear witness to the many changes at the federal level. However, the governor is thankful to the sons and daughters of American Samoa, working at the Interior Department, such as Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, Nikolao Pula, who have assisted greatly in communications between ASG and the federal government.

While the Interior Department now has a new Secretary, Lolo says there are other DOI senior posts still vacant and he is hopeful that once such posts are filled there will be early communication from DOI regarding the US territories.

Lolo reminded his cabinet that about 65% to

70% of the total budget comes from federal grants and ASG doesn't have a good record at the federal level when it comes to complying with guidelines to ensure that funding is monitored closely.

And that is why, said the governor, that he and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Muga have made changes to the Office of Grants Oversight and Accountability, headed by Jerome Ierome, and overseen by the Governor's Office.

Lolo noted that among some of the executive entities faced with compliance issues on federal grants, is the Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA), which still hasn't received its federal grant money.

(At his confirmation hearing in February, ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaiepa revealed that TAOA funding has been placed on restrictions by the federal grantor, over the issue of required reports. Therefore he said vendors of the hot meals are facing a delay in getting paid, as local funds are subsidizing TAOA funding.)

Lolo said the problem faced with TAOA and other executive branch entities is that they aren't filing required reports in a timely manner as directed by the federal grantor. Lolo said Ierome's team would also be available to assist semi autonomous agencies.

Upon returning on island, Lolo said he discovered about 10 travel authorizations (TAs) not approved by Lemanu and the governor thanked

(Continued on page 2)

Fetu Ole Afiafi is the 'youngest' group in the race - with a focus on the youth

ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL ROWERS BROUGHT OUT TO GAIN EXPERIENCE



Skippering the Fautasi from Faga'alu in the 2017 Flag Day Fautasi Regatta is Captain, Manutafea I. Fano - steering the Fetu Ole Afiafi and its young crew members during rowing practice this past weekend in preparations for this years Flag Day Fautasi Race. [photo: TG]

by T. Gasu
Samoa News Sports Correspondent

The village of Faga'alu are bringing out the youngest core of competitors for this year's Faigamea i le Tai - to repre-

sent their village in the 2017 Flag Day Fautasi Regatta - to power the Fetu Ole Afiafi. According to skipper Manutafea I. Fano, Faga'alu's focus and goal leading up to

(Continued on page 3)





Manumalo Academy underwent a review for accreditation last week. On Friday, representatives from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) presented their findings before the school director, board members, administrators, parents, teachers and students. The visiting team got help from Manulele Tausala School principal Mrs. Sagapolutele and DOE official Dr. Samsoni Asaeli (pictured). The Flames received positive reviews. [Photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

⊗ ▶ \$16M deficit likely for FY2017 if ASG ...

Continued from page 1

the lieutenant governor for not approving the TAs.

Lolo says off island travel at this time is not recommended based on the current financial situation because not only are there many issues dealing with the local government to address, but there are also a number of local issues that should be care-

fully monitored.

For example, he said that in a meeting with Treasury and Budget Office, he was informed that if ASG continues to spend at the current trend, ASG would close FY 2017 with a \$16 million deficit. He urged directors to restrain their spending. He said the administration has been

able to make it through in the last three years by keeping down spending, and there is no reason the same thing couldn't be done in 2017.

According to the governor, many cabinet members are not keeping a close watch on department spending and this has been a clear indication of not moni-

toring finances with the way overtime requests continue to come through the Governor's Office for approval.

Lolo made it clear, at least three times, that no overtime will be approved and that directors should find ways to achieve each department's operations without paying overtime.

He pointed to many requests for overtime approval as the reason that required reports need to be completed, and said these reports should have been done

in advance, instead of waiting until the deadline approaches for submission of required federal reports. Lolo said the reason for incurring overtime is that the director is not doing the job of being a leader.

"Find ways to have the job done without the need for overtime," the governor told directors in a stern voice.

During one of the cabinet meetings in December, directors were told to conduct a head count of their respective departments and agencies and submit to Human Resources the actual number of people working.

But at last week's cabinet meeting, the governor said that some directors have yet to submit the total number of employees in their respective departments and offices, although it's been four to five weeks since the a new directive went out to conduct a head-count of all employees to ensure that directors know the actual number of workers on the payroll.

Lolo reiterated that the director's job is to oversee their respective agencies and make sure that the work is done, and not have it assigned to a deputy director or other senior personnel.

In closing, Lolo told directors that "no one will travel off island due to the current financial situation" as well as for the fact that the government is heading into a busy time of the year, starting this month with Flag Day, next month with the annual senior citizens week, followed by graduations.

Unless it is really necessary for a director to travel off island, Lolo suggested that directors send their employees for meetings and trainings.

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The Fetu Ole Afiafi fautasi crew warming up with stretches and other numerous strategies at the Fano Guest House in Faga'alu yesterday evening – part of their preparations for the upcoming Flag Day Fautasi Race, which is scheduled to sound off next week Friday. [photo: TG]

►Fetu Ole Afiafi is the 'youngest' group ...

Continued from page 1

this year's race, is solely based on the youth of the village and their future in the sport.

Leading the Fetu Ole Afiafi as captain and skipper for his third time, is Manutafea I. Fano, who led Faga'alu's pride and joy during the past DOC fautasi races – but this will be his first at taking the helm during the Faigamea o le Tai for a Flag Day Fautasi competition.

Samoa News spoke to Manutafea yesterday at their family guest house in Faga'alu where the aumaga and the Fetu Ole Afiafi crew are being hosted. He said that their crew is ready and prepared for the upcoming race and the "auva'a is fully prepared to honor and celebrate the 2017 Flag Raising celebration for Tutuila and Manu'a – we're ready both physically and mentally."

According to Manutafea, the village of Faga'alu and the Fetu Ole Afiafi crew have been in preparation for about four to five weeks. "I believe that all the methods and strategies we're using in preparing out auva'a is solely based on conditioning, hard work, and honesty."

He said, "I know all our trainings and practices are all based on fitness – it doesn't matter how experienced or new the auva'a is, but the focus of it all depends on the stamina, fitness, and strength of the crew."

Manutafea told Samoa News that as of now, the Fetu Ole Afiafi crew comprises 46 rowers, and "compared to last year and the past years, the Fetu Ole Afiafi and the aumaga are prepared to showcase the 'huge' change within our group this year" – as he spoke on how young his crew members are.

The Faga'alu skipper said, "A lot of our old and experienced rowers have retired from taking up seats on the Fetu Ole Afiafi, as they have given a chance to the young youth of the village – with our focus mainly on them, and the future of the Fetu Ole Afiafi within the sport of fautasi racing."

He added, the "majority of our auva'a consists of students who are in the high school and elementary level – but we have some experienced rowers back this year, to teach the knowledge of rowing to our young generation coming up, who'll be representing Faga'alu during the day of the race."

Manutafea told Samoa News that with their focus on village youth, they are "bringing them into the aumaga, and protecting them from being victims of drugs and alcohol."

