

High Court rules Barry Rose and MWS Rose can continue to... 2

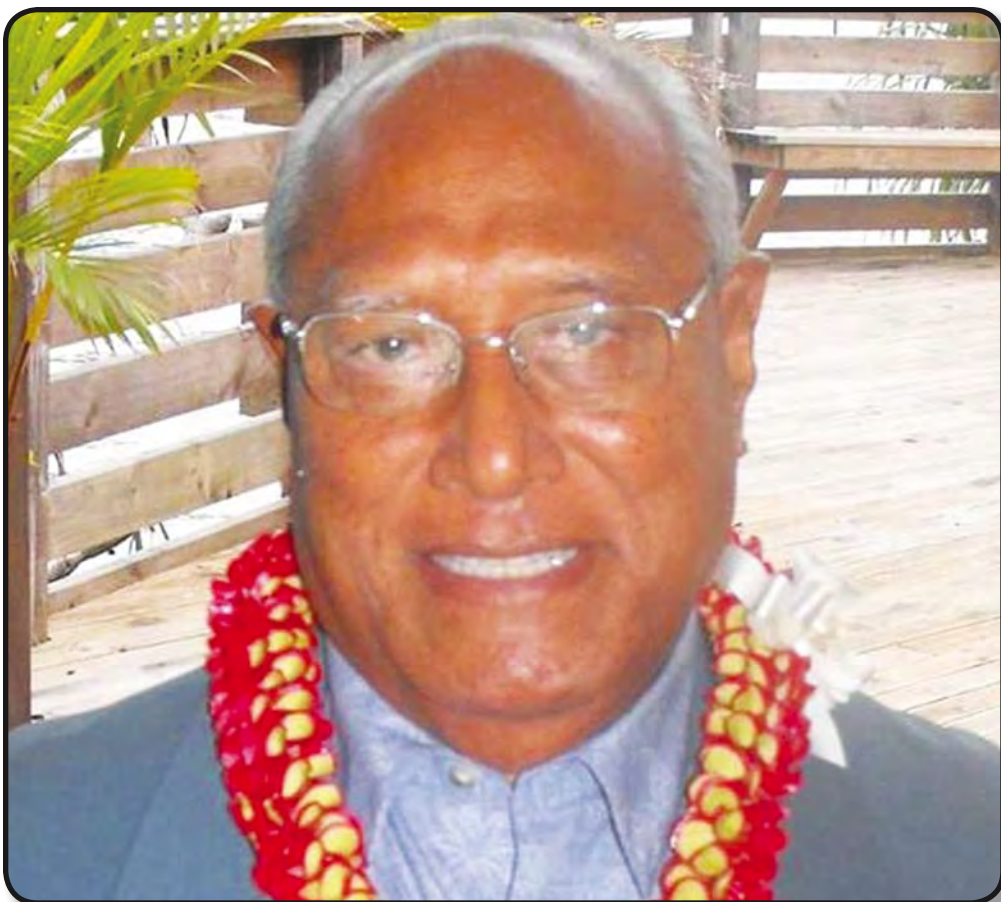
Drug cases dominate court calendar last Friday 3

A second look at cost of shipping vehicle to Manua 5

Tatala Maota Tele o le Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi o Amerika Samoa 9

Well-known American Samoan church minister Reverend Elder Siaosi Mageo passed away last Friday. At the time of his passing he had spent 53 years as the pastor of the Calvary Temple in Lepuapua. The charismatic preacher was a regular on both local TV and radio and renowned for his humorous but piercing sermons. Samoa News offers its condolences to the family. See story inside for more details.

[photo: supplied by RNZI]



ONLINE @ SAMOANEWS.COM

samoa news

PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

\$1.00



FIALUPE FELILA FIAUI LUTU SWORN IN AS NEWEST FAIPULE

The newest faipule for the House of Representatives, Fialupe Felila Fiaui Lutu (middle), pictured with secretary to the House Speaker, Aliti Taliva'a, and the Senate's chief of personnel, Ata Gaoteote on Monday afternoon following the closing of the Fono joint session for the 3rd regular session of the 35th Legislature.

Rep. Lutu took the oath of office earlier in the day in the House chamber.

Lutu won the special election held Oct. 24, 2017 for House of Representatives District #5, Sua #1 — comprised of Fagaitua, Amaua, Auto, Avaio, Alega, Aumi and Laulii.

Lutu, who served as Chief Clerk of the House for more than a decade, fills the seat left vacant after Pulele'iite Li'a Tufele, Jr. stepped down to take on his new post as CEO of the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA).

Lutu becomes the third female lawmaker in the Fono, and the second female faipule in the House, joining Rep. Vui Florence Saulo. The lone female in the senate is Sen. Fonoti Tafaiifa Aufata.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Governor describes financial environment for 2018 as "discouraging"

by Samoa News Staff

The 3rd session of the 35th Legislature opened this past Monday at the Fale Laumei and pursuant to prevailing statute, Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga reported on the "successes and failures with respect to the implementation of programs in 2017 to move the territory forward," during his State of the Territory Address.

There are two documents of the address. There is one 5 pages long, and another 94 pages long. Both are in English, and both were made available to the faipule and senators.

The longer version is a comprehensive report on all of the administration's accomplishments, struggles and shortfalls; and is to be sent to the US Congress.

The governor presented the shorter version orally in the Samoan language on Monday. It contained discussions and documentation of "the salient outcomes and constraints experienced during the 2017 operating year," according to Lolo.

Lolo said the prevailing social, economic, and political landscape influences actions that are taken.

For example, he said financial performance fell short of expectations because of corporate challenges, which interrupted and substantially delayed the importation of cigarettes, which in turn caused a shortfall of \$6 million in excise tax revenues for FY 2017.

Furthermore, "The lingering negative financial effect of 700 instant job terminations by Samoa Tuna Processing at the close of 2016, along with residual job loss in the private sector, dampened consumption in 2017 and caused business sales' retraction in corporate and individual taxes by \$5.1 million."

MONEY MATTERS

According to Lolo, actual revenue collections fell short of revenue forecasts by \$16,541,108 (FY 2017 revenue forecast was \$108,162,500, but actual received was \$91,621,392).

"Government spending of \$91,593,689 was also below budget by \$17,040,811 actual spending versus FY 2017 budget, thus generating a positive balance at the close of FY 2017 of \$27,703," Lolo continued.

He said the majority of planned programs for FY 2017 was scaled down to not incur a deficit.

"We are fully aware of the economic and social consequences of our decision to scale back government activities, but it is more important for us to demonstrate that we have the will power and the fortitude to make tough decisions," he said.

(Continued on page 7)





American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB-2460-18

Issuance Date: January 9, 2018
Closing Date: January 19, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

1. **INVITATION**

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide Towing Vehicles “Truck II” for the Department of Port Administration (ARFF).

2. **RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS**

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 10:00a.m. (local time), Friday, January 19, 2018 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. **BID DOCUMENTS**

Bid documents, including Specifications, may be examined at the Office of Procurement or obtained there from free of charge during normal hours of operation.

4. **CONDITIONS**

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to:

- not accept the lowest or any bid.
- reject all bids and reissue and amended IFB.
- request additional information from any bidder submitting a bid.
- waive any informalities in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action

High Court rules Barry Rose and MWS Rose can continue to represent Aoe’e

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Based on a High Court ruling, local attorney Barry Rose and the law firm Mooney Wieland Smith & Rose PLLC (MWS Rose) can continue to represent Aoe’e Adolfo Montenegro, who is suing his former employer, Bluesky Communications.

The court’s decision was handed down last October, after AST Telecom LLC (ASTT), dba, Bluesky Communications filed a motion to disqualify Rose and MWS Rose from representing Aoe’e, in his twenty-five count complaint against ASTT and its owner, eLandia International and two defendants, who are based in Spain.

Aoe’e and his company ACMA Management Consulting Inc., filed the lawsuit last May and six causes of action for the lawsuit are against ASTT, which along with the rest of the defendants were represented by RDA Law Firm American Samoa.

Rose was the main partner in the law firm of Rose, Joneson & Vargas (RJV) until its merger with an Idaho law firm, creating MWS Rose.

Rose and RJV had represented ASTT (Bluesky) for many years.

RDA Law Firm argued that MWS Rose representing the plaintiff is prohibited by the American Bar Association’s Model Rules of Professional Conduct (MRPC) as it’s clearly a conflict of interest.

The court’s 34-page decision, signed by Chief Justice Michael Kruse and Associate Judges Fa’amausili P. Pomele and Muasau T. Tofili, summarized the Aoe’e complaint, the several motions already filed in court on the case, including the motion to disqualify Rose and the MWS Rose Firm.

The court said this case, as both parties argued during the hearing, resonates in a jurisdiction with a small bar association and a similarly small core of attorneys.

It also pointed out, “...the appearance of impropriety is no longer the standard for motions to disqualify attorneys under MRPC.”

ROSE’S CONNECTIONS TO ASTT ARE NOT RELEVANT

Regarding Rose’s role as a founding officer and president of ASTT, the judges said ASTT seemed to include these connections to emphasize Rose’s responsibility to protect the company’s confidential information.

In those capacities, the court points out that Rose’s time in a position of authority at ASTT “did not overlap with any of the actions the company took that are relevant to the present lawsuit.”

According to the court, Rose resigned as ASTT president

and as trustee of the company’s 401K Profit Sharing Plan in April of 2008 and Aoe’e took over as CEO. Rose ceased all involvement in management, business decisions, and day-to-day operation of ASTT and his “past role as an investor” ended in 2008.

Therefore, said the court, the decisions Rose made, as president, have no bearing on the issues in this case.

DISQUALIFIED AS PLAINTIFFS ATTORNEYS

“On the surface, it would seem clear that after more than a decade of legal representation for a myriad of legal issues, Rose and his law firm should be disqualified,” the judges wrote. “However, upon closer inspection of the evidence before us, we cannot find that the competing interests weigh in favor of disqualification.”

According to the judges, whatever general knowledge of ASTT’s policies and practices Rose “may have gleaned as their attorney over the years, we find no evidence that they include specific facts relevant to the matter in question.”

The judges said ASTT did not meet its burden of establishing a substantial relationship between prior matters for which Rose served as an attorney for ASTT and the instant matter, or that confidential information that would give plaintiffs in this case an advantage has been passed on to Rose or MWS Rose law firm.

The judges also state that Rose has never been house counsel for ASTT, no matter how many matters he and RJV represented ASTT for, which is a significant difference because RJV did not have “management supervision of the legal aspects of every transaction” of ASTT “even when outside counsel were also involved.”

Rose and RJV also didn’t write the Management Agreement at issue here, the court said, nor did they consult, edit, or write the Supply Fee Agreement, and it noted that neither Rose nor RJV represented ASTT on any of the matters at issue in this case.

“With the evidence before us, we are unable to say that disqualification [of Rose] is merited,” the judges wrote.

IT IS NOT A TACTICAL MOTION, THE COURT SAYS TO MWS ROSE

The judges, however, took issue with Plaintiff’s motion arguing that this is a “tactical motion” by the defendants and “an attempt to mislead the court”. The judges said this argument “is taken with a large grain of salt”

For example, the judges point out that MWS Rose — as RJV — was intimately connected with ASTT and although ASTT ceased being a client

(Continued on page 12)



AMERIKA SAMOA HUMANITIES COUNCIL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Amerika Samoa Humanities Council is opening its Grant Program for the public non-profit organizations and public institutions in the Territory to submit program proposals. Applicants must employ important and thoughtful approaches to disseminate knowledge and information to our communities from those aspects of the social sciences that can apply to everyday lives. Program themes should focus on goals that would support the ASHC program theme of “Re-Imagining the American Samoa Dream”.

