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Talitonuina e Fa'amausili agava'a o Inisinia Vaega Tosova'a malo **LALI**

(l-r) Director of Health Motusa Tuileama Nua, Gov. Lolo M. Moliga, US Army Major Douglas A. Taylor, US Navy Lt. Christopher Johnson, Lt. Gov. Lemanu Peleti Mauga, Medicaid Office Director Sandra King-Young, and the Governor's Chief of Staff Fiu Johnny Saelua. Johnson and Taylor are in the territory to work - for free - with the local Department of Health.

See story in today's Lali section.
[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



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Turkmenistan Ashgabat September 17 - 27, 2017

Isaac Silafau - American Samoa's track & field hopeful



American Samoa's only track & field competitor to the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games is Isaac Silafau.

For the first time ever, the territory is sending seven local athletes to compete in 2 out of 21 sporting events set to take place Sept. 17-27 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Everyone on Team American Samoa is a wrestler, except for Silafau, 26, whose favorite events are the 100m and javelin.

The local delegation departed the territory Monday night.

Silafau isn't just some kid off the street.

He is an athlete. And he's good at what he does. His greatest accomplishment in life, so far, is qualifying for the Olympics in Rio, and winning a pair of Gold Conference Medals in javelin.

The 26-year-old is the son of Fiu and Mercy Silafau who lists his home-

(Continued on page 5)

It's confirmed: StarKist will shut down for 5 weeks

ANNOUNCEMENT SPELLS HEARTACHE FOR EMPLOYEES, HARD TIMES FOR THE ECONOMY

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

StarKist Co., has confirmed that its cannery operations in American Samoa will shut down for at least five weeks, beginning in the later part of next month.

Samoa News received reports late last month from industry sources and some cannery workers that the StarKist Samoa plant will shut down soon for a long period of time, but there was no firm date, and the shutdown is due to a project the company is working on.

A couple of cannery workers said they were told early this month that the shutdown would last four to five weeks, starting sometime next month.

StarKist Samoa, in a brief statement released yesterday afternoon through StarKist Co., officially confirmed that it will shut down operations from Saturday, Oct. 21st until Sunday, Nov. 26th. The StarKist Samoa plant is expected to re-open Monday, Nov. 27th.

"The StarKist Samoa plant will temporarily shut down manufacturing for facility upgrades and to install new equipment, which will increase efficiencies at the plant," said StarKist Co., corporate spokesperson Michelle Faist.

"We recognize this shut down is a disruption not only to our workers, but also to the community and our business partners and we appreciate their understanding during this time," she said, adding that the StarKist Samoa management team has communicated the temporary closure to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga.

"We appreciate the Governor and his team for their ongoing support" said StarKist Samoa.

The Governor's Office confirmed yesterday that Lolo has been made

aware of the situation, and the governor is taking steps to ease the financial burden on the economy attributed to the shutdown. For example, a letter is to go out soon to directors "to be mindful in their spending due to loss of revenues". Other measures will be considered when the governor meets with the relevant directors.

In his July cover letter that included the proposed fiscal year 2018 budget, Lolo informed Fono leaders that it's "important to remember and to take note that the forecast revenues for fiscal year 2018 are predicted on the continued maintenance of StarKist's current production and employment level."

"If any of these two elements change downward, projected revenues will plummet reciprocally," he said, adding that the same holds true of the Administration's proposed revenue measures already transmitted to the Fono.

It remains unclear at this point, how much impact the five-week StarKist shutdown will have on ASG's projected revenues.

Last month, StarKist Samoa production shut down for one-week due to fish supply shortages.

This time, the more extensive shutdown comes amid the looming holidays, towards the end of the year, with several revenue measures pending in the Fono including a proposal to establish a new 7% sales tax for retail goods.

Samoa News notes that anytime there is a shutdown at the cannery — which employs some 2,000 workers — it not only has a major effect on its workforce, but also companies providing support services. And the shutdown for such a long period of time, means no weekly paychecks for the majority of cannery workers.

Two local businesses contacted by

(Continued on page 5)



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB-093-2017

Issuance Date: September 13, 2017

Closing Date: September 22, 2017
No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

1. **INVITATION**

Sealed bids are invited from qualified firms to provide “**Janitorial Services for Pago Pago International Airport**” for the Department of Port Administration.

2. **RECEIPT & OPENING OF BIDS**

Sealed bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, American Samoa Government, Tafuna, American Samoa 96799, until 2:00 p.m. (local time), September 22, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

3. **MANDATORY- PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

A **MANDATORY** Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Visit for all contractors will be held on September 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pago Pago International Airport-Conference Room. Bids will not be accepted from bidders who are not present at the pre-bid meeting.

4. **CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

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

5. The American Samoa Government reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any bid.
6. The American Samoa Government reserves the right to waive any informality in bidding as may be in the best interest of the American Samoa Government.

DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON
Chief Procurement Officer

Equal Opportunity Employer / Affirmative Action



State Sen. Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, left, and Assemblyman Mark Stone, D-Scotts Valley, watch as the votes are posted for Stone's youth parole measure before the Senate, Tuesday, Sept.12, 2017, in Sacramento, Calif. The Senate approved the bill, AB1308, and If signed by the governor, would allow inmates who are under the age of 25, and who have served at least 15 years of their sentenced to be considered for parole.

(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

Senators hear input from territory's biggest beer importers

CURRENT METHOD OF TAXING IMPORTED BEER IS OPEN TO MANIPULATION, SAYS GHC REID

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Local general manager of South Pacific Distributors (SoPac), Mike Tolmie has made a public claim that the Lolo Administration's proposal to change the way tax is imposed on beer will result in more taxes being paid by SoPac, and less by its competitors.

The statement, made during a Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearing yesterday, prompted Olivia Reid-Gillett, president of G.H.C Reid & Company to respond, saying that a correction needs to be made, as such a statement is not true.

Tolmie and Reid-Gillett were among the witnesses from the private sector who testified yesterday on three revenues measures, which include proposed amendments to several provisions of the excise tax, such as the beer tax.

Currently, excise tax on imported beer is 190% of the value, but the Administration is seeking to amend it to 35-cents per 12-fluid ounces, or fraction thereof.

It basically means 35-cents per can.

In his verbal testimony, Tolmie said “we have an issue” with the changes in the beer tax, as it will affect the company, if enacted into law. He said upon its establishment here, “we went out [and] we found the product we know is affordable to the community.”

But with these changes, Tolmie said, “we end up paying hundreds of thousands of dollars more” and “our competitors will pay hundreds and thousands of dollars less,” he claimed.

ASG officials had testified in both the Senate and House that the proposed amendment is to standardize the imposition of the “sin tax” — on items such as beer — and also to “level the playing field” for all beer importers.

In his verbal testimony, Tolmie said there is talk about a fair playing field; and a fair playing field means going out and finding a product that competes with other products in the market. “If you can't do that, we're sorry. It's unfair to put forward a bill where one company pays an enormous amount of money, and all your competitors pay less,” said Tolmie, who delivered his testimony in the English language.

In her closing remarks, Reid-Gillett took issue with Tolmie's claims, saying that the statement by the other company (SoPac), needs to be corrected

because it's not true.

Speaking in Samoan, she said if the excise tax on beer is approved, that doesn't mean GHC Reid will pay a lesser import tax. Furthermore, GHC Reid is not asking to “reduce our excise tax” that is paid to the government.

She claimed that some companies are using invoices that are not correct, whereby the invoices do not come directly from the manufacturer of the goods they bring in. She believes the reason for these many revenue measures targeting excise tax is that the government is losing money on tax revenues because not all of the import tax is being collected, as some companies are not honest with the invoices provided to Customs.

Furthermore, some companies are not locally owned but are owned by people off island. Therefore, according to her, much of the money earned by these companies goes off island, while GHC is locally owned by Samoans, and the money stays here.

She then pointed out that the statement by SoPac is not correct, that the proposed change to taxing import beer “saves us (GHC Reid) money while they pay more.”

In the company's analysis and written comments - both in English and Samoan - presented to the committee, GHC Reid said it supports the new method of calculating beer tax, saying that per 12-ounce instead of invoice cost allows an “even and fair tax calculation for all beer products.”

“The sin tax must be applied equally in the same product category. The majority of beer product are already in 12-ounce packaging,” it says. “Due to the already high beer excise, vendors may try any way to avoid paying the full 190%, this can be done using dummy invoices not from the manufacturer, but partner companies or suppliers.”

The company said that invoices are hard to control or to validate; however, quantities can be verified when the containers arrive on island, and Customs already conducts physical verifications.

And by changing the calculation of tax, it aligns local tax calculation to the global community who are using volume-based calculation and not percentage of invoice. Countries using this format include the US, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, and Samoa.

During a House committee hearing last month, some law-

(Continued on page 5)

SSBCI program to close down later this month

THE BIGGEST HURDLE FOR LOCALS: LACK OF MATCHING FUNDS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The federal State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) program, administered locally by the Commerce Department, will cease at the end of this month but American Samoa still has the rest of the year to utilize the more than \$3 million it has drawn down.

American Samoa was awarded \$10.5 million several years ago for the SSBCI, but efforts to get the program off the ground have been met with obstacles.

Under the revamped program by the Lolo Administration in 2013, it is now called, the American Samoa Venture Fund.

Commerce director Keniseli Lafaele told a House committee hearing in April this year that \$3.5 million is currently available for the local program, which requires investors or financial institutions to invest by matching the federal money awarded to each business.