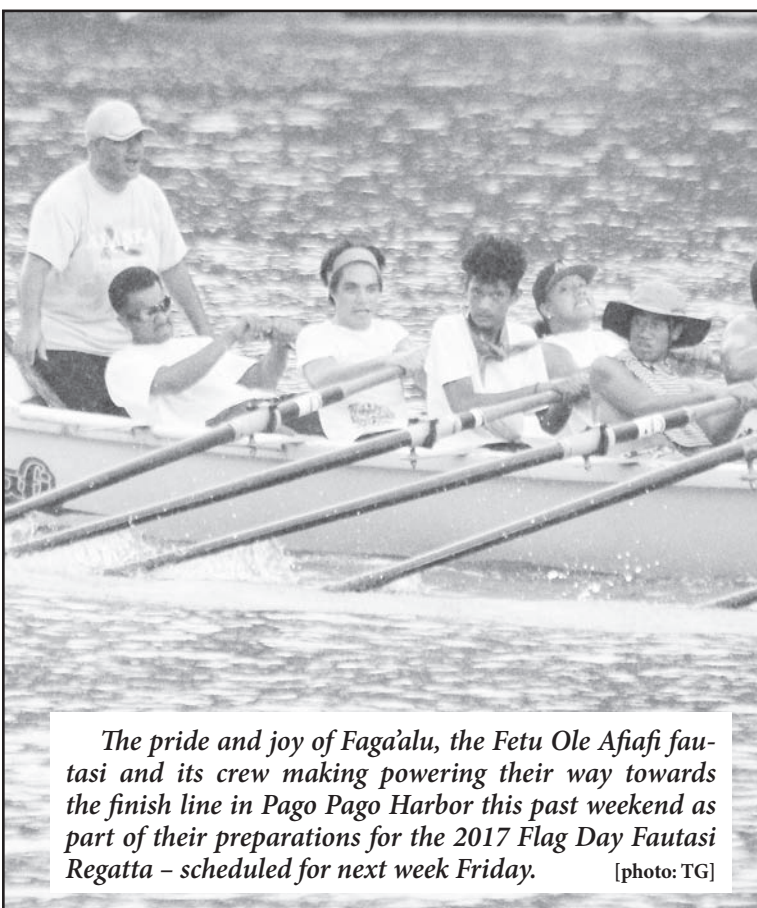
"Our wish is to have the youth of our village come together, to form a stronger bond and relationship within our aumaga – as they are the future of our vil-

lage, our aumaga, as well as our auva'a. They will grow up with the experience that they're now learning, and they will come in handy when the time comes," he said.

Of this year's Flag Day Fautasi Race, Manutafea asks the committee to "please do the right thing – make the right calls and may Tutuila and Manu'a enjoy and be entertained with this year's Faigamea i le Tai."

Concluding his remarks, Manutafea said, "I would first of all like to thank the father of our village, 'Le Afio o le Afioa i le Maopu, susu le Nofofanau ma fetalaiga ia Uso ma Fa'ateligia, ia e le gata i lea o si o matou nu'u o Faga'alu' – for having faith in me and giving me another chance to lead our aumaga and the Fetu Ole Afiafi."

He concluded, "My sincerest thanks and acknowledgements also goes out to our families here and abroad – Faga'alu village members across the globe, who are praying and rooting for us this year, last but not the least is our thank you to the pastors and reverends of our village who are praying for us."



The pride and joy of Faga'alu, the Fetu Ole Afiafi fautasi and its crew making powering their way towards the finish line in Pago Pago Harbor this past weekend as part of their preparations for the 2017 Flag Day Fautasi Regatta – scheduled for next week Friday. [photo: TG]



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CASE NUMBER: ADOVS1500055

In Re the Matter of:
**ORINI ASHLEY PAAGA MAGIA,
(DOB: 11/10/2008) MINOR(S)**

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO:
THE ALLEGED FATHER, LAVEAIGA MAGIA,
THE MOTHER, TAIMANE SIVA,
AND ANYONE CLAIMING TO BE THE FATHER OR MOTHER, OF THE ABOVE STATED MINOR(S):

By order of this court you are hereby cited and required to appear before a Judge of the Superior Court, located at 14455 Civic Drive Ste. 100 Victorville, CA on May 05, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., in Department V-11, to show cause, if any you have, why said person should not be declared free from the custody and control of (his/her) (their) parents according to the petition on file herein. If the court finds the interest of the minor (s) requires is or her protection, the Court shall appoint counsel to represent the minor(s). Such counsel shall be appointed whether or not the minor(s) is able to afford counsel. If you appear without counsel and are unable to afford counsel, the court shall appoint counsel for you if you request appointed counsel. The purpose of this action, to free the minor(s) from the custody of (his/her) (their) parent(s), is to permit the adoption of said minor(s) to a suitable adopting parent. The court may continue these proceedings, not to exceed thirty (30) days, as necessary to appoint counsel and enable counsel to become familiar with these proceedings. Given under my hand and seal of the Superior Court of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, this 3rd day of March 2017. (SEAL) Clerk by: Jennifer Martinez. (Seal)

Attorney or Petitioner: Joey Savea/
Pasami Lekiana Savea

DATE: March 15, 2017

Published: 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25/2017

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

HCPR NO. 02-17

In the Matter of the Estate of
UKULELE SEUMALO,
Decedent

By: **ELI SEUMALO**
Petitioner

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON
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(PUBLICATION FORM)**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

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 Eli Seumalo for the Estate of Ukulele Seumalo (Deceased) who died on October 17, 2016.

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: January 24, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 3/28, 4/4, 4/11

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Proposed amendment to election law would allow background checks

AG SAYS TOO COSTLY, REP. FAIMEALELEI SAYS PROTECTING INTEGRITY OF HOUSE WORTH IT

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

A proposed amendment to the current election law for candidates in the local House of Representatives and Congressional races has been described by Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale as “too broad”, saying that current statutes are sufficient to address any concerns over candidates with a felony conviction seeking public office.

A provision under the local election law, pertaining to nomination of candidates for the local House of Representatives and the Delegates to the US House, states that the chief election officer shall determine whether the nominated candidates are eligible for election.

However, a bill introduced Mar. 16 and sponsored by Rep. Faimealelei Anthony Allen, would require, the chief election officer to conduct “a thorough criminal background check” of candidates for the local House and Congressional races.

A brief summary of the bill states that it’s an “act mandating the chief election officer to conduct a criminal background check of all electors petitions for candidacy in the races for the [local] House of Representatives and the Delegate-at-Large” — amending one provision of local election law.

A petition nominates candidates for the local House and Congressional races, a form established by the chief election officer, according to another provision of local law.

And during a House Election Committee hearing late last week, committee chairman Rep. Vesi Fautanu Jr., noted that the petition form asked questions for candidates to answer “yes” or “no” and one of the questions is whether the person has been convicted of a felony.

Vesi claims that no candidate would mark “yes”, even if the person has a felony conviction. He said the House bill would give the chief election officer the authority to fully conduct criminal background checks of candidates to ensure no one elected to the local House has a criminal background.

However, Chief Election Officer, Dr. Lealofi Uiagalelei says current law is sufficient in protecting the election process including qualifications of candidates. He said that a review by his office of previous elections indicates that there hasn’t been any problem with the way the current election law stands.

In the hearing, Uiagalelei held up for all to see the petition

form used in the 2016 election, in which there were 46 candidates for the local House race. One of the questions, he said is: “Have you been convicted of a felony?” and were all marked “no” and that’s as far as the authority of the Election Office has in determining eligibility of candidates.

If a candidate marks “yes”, which has not happened in past elections reviewed by the Election Office, Uiagalelei said his office will then take the next step, which includes verifying such information before certification of that candidate for office. Additionally, there are current laws to deal with candidates who falsely claim on their candidate form of not being convicted of a felony.

Talauega agreed with Uiagalelei that there is sufficient protection provided by current law, to address concerns raised by lawmakers so that no one with a felony conviction takes up the post of House faipule. He said conducting a criminal background check is a very difficult task.

And if there is a challenge filed against the eligibility of a candidate, the chief election officer has the right to review it, says Talauega, who added that another provision of the law, also gives the public the right to challenge the eligibility of a candidate, if any member of the public believes that a candidate has a criminal background with a felony conviction.