Two Deadlines are scheduled for this year:

- February 2, 2018
- August 31, 2018

For more information please contact our Office at 633-4870 or 258-2384.

FAASILASILAGA FAALAU’ITELE

Ua tatala avanoa o Polokalama Faatupe a le Amerika Samoa Humanities Council mo sosaiete faitele ma faalapopotoga mo tagata uma e faaulu atu ai talosaga mo polokalama o lenei tausaga. E ao ina fa’aaoga auala poo faiga e matua lelei ma atoatoa e a’oa’o ai ma faasoa atu le poto ma faamatalaga aoga i tagata nuu, e faatatau i mataupu e sailiilia le soifua lautele i aso faisoo. O sini ma autu o polokalama e faaulu mai e tataua ona tulimata’i le autu ua faataoto mai e le Komiti Faafoe ua faapea: “Toe Afua Se Taeao o le Li’a a Amerika Samoa”.

E lua aso faatulagaina e faamuta ai le talia o pepa talsosaga mo lenei tausaga faalegaluega:

- Fepuari 2, 2018
- Aukuso 31, 2018

Mo nisi faamatalaga faafesoota’i mai le Ofisa: 633-4870, 254-2384

This ad is paid for by the Amerika Samoa Humanities Council, the local affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Drug cases dominate court calendar last Friday

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Four drug cases were on high court's calendar last Friday. One was granted a continuance, while three were heard by Chief Justice Michael Kruse.

GALU NOFOA AND IOSEFA ALO

One of the two defendants in a drug case that surfaced last year and led to two Tafuna High School students being taken into custody, has pled 'not guilty' to one count of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance — marijuana.

Galu Nofoa, who remains in custody unable to post bail, appeared in High Court last Friday for a change of plea hearing, where Assistant Attorney General Kristy Dunn read the plea agreement reached between the government and defense.

Under the agreement, Nofoa admitted that around Oct. 5, 2017 he "gave marijuana to J.M., [a] minor."

Chief Justice Kruse asked the defendant how much marijuana he gave to the minor and the defendant responded, "one cigarette." Both the government and defense have recommended a probative sentence, which includes 50-year-old Nofoa being deported and remaining outside of the territory during his probation period.

The defendant, represented by Public Defender Douglas Fiaui, is aware that the final decision rests with the court.

Unlawful distribution of a

controlled substance is a felony punishable by not more than 20 years imprisonment, not more than a \$20,000 fine, or both, according to local law.

Kruse said that because the case involves a minor, a pre-sentence report is required from the Probation Office and sentencing is set for Feb. 9th.

Nofoa's case is being prosecuted separately from co-defendant, Iosefa Alo, who was a public elementary school teacher at the time of his arrest and remains in custody unable to post bail.

Alo also appeared last Friday in High Court for a pre-trial conference hearing, where his attorney informed the court that the defense has received discovery in the case and requested a two-week continuance to allow both sides to continue discussions, as a resolution is yet to be reached.

The court granted the continuance to Jan. 19th.

Alo is facing one felony count of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance - methamphetamine. According to the government, an official from Tafuna HS contacted the Tafuna police sub-station to report that two students were found to be in possession of a glass pipe. The pair, who were observed by a school security guard smoking something, were taken to the office for questioning.

A glass pipe containing a crystal-like substance and a lighter wrapped in a red shirt were discovered in a bag

belonging to one of the two students, C.K, who allegedly told police that he smoked ice with Alo on Oct. 4th inside an out-house near the teacher's home in Lau'i'i.

The other student, J.M., allegedly told police that he received marijuana from his uncle Galu Nofoa on the night of Oct. 5th, and he brought it to school the following day and smoked it.

STOWERS AND TUI

Two other drug cases on the court calendar last Friday included the sentencing hearing for Falaniko Stowers, a.k.a, Nicole, who was convicted last month by a jury, of unlawful possession of crystal methamphetamine.

Kruse continued the matter to Jan. 19th because Associate Judges Muasau T. Tofili and Fa'amausili P. Pomele — who assisted him on the bench during the trial — are both off island attending judicial education.

Sonny Tui, who was an Education Department employee at the time of his arrest last December, pled 'not guilty' during his arraignment and his pre-trial conference is set for Feb. 9th. Tui, who remains in custody unable to post bail, is charged with three felony counts of unlawful possession of a controlled substance — crystal methamphetamine; unlawful possession of a controlled substance with the intent to distribute; and authorizing illegal drugs to enter American Samoa.

FOR SALE
2016 TOYOTA TACOMA DOUBLE CAB
• Less than 4,000 miles
• perfect condition
• rear view camera
• bluetooth
\$28,000
Call 258-2100
Email: contact@mwsrose.com



FA'AALIGA

Ta'oto ia paia o le atunu'u, paia o le malo, ma paia o le Atua ma Lana talalelei. Ae maise fo'i pa'ia o le **Aiga Sa ASOAU**.

Ae o se fa'aaliga fa'avave ina ia pupula ma malamalama e tusa ai i le fa'asalalauga o lo'o fuafua mo le **Aiga Sa Asoau** mo se talanoaga i Falesao, Manu'a i le aso 13 o Ianuari, 2018.

Ua iai le manatu o le aiga, e tu'u le talanoaga i le Aso To'ona'i muamua o Me (Me 5, 2018) i Faleasao, Manu'a, i le alofa o le Atua pe a tatou aulia.

Faia ma le ava tele e tatau ai, **Sainia;**

Faletoa Manino Alailefaleula
Tamasoaali'i Joe Tufa
Alailefaleula Penieli Tela
Aoina Asoau Levao
Maugaoao Alailefaleula
Malaetele Tilai'a
Moelegaoi Siulaga
Ofisa Asoau
To'oto'o Anoa'i
Sa'o Vaga
Tuisali'a Toia Jr.
Elizabeth Leasiolagi
Li'atama J. Alailefaleula

Man arrested after chase now charged with killing his mother



Court records show 30-year-old Tosten Walsh Lommen was charged Monday in Riverside County in the death of his mother, 58-year-old Michelle Walsh.

The Rapid City Journal in South Dakota reports that authorities allege Lommen killed his mother sometime around Dec. 30. Investigators believe both were living in Walsh's home in Palm Springs, California.

Authorities say South Dakota troopers discovered Walsh's body in the back of the sport utility vehicle that Lommen was driving after he was arrested following a Jan. 1 chase on Interstate 90. He remains jailed in South Dakota on charges of eluding authorities and drunken driving.

California authorities plan to seek Lommen's extradition. It's unclear if he has an attorney who could comment.

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man arrested after a South Dakota chase in which authorities say his mother's body was found in the SUV he was driving is now charged with murder in California.



DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE Project Notification & Review System **Legal Notice** **PNRS BOARD MEETING** **January 17, 2018**

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

1. **FSFPC c/o Albert M. Toeaina**17-5054-L
Proposal for demolition, repair, extension, filling, walls and fences - Afono
2. **SSAB Pago Inc. c/o Jody Toleafoa**17-5055-LVB
Proposal for billboard Sign - Tafuna
3. **ASPA c/o Katrina Mariner**.....17-4968-L
Federal Consistency Certification and construction of a new water well - Aunu'u

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, January 16, 2018. Interested individuals are also invited to attend a **Public Hearing at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday January 17, 2018 at DOC Conference Room, on the 2nd Floor of the Executive Office Building in Utulei.**

O lo'o iai i le Ofisa o Fa'afetauaina ni talosaga mo Pemitā e Fa'atagaina ai le Fa'aaogaina o Fanua ma Laualeele e tusa ma ala o le Tulafono. A iai se tasi e fa'asea pe fia tusia se molimau i ni afaina o le si'osi'omaga pe a galueaina nei galuega, telefoni mai ia Aokusotino Mao i le 633-5155. E mafai fo'i ona e auai i le fono a le Komiti Fa'afaoe ia **Ianuari 17, 2018 ile itula e 9 i le taeao.**

13 dead in Southern California as rain triggers mudslides

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP) — At least 13 people were killed and dozens of homes were swept away or heavily damaged Tuesday as downpours sent mud and boulders roaring down hills stripped of vegetation by a gigantic wildfire that raged in Southern California last month. Helicopters were used to pluck more than 50 people from rooftops because downed trees and power lines blocked roads, and dozens more were rescued on the ground, including a mud-caked 14-year-old girl pulled from a collapsed Montecito home where she had been trapped for hours.

“I thought I was dead for a minute there,” the dazed girl could be heard saying on video posted by KNBC-TV before she was taken away on a stretcher.

Most deaths were believed to have occurred in Montecito, a wealthy enclave of about 9,000 people northwest of Los Angeles that is home to such celebrities as Oprah Winfrey, Rob Lowe and Ellen DeGeneres, said Santa Barbara County spokesman David Villalobos. Twenty people were hospitalized and four were described as “severely critical” by Dr. Brett Wilson of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

An unknown number were unaccounted for and authorities were trying to determine if they were missing or just hadn’t contacted family members.

The search for survivors continued into the evening, though Wilson noted that their conditions would deteriorate if they got wet.

The mud was unleashed in the dead of night by flash flooding in the steep, fire-scarred Santa Ynez Mountains. Burned-over zones are especially susceptible to destructive mudslides because scorched earth doesn’t absorb water well and the land is easily eroded when there are no shrubs.

The torrent arrived suddenly and with a sound some likened to a freight train as water carrying rocks and trees washed away cars and trashed homes, smashing some into piles of lumber and filling others waist-deep in mud.

“It looked like a World War I battlefield,” Santa Barbara Sheriff Bill Brown said. “It was literally a carpet of mud and debris everywhere with huge boulders, rocks, downed trees, power lines, wrecked cars, lots of obstacles and challenges for rescue personnel to get to homes, let alone to get people out of them.”

Thomas Tighe said he stepped outside his Montecito home in the middle of the night and heard “a deep rumbling, an ominous sound I knew was ... boulders moving as the mud

was rising.”

Two cars were missing from his driveway and he watched two others slowly move sideways down the middle of the street “in a river of mud.”

In daylight, Tighe was shocked to see a body pinned by muck against his neighbor’s home. He wasn’t sure who it was.

Authorities had been bracing for the possibility of catastrophic flooding because of heavy rain in the forecast for the first time in 10 months.

Evacuations were ordered beneath recently burned areas of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. But only an estimated 10 to 15 percent of people in a mandatory evacuation area of Santa Barbara County heeded the warning, authorities said.

Marshall Miller, who evacuated his home in Montecito on Monday with his family, returned to check for damage and found his neighborhood devastated. He never reached his home because two of his neighbors, an elderly woman and her adult daughter, needed a lift to the hospital after being rescued by firefighters.

The pair had left their house before it was inundated with 6 feet (1.8 meters) of mud, but they got trapped outside in the deep sludge and were shivering from the cold. “It was sobering,” Miller said. The path of the deluge was graphically illustrated on the front of a white colonial-style house, where a dark gray stain created a wavy pattern running the length of the house halfway up the front windows. Aerial footage above Montecito showed what appeared to be a mud river flowing through town. In fact, it was U.S. Highway 101, the link connecting Ventura and Santa Barbara, covered with trees and other debris and expected to be closed for two days.