At the time, four or five businesses had their applications set to go through the six-member Venture Fund committee review. When asked what types of businesses submitted applications, Lafaele told Samoa News he couldn't comment on the specifics, but said that these are the types of businesses that would create employment, generate government tax revenues, import substitution or export opportunities, and new monies for the economy.

The most difficult task faced by American Samoa, is securing investors, and/or financial institutions to provide matching funds - as required for the SSBCI.

Over the past several days, Samoa News has received several inquiries regarding the status of the program, with some claiming that the US Treasury Department, which funds the SSBCI, is set to close down the program before the end of this month, and American Samoa would not be able to tap into its share of the \$10 million awarded several years ago - during the Togiola Administration.

Responding to Samoa News questions, Lafaele said yesterday that the SSBCI program sunsets on Sept. 27th, as per legislation that created the program; and efforts to extend the program with another infusion of \$1.5 billion beyond the sunset date was not considered by the US Congress nor is it a part of President Trump's agenda.

Lafaele reconfirmed that ASG received \$3.5 million of the allocated SSBCI funds, and explained that American Samoa's allocation, like other states and territories, was to be received in three tranches- as each tranche is deployed, the

next tranche is received until the balance is fully deployed.

He emphasized that the SSBCI "is a matching program", that is, federal money - SSBCI - is matched with private capital - equity or debt, or both.

"And there lies the difficulty in getting our programmatic allocation of \$10.5 million fully deployed, let alone the first tranche received. There is a lack of capital market in the territory to provide the required private matching," Lafaele said.

The lack of available capital market has also been raised by Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, to the federal government as well as Fono leaders. In a letter last month to the US Government Accountability Office, the governor said the ASG's Debt Structure is the direct result of limited options available to access venture capital to build our economic development infrastructure. (See Samoa News Aug. 18th edition for details).

When asked how many projects/businesses were approved for funding, Lafaele told Samoa News yesterday that, "there's no shortage of projects that applicants submitted applications for; and we've screened applications carefully based on financial viability and sustainability, employment to be created, and access to private matching."

Regarding the types of projects/businesses approved for funding and the average amount allocated for them, Lafaele said he will provide information when a final decision is made to deploy funds for approved businesses.

When asked if any projects/businesses have been awarded any money, Lafaele said, "not yet. We have two or three that should receive funding in the next 30 days; then a few more after that. We aim to deploy all the SSBCI funds we have before the end of the year."

He explained that the Sept. 27th sunset date doesn't mean American Samoa has two weeks to use the funds it has or lose it.

"We have the rest of the year to deploy funds prudently and according to the ASG SSBCI program plan approved by the US Treasury," said Lafaele, adding that although the SSBCI office in Washington D.C. ceases to exist on Sept. 27th, "we were informed the US Treasury Office of Inspector General's role in this program continues to a certain date."

Samoa News also asked if there are any other government funding sources available for start-up businesses or businesses looking to expand operation. This is a question that has been posed by some local residents looking to start a new business, and others wanting

to expand but claim they are having a difficult time securing financial assistance from the private banks and the Development Bank of American Samoa.

"With Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga's approval, we aim to make the American Samoa Venture Capital Fund a permanent and viable business financing tool in the territory - beyond the SSBCI program," was Lafaele's reply.

"This opportunity should not die with the SSBCI program, rather, the SSBCI can be a launching pad for our own venture fund- 'when one door closes, another one opens'."



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McDonald's Miss Samoa contestants with members of Samoa Events Incorporated, that hosted the pageant.

[Samoa Observer]

StarKist to pay \$6.3Mil in civil penalties for environmental violations

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

StarKist Co. and its American Samoa based subsidiary StarKist Samoa Inc., will pay \$6.3 million in civil penalties, under an agreement reached with the federal government, over alleged violations relating to wastewater treatment and compliance matters at the canery plant in Atu'u.

This is according to federal court records, as well as a joint statement released yesterday from the US Justice Department and the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

As part of the agreement, through a "consent decree", the two companies will be required to make a series of upgrades to reduce pollution, improve safety measures, and comply with important federal environmental laws at their tuna processing facility in the territory.

Under the agreement, USDOJ says StarKist will pay a \$6.3 million penalty and provide emergency response equipment to the territory's Department of Public Safety, Fire Services Bureau, for use in responding to chemical releases.

Acting US Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey H. Wood of USDOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division calls the settlement "a significant environmental win for the community of American Samoa."

USDOJ "will continue to identify violations and enforce federal laws designed to protect the environment and the public," Wood said in the joint statement yesterday. "As a result of this action, StarKist has already performed a significant amount of work to correct its violations and we will continue to work together with our partners to bring the facility back into compliance and prevent future violations."

Acting Regional Administrator Alexis Strauss with the EPA's Pacific Southwest Region said the agreement "will help prevent hazardous releases at the StarKist facility, protect workers and the local community, and reduce pollution discharged into Pago Pago Harbor by more than 13 million pounds each year."

Working with its partners at the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency, Strauss said, they will monitor

the company's progress towards full compliance with all federal environmental rules.