He says the member of the public can report such claims to the Election Office, which then conducts a further review into the truthfulness of such claims. Additionally, another candidate — running for the same House district — can also challenge his/ her opponent’s candidacy by filing a challenge with the Election Office.

Furthermore, a candidate who provides false claims in the petition form commits a felony crime, under current law, according to Talauega, who reminded lawmakers that under the current statute a person convicted of a felony cannot work in the ASG workforce.

As far as the he is concerned, Talauega said, the current law is sufficient as is, unless lawmakers are aware of a faipule, who has taken up the post in the House, while the individual has committed a felony.

Faimealelei said he’s not questioning any provision of current law. “What I’m trying to do here is another extension” giving the election office another authority to review candidates

seeking a faipule post.

“Does it do any harm” if the bill is enacted into law? Faimealelei asked, and reiterated the importance of protecting the integrity of the House when it comes to candidates who are elected to take up the job of a faipule.

Rep. Vailoata Eteuati Amituana’i followed up on Faimealelei’s question and asked Talauega for a reply if there is “any harm” to the public if the House bill is enacted into law.

First, it’s costly to carryout criminal background, said Talauega, adding second, the language of the amendment “is too broad” on criminal background checks.

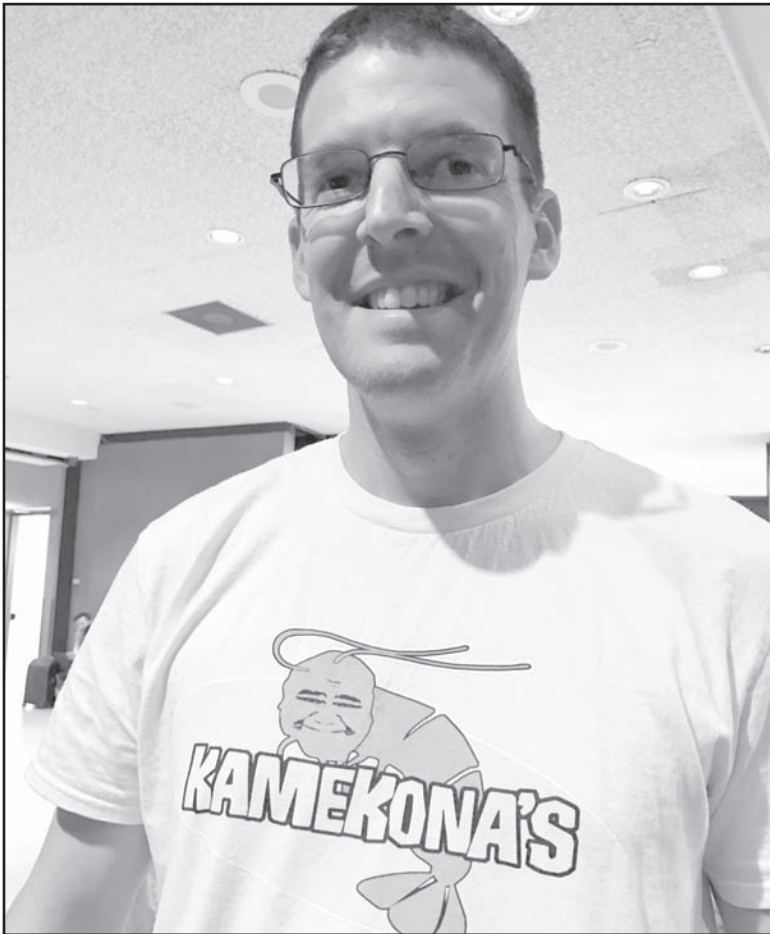
He then said, if the proposed amendment becomes law, the next question is: Would “this be public information?” — the report gathered from the review by the election office.

Talauega stated no one with a felony conviction will run for office and that’s a “guarantee”.

The AG then appeared to suggest changes to be made to the House bill — including that the election office conduct a probe to “confirm” whether a candidate has a felony conviction and a provision that deals with “confidentiality of such information” after the election office review, to protect the candidate’s privacy.

Following the hearing, which lasted just over an hour, the committee opted to hold further discussions on the measure.

Samoa News points out people charged and convicted in federal court have their records available on federal electronic court records. Many state courts also have such information online.



COOL SHOT

Taylor Wily, prominent Samoan heritage Hawaii Five-O actor, now is immortalized with a t-shirt bearing his likeness. This gentleman, a Hawai’i resident, departing from Honolulu International Airport, saw it and said, “I absolutely had to have it.”

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 4/2/17]

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Commissioner of Public Safety: Mission is to restore the “respect and trust in our police officers”

by Joyetter
Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu
Samoa News Reporter

Commissioner of Public Safety Le'i Sonny Thompson is on a mission to restore the “respect and trust in our police officers” and in doing so he has reestablished the Internal Affairs Division; established a Drug Free Work Policy; and will fulfill their oath in accordance with the law and without hesitation.

Responding to Samoa News questions over the weekend following the arrest of police officers with the Juvenile Detention Center, Le'i said “there is nothing in this job more prevalent and has an immediate effect on low morale within the department and most important, betrayal of public trust and confidence, than a bad cop.”

The Commissioner also issues a bold warning to criminals or those involved in criminal activity in the Territory — that the Department of Public Safety will fulfill their duty in accordance to the law “without hesitation”.

Le'i told Samoa News, “I am very proud of becoming the Commissioner of such an elite group of professional men and women. And although they are overworked because of manning authorization and underpaid, the majority of officers are very dedicated and display a great deal of professionalism.”

He pointed out that “like all organizations” there are still a few who are not in compliance and are non-believers, “which gives a bad reputation to the rest.”

According to the Commissioner, “Not everyone can and should be afforded the privilege of being a police officer. It is a way of life; a profession not just a job — the vanguard of law and order; peace and security in our community.”

Le'i has also re-established the Internal Affairs Division that was dismantled by former Commissioner Save Liutao Tuitale.

The Commissioner said that this would ensure that he brings in the ‘best’ to the police force. “To ensure that we recruit the best and keep the best; I have reestablished the Internal Affairs Office to make sure that every police officer, ‘top to bottom’, is aware that any leads from the general public and all alleged violations of the law or engagement in illegal activities both on and off duties will be subject to immediate investigation. And if found substantiated, will result in immediate recommendations for termination and prosecution.”

The Internal Affairs Division is headed by Captain Pierre

Clemens, who previously held this position.

Le'i reiterated the need to restore the public's trust.

“We must restore respect and trust in our police officers. At the same time we are asking those who are engaged in illegal activities — especially drugs which are affecting our youth in schools and threaten peace and order amongst our elders; elected officials; government leaders and the general public etc.; on the highways and our community; and, compromise the safety of our police officers — to “CEASE AND DESIST.”

He said, “Our oath and promise to the general public is ‘TO SERVE AND PROTECT’, and we will fulfill it in accordance with the law and

without hesitation.”

Le'i further stated that DPS is currently waiting on their new ‘Drug Free Work Place Policy’, which is being finalized with the Attorney General's Office.

This core initiative “Drug Free Work Place Policy” is not only a first for DPS, but was also accomplished within 90 days of the new Commissioner's tenure. “This concept is born out of Governor's strategic outlook for the Department and Fono leaders' recommendations during my nomination process. This is a by-product of that wisdom and our long-term strategy to restore public trust and confidence in the Police Force.”



Commissioner of Public Safety Le'i Sonny Thompson says its mission is to restore the “respect and trust in our police officers,” and in our police force.
[File photo SN]

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This Samoa News photo taken on Mar. 30 shows the already repaired back window at the Vocational Rehabilitation (or Voc Rehab) Office building at the government housing complex in Tafuna, across from the Pala Lagoon park.