Some of the worst damage was on Montecito’s Hot Springs Road, where the unidentified girl was rescued and residents had been under a voluntary evacuation warning. Large boulders were washed out of a previously dry creek bed and scattered across the road.

A rescuer working with a search dog walked among the ruins of a house as the yellow Labrador wagged its tail and scrambled into a destroyed building, looking for anyone trapped inside. Its belly and paws were black from the mud.

The worst of the rainfall occurred in a 15-minute span starting at 3:30 a.m. Montecito got more than a half-inch in five minutes, while Carpinteria received nearly an inch in 15 minutes.

Leaders of American Samoa offer condolences on the passing of LDS president Thomas S. Monson

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga and US Congresswoman Aumua Amata have released statements of condolences, calling the passing of Thomas S. Monson, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a sad day for American Samoa and the world.

THE GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA

Press Release — Governor’s Office — January 3, 2018 — We are profoundly saddened by the news of the passing of Thomas S. Monson, President of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

The footprint of the Mormon Church in American Samoa is clearly evident by its increasing members and by its commitment to its culture of service, not only to the American Samoa Government and families, but also to individuals who are victims of disasters or unfortunate life circumstances.

It is quite apparent that the overall teachings and be-attitudes of the Church are reflected in the daily actions of its members.

My first experience with the Mormon Church’s culture of service was in 2013, when I met and struck a warm and strong friendship with Honorable Gary Herbert, the Governor of Utah when I attended my first National Governor’s meeting in Washington D.C.

The disclosure by the Bank of Hawaii of its departure weighed heavily on my mind and I shared it with Governor Herbert. Without any hesitation he invited me to come to Utah to find a solution to our banking predicament.

He immediately reached out to his network, comprising Church members who were in leadership positions on the Federal Reserve Board and the banking industry. He also enlisted the support of Utah’s Congressional delegation, led by Honorable Senator Orrin Hatch.

The continued presence of Bank of Hawaii along with its commitment to remain until we found a replacement bank is the result of the assistance we received from the powerful and compassionate members of the Church, affirming its culture of service.

The positive progress we made in obtaining our routing number and Federal Reserve account is attributed to the meeting held with Mr. Quarles, Vice President of the Federal Reserve Board, who is also a Church member.

Clearly, the doctrine of “service” embraced by the Mormon Church and vehemently articulated by President Thomas S. Monson is rooted deeply in the hearts of every member of the Church.

On behalf of the people and government of American Samoa, I extend to all the leadership and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints our condolences over the passing of a great spiritual leader, who led with his heart and followed the teachings of Jesus Christ.

US CONGRESSWOMAN AUMUA AMATA

PRESS RELEASE — Washington, D.C. — Tuesday, January 9, 2018 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata released a statement honoring the life and ministry of Thomas S. Monson, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints:

“I was saddened to hear of the passing of President Thomas S. Monson last week. He dedicated a lifetime to his ministry, and will be remembered in high regard for many years of exceptional service.

“For so many in American Samoa, he was a revered leader whose influence and legacy will go forward in the years ahead.

“At the invitation of Bishop Su’a and Salote Schuster a few years ago I attended a General Conference in Salt Lake City where I was privileged to hear President Monson speak. It was a special moment in my life to hear this great man.

“He was a strong advocate for goodness and kindness and charity — qualities that every person of faith can cherish.

“My condolences to everyone, whether in American Samoa, Utah, elsewhere in the U.S., and across the world, as they remember this exceptional life and continue his work. May God bless each of you,” she concluded.



In this photo provided by Santa Barbara County Fire Department, firefighters successfully rescue a 14-year-old girl, right, after she was trapped for hours inside a destroyed home in Montecito, Calif., Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018. Dozens of homes were swept away or heavily damaged and several people were killed Tuesday as downpours sent mud and boulders roaring down hills stripped of vegetation by a gigantic wildfire that raged in Southern California last month.

(Mike Eliason/Santa Barbara County Fire Department via AP)

A second look at cost of shipping vehicle to Manu'a

— IT'S CHEAPER THAN 2012 COST
DOESN'T BEAT 2013- 2016 — IT WAS FREE

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent
Prior to the Lolo and Lemanu Administration, the cost of shipping a vehicle on the MV Sili from Tutuila to Manu'a was \$250 one-way, says Port Administration director, Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Tuia Poumele, who acknowledged that shipping to Manu'a had been free between 2013 and 2016.

As reported by Samoa News last Friday, a Port Administration Dec. 13, 2017 general public memo signed by Taimalelagi and posted at the Port facility, notes that effective Jan. 2, 2018, the new rate to ship any private vehicle "one-way between Pago Pago and Manu'a wharves will increase from \$135 to \$200."

According to the memo, the high demand for more service deliveries across the board, and most importantly the frequent travel of passengers has created additional trips for Manu'a. "This has made it eminent to thoroughly review this fee and increase accordingly," it says.

The rate hike didn't sit well with some Manu'a residents, and House Vice Speaker Fetu Fetui Jr., said he would inquire with Port regarding the new rate.

Responding to Samoa News inquiries, Taimalelagi said this week that the fee to transport a vehicle in 2012 — prior to the current administration — on the MV Sili was \$250 one-way and \$500 round trip, making the 2018 rate hike lower than 2012.

"But how many times were we without transportation to Manu'a and had to charter the Fotu from Samoa?" she asked and pointed out that the cost to charter the Fotu of Samoa was \$27,000 one way to Manu'a.

Additionally, the "MV Sili was often in need of serious repair but we were not generating revenue," she explained.

Taimalelagi noted that the administration placed a "temporary hold" on the charges of transportation to Manu'a for three years to stimulate growth and development in Manu'a.

According to the Port director, the \$250,000 allocated in the budget barely covers the cost of fuel, and maintenance was minimal, causing the boat to be inoperable for many months.

"We have been conducting a

trip almost every week and we still cannot accommodate all the vehicles that go over for two weeks and return," she said and pointed out that the MV Sili can transport approximately 9 vehicles on a trip and at a cost of \$130 - that's \$1,170 — which doesn't cover the cost of fuel, salaries of the crew, food, insurance, maintenance, etc.

"We want to provide safe and consistent transportation to Manu'a. This can only happen if we service the boats regularly and hire good marine engineers," she said. "Maintenance is costly and good engineers are not cheap."

She also pointed out that the fare for passengers has remained the same.

Taimalelagi's Dec. 13th memo on the rate hike concluded with "May you have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year," and some Manu'a residents, who contacted Samoa News last week, commented on the seemingly sarcastic seasons greetings.

In response to Samoa News inquiries, Taimalelagi said the 'concluding' message was to Port Administration staff — wishing them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MANU'A SERVICE

In his official 94-page State of the Territory Comprehensive Report to the Fono and the federal government, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga said surface transportation is continuous through the use of the MV Sili and the MV Manu'atele.

"Although freight charges were waived for four years since 2013 to accommodate the lack of transportation needs and the increasing cost of living for residents of the Manu'a District, ASG has decided to reinstate fees and freight charges with the acquiring of the new Manu'a vessel in 2017, as well as a way to financially maintain both ocean vessels," the governor said. Regarding domestic air service, the governor said the Manu'a islands are still being serviced by the Samoa government-owned Samoa Airways, through 30-day cabotage waivers from the US Transportation Department, for both Fitiuta and Ofu airports.

"The Administration is still seeking and exploring other air-line services to accommodate this route," Lolo said.

HALECK MOTORS WILL BE CLOSED FOR STOCKTAKE

ON FRIDAY 01/12/2018 &
SATURDAY 01/13/2018

NORMAL BUSINESS RESUME
TUESDAY 01/16/2018



HALECK MOTORS



DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA

P. O. BOX 9, Pago Pago A. S. 96799
Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163.
Website: www.dbas.as

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: LEGAL COUNSEL

Responsibilities:

- Provide legal advice to the Board, management and staff on all matters pertinent to the Development Bank of American Samoa.
- Provide legal representation of the Development Bank of American Samoa before American Samoa Courts, Legislature and executive departments.
- Supervise the Legal Department and Legal Department staff.
- Provide in-house advice on borrower and lender compliance.
- Design and implement appropriate legal remedies, including suit and foreclosure, for delinquent loans referred to the Legal Department.
- Draft contracts, leases, manuals, policies, loan documents and other DBAS documents for the Development Bank of American Samoa.

This position supervises Legal Dept. Manager and Legal Collection Officers while reporting to the President.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education/Experience/Qualification:

Juris Doctor degree from an ABA accredited law school with five to seven (5-7) years experience as an attorney in relevant areas of practice. Must be admitted to practice in any state and a member in good standing of a state bar. Must be eligible for admission to practice in American Samoa and must either be admitted to practice and licensed to practice in American Samoa or obtain admission and license to practice within thirty days of commencement of employment. All hired employees are subject to background and credit checks.

Skills/Abilities:

- Excellent problem solving, analytical and negotiating skills. Strong leadership, management and supervisory skills.
- Excellent interviewing, communications and public relations skills.
- Excellent ability to work with President, Bank Management and Development Bank Board of Directors.
- Proficient in computer applications, including MS Word and MS Excel.

Please submit your Resume & Application to the Development Bank of American Samoa located in Pago Pago - 2nd floor. This job posting will expire January 15, 2018 @ 4:00pm.

Development Bank of American Samoa is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email news.newsroom@samoatelco.com

Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

Contact us by Telephone at (684) 633-5599

Contact us by Fax at (684) 633-4864

or by Email at news@samoanews.com

Normal business hours are Mon. thru Fri. 8am to 5pm.

Permission to reproduce editorial and/or advertisements, in whole or in part, is required. Please address such requests to the Publisher at the address provided above.





American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB-025-2018

Issuance Date: January 3, 2018 Closing Date: January 10, 2018
No later than 2:00p.m. (local time)

- 1. INVITATION**
Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide “Department of Public Safety Building Repairs” located in the Village of Fagatogo, Territory of American Samoa.
- 2. RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS**
Sealed bids will received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Wednesday January 10, 2018 at which time and place the sealed bids will publicly opened and read.
- 3. PRE-BID CONFERENCE**
A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Office of Procurement Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the Pre-Bid Conference.
- 4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**
5. Electronic copies of contract documents, including Plans and Specifications may be examined or obtained at the Office of Procurement free of charge.
6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.
7. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of American Samoa.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



Employment Opportunity in Banking

ANZ Guam, Inc dba ANZ Amerika Samoa Bank is hiring and establishing a list of candidates for the following full time position:

IT OFFICER

- Our successful candidate would be accountable for providing effective management and governance of IT services
- Minimum of two years of industry experience in Technology preferably in Banking and Finance
- Proven track record delivering major IT application or infrastructure projects
- Experience implementing risk management frameworks such as ITIL, ISO
- Experience identifying and implementing IT solutions to suit business needs
- Technical knowledge to effectively assess and implement technical solutions.

This employment opportunity is open to all qualified candidates, individuals with disabilities, and military veterans who are willing, able and available to perform the job, without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex and citizenship.

If this is an opportunity that interests you, all resumes are to be received before Friday, January 12, 2018 to kathy.manipol-mcdonald@anz.com. All resumes will be handled confidentially and confidential calls may be made directly to Kathy Manipol-McDonald, Head of HR at 671.479.9023.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



This image released by NBC shows Oprah Winfrey accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018.