StarKist president and chief executive officer, Andrew Choe said the company is "committed to American Samoa and its people" by being a socially responsible company and doing the right thing.

"Our company is committed to investing in the technology and equipment needed to address compliance issues at the StarKist Samoa plant," he said via a company statement. "While this process is long-term in nature, we will continue to work closely with the [US]EPA as we focus on these improvements until we meet and exceed compliance and environmental performance laws and standards."

StarKist, which acknowledged the \$6.3 million penalty outlined in the consent decree, said that in addition to capital improvement at the facility in Atu'u, the company offered a training session in American Samoa with the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) in July this year.

It also met with the territory's Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS), the Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office (TEMCO, a bureau of ASDHS), the Fire Bureau hazardous materials team, and other first responders.

According to StarKist these forums have allowed the company to identify emergency response equipment needs within the territory. As a result, StarKist said it will purchase 12 protective suits and 12 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units to support American Samoa's emergency response efforts.

This project, said StarKist, was undertaken in "connection with the settlement of an enforcement action" - referring to the civil complaint by the USDOJ filed on behalf of USEPA.

COMPLAINT

According to the federal complaint, it was around July 3, 2014 that ASEPA received reports that the water in inner Pago Pago Harbor, near the StarKist facility, was visibly discolored. The day before (July 2), representatives of ASEPA observed and reported that the

(Continued on page 8)



MISS SAMOA CROWNED OVER THE WEEKEND

A large crowd gathered at Tuanaimato to witness the crowning of Alexandra Iakopo as the new Miss Samoa.

The 23-year-old from Sapapali'i, Fusi Safotulafai and Moamoa overcame the challenge from eight other contestants to walk away with the title.

Ms. Iakopo is the second youngest in a family of three brothers and one sister. Her parents are Deacon Isaako Iakopo and Fagamalama Iakopo.

"It's been a challenging journey for me and I thank the Lord Almighty for his grace which has given me the will and opportunity to stand before you today as your Miss Samoa," said Alexandra as she acknowledged her Sponsor, House of Gold, her parents, as well as the host of the pageant, the Samoa Events Incorporated at the prize giving Sunday to officially conclude the pageant events.

As a survivor of rheumatic fever, Iakopo had two life

threatening heart surgeries in 2007 and 2011.

"I am convinced this is the reason why I survived and that is for me to represent and serve my country as their Miss Samoa," added the Samoa Qualification Authority officer.

And her parents Deacon Isaako Iakopo and Mrs. Fagamalama are grateful for the Almighty's blessings.

"We're blessed to have her as a daughter and we're thankful to our Father in heaven for His divine love for our daughter," said Deacon Iakopo.

"She is straight forward, no beating around the bush."

(Source: Samoa Observer)

SAMOA HEALTH MINISTRY SAYS IT WAS MISQUOTED

Samoa's Ministry of Health says the media has misunderstood its recommendations surrounding abortion.

Over the past week media reports have said the Ministry was urging the Government to legalize abortion and gay marriage.

This prompted public outrage and a statement from Prime Minister Tuila'epa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi that he would never allow what he calls "heathenistic practices."

Director of Health, Leausa Toleafoa Dr. Take Naseri says the media has misquoted and taken out of context the national policy paper.

He said the ministry did not advocate making abortion legal, as it is illegal and the ministry is compliant to the law.

He said the policy merely underlines that current law states abortion is only legal for women who are victims of rape, incest, and or those with sexually transmitted infections or HIV.

It also refers to mothers whose health could be threatened by giving birth.

As for gay marriage, Leausa said marital practices do not fall under the legal charge of the ministry so it would never make any recommendations on such a matter.

(Source: RNZI)

(Continued on page 6)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our

email news.newsroom@samoatelco.com
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Please visit samoanews.com for weekend updates.

► Isaac Silafau -AS...

Continued from page 1

town as San Francisco, CA but currently resides in Medford, Oregon.

Standing at 5’9” - 180lbs., Silafau said his track and field career started back in 2005, as a high school student at North Medford HS in Oregon.

By 2009, he was attending the College of the Siskiyous, where he ran the 100m, 200m, 4X100m, and competed in javelin.

In 2013-2015, Silafau transferred to Alderson-Broadbudd University where he ran the 60m, 100m, 200m, 4X100, 4X400m, and triple jump.

Last summer, he represented American Samoa in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and earlier this year in July, he participated in the Oceania Championships, competing in the 100m and 200m.

“My goal is to improve each and every day, so that I can improve at every track meet/competition,” he said. “That is the ultimate goal.”

Silafau’s training regime is consistent, and includes block work three times a week, strength training at the gym five days a week, and conditioning tests of sprint ladders (100m, 200m, 300m, 200m, 100m).

Part of what makes him so agile and fit, is his diet. He said he eats 5-6 meals a day, ensuring that he gets the right amount of carbs, fat and protein.