Voc Rehab senior officials tell Samoa News that their office has suffered “numerous break-ins” and perpetrator or perpetrators “ransacked our offices and stole valuable equipment. They even took our license plates off from our ASG Vehicle and tried to steal it.”

Officials say police have been at their compound many times to take their statements and review the scene, but the break-ins continue.

According to police they are investigating the break-ins and Samoa News has learned there were also break-ins at other ASG offices at the Tafuna housing complex.

For Voc Rehab, the first one was around Mar. 16 and the following day, staff discovered the second break-in when back windows of the building were shattered.

During another break in, “power wash” equipment was stolen — it was for an individual with the Voc Rehab’s Independent Living program. For the break-in on Mar. 20, the perpetrator(s) took a laptop from the supervisor’s office but it was discovered by staff inside the office’s vehicle parked at the office. Of the two back windows that were shattered, each window panel cost \$150 to be replaced and repaired. The last two break-ins, according to staff, were Mar. 27 and Mar. 30. Voc Rehab is hopeful that the police investigation will result in a positive outcome — catching the perpetrator(s).

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Commish: DPS should be contacted first, not parents if student caught with drugs

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Police Commissioner Le’i Sonny Thompson says police should be the first to be contacted if an incident surfaces in schools with students involved in drugs, instead of the school contacting parents first.

Le’i made the statement at yesterday’s Senate joint Education and Government Operation committees hearing, where principals of all public high schools on Tutuila confirmed the drug problem involving students in their respective public high schools.

The Senate hearing followed reports, which reached senators about a recent incident at Fagaitua High School, where students were involved with drugs. Fagaitua High School principal Suaese ‘Butch’ Ta’ase told senators that the case is now in the hands of police.

Le’i told senators that police have completed their investigation and a report has been forwarded to the Attorney General’s Office involving seven students from FHS.

Sen. Galeai M. Tu’ufulu told the hearing that he had spoken with FHS parents, who say that this drug problem in the school has happened many times. Galeai, a former police commissioner, said police should be contacted right away, instead of schools trying to resolve such matters.

Besides Ta’ase, other high school principals present at the nearly two-hour hearing, were Tafuna High School principal Beauty Tuiasosopo, Samoana principal Pata Siatu’u, Leone principal Mataua Aasa Matai and Nu’uuli Vocational Technical principal Tupa’i Rod Atafua.

Sen. Magalei Logovi’i asked all principals if they are facing the same issue as with Fagaitua, and they all said yes, with Tuiasosopo explaining that when she started as a principal, the

problem already existed but not as prevalent, however, it has increased over time.

Tupa’i said that the same problem exists at his high school, but not as much and he suspects it’s because of the school’s small enrollment.

Magalei asked: Is there someone selling drugs to students on campus or students bringing drugs to school? He said, “Somebody is selling the drugs to students,” and questioned Tuiasosopo if such a case has occurred at Tafuna High School.

Tuiasosopo responded that if a student is caught, the school would first contact the parents, and then police. She said principals cannot conduct an investigation, or even search a student’s bag.

However, Le’i said parents should never be contacted first or be involved and police should be contacted first because “these are criminal activities”. Not only police will investigate what has occurred on the school campus, but also find out how drugs made it onto school grounds, he said.

Le’i also said eight police recruits currently attending the police academy, will be assigned to schools upon graduation. “These are ‘uniformed cops’ and a federal grant will pay for their salaries, he said.

Le’i reiterated that police should be contacted right away when a drug issue surfaces on school grounds, and not the parents. “The law shouldn’t be compromised,” he said.

Sen. Tualo Manaia Fruean, a former police commissioner, offered an immediate solution to resolving the drug problem at this point and that is hiring K-9s for school grounds. “This is the immediate solution to addressing this problem that will continue to grow,” he said. Samoa News will report in a future edition on other issues debated during the hearing.



American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: RFP-050-2017
Issuance Date: March 27, 2017

Date & Time Due: April 10, 2017
No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide:

“Forklift Maintenance & Repair Services for School Lunch Program”

SUBMISSION

Original and five copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP: Forklift Maintenance & Repair Services for SLP.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), April 10, 2017:

Office of Procurement
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO

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 Scope of Work outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Office of Procurement, Tafuna, American Samoa, during normal working hours.

REVIEW

Request for Proposal data will be thoroughly reviewed by an appointed Source Evaluation Board under the auspices of the Chief Procurement Officer, Office of Procurement, ASG.

RIGHT OF REJECTION

The American Samoa Government 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 Government or the public.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Illegal trash dumping a problem especially in outer village areas

ISSUING CITATIONS NOT THAT EASY... DESPITE THE NEW LAW

By Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

Littering is a problem that has continuously plagued the territory. Executive Director for the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) Utu Abe Malae agrees, and says, "Littering is still a huge problem in American Samoa because of the bad behavior of some of our people."

Utu oversees the semi-autonomous agency that has been given authority to enforce laws against littering.

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga signed into law the "Keep American Samoa Beautiful Act" late last year, a piece of legislation that Utu says "is still going through the process of training and preparation."

It aims to improve litter enforcement in the territory and authorizes certain government agencies to issue littering citations.

But little has been done to address problems with illegal roadside dumping in areas like Poloa where not too many people pass by to notice.

Residents living in the far out west side villages are now



A look at the piles of trash currently dumped - illegally — on the side of the road in Poloa village. The litter problem in this area has become so bad that passersby are asking, "Out of sight, out of mind?" [photo: BC]

screaming for help, wanting to know which department or agency is in charge of addressing a problem that seems to be spreading like wildfire.

Referring to the Poloa road-

side, one local resident said, "It has become an eye-sore, besides a health hazard. With the implementation of the anti-litter law, my question is, why is nothing being done with this

trash? Obviously, there has been no citation; otherwise, it would have been cleaned up. Is it 'out of sight, out of mind'?"

Samoa News understands that complaints about the area in

question have been reported — often — to the AS-EPA and also the Office of Samoan Affairs, which are two of the seven agencies given authority to issue citations under the Keep American Samoa Beautiful Act that was signed into law October 2016 — but to this day, nothing has been done to address it.

In addition to the Poloa roadside, west side residents have reported an increasing amount of trash being scattered alongside the road in Fagali'i.

KEEP AMERICAN SAMOA BEAUTIFUL ACT

The Keep American Samoa Beautiful Act designates the AS Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) as the lead agency for administrative management, as well as imposing penalties and enforcement fees.

Prior to the signing of the Act, only the Department of Public Safety (DPS) had the authority to enforce laws against littering. But the new law extends the enforcement authority to the AS-EPA, the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), the Department of Health (DOH), the Office of Samoan Affairs,

(Continued on page 9)

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Illegal trash dumping...

Continued from page 7

the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR).

"As we face the known difficulties of sustaining our tuna industry, we must look to other avenues for economic development, one of which is the tourism industry," Lolo wrote in a letter to Senate President Gao-teote Palaie Tofau announcing the signing of the bill into law last October.

Enhancing our litter enforcement capabilities, Lolo continued, "Will help reduce runoff of human generated rubbish into our streams and lagoons, contributing to a healthier ecosystem."

According to data from the AS-EPA, some of the most common types of litter include cigarette butts, bottles, cans, shopping bags, snack food packaging, and take-out (foam) products.

Between February and April 2016, community groups involved in the AS-EPA's "Keep American Samoa Beautiful" program collected a total of 3,223 pounds of litter from various areas across the territory.

The number however does not include the countless pounds of litter collected by the government and private contractors during the same time period.

The legislation points out that "although there are already certain laws that regulate littering in American Samoa, enforcement of these outdated laws has proven inadequate to combat our ever-increasing litter problem. Given the territory's current and projected population growth and development, proactive measures are necessary to address the health and environmental harm caused by the litter epidemic."