(Paul Drinkwater/NBC via AP)

If Winfrey runs, CBS News
faces potential conflict

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — In an odd twist, fellow hosts of “CBS This Morning” turned to their colleague Gayle King — famous friend of Oprah Winfrey — for an interview Tuesday about whether her pal would run for president.

If a Winfrey candidacy moves beyond idle chatter, one of the leading figures on a CBS News show that prides itself on hard-nosed journalism would have a conflict of interest on a major story. King attended the Golden Globe Awards on Sunday and said on “CBS This Morning” that she spent several hours with Winfrey after the speech that fueled political speculation. King said her friend is intrigued by the idea of a candidacy, but didn’t think she was actively considering it.

CBS’ Norah O’Donnell and Jeff Glor considered King’s close relationship with Winfrey such common knowledge that they didn’t even explain it before asking questions on Tuesday’s show. The two women have been good friends since they both worked at a Baltimore television station in their early 20s.

Watching the interview was weird, CNN’s Dana Bash said on that network about an hour later. If the candidacy becomes real, “Gayle’s gotta leave,” responded CNN’s morning host, Chris Cuomo.

Then, perhaps remembering that his brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, has been mentioned as a 2020 presidential candidate, Cuomo quickly switched gears.

“I have the right to change my opinion,” he said. “Does she have to leave? Maybe she does. I guess they could do the coverage in a way where she never handles it. But it would raise questions with people.”

CBS will address the issue if and when it becomes one, CBS News President David Rhodes said. The network has always been transparent in letting viewers know that Winfrey and

King are friends, he said. Winfrey also works for CBS News; she does occasional stories for “60 Minutes.”

Rhodes praised King for how she handled the on-air discussion with O’Donnell and Glor.

“It’s difficult to be part of the news when you cover the news and she helped people understand what was going on with the story,” Rhodes said.

King’s insight is useful as long as chatter about Winfrey’s candidacy is a parlor game and not reality, said Al Tompkins, an instructor in broadcast journalism for the Poynter Institute.

“The relationship between King and Winfrey is well known and viewers can filter what they hear from Gayle through that filter,” Tompkins said. “If Oprah did run, it would be a tougher relationship to navigate ... Today, with so many people being so skeptical or cynical of what they see, hear and read in journalism, the cleaner we can keep the lines between journalists and politicians the better.”

Mark Feldstein, a journalism professor at the University of Maryland, said CBS News would have to take King off campaign stories is Winfrey were to run. That could be awkward for the show’s format; the three hosts often sit at a table and discuss stories or interview newsmakers together.

“The public needs to be assured that the news they get is as objective as humanly possible,” Feldstein said. “That obviously is not the case if an anchor is reporting on a close friend.”

King was quoted after Winfrey’s speech as saying it gave her “goosebumps.” She said on the air Tuesday that it was “electrifying. It was the right person giving the right speech at the right time.”

The danger of such words of praise is they can become weapons in a political environment, by people who are looking for signs of bias.



Former Gov. Togiola Tulafono cutting the cake yesterday as part of the ceremony to officially dedicate the new \$6.5 million ASCC Multi-Purpose Center. Togiola was governor when the project was in its planning stages.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

► Governor...

Continued from page 1

Regarding bond payments, the governor said they are all up to date and funds are being accumulated in the Bond Payment Escrow Account to ensure that all bond payments are met in a timely manner.

Lolo did indicate plans to resubmit for Fono consideration, amendments to revenue measures to make them less invasive on the ability of businesses to remain profitable and to safeguard the loss of private sector jobs.

(Lolo is expected to submit amendments to the 5% miscellaneous excise tax and the FY 2018 supplemental budget, which were both vetoed by him during the last Fono session. Additionally, he is also expected to ask the Fono to revisit the 7% sales tax, which was tabled in both Senate and House committees during the last session. The miscellaneous tax amendments and sales tax were among the new revenue measures proposed by the administration that would provide additional money for ASG as well as fund the more than \$11 million supplemental budget).

EMPLOYMENT

“The financial environment for 2018 is discouraging, triggered in a large part by the challenges faced by StarKist, which resulted in operating disruptions because of federal compliance issues and the lack of movement on the revival of the 30(A) tax credit incentive,” Lolo said, adding that the territory has and will continue to “struggle” to entice foreign investments in the areas of processing and manufacturing for employment generation. But, he added, “We have been exploring many inquiries of interest.”

He didn’t elaborate further. He did say that with the elimination of federal incentives

like the 30(A) tax credit and the pending imposition of the next minimum wage hike this year, the administration has, and will, continue to work collaboratively with StarKist, the DOI Office of Insular Affairs, Congresswoman Aumua Amata, and Utah’s executive and congressional leadership “to restore the incentive and delay the effective date of the federal minimum wage.”

CABLE

According to the governor, full support is being lent to the long-term development plans proposed by ASTCA in the creation of a partnership with Hawaiki Cable, which he said would build a productive environment for new economic development opportunities.

HEALTHCARE

Lolo said the local healthcare system continues to face major challenges, with limited financial resources being the “underpinning challenge.”

He said the administration continues to invest to improve healthcare services, pointing to access now to healthcare services in New Zealand and the US.

The governor assured that the facilities at LBJ Medical Center are being “rehabilitated to enhance comfort, health safety, and enhance operating efficiencies.”

With regards to the unnecessary crowding of LBJ’s Emergency Room, Lolo said the Health Department and LBJ are collaborating to coordinate services to avoid duplication to get patients with minor medical conditions to visit the primary clinics.

(Read tomorrow’s edition for more highlights from the Governor’s State of the Territory Address)



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Management Information System

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: **SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR**
Employment Status: **Full Time/12 months (Career Service)**

General Description:

The System Administrator (SA) reports directly to Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Management Information System (MIS) Division for the American Samoa Community College (ASCC). The System Administrator (SA) is responsible for the management, maintenance and support for the server infrastructure of ASCC. The SA also provides support and security for servers and assists in creating and maintaining the certain policies for ASCC systems. Finally, the SA will work closely with the CIO in managing the Colleague software system servers and assist in providing support for its applications.

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Oversee management, maintenance, security and support ASCC servers.
- Software updates, firmware updates, hardware maintenance, troubleshooting, system backups, environmental controls, and security program management (extends to systems and networks managed by these servers).
- Manage Ellucian Colleague applications and servers.
- Create and maintain infrastructure documentation, server diagrams, disaster recovery procedures, etc. in accordance with Security Program (Security Frameworks).
- Build and manage systems to improve site operations (Infrastructure Design).
- Manages servers running Windows, Linux, Solaris, software defined storage, and general cloud computing principles.
- Perform miscellaneous job-related duties as assigned by the CIO.

Minimum Requirements:

Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science from an accredited community or technical college or university, or equivalent combination of relevant education and experience. At least 2 years of experience; 6 years relevant experience without BA degree (relevant may include work experience, as well as time spent towards a college degree and/or certification in the Computer Science field).

Salary: \$28,995.00 per annum.

Application Deadline: Jan 12, 2018 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office at 699-9155 Ext. 477/335/403 or email Lipena Samuelu at l.samuelu@amsamoa.edu or Silaulelei Saofaigaalii at s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu.

“An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer – And A Drug-Free Workplace”



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Dump Truck Drivers
Excavator Operators
Front End Loaders

Qualifications:

- Hold a current Commercial License
- Read & Understand English
- Willing to work extended hours if needed.

Apply in person at our Fletcher Construction Office in Tafuna.

Bring your Social Security Card, Immigration ID & Immigration authorization letter for employment, along with any references and copies of current licenses.

NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

“We are an equal Opportunity Employer”



FAIRNESS

We make an issue of it every day.

If you want to comment about our fairness,
call Samoa News at 633-5599



samoa news



Palalaua college in Siumu went up in flames earlier this week.

[photo: Samoa Observer]



The ASCC Multi-Purpose Center was officially dedicated yesterday morning. The building cost \$6.5 million, funded by Capital Improvement Project money. The contractor was Paramount Builders Inc., while the design was by Honolulu-based Clifford Planing & Architecture.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



compiled by Samoa News staff
**REVEREND ELDER
MAGEO PASSES AWAY**

Well-known American Samoan church minister Reverend Elder Siasoi Mageo passed away last Friday.

The charismatic preacher was the former general superintendent of the Samoan World Fellowship of the Assembly of God Church.

He was a regular on both TV and radio and renowned for his humorous but piercing sermons.

He didn't shy away from criticizing government leaders, matais and women who left their children at home while they played bingo and went to bars.

At the time of his passing Rev Elder Mageo had spent 53 years as the pastor of the Calvary Temple in Lepuapua.

He was the founder of the Samoa Bible College in Otterville from which hundreds of pastors have graduated and are now serving in churches in Samoa, Hawai'i, and the US mainland.

Reverend Elder Mageo was also the owner of Pago Airport Inn in Petesa and in his younger days was an accomplished fisherman and steel guitar player.

(Source: RNZI)

TUI SAMOA INTERNET

**CABLE OPERATION
DELAYED**

Samoa's Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Afamasaga Rico Tupa'i, has revealed a delay in the start of operation for the country's new Tui Samoa submarine cable, which was scheduled to begin last month.

The minister has told Radio 2AP a technical hiccup in the connection of the cable in Wallis and Futuna as well as in Savusavu, Fiji has caused the delay.

But Afamasaga said the cable would be operational in mid-February, which allows time for local communication companies such as Digicel and Bluesky to make arrangements to make use of the new cable.

The minister said another separate project, the Manatua submarine cable, which will also connect Samoa, is expected to start soon and is scheduled to be completed in the middle of next year.

(Source: RNZI)

**FIRE DEMOLISHES
SIUMU SCHOOL**

Two weeks away from the start of the school year, and students of Palalaua College at Siumu have been dealt a major blow.

(Continued on page 12)



**McAiga
Box Meal**



**2 Big Macs • 2 Filet-O-Fish® • 10pc Chicken McNuggets®
4 Medium Fries • 4 Medium Drinks**

Price of single item posted on menu board. ©2017 McDonald's



Tatala Maota Tele o le Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi o Amerika Samoa

tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

“E ui ina umi o tatali, ae o lea ua mae’a, o se galuega na faia ma le toto’a, ia usita’ia uma tulafono tau le fa’asaoaina o le enetia, ia agatonu ma le Si’omaga, ma ia matagofie e talia mana’oga o le fanau a’oga e gasolo atu i le Kolisi Tu’ufa’atasi o Amerika Samoa e saili le atamai lautele,” o lea se saunoaga sa fa’afogaina e le tofa le Puleono Aufai Apulu Areta, lea na fa’afeiloa’ia le mamalu na vala’aulia ae a le taeao manuia o le Laumua i Mapusaga.

O le Multi-Purpose Center ua tutula’i nei e fa tausaga o fausia mai talu ona mae’a suaina le eleele i le tausaga 2013. Peita’i na afuafua mai e Peresetene Adelle Satele Galea’i, soso’o mai ai ma Peresetene Seth Galea’i, ae o lea fa’ato’a fa’amae’a lelei e Peresetene, Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato, o le fa’afetai, e to’atele e na tofu sao, ma ua mae’a ane ai, o se Faletele na Fautele!