When he’s not at the track, Silafau can be found hanging out with friends and family,

reading, working out, at the movies, or traveling.

At the Asian Indoor Games, he will be competing in the 60m and the long jump on Sept. 18 and 20, while local wrestlers, Iafeta Vou, Daniel Misaalefua, Pita Fanolua, Zena Iese, Sealiitu Mauga and Nolan Puletasi will be competing in various weight categories on Sept. 25-26.

The festivities kick off this coming Sunday, with a grand opening ceremony, and will draw participants from some 60 countries – all members of the Asia and Oceania National Olympic committees. The event has been touted as the biggest ever in the history of the Asian Indoor Games.

The athletes are being accompanied to the Games by ASNOC president Tuiaana Ed Imo, ASNOC general secretary Ethan Lake, Chef de Mission Henrietta Molesi, wrestling coach Irene Kane, and press attache, Theresa Custodio Auva’a. Good luck Team American Samoa!



PUBLIC NOTICE

American Samoa Government

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

State Management Plan – Consolidated Grant

For Title 49 U.S.C. Sections 5310, 5311 & 5339

Title 49 U.S.C. 5310 Authorizes funding for public transportation capital projects planned, designed and carried out to meet the special needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities.

Title 49 U.S.C. 5311 Enhance the access of people in non-urbanized areas to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services and recreation. Assist in the maintenance, development, improvement, and use of public transportation systems in non-urbanized areas.

Title 49 U.S.C. 5339 Provides capital funding to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities, or to transfer to supplement urban and rural formula grant programs.

The American Samoa Government invites public comments on the Federal Transit Administration Consolidated Grant State Management Plan Draft. Public comments are invited for a 30-day period commencing on Monday, September 18, 2017 to October 18, 2017.

This document is available in accessible formats upon request. Paper copies can be retrieved from the Office of the Department of Public Works in Tafuna. An electronic copy can also be emailed upon request. Please forward your comments to the office of Public works before the time requested.

Further information regarding this plan may be obtained by contacting the Department of Public Works @ 699-9921 or 699-5357 and ask for Cathy Faoa-Danielson or Jacinta Fa’ata’a Falealili for assistance.

► Senators...

Continued from page 2

makers were concerned that the new change in taxing beer, will hike the retail cost of beer that is affordable to consumers, those who are non-premier beer drinkers. (See Samoa News Aug. 24th edition for details).

GHC Reid said premier beers will remain premium, cheap beer will remain cheap, and excise tax will not remove the differentiation between the two beer categories.

“What differentiates the types of beer are the cost of the product it was purchased from, the freights and the business margins,” it says. “Cheap beer will be excised at 35-cents per 12-ounce and premium beer will also be excised at 35-cents per 12-ounce.”

According to the GHC Reid, the current method of taxing imported beer “is open to manipulation”.

► Confirmed...

Continued from page 1

Samoa News for comments about the upcoming cannery shutdown said this is going to put a big dent on the local economy, as far as consumer purchasing power, as cannery workers will be without a pay-check for over a month.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

COASTWEEKS 2017

“A Healthy Coast is a Wealthy Coast”

WHEREAS, American Samoa has a varied coastline of rocky shores, sandy beaches, and harbors; and

WHEREAS, the natural resources of the coastal zone are among our most valuable economic resources; and

WHEREAS, the marine environment is of the most valuable resource supporting an active subsistence and commercial industry; and

WHEREAS, through the management, sustainment, and protection of our coastal zone and marine environment, future generations of American Samoa will benefit and prosper; and

WHEREAS, the Coastweeks theme: “A Healthy Coast is a Wealthy Coast” is our responsibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lolo M. Moliga, Governor of American Samoa do hereby proclaim the period of September 18-30, 2017 as **Coastweeks in American Samoa** and urge all citizens to take notice of these weeks and participate fittingly.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto affixed my signature and the seal of my office on this 9th day of August, 2017.

LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor of American Samoa

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The iconic Cook Islands Te Marumaru Atua vaka.

[Photo: Teinesavaii]

► Pacific brief...

Continued from page 4

ICONIC COOK ISLANDS VAKA OFF TO NZ FOR REPAIRS

The iconic Cook Islands Te Marumaru Atua vaka was sent to New Zealand for repairs after being damaged by fire earlier this month. No one was injured, but significant damage was caused to the starboard hull, which is where the crew sleeps.

The secretary of the Cook Island Voyaging Society, Cecile Marten said the cause of the fire is unknown and an investigation is underway.

Ms. Marten said the traditional voyaging vaka is set to be shipped to New Zealand for repairs.

“We were fortunate we had one of the builders from Salt-house (boat builders, NZ) here on holiday and popped down to have a look on Monday at the vaka.”

“I just received an initial assessment that they don’t believe that we can repair the hull. It looks like we are replacing the hull completely,” she said.