Under the Act, "litter" is defined as "rubbish, refuse, waste, materials, garbage, trash, offal, any dead animal, or any debris of any kind or description whether or not it is of value, including improperly discarded paper, metal, plastic, glass, cloth, and any liquid, infectious, or solid wastes."

For the purpose of the Act, "littering" includes "placing, throwing, or dropping litter on public, communal, or private real property, or in any waters of the territory."

Furthermore, "in the case of litter discarded from a moving motor vehicle, the vehicle may only be stopped by law enforcement officers of the Department of Public Safety. The driver of the motor vehicle is responsible for the littering violation."

REACTION FROM ASPA AND AS-EPA

Utua is off island but responded to Samoa News queries via email late last week. According to the ASPA Executive Director, "It takes only a small percentage of the population to behave badly; and like the proverbial fly in the ointment, the entire ointment is ruined. Drive by the freshly

repainted bus shelters and you will see perfectly healthy, cognitively functioning people get up and leave their rubbish on the ground, only several yards away from the trash bin."

He said the issue in Poloa "involves dumping, or the thoughtless drive-by discarding of detritus on other people's property or the common property of the territory: the roadsides."

According to Utua, reports involving items like junk vehicles or solid waste should be reported to the AS-EPA and Department of Health (DOH).

As for enforcement, said Utua, "the best, most prepared enforcers are the police officers."

Ioane Tomanogi, AS-EPA's Solid Waste Division Chief and coordinator of the KASB program confirmed yesterday that their office is aware of the illegal dumping going on in areas like Poloa, but added that

(Continued on page 11)

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The United States flag draped casket of the late former Sen. Fuata Dr. Tagiilima I'atala, during his memorial service on Sunday at the CCCAS church in Amouli, with his children and his wife, Manumanu Sipili I'atala (in white and wearing a hat — far left). Fuata, who enlisted in 1974 in the U.S. Air Force and served for four years, passed away Mar. 3, at the age of 70.

Fuata served in the Senate, representing Saole county, from 2011 to 2012, after the Saole County council selected him to fill the senatorial seat that had been vacated by former Sen. Utu Abe Malae.

During Fuata's memorial service, a Fono approved concurrent resolution was read in which the Fono conveyed its deepest sympathies and sincere condolences, and on behalf of the people of American Samoa, to the widow and the I'atala and Fuata families on Fuata's passing.

The resolution, sponsored by Saole county Sen. Taua'a Saunua Vaouli, also pays the highest tribute to Fuata's life and service to the people of American. Taua'a presented the resolution to Mrs. I'atala.

Despite his new post as a senator, the Fono resolution says that Fuata still maintained his position as Chief of Pediatrics at LBJ Medical Center. "His passion for treating the people of American Samoa was first and foremost in his heart,"

according to the resolution, which provides background of Fuata's education at various institutions of higher education including in Samoa, New Zealand, Fiji and the U.S. The resolution also provided a look into Fuata's many years of working at various jobs, both here and off island — including two years of internship at Lae Hospital and Port Moresby General Hospital in Papua New Guinea. The seven-page resolution, also details Fuata's service to his village, church and community projects with which he was involved.


For 23 years Fuata was a "permanent fixture" at LBJ's Pediatric Department, serving first as acting chief and then as Chief of Pediatrics for the past 16 years. Fuata "was in constant pursuit of educating himself. He used the vast amount of knowledge he had amassed for 40 years to better the quality of life for his family and the people of American Samoa," the resolution points out.

Additionally, LBJ staff will miss Fuata's "sunny disposition in the morning when they would arrive at the LBJ Pediatric Ward, which was accompanied by breakfast for everyone."

Fuata, who was laid to rest yesterday at his home in Amouli, is survived by his wife, nine children and 21 grandchildren.

Samoa News extends condolences to the grieving family.




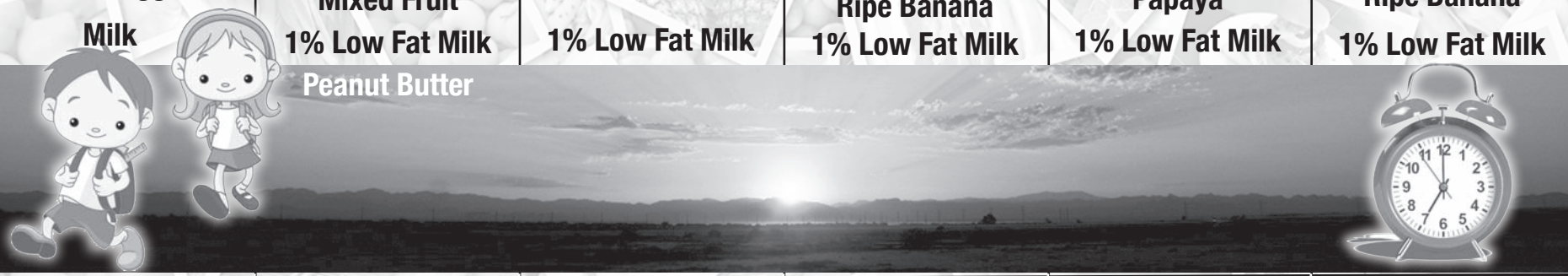


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LUNCH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Grain Meat Fruit /Veggie Milk Extra Condiments	Mashed Potato BBQ Meatballs Apple Steamed Mixed Vegetables 1% Low Fat Milk Bbq Sauce	Brown & White Rice Ham Slice w/Gravy Ripe Banana Steamed Pumpkin 1% Low Fat Milk	Spaghetti With Meat Sauce Papaya Cucumber Sticks 1% Low Fat Milk	Brown &White Rice Beef Chop Suey w/ Peas & Carrots Ripe Banana Taro 1% Low Fat Milk	+Dinner Roll Macaroni & Cheese Papaya Sweet Potato 1% Low Fat Milk



Living by the sword: Carving a niche making warrior blades



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos:Leua)



John Lundemo demonstrates the edge on one of his swords by slicing through a water jug at his workshop in New Hampton, N.Y., Thursday, March 2, 2017. Lundemo says he makes enough from swords for his wife and himself to pay the bills. They're not getting rich, but the work has its benefits. "The cool factor is way up there," he said. "Cool factor 11." (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

NEW HAMPTON, N.Y. (AP) — Through smoke and sparks and staccato banging from his anvil, John Lundemo forges swooping swords that look like they should be pulled from a stone, swung by a samurai or thrust on "Game of Thrones."

The 60-year-old has carved out a niche making pricey blades that are inspired by history but liberally mix in elements of East and West, high art and Hollywood.

"I do tend to add my own flair," Lundemo said in his shop recently. "Making exact copies, I don't do."

While not precisely like the weapons wielded by gladiators or knights, these razor-sharp weapons stretching up to 6 feet long and costing upward of \$3,000 are built to be used — even if it's for slashing milk jugs in the backyard.

Lundemo has been making swords for about three decades, about half that in his workshop 50 miles north of New York City.

The forge, anvil and scalding oil tank speak to his craft. And the posters on the wall for the movies "Gladiator" and "Grindhouse" speak to his ten-

dency to slice and dice details. His \$1,950 "Serenity" sword, for instance, is described online as drawing on classic German, Chinese, Japanese and Swiss designs. But the butt end of the handle, the pommel, was inspired by a sword in the 1993 martial arts movie "The Bride with White Hair."

Movies, specifically the 1974 horror flick "Captain Kronos - Vampire Hunter," sparked Lundemo's sword fascination as a young man. He began buying blades for mock sword fights with his brother. But there were problems with those steel swords.

"I was breaking them all the time. You know, halfway through a sword fight and your sword breaks, it's annoying," he said. "So I started making them."