O mea uma lava na moli-mauina o le fa’amoemoe, e matua u’umi lava. O le lauga fa’afeiloa’i a le tofa le Puleono, soso’o mai ma le lisi o le fa’afetai a le Peresetene na lisia uma ai i latou na tofu sao, taumafai e fa’aputupu mai le seleni ina ia lava, i latou na tiga ulu i le tau fausiga o le fale, o i latou na saunia le ata ma ia taumafai e mulimulita’i i na tapenaga, ae maise o i latou na fautua i le faiga e mafai ona vave ai ona tino mai le galuega.

Na tula’i le Kovana, Lolo Matalasi Moliga, ma ia toe fa’apea mai, “E le o le fale, a’o le anofale, ia tele ni alo o le atunu’u e gasolo mai, tau-tuaina ma aoaoina ai i le fale lea, ma toe felelele atu i fafo mo le fa’alauteleina o le atamai, aua le lumana’i o le malo lea!”

Ina ua mae’a le sauniga lotu sa ta’ita’ia e Moseniolo Viane Etuale, sa saunoa le peresitene mo le tala ole galuega, lea na tomua i lana fa’afetai mo faigamalo e lua. O le faigamalo a le afioga le Matua Togiola Tulafono ma le faigamalo o lo’o tula’i nei. Soso’o ane ai ma le nofoa Komiti Fa’afaoe na tutula’i mai ma tausinio ina ia mae’a ma tula’i lenei galuega ae fa’ai’u ai ma le nofo a peresetene o le Kolisi ma ana aufaigaluega tofia.

O le tala o le tupe na tausailia mo le galuega lenei, sa amata ona fa’asaoaina mai le tupe e le nofoa’iga a Adelle Galea’i, soso’o mai ai ma Seth Galea’i, ae o le nofoa’iga a Kovana

Tulafono na fa’asalafa atoa mai ai loa le CIP Funds atoa mo le galuega i le tausaga 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013 ma le 2014 atoa ai le \$6.5miliona e mae’a ai le galuega lenei.

E to’atele fo’i tagata faigaluega na atofa mo lenei galuega ua toe tofia mo nisi tiute ae na i ai lo latou sao fa’afetai i le galulue ma le tofa mamao sa fuafua ma faatino ai nei galuega uma.

Na fa’ato’a amatalia lava le fausaga o lenei fale i le tausaga e 2013 se’ia o’o mai i le 2018 lenei ua tatala aloa’ia ai.

Ina ua mae’a le tala o le galuega o le afioga le Kovana Sili na ootia le lipine o le galuega.

O lo’o ua mae’a fa’atutuina fo’i panele mo le mitiia o ave o le la e fa’aelitisea ai le maota, ae maise o le galuega tele na fa’afao i ai a’ao o le susuga le Matuaofaiva Papali’i Lau’i’i Alofa ma le aiga Salemalama. O le ata o le fale sa tusia lea e le susuga Ben B. Lee ma lana kamupani o le Clifford Planning & Architecture mai Hawaii, ma sa auai lava lenei ali’i i le sauniga ananafi.

E ese mai lea ae sa ia tula’i ma fa’ailoa, e ui ina tele manatu ma fuafuaga, ae o lea ua tino mai ua atoa mea uma sa fa’atulaga mo le faletele. Mai lona amataga se’ia fa’ai’u, sa mataituina lava e Ben Lee le galuega fa’atasi ma ali’i pasi fale a le Public Works a le tatou Malo lea na masi’i atu ai le susuga Laupule Tilei e taua’ao aloa’ia le tusi pasi o le fale mo lona fa’aaogaina ia Pato.

O le sui sa gafa fo’i ma le va’aiga toto’a o le fa’agasologa o le galuega i le va ai ma le Kolisi Tu’ufa’atasi o le susuga lea a Lokeni Lokeni.

I se saunoaga a le susuga le Matuaofaiva i lona avanoa i le polokalama fa’asolo, sa ia fa’ailoa ai, “Pe ana leai le alofa o le Atua e le mafai ona mae’a lava se galuega. Fa’afetai lea ia te Ia aua e le’i mavae lona alofa mai, fa’asoa mai le tomai mo le fausaga. Fa’afetai fo’i i le Kovana ma le Kolisi ona o le mau talitonuina o le Paramount latou te fausia lenei faletele. E tuai lava ae fai mai, o se mea lelei! O le tatalo ia fa’amalieina outou i lenei fale pe a outou ulufale ma maimoaina. Ae fa’asili ia aoga i le tausailiga a le fanau a Amerika Samoa i aoaoga ae a le lumana’i o le atunu’u.”

Sa ia matua fa’afetaia Dr. Pato mo lona onosa’i, fa’apalepale i taimi e litaluta ai le tai ona o fa’aiuga faia mo le

(Faaauau itulau 11)



[l-r] Afioga i le Maoputasi, Mauga T. Asuega; afioga i le kovana sili Lolo Matalasi Moliga, ma le afioga i le matua ia Togiola Tulafono (lea sa avea muamua ma kovana) i le aso ananafi i le fa’apaiaina o le Maota tele fou o le ASCC.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

Happy 1st Birthday

Leiloa

Lotoifaleauauaataatamaiataosanitoa

Taala

You are our little princess,
our light and joy.
Thank You for bringing the best kind of
joy, wonder and love into our lives.
May your special day bring you lots of
joy and love.

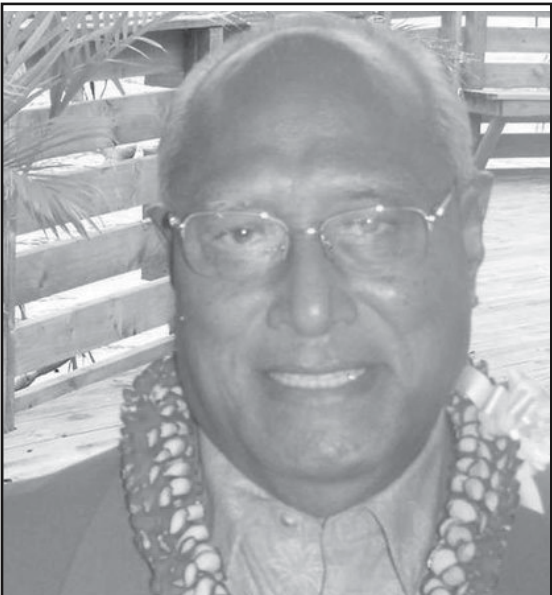
WE LOVE YOU!!

Your Parents;
Semika Taala & Moemoe Samuelu
Your Aunties;
Pauline Finaumomealelei Samuelu
Your Uncles;
Gary Happy Samuelu, Sanele Dick
Samuelu, Paulo Solomona Samuelu
But especially your Grandparents:
Paulo & Lipena Samuelu

WE LOVE YOU



Nofo fa'anonoa Ekalesia A.O.G i le tu'ua le malo e le latou ta'ita'i



tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

Ua tu'ua le galuega e lana susuga le Faife'au Taitai Toeaina o le Ekalesia Fa'apopotoga a le Atua i Amerika Samoa, Rev. Elder Siaoasi Mageo.

O ia fo'i lea na ia tau'ave le tofiga "General Superintendent Samoan World Fellowship" a le Assembly of God (AOG) ma na tu'ua e ia le malo i le aso Faraile Tesema 28, 2017.

E to'atele i latou e fia fa'alologologo tele i lauga a Rev Elder Mageo i lana polokalama sa fa'asalalauina i alaleo o le WVUV lea sa fa'aigoaina, "Taimi o le Fa'aolataga." E oo fo'i i lenei tusitala, e matua matagofie le fa'alologologo i tala tu'usa'o e fa'amatala ai fa'aletonu o lo'o ia va'aia, ua tauau ina avea ma mea moni i manatu o tagata, "ona ua pa'u a'i le aufailotu."

E talafeagai ia te ia ona saunoa fa'apea, aua o ia fo'i o le failotu, ae o lo'o momoli mai ai i ona manatu fa'aalia, se lapata'iga aoga tele mo le Talalelei, "Ia sa'o ona avatu i tagata, ia savavali tonu ai fo'i avefe'au o le Talalelei, aua e le mafai ona valivalia se tala fa'aletonu ae avea ai ma Talalelei."

O isi ia ana motuga'afa e taua i le tusitala, "Aua e tele taimi e feoi ai tagata ona o le talalelei, ae ua le feoi le auauna e sau ma le talalelei ona o tagata. O fa'alagiga ua matele ina logovi'i ai nisi o i matou, "O feoi o le Talalelei, ae le fa'apena le finagalo o Iesu e ona le Talalelei."

Na toe fa'aaau e Rev Elder Mageo lana polokalama i le KSBS FM ma sa masani fo'i ona maua lona avanoa i le televise KVZKTV mo ana lauga. E le 'alo lava le Upu a le Atua pe vagainaina e lana 'au'auna i so'o se taimi e tofia ai e

avea ma fa'amalosia'au i ta'ita'i o le Malo i a latou sauniga tetele.

O se mea lena e le mafai ai ona galo ana lauga tu'usa'o. E le alo fo'i i matua ana fautuaga ma fa'asinomaga. "Ua tetele mea e tutupu mai i olaga o fanau talavou, ae ua saili e outou leoleo po'o fea o i ai matua i le taimi o nei fa'aletonu? La e lau le B4 i le Bingo. Ae o lea e Bingo atu le isi tagata ese le mafaufau ma le le popoi."

Ua alu le tama, ua goto lona la, ae tumau ana upu e tima'i ai i tatou uma o totoe ma fai o tatou faiva i lenei olaga. Ua ia aumaia fo'i i se ala e fa'aofigofie i o tatou loto, e malie ae moni ma uiga. E ui ina tiga, ae o lo'o tiga malie i lau fa'alogo. E tele taimi ua vala'auina ai ina ia auai e fa'apa'ia ni nofoa'iga a le tatou Malo, pe fa'apa'ia fo'i tofiga fou ua mae'a pasia ma fa'amaonia e le fono faitulafono. O iina e fiafia le au fa'amaumau ma tusiupu, aua o se fe'au matagofie fo'i o le a lu'ia ai nei ta'ita'i, o le a tapena maia e Mageo se upu fa'amalosia ma tima'i.

O lona leo malu e iloga ai se ta'ita'i, e matua avatua ai le fe'au, "fa'alogo." I le taimi o lona maluu, ua atoa i ai le 53 tausaga talu ona avea o ia ma Faife'au o lana Ekalesia i le Calvary Temple Assembly of God i Lepuapua. I lana lava lea tautua i le galuega a le Atua na ia umia ai tofiga Distric Council AOG i Amerika Samoa, General Superintendent of the Samoan Fellowship of AOG; ma o ia fo'i o se tasi o Sui Totino na latou fa'atuina le Samoa Bible College i Ottonville, lea ua to'atele lava alo o le atunu'u ma Samoa fo'i ua fa'au'u mai ai ma ua avea ma Faife'au i le tele o Ekalesia AOG i Amerika, Samoa ma iinei fa'apea Niu Sila ma Ausetalia.

O le susuga fo'i Rev. Elder Mageo o le Faipisinisi Faletalimalo e ona le Airport Inn i Petesa. Peita'i i lona soifua talavou a'o le'i alu i le galuega a le Atua, sa mua'i avea o ia ma se tasi e fiafia e tata musika i le steel guitar ma le Ukulele, o se tama e faifaiva fa'atautai o le tai loloto ma ua fili fa'apitoa fo'i e le Atua i lea faiva o le sailiga o agaga ina ua avea ma Faife'au o le Talalelei.