The Voyaging Society is presently building another vaka, which it hopes to have finished early next year in time for a festival in New Zealand.

(Source: RNZI)

SPC SUPPORTS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS

An agreement to achieve universal health coverage and address non-communicable diseases in the Pacific region was signed by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Community (SPC) on Sept. 8 in Apia, Samoa.

The Memorandum of Understanding means both parties will work together using their resources and networks for health protection and promotion in the region. Examples include providing technical assistance to develop a regional legislative framework; policies in health, sports and education to promote healthy lifestyles in children and young people.

The MOU was signed by Commonwealth Secretary General, Patricia Scotland, and Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Colin Tukuitonga.

Secretary General Scotland said the Commonwealth wel-

comes the chance to work more closely with Pacific regional organizations such as the SPC, on Pacific priorities.

“There is no doubt about the leadership and commitment that our membership has shown towards the Pacific’s Healthy Islands vision, thanks to the support of partners like the Commonwealth Secretariat,” said SPC’s Colin Tukuitonga.

“I am confident we will see rapid progress towards that vision.”

Both parties will also have opportunities to develop joint funding proposals.

(Source: Matangi Tonga)

U.S. GRANTS HELP SAMOAN GROUPS

The U.S. Embassy this week honored 10 Samoan organizations and two individuals at a Grantee Ceremony at the U.S. Embassy Residence, Vailima.

The organizations received funding from the U.S. Embassy Apia’s 2017 Public Diplomacy Grants programme as well as other funding support.

The two individuals are participants of the United States’ International Visitor Leadership Programme.

Susan Thornton, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, who was the Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Pacific Islands Forum, congratulated the recipients.

This year’s grants total more than \$200,000.

The Public Diplomacy Grants Programme is a small competitive programme offering grants of up to US\$5,000 to local non-government organizations to strengthen democracy, engage youth, promote U.S.-Samoa links, address environmental and health issues, advance science and technology, increase respect for civil society and the rule of law, advance human rights and women’s rights.

The International Visitor Leadership Programme (I.V.L.P.) is the U.S. Department of State’s premier professional exchange programme.

Through short-term visits to the United States, current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields experience America firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

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samoa news



It was a good feeling for these four military men to reunite in American Samoa in the name of “Service.” The visiting practitioners will provide free services through work under the Department of Health.

(l-r): DOH director Motusa Tuileama Nua, Lt. Christopher Johnson, Major Douglas A. Taylor and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Peleti Mauga.
“We would love to be exposed to your beautiful culture, your way of life, and study some of your local health issues and treatments,” said Maj. Taylor. “We’ll do our best to help transcend what we know will help our local health practitioners, if needed.”

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

Gay couple denied baby through surrogate challenges Utah law

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A gay couple denied the chance to have a baby using a surrogate challenged a Utah law’s reference to heterosexual parents Tuesday in a case that illustrates the legal complications LGBT couples can face when starting families amid a national patchwork of surrogacy laws.

The case came before the Utah Supreme Court after a judge refused to approve the couple’s surrogacy agreement. The judge in southern Utah cited references to a mother in the law’s requirement that prospective parents prove a woman can’t have children without health serious risk before they turn to surrogacy.

That discriminates against male same-sex couples who want to start a family, said Edwin Wall, an attorney for the two men who want to remain anonymous. Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes won’t stand in the couple’s way. State lawyers didn’t appear before the high court and said in court documents that the law should be read as gender-neutral.

Some state Supreme Court justices, though, questioned whether that is enough or part of the law should be struck down.

“It seems to me we have to resolve this on constitutional grounds,” Justice John Pearce said. The panel did not immediately rule following the Tuesday hearing. While gay couples still face legal challenges on parenthood, the Utah case appears unique in barring a pregnancy before it begins, said Susan Sommer with the national gay-rights group Lambda Legal.



Republican Party of American Samoa

P.O. Box 3506 Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

CELEBRATING YOUTHS & WHITE SUNDAY IN AMERICAN SAMOA

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION: HOW CAN WE MAKE AMERICAN SAMOA GREAT? FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS ONLY!!

ROUND 1: THE ESSAY

GUIDELINES: 400-500 WORDS, mla format, 12 pt times new roman, single-spaced, 1” margins, include your full name, the name of your school, your grade, date you typed your essay and contact information in the top right corner. Do your research & include a reference page. One essay per person, no plagiarizing.

DEADLINE: SUBMIT BY OCTOBER 11, 2017

TOP 10 ESSAYS WILL BE SELECTED AND THE FINALISTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY OCTOBER 18, 2017

DROP OFF YOUR ESSAY IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AT ONE OF THESE LOCATIONS:

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MANU’A STORE IN PAGO PAGO
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ROUND 2: THE SPEECH

GUIDELINES: 5 minutes, finalists will receive a new topic and make an impromptu speech from their perspective, parent/guardian must sign waiver for media release, parent/guardian must accompany the finalist.