He forged blades in the back of a New Mexico jewelry shop and later after hours in the upstate New York sign shop where he worked.

Those first swords stunk, he says, but he educated himself on the finer points of edge geometry, metal tempering and distal tapering, which refers to the blade getting thinner from guard to tip.



Illegal trash dumping...

Continued from page 9

it is difficult to bring the perpetrators to justice because those who report the violations never follow through.

"It's hard because once we get the report, we respond and ask the witnesses to come in and make a sworn statement," Tomanogi explained. "They never do."

He said sometimes their office engages in "trash diving" which is basically sorting through trash to find discarded identification cards, mail, letters, or any other items that can identify the culprits.

He said that without signed statements from witnesses, their office cannot issue citations. With regards to the dumping in Poloa, Tomanogi said that because the area is located in a

valley, they are limited in what they can do, because of safety reasons.

He said it is their hope that these 'litter bugs' will be caught and brought to justice. Tomanogi is seeking help from the local community, asking for witnesses to come forward and report those who are responsible for illegal trash dumping.

He said the National Park of American Samoa has installed cameras — one of which is on the Aua pass heading to Afono — to catch litter bugs in the act.

Tomanogi hopes that more cameras can be installed across the territory so the culprits can be caught in the act and ultimately, the surveillance will serve as a deterrent to those who are trashing the island.





‘Boss Baby’ dethrones ‘Beauty and the Beast’ with \$49M debut

NEW YORK (AP) — The taskmaster toddler of “The Boss Baby” dethroned Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast” at the box office with a \$49 million debut, handing its star Alec Baldwin what President Donald Trump might call a “huge” no. 1 opening.

Paramount Pictures suffered another flop with its controversy-plagued “Ghost in the Shell.”

The DreamWorks Animation release from 20th Century Fox, starring Baldwin as a suit-clad baby, narrowly edged out the previous two-week leader, according to studio estimates Sunday. The live-action “Beauty and the Beast” took in \$48 million in its third weekend. Final North American ticket sales will be released Monday.

“We expected a decent

opening. We didn’t expect to be number one,” said Chris Aronson, Fox distribution chief.

Despite the popularity of “Beauty and the Beast” (nearly \$400 million domestically in 17 days, and \$876.3 million globally), “Boss Baby” was able to attract its own family audience.

Aronson credited that partly to the appeal of Baldwin, whose impression of Donald Trump on “Saturday Night Live” has lately been ubiquitous. “Boss Baby” also evokes Baldwin’s old “Glengarry Glen Ross” character with quips like “Cookies are for closers.”

“Alec Baldwin’s voice is recognizable, in general. But he’s so topical now because of some of the other things he’s doing right now,” Aronson said. “It’s a very distinctive voice, and if you put it

on a baby, it’s funny.”

“Ghost in the Shell,” a remake of a classic 1995 Japanese anime film, couldn’t compete with either family-friendly release. The dystopian science-fiction thriller, starring Scarlett Johansson, opened with just \$19 million, a poor showing for a film that cost about \$110 million to make.

Many took issue with the casting of Johansson as the cyborg protagonist who was Japanese in the original, calling it another example of Hollywood “whitewashing.”

“We had hopes for better results domestically. I think the conversation regarding casting impacted the reviews,” said Kyle Davies, domestic distribution chief for Paramount. “You’ve got a movie that is very important to the fanboys since it’s based on a Japanese anime movie. So you’re always trying to thread that needle between honoring the source material and make a movie for a mass audience. That’s challenging, but clearly the reviews didn’t help.”

Audiences appeared to agree with critics, giving the film a mediocre B CinemaScore.

“Ghost in the Shell” will instead hope to find more eager moviegoers in Japan (where the casting controversy has not resonated) and China next weekend. Opening in most other countries this weekend, “Ghosts in the Shell” took in a modest \$40.1 million.

Paramount has recently suffered a string of box-office disappointments. Last week, Viacom Inc. hired former Fox film head Jim Gianopulos to turn around its film division.

In limited release, Focus Features’ “The Zookeeper’s Wife,” starring Jessica Chastain, opened well with \$3.3 million at 541 locations. Based on Diane Ackerman’s non-fiction book, the film is about a woman’s efforts to save Jews during the Holocaust. It will expand next weekend.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “The Boss Baby,” \$49 million (\$36.5 million international).
2. “Beauty and the Beast,” \$48 million. (\$67 million international).
3. “Ghost in the Shell,” \$19 million (\$40.1 million international).
4. “Power Rangers,” \$14.5 million (\$8.1 million international).
5. “Kong: Skull Island,” \$8.8 million (\$34.6 million international).
6. “Logan,” \$6.2 million (\$5.2 million international).
7. “Get Out,” \$5.8 million (\$2.3 million international).
8. “Life,” \$5.6 million (\$6.3 million international).
9. “Chips,” \$4.1 million (\$1.4 million international).
10. “The Zookeeper’s Wife,” \$3.4 million.

This image released by DreamWorks Animation shows characters Tim, voiced by Miles Bakshi, and Boss Baby, voiced by Alec Baldwin in a scene from the animated film, “The Boss Baby.”
(DreamWorks Animation via AP)



American Samoa Power Authority

March 27, 2017

Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

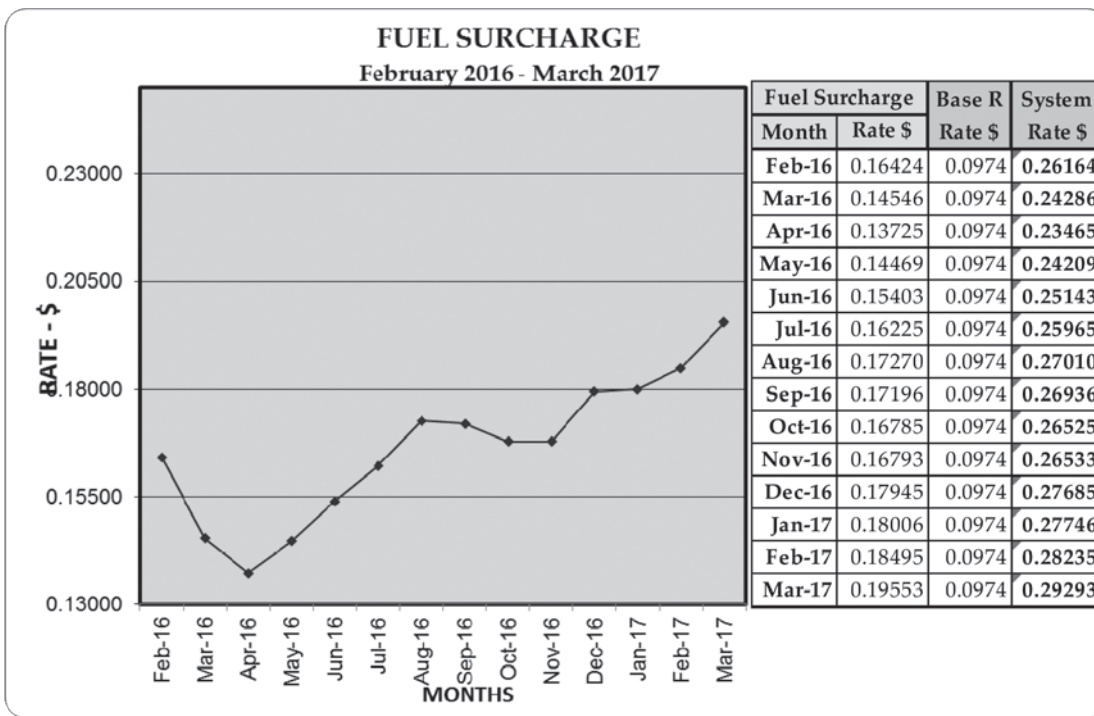
The American Samoa Power Authority is informing its customers about the monthly fuel surcharge rate, which is the direct cost of fuel to generate electricity. The charge for each kilowatt hour (kWh) comprises the “base rate” and the “fuel surcharge rate.”