Na fa'aipoipo atu o ia i le tina o le aiga, Malaea Brown Mageo, ma o lo'o soifua pea i lona atali'i e to'atasi o Poe Mageo ma ona afafine e to'aono, Diana, Aga, Sera, Arlene, Meanoa ma Ruth.

"O lona tu'ua ai o le galuega, o ni se'evae ua le toe mafaia ona fa'atumu e se tasi o totoe mo le galuega," o le molimau lea a se tasi o e na mulimulita'i i ona tulaga a'ao i le galuega a le Atua.



O le nofoaga fa'apitoa o sui mamalu o le Komiti Fa'afae mo Aoaoga Mauafuluga a le tatou Malo i le taimi o le sauniga mamalu e tatala aloa'ia ai le Multi-Purpose Center mo le fanau a'oga.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



TALA I VAI FANUA

IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Blue)

tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

SAILI MAI SE ISI VA'A PAILATE A LE UAFU TELE I FAGATOGO

O lo ua fa'ailoa mai e le tama'ita'i Fa'atonu o Uafu ma Malae Va'alele, Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele, ua mautu mai le i ai o se va'a pailate (tug-boat) e tasi e filifilia mai va'a e lua ua mae'a va'aia e le sui fa'atonu Chris King ma nisi o Kapeteni, aua galuega fa'atino a le Matagaluega i totonu o le uafu.

O va'a e lua ua mae'a ona maimoaina e King ma ali'i Kapeteni, e tasi i Alabama, "Peggy H" ma le tasi i Maui, Hawaii "Mikiala."

E tusa ai ma se saunoaga a Poumele, "E tasi le va'a e matou te mautinoa lava e fa'atau, ma e tauau e manatu le matou vaega e fa'atau le va'a i Alabama, peita'i o lo ua toe tu'u atu lava i tua le fa'atauga se'i mae'a ona folau i latou i le 'Mikiala' i pe o le a se latou fa'alogi i ai ma ali'i Kapeteni o Lafoga Alovao ma Mike Pulu."

E tusa ma le tolu vaiso na malaga ai King i Alabama e maimoa ma folau fo'i i le pailate "Peggy H" ma ua mae'a fa'ao'o mai fo'i fa'amaumauga ma fa'amatalaga e tusa o lea va'a. O le Mikiala o le a faia ai folauga fa'ata'ita'i ia Ianuari 22-24, 2018 ma fa'ato'a faia ai se fa'ai'uga i le fa'atauga.

"Afai ae filifili e fa'atau mai le 'Peggy H' e fa'ato'a tu'uva'a ese mai le va'a lena i le aso 14 Fepuari, 2018 mai Alabama, peita'i afai e filifili mo le Mikiala, o lona uiga e tu'uva'a ese loa i latou o lo'o malaga atu, King, Lafoga ma Pulu mai Ala-

bama ia Ianuari 26, ma o mai i Hawaii e amata fuafuaga o le fa'atauga o le Mikiala."

O lenei faatauga o lo'o tau-mafai ai le Matagaluega ina ia usita'ia aiaiga a le US Coast Guard ina ia mautinoa e lua va'a pailate e tautuaina le uafu i Fagatogo.

Na feutagai lava le US Coast Guard ma lea matagaluega o le tatou malo ina ia tatala mai se avanoa e fa'aaoga ai na'o le tasi le va'a pailate mo le taimi nei se'ia o'o ia Mati 15. O le taimi tonu lea ia o'o atu i ai ae ua mae'a taula le isi pailate fou i le Uafu tele.

AMATA GALUEGA FA'AFUO FALEUIA I PAKA & MALAE TA'ALO:

Ua mae'a ona tapunia nei le faleuia (se'i tulou) i le Paka Liona, le fale o lo'o pito i le Comsat po'o le nofoaga o le Satellite ina ia toe fa'aleleia atili.

Ua fa'ailoa mai e le susuga le Fa'atonu tofia i le taimi nei Ken Tupua, "O lo'o fia fa'alauiloa atu i le mamalu lautele, o le a va'aia suiga lelei i le toe fa'afouga lea ua amata nei o faleta'ele uma lava i Paka eseese. O le a fa'asolosolo lava ona tapunia mo nei galuega e tatau ona faia, aua ua silia fo'i ma le 20 tausaga talu mai ona fa'atutuina nei faleuia e le lautele." I sana fa'amatalaga o lo ua filifili i latou e fa'ama'a uma foloa o faleta'ele uma ta'itasi, fa'alautele ma ua manatu fo'i e fa'aleleia atili. Peita'i o le fili o nei galuega uma, e matele lava le mamalu lautele ina le fa'aaogaina fale nei ma toe tapena a'o le'i e tu'ua le nofoaga.

"Afai lava e le suia o tatou

uiga nei, e faia pea le tiute a le Matagaluega ma lana aufaigaluega, ae tima'ia le atunu'u pele ina ia fa'aaoga tatau ma ia tau-tuana fa'amama pe a mae'a ona e fa'aaogaina le tatou nofoaga," o se tala lea a Tupua.

Ua faia muamua le faleuia lea e tulata lava i le malae tenisi ma le malae Basketball i le Paka Liona, aua e mana'omia ona o lo'o faia lava ta'aloga a le tupulaga i taimi uma i nei malae ta'alo. Ua tapunia nei ae le'o tapunia le isi fale lea e pito mai i uta e fesaga'i tonu ma le falepuipui, ina ia mafai ona fa'aaogaina e le mamalu lautele.

Pe afai e mae'a uma fale nei e lua ona fa'alautele ma fa'aleleia mo le isi fo'i 20-30 tausaga e toe fa'aaoga ai, o le a tapena loa le fale lea e pito lava i le Ta'elega po'o le "Lagoon Swimming Pool" i le Lions Park lava.

"O le fa'amoemoe ia fesoa-soani tele lea i le taimi e tatala ma fa'aaoga ai le tatou Ta'elega e le maua o le atunu'u, ae ia lava ma totoo faleuia e le mamalu o le a gasolo mai i ai. O galuega lava e tatau ona faia, pau o le mea e le mafai ona fa'atutu ai ni moli eletise i nei faleta'ele, e tusa ai ma tulafono o Paka ma Malae Ta'alo," o se toe fa'amatalaga lea a Tupua. O Tupua sa avea ma Sui Fa'atonu o lea Matagaluega, a'o avea le susuga Pili Gaoteote ma Fa'atonu. Na fa'amavae mai Gaoteote mai lea tofiga i le masina o Oketopa 2017 ma ua filifili e le kovana Tupua e avea ma faatonu sili. O le taimi nei ua avea ma se tasi o sui e ao ina fa'amaonia mai e le Fono Faitulafono, ona fa'ato'a tamau ai lea o ia i lona tofiga fou lea.



► Tatala...

Mai itulau 9

maota lenei. "Ua avea lava oe ma purinise i le aiga Sa Iuta, i lou lava taimi ua ea ai lenei galuega ona o lou onosa'i ma lou loto mauilalo ina ia mae'a. Ia i matou le au faufale, matou te fa'afetaia le avanoa ua aofia ai i matou i le fausaga o lenei maota, aua o le sao mo a taeao o le atunu'u."

I le 'aiga mo le galuega sa faia

lea i totonu o le Hall o le faletele fou, ma sa matagofie le nofoaga fa'apitoa e faia fa'afiafiaga ae maise o le nofoaga e alalata'i ai e maimoa lea na tautu mai ai le 'aiga mo malo fa'aaloalogia. Na vala'auina fa'apitoa fo'i le afioga le Matua ina ia saunoa ona toto'o ai lea i le keke, sa ia fa'amanuia i alo uma o le atunu'u o le a soloa'i atu e fa'aaoga lenei maota, sa ia fa'amalo ia i latou uma na galulue ma tofu sao i le galuega ae maise ai lava le afioga Kovana

Lolo Moliga, sa ia fa'afetai ua mae'a ma ua matagofie le faletele o le Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi aua sa aotelega fo'i taofi ma manatu, ia tula'i lava se pine fa'apenei i le Laumua. O toe upu a Lolo sa ia una'ia ai le mau mo e a'oa'o, "Ia tautuana lo tatou tofi o le a'oa'o o fanau, aua e le o tupe po'o fale tetele, ae ia saunia le tupulaga o a taeao ia popoto e fa'afoe le tatou malo lea. O i tatou ia a'oa'o atu i latou. A faaletonu i latou o lona uiga o i tatou e mafua atu ai."



O i latou na iloga lo latou sao i le galuega ua mae'a nei a le Kolisi Tu'ufa'atasi, e ui lava ina umi, ae ua mae'a ma ua matagofie lo latou sao.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



Car Tires



Battery



Bluetooth Headphone



Windshield Washer Fluid



Room AC



Heavy Duty Oil



Axess Speaker



Engine Oil

starting at \$109

starting at \$89

\$9.99

\$5.95

\$149

\$7.50

\$49.99

\$4.00

Business Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday 8:00am - 1:00pm

We're now selling Tools,
Room AC and Tires in a very low price.
Please come and Join us.

AUTO NATION

NU'UULI: (684) 699-7168 • FAX: (684) 699-7175

Church: Guam archbishop faces new sexual assault allegation

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — Catholic church officials in Guam say they have notified the Vatican of a new sexual abuse allegation against Archbishop Anthony Apuron.

According to the Archdiocese of Agana, a relative of Apuron claimed to local media he was abused by the arch-

bishop in 1990.

Apuron already faces multiple allegations of sexual abuse of altar boys in the 1970s.

He has denied those claims and has not been criminally charged. His lawyer Jacqueline Terlaje didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

The allegations against Apuron prompted a Vatican tribunal. Archbishop Michael Byrnes says he was informed by Vatican officials late last year that a verdict has been reached, but it has not yet been released.

The Vatican sent Byrnes to Guam to replace Apuron on an administrative basis.



► Pacific...

Continued from page 8

A large part of their school building was completely demolished by a fire that broke out of the school building midmorning.

The Samoa Fire and Emergency Service Authorities (F.E.S.A.) is conducting an investigation to determine what caused it.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire broke out around 11 a.m.

The fire ripped through the old wooden school buildings leaving behind remnants of the tin roofing on top of a pile of ash where the buildings once stood.

Palalaua College's principal, Leoloa Tuuu Mautofiga, who was saddened by the scene, tried to remain optimistic.

"This is a very bad start to our 2018," she said. "I am trying to remain positive. At least we still have our new buildings and our hall still standing. The fire only took our old buildings."

(Source: Samoa Observer)

SAMOA PM KEEN ON MEDIA DIVULGING SOURCES

Samoa's Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi says he would be happy if news organizations were made to reveal sources.

He was commenting on the Criminal Libel Law, which was passed by Parliament in less than an hour just before Christmas.

Tuilaepa told TVISamoa that it would be good if media

organizations were forced to reveal their sources, as it would force them to get their information from officials and not from what he called 'office boys'.

"The official information about government comes from this office, not from office boys," he said.

The Pacific Freedom Forum has called on the Samoa government to hold consultations on the best way to address issues, which the law is intended to address.

(Source: RNZI)

DENGUE DEATH TOLL IN SAMOA RISES TO FIVE

The death toll from the dengue fever outbreak in Samoa has increased to five.