OCTOBER 27, 2017, DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

TOP 3 WINNERS WILL RECEIVE PRIZES, GIFT CERTIFICATE AND CASH. ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE RECOGNIZED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

TINA IOANE 254-3426
JOHN RAYNAR 258-0693
SAILITAF SAMOA 252-8129



This competition is sponsored by the Republican Party of American Samoa and Partners.



DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE
Project Notification & Review System

Legal Notice
PNRS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
September 20, 2017

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

1. **Max Haleck Jr. Dev. Corp. c/o Gerhard Haleck** 17-4888-LVB
Proposal for land filling - Nu'uuli
2. **T.S.M Mart c/o Byung Ki** 17-4876-LVB
Proposal to demolish and new construction with utilities - Tafuna
3. **Hong Li** 17-4901-LVB
Proposal for car wash with utilities - Tafuna
4. **Florence Tauaefa** 17-4878-LVB
Proposal for a Taxi Stand - Tafuna
5. **Vaimili Vailolo** 17-4893-L
Proposal for excavation, clearing and walls and fences - Fagamutu/Nua

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, September 19, 2017. Interested individuals are also invited to attend a Public Hearing at 9:00 a.m. **Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at DOC Conference Room, on the 2nd Floor of the Executive Office Building in Utulei.**

O lo'o iai i le Ofisa o Fa'afetauaina ni talosaga mo Pemita e Fa'atagaina ai le Fa'aaogaina o Fanua ma Laualeele e tusa ma ala o le Tulafono. A iai se tasi e fa'asea pe fia tusia se molimau i ni afaina o le si'osi'omaga pe a galueaina nei galuega, telefoni mai ia Aokusotino Mao i le 633-5155. E mafai fo'i ona e auai i le fono a le Komiti Fa'afaoe ia **Setema 20, 2017, ile itula e 9 ile taeao.**



American Samoa Government
DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE


Public Notice
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE
American Samoa Government
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)
Program Year 2016

Notice is hereby given that the American Samoa will submit a Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2016 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) before September 20, 2017. The CAPER is an annual report that describes the use of the following Community Planning and Development (CPD) Programs funded by HUD: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) grant.

Citizens and interested parties are invited to review a draft copy of the CAPER. The draft is available for public review and comment(s) from September 1, 2017 to September 18, 2017 at the Department of Commerce during office hours from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The public has fifteen (15) days to comment on the proposed CAPER draft. All comments must be submitted in writing to the CPD Coordinator by letter or email to peti.matila@doc.as. A summary of public comments received will be included in the CAPER submitted to HUD.

Comments may be submitted to:

Ms. Petti T. Matila
Office of the Governor
A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building 3rd Floor
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799


Keniseli F. Lafiele
Director of Commerce

FEMA estimates 25 percent of Florida Keys homes are gone

LOWER MATECUMBE KEY, Fla. (AP) — With 25 percent of the homes in the Florida Keys feared destroyed, emergency workers Tuesday rushed to find Hurricane Irma's victims — dead or alive — and deliver food and water to the stricken island chain.

As crews labored to repair the lone highway connecting the Keys, residents of some of the islands closest to Florida's mainland were allowed to return and get their first look at the devastation. "It's going to be pretty hard for those coming home," said Petrona Hernandez, whose concrete home on Plantation Key with 35-foot walls was unscathed, unlike others a few blocks away. "It's going to be devastating to them."

But because of disrupted phone service and other damage, the full extent of the destruction was still a question mark, more than two days after Irma roared into the Keys with 130 mph (209 kph) winds.

Elsewhere in Florida, life inched closer to normal, with some flights again taking off, many curfews lifted and major theme parks reopening. Cruise ships that extended their voyages and rode out the storm at sea began returning to port with thousands of passengers.

The number of people

without electricity in the steamy late-summer heat dropped to 9.5 million — just under half of Florida's population. Utility officials warned it could take 10 days or more for power to be fully restored. About 110,000 people remained in shelters across Florida. The number of deaths blamed on Irma in Florida climbed to 12, in addition to four in South Carolina and two in Georgia. At least 37 people were killed in the Caribbean.

"We've got a lot of work to do, but everybody's going to come together," Florida Gov. Rick Scott said. "We're going to get this state rebuilt."

In hard-hit Naples, on Florida's southwest coast, more than 300 people stood outside a Publix grocery store in the morning, waiting for it to open.

A manager came to the store's sliding door with occasional progress reports. Once he said that workers were throwing out produce that had gone bad; another time, that they were trying to get the cash registers working. One man complained loudly that the line had too many gaps. Others shook their heads in frustration at word of another delay. At the front of the line after a more than two-hour wait, Phill Chirchirillo, 57, said days without electricity.

► **Starkist to pay...**

Continued from page 4

water near the outfall in inner Pago Pago Harbor was discolored, murky, bubbling, and there was a strong odor being emitted from the water.