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

The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is

approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a “pass-through” revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.

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



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

Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for March 2017			
Rate - \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.20129	0.20129	0.20129
Renewable Reduction	-0.00576	-0.00576	-0.00576
Fuel Surcharge	0.19553	0.19553	0.19553
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.10650	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.29293	0.30203	0.28513

The Taema II from the village of Leone soaring into Pago Pago Harbor – just behind the old Rainmaker Hotel point, during rowing practice this past weekend – all part of their preparations for the upcoming fautasi race. Look out for the full story on the Taema II in our Samoa News Fautasi Fever features. [photo: TG]



Another Fautasi Fever feature that'll be coming soon is the Manu Feai the 'FUAO' from the village of Vatia – captain Taliga Vaiolo and the crew as Samoa News will be bringing you the full story about their preparations for this years fautasi race. [photo: TG]



The ISEULAOLEMOANA I during rowing practice this past weekend in preparations for the upcoming Faigamea i le Tai. Look out for the full story on the IseulaOleMoana I & II that'll feature on our Samoa News Fautasi Fever. [photo: TG]



Rowers of the Fealofani Samoa III hanging in there as they execute a combination of power strokes near the finish line point of this years Flag Day Fautasi Regatta – look out for the full story on the Fealofani Samoa III and the village of Fagasa in their preparations for the upcoming fautasi race. [photo: TG]



Atlanta traffic horror: Crews razing fallen highway overpass

ATLANTA (AP) — As crews rushed to clear debris from a major Atlanta interstate span that collapsed in a raging fire, commuters in the Southeast's largest city braced for the first full workweek without the key link to some of the city's biggest suburbs.

Officials pledged after Thursday's collapse of a 350-foot section of Interstate 85 that a replace bridge would be built as soon as possible. But crews were working around the clock again Sunday to finish removing scorched debris from the collapsed northbound span and removing the southbound span weakened by the blaze.

After that, a replacement bridge could take months to build.

The fire was started by a man smoking crack under the bridge in an area north of downtown Atlanta where the state of Georgia stores noncombustible, construction materials, authorities said. It rapidly grew with smoke billowing high above the city's skyline. It didn't take

long before chunks of concrete weakened by the high heat began flying off the bridge, leaving firefighters to scramble away for safety. No one was injured.

Basil Eleby was charged with first-degree arson and first-degree property damage. He remains in jail on a \$200,000 bond. Two other people with him were charged with criminal trespass, authorities said.

The closed section of I-85 is a key link to Atlanta's northern and northeast suburbs. It carries about 400,000 vehicles a day in a city where there are surprisingly few alternative routes for its size.

Friday's commute saw major delays as commuters swamped Atlanta's mass-transit system and other highways. But that was with some schools and a number of nearby offices closed in the immediate aftermath of the fire.

Monday's first normal day since the collapse could provide an even tougher test.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: RFP-048-2017
Issuance Date: March 27, 2017

Date & Time Due: April 10, 2017
No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide:

"Fleet Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Services for School Lunch Program"

SUBMISSION

Original and five copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "RFP: Fleet Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Services for SLP." Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), April 10, 2017:

Office of Procurement
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO

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 Scope of Work outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Office of Procurement, Tafuna, American Samoa, during normal working hours.

REVIEW

Request for Proposal data will be thoroughly reviewed by an appointed Source Evaluation Board under the auspices of the Chief Procurement Officer, Office of Procurement, ASG.

RIGHT OF REJECTION

The American Samoa Government 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 Government or the public.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

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BUSINESS\$ \$ \$ BEAT

Pacific Tires & Auto Parts celebrates One Year Anniversary

By Leiloa Ese Malala
Samoa News Staff Writer

Last Saturday the Pacific Tires & Auto Parts in Tafuna marked its one year anniversary by giving back to the community with prizes from a huge drawing because as Managing Director of Pacific Tires & Auto Parts Howard Afualo said, “It is our customers who helped us grow.”

Prizes included a set of 4 Quality used tires, Pepsi Picnic Set & Drinks, Car Wash for 1 Full Week, Bouncing Castle Rental and a trip to Apia with two nights at the Sheraton Hotel by Co-sponsor KHJ, Pago Pago Trading Company, K & U Family Car Wash, and Xtreme Bounce Rental.

“Ever since we opened in April (last year), we had a tremendous response from the community,” says Afualo.

He added, “I wanted to celebrate this One Year Anniversary to give back to the community for their support. Usually your first year in business is crucial but this has been an amazing

year for us.”

An employee of Pacific Tires said to Samoa News that when the business first opened they started off by selling tires, and they ended up getting committed customers — who enjoyed their services. This led to the business getting equipment to repair, rotate and mount the tires.

According to Afualo, the tires are from off-island and he had someone there that hand-picked them. This is important for the needs of the people — to get the best.

He also said, “We would get containers every 2-3 months and with the increase of customers coming daily we now get our containers every month.”

A regular customer of Pacific Tires who came to change their tire expressed his thanks to company and how it is the only auto shop where the prices really meet his financial needs.

“People do struggle financially on our island and that is a need for us is to meet — help with their financial needs,” said



Happy & loyal customers of Pacific Tires & Auto Parts who came in to get tires changed and to celebrate the one year anniversary last Saturday in Tafuna.

[Photo: Ese Malala]

the Managing Director.

With the celebration of the one year anniversary, Pacific Tires & Auto Parts will be ordering new equipment for tire balancing, wheel alignment and extending its services to 24-hour assistance before the end of this year, as these are the things most customers have asked for.

Location is currently a problem, according to Afualo. “We are looking for an area so we can be closer to the road, because we are far from the front so this is our main aim,

but our initial goal is to serve the people of American Samoa, like I said this is something we are doing to give back to the community.”

Others who were present at the one year anniversary celebration were the American Samoa Handball team U17 boys and girls, which Afualo announced they will be sponsoring for their trip to represent American Samoa at the International Handball Tournament in the Cook Islands next month.

Coach/ President Carl Floor of the Handball Association said, “We are so honored to be able to assist and celebrate the one year anniversary of the Pacific Tires, but more lucky to have them sponsor us.

“We thank the Pacific Tires for this and we look forward to wearing the logo on our uniforms proudly when we go to the Cook Islands. We wish Mr. Howard Afualo and the Pacific Tires all the best with their success!”

Afualo and the Pacific Tires team sincerely would like to thank the people of American Samoa for their support, KHJ and the Pago Pago Trading Company for prizes and strong support, including the K&U family car wash in Mesepa who are always busy washing up to 100 cars a day, and the Xtreme Bounce Rental.

For more information email: pacificauto.ppg@gmail.com or call 731:3660



DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE Project Notification & Review System

Legal Notice PNRS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING April 12, 2017

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

1. **Fono c/o Gaoteote Palaie** 17-4666-L
Proposal for demolition and new construction with utilities - Fagatogo

Persons interested in or affected by a proposed project, are invited to review the project file and provide comments based on environmental issues, by contacting Aokusotino Mao at 633-5155, at the Department of Commerce in Utulei during regular ASG working hours. Public comments must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. Interested individuals are also invited to attend a Public Hearing at 9:00 a.m. **Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at DOC Conference Room, on the 2nd Floor of the Executive Office Building in Utulei.**

O lo'o iai i le Ofisa o Fa'afetauaina ni talosaga mo Pemita e Fa'atagaina ai le Fa'aaogaina o Fanua ma Laualeele e tusa ma ala o le Tulafono. A iai se tasi e fa'asea pe fia tusia se molimau i ni afaina o le si'osi'omaga pe a galueaina nei galuega, telefoni mai ia Aokusotino Mao i le 633-5155. E mafai fo'i ona e auai i le fono a le Komiti Fa'afaoe ia Aperila 12, 2017, i le itula e 9 i le taeao.