The figure was confirmed by Samoa's Ministry of Health, which says the number of people affected by the mosquito-borne disease has increased from 1,700 to 2,446 since October.

The Ministry said people under 19 were the age group most affected by the outbreak.

About 700 cases have been confirmed among children between the ages of 5 and 9.

More than 500 children between 10 and 14 years of age have also been affected, as well as 400 children and infants between the ages of 1 and 4.

The most affected areas were in Faleata, Vaimauga and Leauvaa on Upolu Island.

The Ministry said it was continuing its awareness campaign to advise the public on preventative measures.

► High Court...

Continued from page 2

of RJV in December 2016, RVJ still sent ASTT information regarding their transition to MWS Rose, which implies either sloppy record-keeping or that MSW Rose still considered ASTT to be a client as late as April 2017.

The judges said that for the plaintiffs to "accuse ASTT and their counsel of 'tactical' and 'dishonest' measures rings false when the extent of the relationship between Barry Rose and Bluesky is examined."

However, the judges note, "As uncomfortable as it must be for ASTT to see their former

president, shareholder and their former law firm representing their opponents in this case, the appearance of impropriety is no longer the standard for motions to disqualify attorneys under MRPC."

Furthermore, although Rose undoubtedly served as ASTT's attorney on numerous occasions, and his law firm handled a large variety of cases over many years, "none of those matters are substantially related to the current lawsuit, and no confidential information was likely to have been transmitted," the judges said.



VACANCY MECHANIC AUTO SHOP

General Description of Position:

- Candidate will monitor, maintain and repair all electrical forklift and propane trucks.
- Require to work on engines, transmissions, electrical systems and hydraulic units.
- Must have own hand tools and complete all job assignments with minimal supervision.
- Adhere to all company and OSHA Safety Standards.
- Be able to work weekends when required.
- Must comply and follow Job Safety Analysis (JSA) and perform other duties as assigned by Lead/Supervisor.

Qualifications/Requirements:

- High School College Graduate
- Must have minimum 2-years auto electrical experience.
- Must have minimum 2-years mechanical trade or experience.
- Must have work tools and be able to complete assignments with minimal to no supervision.
- Must be able to read and write in both Samoan and English.
- Must adhere to OSHA Safety Standards and comply with all Safety Rules and Regulations for the plant.

Please submit resume to: Attn: Cassandra Satele
Human Resources Office
Starkist Samoa, Co.
Email: cassandra.satele@starkist.com

STARKIST SAMOA, CO. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



H&H INC.

P.O. Box 3170, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Phone (684) 633 4567 – Mobile (684) 733 4567
Fax (684) 633 0163



SPECIAL OFFER*



LAKE

BTU	PRICE
9,000	\$ 550.00
12,000	\$ 588.00
18,000	\$ 688.00
24,000	\$ 788.00
36,000	\$ 1,499.00

*A/C UNIT PRICE ONLY WITH 1-MONTH WARRANTY
ADDITIONAL \$200.00 FOR INSTALLATION AND ONE-YEAR
WARRANTY FOR ALL UNITS EXCEPT 36,000 BTU (\$300.00)



BEST PRICE



Midea

\$650.00



SAMSUNG

SMART INVERTER*

BTU	PRICE
9,000	\$ 1,550.00
12,000	\$ 1,750.00
18,000	\$ 2,350.00
24,000	\$ 2,950.00
36,000	\$ 3,700.00

*SAVES 30-50% ENERGY
A/C UNIT PRICE WITH FREE INSTALLATION
AND ONE-YEAR WARRANTY



Turbo air

TRUSTED AMERICAN BRAND

2-DOOR COOLER	3-DOOR COOLER
\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00



Cold Drink



Source: New Toyota-Mazda factory to be built in Alabama

DETROIT (AP) — Japanese automakers Toyota and Mazda have picked Alabama as the site of a new \$1.6 billion joint-venture auto manufacturing plant, a person briefed on the decision said Tuesday.

The plant will employ about 4,000 people and will be built in the Huntsville area in Limestone County, said the person, who asked to remain anonymous because the location hasn't been officially announced.

Alabama officials said they expect Gov. Kay Ivey to make a major economic development announcement on Wednesday in Montgomery, but they would not give any details.

Alabama and North Carolina apparently were finalists for the huge factory, which is expected to begin operating in 2021. It will be able to build 300,000 vehicles per year and will produce the Toyota Corolla compact car for North America and a new small SUV from Mazda, the companies have said.

Toyota and Mazda are forming a capital alliance and splitting the cost of the plant equally. The Huntsville area already has a Toyota engine factory that employs nearly 1,500 people.

After reassessing the market, Toyota Motor Corp. changed its plan to make Corollas at a plant in Guanajuato, Mexico, now under construction, and instead will produce Tacoma pickups there, Toyota has said.

President Donald Trump had criticized Toyota for taking auto production and jobs to Mexico. With the investment, both automakers hope to prove their good American corporate citizenship and appease the Trump admin-

istration's concerns about jobs moving overseas.

But during the summer, Toyota President Akio Toyoda denied that Trump's views influenced his decision.

"We have been reviewing the best production strategy for our business," he told reporters in Tokyo at the time.

Toyota and Mazda Motor Corp. also plan to work together on various advanced auto technology, such as electric vehicles, safety features and connected cars, as well as products that they could supply each other, they said.

It's difficult to predict auto sales in three years, but at present, Toyota may not need the factory for Corolla production.

U.S. sales of small cars fell nearly 10 percent last year as buyers continued a massive shift toward SUVs and pickup trucks. Corolla sales fell 14 percent for the year, to just under 309,000, according to Autodata Corp.

Still, Toyota and Mazda have said their collaboration will respect mutual independence and equality. Toyota, which makes the Prius hybrid, Camry sedan and Lexus luxury models, already provides hybrid technology to Mazda, which makes compact cars for Toyota at its Mexico plant.

The sheer cost of the plant also makes a partnership logical, as it boosts cost-efficiency and economies of scale. Working together on green and other auto technology also makes sense as the segment becomes increasingly competitive due to concerns about global warming, the environment and safety.



Matagofie le maota o le Kolisi ua tutula'i nei, tele fo'i le sao o le afioga Papali'itele Lau'i Alofa i lea galuega, peita'i na ia fa'ailoa mai, "E tuai ae ma'utinoa e lelei ona fausia!" ua feiloa'i fo'i ma le tama'ita'i Fomai Annie Fuavai.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

San Francisco mayor's race draws big names, crowded field

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Eight candidates who want to be mayor of San Francisco qualified Tuesday for a June 5 election expected to pit the city's progressive values against its economic development ambitions following years of spectacular but divisive growth driven by the technology sector. The candidates include former state Sen. Mark Leno, Acting Mayor London Breed, Supervisor Jane Kim and former Supervisor Angela Alioto. Eighteen others who had requested paperwork to run did not return candidacy papers before Tuesday's deadline.

The race had been scheduled for November 2019 but was moved to June after Mayor Ed Lee, a Democrat, died of a heart attack in December while grocery shopping. The winner will serve out the rest of Lee's term.

The city's next mayor will have to navigate the city's ambivalence about the effect of the booming technology sector on housing, traffic and basic livability. The median home value, for example, is nearly \$1.3 million and the median rent is \$4,400 — pricing out all but the wealthiest newcomers.

"The driving issue is the city of San Francisco's relationship with the tech industry, and what they want that relationship to be," said Jim Ross, a political consultant who managed Gavin Newsom's winning campaign for mayor in 2003.

He added: "It's the status quo of what we've seen for the last eight years, versus is there

going to be a change?"

Lee's legacy of promoting expanded development is a key factor in an election where critics still blame him for ushering in a prosperity that they say has not benefited everyone. For example, he approved a tax break for Twitter and other companies as part of an effort to revitalize part of the downtown area.

Among the candidates are politicians who could become San Francisco's first permanent female African American mayor or first openly gay mayor.

Breed, who is president of the Board of Supervisors, ascended to the role of acting mayor and is seeking the job full-time. Some residents called on the board at its regular meeting Tuesday to appoint an interim "caretaker" mayor who is not interested in the job permanently.

Other candidates who qualified for the ballot include Leno, a longtime Democratic activist and openly gay politician who wrote legislation to expand gay rights and higher minimum wages; Kim, who was endorsed by Sen. Bernie Sanders in her unsuccessful run for state Senate last year; and Alioto, an anti-discrimination lawyer and daughter of former Mayor Joseph Alioto.

Breed and Leno are the front-runners based on name recognition and access to money, said Jason McDaniel, an associate professor of political science at San Francisco State University.

Both are Democrats, but Leno has positioned himself

as the "progressive" who will stand up to big-money interests and focus on the people being pushed out of San Francisco. Leno has the support of Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who is leading the charge to appoint a temporary mayor.

"It's really about whether or not the same old handful of power brokers continues to run San Francisco like a company store, or whether we shake things up and move in a new direction and have a much more independent mayor," he said.

Breed, who is African American and talks of growing up poor in San Francisco public housing, is backed by former Mayor Willie Brown, a king-maker for decades of city politics and a member of the "moderate" branch of city politics. She said in a tweet announcing her candidacy: "I'm not a partisan. I'm not an ideologue."

San Francisco has gone through the process twice before.

In 2011, Lee was tapped as interim mayor when then-Mayor Gavin Newsom became lieutenant governor. Lee said he wasn't interested in having the job permanently but then ran for two terms. In 1978, Dianne Feinstein became mayor when Mayor George Moscone and board president Harvey Milk were assassinated. She then won two full terms.

Whoever wins in June will fill out the remainder of Lee's term through 2019 and can run for another two four-year terms if they choose.



FILE- In this Aug. 4, 2017, file photo, Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda, left, and Mazda Motor Corp. President Masamichi Kogai shake hands after a press conference in Tokyo. Japanese automakers Toyota and Mazda have picked Alabama as the site of a new \$1.6 billion joint-venture auto manufacturing plant, a person briefed on the decision said Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018.

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko, File)



In this May 25, 2016, photo, Kim Pack poses with a photo of her late mother, talk-show host April Kauffman, in Linwood, N.J. Pack's stepfather, Dr. James Kauffman, was charged in the murder of her mother April on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018. Kauffman, a New Jersey doctor running an illegal prescription opioid drug ring with a motorcycle gang had a member hire someone to kill his wife after she threatened to expose the scheme while trying to force him to agree to a divorce, authorities said Tuesday.

(Vernon Ogradnek/The Press of Atlantic City via AP)

Doctor charged with having wife killed to protect drug ring

A New Jersey doctor running an illegal prescription opioid drug ring with a motorcycle gang had a member hire someone to kill his wife after she threatened to expose the scheme while trying to force him to agree to a divorce, authorities said Tuesday.

James Kauffman and a member of the Pagans Outlaw Motorcycle Gang were charged in the May 2012 shooting death of radio host April Kauffman. Another six people connected to the gang were charged with racketeering in the drug ring, which prosecutors said continued until last summer, when Kauffman was arrested at his office while brandishing a gun.

Kauffman "was intent to have her killed, as opposed to losing his financial empire," Atlantic County prosecutor Damon Tyner said.

Ferdinand Augello, the Pagan charged with finding someone to kill April Kauffman, also was charged Tuesday with trying to have James Kauffman killed, authorities said.

Kauffman has long maintained his innocence and denies any involvement in his wife's death, his attorney Ed Jacobs told Philly.com. It wasn't immediately known if Augello or any of the other defendants

had lawyers to represent them.