Sales Manager Christa Satele of Pago Pago Trading Company who donated a prize in celebration of the one year anniversary for the Pacific Tires & Auto Parts last Saturday in Tafuna.

[Photo: Ese Malala]



Nick Carter, from right, of Backstreet Boys, and from left, Tyler Hubbard, and Brian Kelley, of Florida Georgia Line, perform at the 52nd annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the T-Mobile Arena on Sunday, April 2, 2017, in Las Vegas. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP)

Official: Trump senior adviser Jared Kushner travels to Iraq

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, is visiting Iraq with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, an official said Sunday night.

Details about the trip to the Middle East with Gen. Joseph Dunford were not released. A senior administration official said Kushner wanted to see the situation in Iraq for himself and show support for the Iraqi government. The official wasn’t authorized to speak about confidential meetings by name and demanded anonymity.

Kushner’s West Wing portfolio is robust. He has been deeply involved with presidential staffing, recently launched a task force meant to modernize government using lessons drawn from the private sector, and has played the role of shadow diplomat, advising on relations with the Middle East, Canada and Mexico.

And though Kushner had no previous diplomatic or government experience, Trump also tasked him with trying to broker a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

“If you can’t produce peace in the Middle East, nobody can,” Trump told Kushner at a gala a few days before his inauguration.

Kushner was also the latest Trump associate to be swept up into the ongoing probe into contacts with Russian officials. The White House confirmed last week that he had volunteered to be interviewed by the Senate intelligence committee. North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr, the committee’s chairman, said that Kushner would likely be under oath and would submit to a “private interview” about arranging meetings with the Russian ambassador and other officials.

Kushner is married to Trump’s oldest daughter, Ivanka. He was expected to have a major role in meetings later this week between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Trump’s winter retreat in Palm Beach, Florida.

The Iraq trip was first reported by The New York Times.

Kushner’s trip began against a backdrop of an ongoing investigation into civilian deaths in an area of Mosul near the site of an air-strike by U.S.-led coalition forces last month.

His visit marked an early foray for the Trump administration into the situation in Iraq and came just two weeks after Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said he was assured by the president the U.S. will accelerate its support for his country’s struggle against the Islamic State group.

Al-Abadi met with Trump and Kushner in Washington last month and said he had the impression that the Trump administration would take a more aggressive approach, although he did not say what that might entail.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis recently presented Trump with the outlines of a comprehensive approach to defeating IS and other extremist groups on a global scale, but specifics have yet to be worked out. Officials have indicated that the approach is unlikely to depart radically from the Obama administration’s strategy, at least with regard to ongoing efforts in Iraq and Syria.

Aldean wins top prize, Backstreet Boys shine at ACM Awards

Mesfin Fekadu, AP Music Writer

Florida Georgia Line may have lost entertainer of the year to Jason Aldean, but the country duo owned the Academy of Country Music Awards, thanks to some help from the Backstreet Boys.

The boy band brought the audience to its feet at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas on Sunday night, singing their anthemic classic “Everybody (Backstreets Back),” and getting fans such as Carrie Underwood, Nicole Kidman, Tim McGraw and others out of their seats to sing and dance along.

The audience grew even louder as the Florida Georgia Line members danced some of the memorable choreography alongside the five Backstreet Boys. FGL, which performed three times during the three-hour show, also sang its duet with the Backstreet Boys — “God, Your Mama and Me” — before bringing up the high energy.

They also won two awards: single record of the year for “H.O.L.Y.” and music event of the year for “May We All” with McGraw.

The duo helped kick off the ACM Awards, which started with separate performances full of energy, including a tribute to Chuck Berry featuring Joe Walsh, Luke Bryan and Dierks Bentley. The trio performed “Johnny B. Goode” as audience members got out of their seats.

“For the man that influenced every form of music, including country,” said Bryan of Berry, who died last month.

Before that, all of the nominees for entertainer of the year sang their recent hits. A good number of the performers sang more than once during the show on CBS, including Bryan, Underwood, Keith Urban, Bentley, Maren Morris and Aldean, who won entertainer

of the year for a second straight year.

“Man, one of the Eagles just gave me an award,” he said, looking to Walsh. “I am so thankful. You guys don’t know how much I love getting up and doing what I do every day.”

Urban, who had success with his genre-bending, Grammy-nominated album “Ripcord,” was the top nominee with seven, though he walked away empty-handed.

But he shined onstage when he sang the soulful “Blue Ain’t Your Color” with a throwback, black-and-white vibe, while the back of the stage was smoky and bright blue. As he switched to the upbeat, disco-flavored “The Fighter” — where he was joined by Underwood — the camera focused on his actress-wife, who sang and danced along.

Miranda Lambert also had a top-notch performance: She earned a standing ovation after she sang the slow, acoustic-sounding “Tin Man” as the crowd watched along seriously while she hit all the right notes and strummed her guitar.

She won album of the year for her double disc, “The Weight of These Wings,” and female vocalist of the year, beating Underwood, whom she hugged after hearing her name called.

“Carrie can sing me under the table. We’ve agreed on that,” she said onstage. “And I’m glad to see females kicking (butt) these days. I’m so proud to be a part of that. So cheers to all of us girls out there.”

The night featured comedy, including a play off the Academy Awards mishap during the best picture winner announcement in February.

“This is odd. David?” asked “Entertainment Tonight” host Nancy O’Dell while holding the card with the name of the song of the year winner.

“Emma Stone, ‘La La Land,’” David Copperfield announced, as the audience laughed.

The real winner was Thomas Rhett for “Die a Happy Man.”

Rhett also won male vocalist of the year, beating out Urban, Aldean, Bentley and Chris Stapleton. In his seat, he shook his head after his name was announced.

“I don’t have a whole lot of words except for: Everyone in this category are my idols,” said Rhett, who was teary-eyed and paused throughout his speech. “This is the most amazing award that I’ve ever received in my whole existence.”



American Samoa Government
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



PUBLIC NOTICE

The American Samoa Department of Health Early Intervention Program “Helping Hands” would like to inform the public that the Annual State Application under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as amended in 2004 for Federal Fiscal Year 2017 is available for public comment for a period of 60 days.

A copy of the document is available to review at the DOH Helping Hands Office in Fagaima and is also available for review on the Helping Hands Early Intervention Program website www.helpinghands-as.org.

Please call the DOH Helping Hands office at 699-4990 if you have any questions regarding this public notice.

Signed,

Ruth Te’o, DOH Part C Coordinator



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East Side - Thursday April 06, 2017

Time	Location
9am	Skyview, Fagaitua
10am	JS Mart, Lauli
11am	TM Inc, Pago Pago
12pm	ABC Store, Fagatogo
1pm	Young Mart, Faagalu
2pm	Mu Store, Faagalu
3pm	Tony Ocean Mart, Nu'uuli
4pm	Ocean Star, Nu'uuli

West Side - Thursday April 07, 2017

Time	Location
9am	Kruse Store, Leone
10am	Canton Store, Leone
11am	US Market, Futiga
12pm	New Store, Pavaiai
1pm	LYC, Malaeimi
2pm	KS Mart, Tafuna
3pm	McDonald's, Tafuna
4pm	TM Laundromat, Nu'uuli



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