April Kauffman's daughter, Kimberly Pack, who had long alleged that her stepfather killed her mother, said the death "forever changed my life."

"I have been waiting patiently for justice, and today I was lucky enough to be granted justice," Pack said. "I think for the first time, today I can actually breathe."

Pack had earlier fought a legal battle against her stepfather sparked by his attempts to claim April Kauffman's two life insurance policies. His claim was turned down because prosecutors couldn't provide a letter saying he wasn't considered a suspect.

April Kauffman was a local businesswoman who hosted weekly talk shows and advocated for military veterans. She had received a governor's award for outstanding community service a few days before her death.

Prosecutors said James Kauffman gave free prescriptions to people sent by Augello and Augello would receive \$1,000 per script or a number of pills after the script was filled. Those who received them either used the drugs or sold them, authorities said.

In the summer of 2011, April

Kauffman wanted a divorce and after James Kauffman objected she threatened to expose the drug ring, Tyner said.

Tyner said that Kauffman told Augello about his wife's threats and solicited him to have her killed. After about a year, a man who agreed to do it, Francis Mullholland, was driven to the home, where the doors were left open, and was given a gun, authorities said. April Kauffman, 47, was shot twice, and her body was found by a handyman.

Tyner said Mullholland, who said he got about \$20,000 in cash, was later found dead of a drug overdose.

Mullholland originally was identified as a cousin of a member of the motorcycle gang, but a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office later said that was incorrect. She declined to release more details about him.

Prosecutors said the drug empire lasted until June, when Kauffman was arrested on weapons charges at his Egg Harbor Township office. Authorities said he brandished a handgun as agents executed a search warrant and said, "I'm not going to jail for this!" A hostage negotiator persuaded him to surrender.

Embattled Peruvian president names 'reconciliation cabinet'

LIMA, Peru (AP) — President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski swore in new Cabinet ministers Tuesday, saying he will seek to bring reconciliation in Peru following his close brush with impeachment and controversial pardon of a former president convicted of human rights abuses.

The embattled president replaced nearly half of his 19-member Cabinet with new leaders from the public and private sector, though no one was named from the opposition party that spearheaded the impeachment campaign in December.

"Perhaps reconciliation is a difficult objective to achieve, but I promise I will not cease for one second in my efforts to obtain it," Kuczynski said in a speech following the swearing-in ceremony.

The new appointments come during one of this Andean nation's most politically turbulent moments in nearly two decades.

Kuczynski narrowly escaped impeachment after opposition lawmakers revealed that his private consulting business had received payments from the Brazilian construction company at the center of Latin America's largest corruption scandal while he was as a high-ranking Cabinet minister. Days later he gave a medical pardon that freed former President Alberto Fujimori less than halfway through his 25-year prison sentence, sparking nationwide protests.

Kuczynski announced in late December that he would name a new "Cabinet of reconciliation," though one analyst said Tuesday that the new appointments were more like an "emergency Cabinet."

"There is a lot of uncertainty," political scientist Fernando Rospigliosi said. "What everyone hopes is that the new

Cabinet has an objective to achieve. And in this case that does not exist."

The deeply unpopular president's government is considered highly vulnerable, burdened by a low approval rating, a criminal investigation into his connections with the Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht and a credibility crisis following his pardon of Fujimori on Christmas Eve. Lawmakers in congress have vowed to renew their efforts to impeach him.

Kuczynski announced he was pardoning the 79-year-old Fujimori on humanitarian grounds three days after the impeachment vote in which 10 members of Fujimori's party unexpectedly abstained. Polls say a majority of Peruvians believe a behind-the-scenes deal was struck between Kuczynski and Fujimori's lawmaker son, though the president's allies have denied there was any deal.

Several prominent members of Kuczynski's Cabinet resigned after the impeachment vote and the pardon, making some of the new appointments forced replacements.

Fujimori's pardon reopened old wounds from a bloody period in Peru's history. The former strongman was convicted for his role in the killings of 25 people, including an 8-year-old boy, during his decade-long rule. He was also later found guilty of having had knowledge of the existence of death squads financed with public money that killed civilians accused of being Shining Path members.

Some Peruvians credit Fujimori with stabilizing the economy and defeating the country's Maoist guerrillas, but others condemn him for permitting widespread human rights violations. Human rights organizations have decried his pardon.

Man resentenced to 75 years in teen's Chicago shooting death

CHICAGO (AP) — A Cook County judge has resentenced a man to 75 years in prison for the 2007 shooting death of a high school student on a Chicago bus.

Judge Matthew Coghlan on Tuesday resentenced 27-year-old Michael Pace, who was originally sentenced to 100 years after pleading guilty in the death of Blair Holt, the son of a Chicago police officer.

An appeals court tossed the initial sentence saying a previous judge made inappropriate

comments during sentencing about Pace's character and Chicago gun violence.

Holt was fatally shot while shielding a friend.

Coghlan said Pace's actions were evil, cold and calculated "with the specific intent to kill." Pace's lawyer had argued Pace could be sentenced to as few as 32 years. However, Coghlan said Pace hasn't tried to change his behavior, citing tickets for disciplinary problems while behind bars.



Peru's President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, center, laughs with part of his new cabinet after a swearing-in ceremony at the government palace in Lima, Peru, Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2018. Kuczynski has named a new "cabinet of reconciliation" following his close brush with impeachment and controversial pardon of a former president convicted of human rights abuses.

(AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

Advocates: New policy restricts NY inmates' access to books

NEW YORK (AP) — People who want to send a copy of jail-house classics like “The Shawshank Redemption” to a loved in a New York prison may soon be out of luck.

A new policy, rolled out last month to help prevent drugs from being smuggled into prisons, will bar inmates from getting packages containing books, or almost anything else, in the mail unless they come from a short list of approved online commissaries.

The plan, now in place at just three of the state’s prisons but eventually headed for all 54, has drawn an outraged response from several advocacy groups, who say reading can be a key part of an inmate’s rehabilitation. “The State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision needs to promote moral and responsible prison policies that uphold inmates’ access to information and safeguard the right to read,” said Summer Lopez, a senior director at PEN America, a press freedom group that runs a national prison writing program. Prisoner advocacy groups assailed the quality and variety of books available for purchase through the state’s six commissary contractors.

Daniel Schaffer, a volunteer with NYC Books Through Bars, which sends free books to inmates across the United States, said there are only a few hundred titles. “Given how

many millions of books are out there, that’s a pretty limited selection of books to choose from,” he said. One of the vendors, Efordcommissary, lists 10 books for sale on its site, including the Bible, the Quran, “Screenwriting for Dummies” and “Running a Restaurant for Dummies.” Another, JL Marcus, includes books about chess, solitaire and crossword puzzles. A larger selection was offered by the vendor Music by Mail, which had a catalog that includes thrillers, Christian fiction, gay and lesbian fiction, the plays of Shakespeare and “The Autobiography of Malcolm X.” Inmates also will still have access to books through prison libraries, which are stocked with a variety of books, magazines and other literature, said Department of Corrections spokesman Thomas Mailey. He assailed the idea that the new policy would block inmates from reading as “patently false.”

Anthony Annucci, the department’s acting commissioner, said prison officials are fighting a surge in drugs being smuggled into the system. “The basis of this program is that we need to have packages come from an outside source that has been vetted by us to address our security concerns,” he said.

The officials said Books Through Bars and other groups will still be able to send books indirectly to prisoners by donating them to prison

libraries.

Additionally, inmates can request books from public libraries through inter-library loan, though the books will be placed in the prison library and not given directly to the prisoner who requested them.

Caroline Hsu, staff attorney for the Prisoners Rights Project of the Legal Aid Society, said access to prison libraries is not unfettered, especially for inmates in solitary confinement.

Besides, she said, “People should be able to read the books they want to read.” Books Through Bars sent a letter to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, and Annucci asking for the policy to be reconsidered.

In addition to books, the new policy will prevent inmates from getting care packages of food from home, which Hsu said will also hurt rehabilitation.

“People need to hang on to little things like the cookies that you remember from childhood or a passage of a book that you love,” she said. Mailey responded by saying you currently cannot send homemade cookies to inmates. Policies regarding sending books to inmates vary widely among states but in New York inmates who requested books were generally able to get them before now, Schaffer said.

Popular titles include dictionaries, murder mysteries and books about African-American and Latino history, he said.

IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



S. Korea's Moon wants more talks to resolve North nuke issue

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea’s president said Wednesday he’s open to meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un if certain conditions are met, as he vowed to push for more talks with the North to resolve the nuclear standoff.

President Moon Jae-in spoke of a potential summit a day after the two Koreas held their first high-level meeting in about two years and agreed to cooperate in next month’s Winter Olympics in South Korea. They agreed North Korea will send a delegation of officials, athletes and others to the Feb. 9-25 Games and they plan talks later on reducing tensions along their border.

“I keep myself open to any meeting including the summit (with North Korea) if it’s helpful for an improvement of South-North relations or a settlement of the North Korean nuclear issue,” Moon told reporters in a televised news conference. “But to have the summit, some conditions must be established. I think a certain level of success must be guaranteed.”

Moon described the North’s Olympic participation as “very

desirable,” saying he will push for more talks and cooperation with the North.

Tuesday’s accord was reached after Kim Jong Un made an abrupt push for improved ties with South Korea following a year of escalating tensions with the outside world over his expanding nuclear and missile programs. Critics say Kim may be trying to divide Seoul and Washington in a bid to weaken international pressure and sanctions on the North.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert welcomed the inter-Korean meeting which she said was “aimed at ensuring a safe, secure and successful” Olympics. The U.S. said it was consulting with South Korean officials to ensure that North Korea’s participation in the Games does not violate U.N. sanctions.

North Korea’s participation in the Winter Olympics won’t affect U.S. participation in the Games, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, adding that the decision presents North Korea with an opportunity to see the value of ending its isolation from the rest of the world.

In his New Year’s Day address, Kim said he was willing to send a delegation to the Pyeongchang Games. Moon welcomed Kim’s outreach and proposed the talks at Panmunjom, a proposal North Korea quickly accepted.

Chief North Korean delegate Ri Son Gwon read what he called a joint statement after Tuesday’s talks, under which the two Koreas agreed to “actively cooperate” in the Olympics to “enhance the prestige of the Korean people.” He said the two countries will hold follow-up working-level talks on their Olympic cooperation.

North Korea is not a winter sports power, and two of its figure skaters, Ryom Tae Ok and Kim Ju Sik, earlier became the only North Korean athletes to qualify before the North missed a confirmation deadline. The International Olympic Committee said Monday it has “kept the door open” for North Korea to take part.

North Korea also agreed to restore a military hotline communication channel with South Korea, according to chief South Korean delegate Cho Myoung-gyon.



Forever in our Hearts!!

"I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love."

--Leo Buscaglia

Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Solomona played an important role as a PTA president, as a mentor, as a father, and as a beloved friend to many of us here at Tafuna High School. We are in debt to him for sharing with us his wisdom, the importance of hard work, perseverance and dedication to do greater things for others, and especially his unconditional love for the students. We are forever grateful for the impact he had on our parents, teachers, and especially our students. We will forever cherish his undisputable, awe-inspiring leadership and guidance. May his legacy of instilling hope, peace, and love in the hearts of the Warrior Nation remains and lives on throughout the generations. In this time of grief, your family is in our hearts and prayers.

Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior.