On July 3rd, ASEPA issued an order to StarKist to cease operations at the facility or to cease engaging in any activities responsible for creating an unauthorized discharge of pollutants to inner Pago Pago Harbor until the outfall was repaired in accordance with the stop order to cease operations.

StarKist was required under the stop order notice to report the discharges to the USEPA Region 9 immediately, according to the complaint, which states that StarKist did not report the discharges or rupture to Region 9 until July 30, when it submitted a report of its response and investigation of the rupture through July 14.

At that time, the USEPA began investigating the facility after monitoring reports submitted by StarKist revealed wastewater pollutant levels that consistently exceeded permitted levels, according to USDOJ.

USEPA's investigations revealed that StarKist had changed the composition of the facility's discharged wastewater such that its existing

wastewater treatment system was inadequate.

After full implementation of the wastewater treatment system upgrades, the facility's annual discharge of pollutants into Pago Pago Harbor, including total nitrogen, phosphorus, oil and grease, and total suspended solids, will be reduced by at least 85 percent — a total reduction of more than 13 million pounds of wastewater pollutants each year.

In addition to wastewater violations, USEPA also found that StarKist was improperly storing ammonia, butane, and chlorine gas, which the facility used on-site for refrigeration, operation of forklifts, and disinfection.

The federal Clean Air Act requires companies to operate safely in order to prevent the release of hazardous chemicals that can harm workers and the surrounding community, said USDOJ.

The 59-page complaint, filed at the federal court in Pittsburgh, outlines specific details of several allegations of violations of federal environmental laws. Samoa News will report in future editions, on the details from the consent decree between the feds and StarKist.



FILE - In this Feb. 17, 2016 file photo, plants grow at the home of Jeremy Nickle, owner of Hawaiian Holy Smokes, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Hawaii says it will be the first state to require marijuana transactions to be handled without cash. Hawaii state officials said Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017, medical marijuana dispensaries won't be allowed to accept cash beginning Oct. 1, 2017, and will have to use a debit payment app instead. (AP Photo/Marina Riker, File)

Hawaii says it's 1st state to go cashless for pot sales

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii said Tuesday that it aims to be the first state to require marijuana sales to be handled without cash, saying it wanted to avoid robberies and other crimes targeting dispensaries.

All of Hawaii's eight licensed dispensaries have agreed to go cashless by Oct. 1, the governor's office said. The dispensaries will ask patients to use a debit payment app to buy their pot instead of cash. The app is already an option for marijuana transactions in six states, including California and Colorado.

Iris Ikeda, the state's financial institutions commissioner, told reporters at a news conference that state officials haven't discussed whether people wanting to pay in cash will be turned away from dispensaries.

"Oct. 1 is our target date to try to go cashless as much as we can," Ikeda said.

Many marijuana businesses use cash because banks fear pot money could expose them to legal trouble from the U.S. government, which regulates banking and still bans marijuana.

The debit app called CanPay uses a Colorado-based credit union to facilitate transactions. The Hawaii dispensaries will set up accounts with the credit union, called Safe Harbor Private Banking.

Under the cashless system, customers use their checking accounts to pay CanPay, which sends the payment to Safe Harbor.

Hawaii was still working on allowing prepaid, stored-value cards to be used an alternative for people who don't have checking accounts, Ikeda said. Becky Dansky, legislative counsel at Marijuana Policy Project, a Washington-based organization that aims to change federal law to allow

states to determine their own marijuana policies, said it's good to find alternatives to dealing with large amounts of cash.

But she said it's a concern that Hawaii's program will rely on one specific system, given the risks of a hacker attack or a company going out of business.

Hawaii was among the first states to legalize medical marijuana in 2000. But the state didn't grant licenses to any dispensaries until last year. Maui Grown Therapies became the first to open last month after the state Department of Health gave it approval to begin sales.

Honolulu-based dispensary Aloha Green is the only other dispensary that opened to date.

During the Obama administration, the Justice Department issued guidelines to help banks avoid federal prosecution when dealing with pot businesses in states where the drug is legal.

But most banks don't see those rules as a shield against charges that could include aiding drug trafficking. They say the rules are difficult to follow, placing the burden on banks to determine if a pot business is operating within the law.

There is also uncertainty over how the Trump administration will react. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has said he wants to crack down on the legal marijuana industry.

Credit card companies like Visa and Mastercard say they won't allow their cards to be used to buy cannabis or marijuana-related products.

Patients who don't own smartphones will have to create CanPay accounts with an email address and personal identification number. Patients will be able buy pot by logging on to their accounts with computer tablets at the dispensaries.



FILE - In this Aug. 3, 2017 file photo, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a press conference after he reshuffled his Cabinet at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo. Japan is debating whether to develop limited pre-emptive strike capability and buy cruise missiles - ideas that were anathema in the pacifist country before the North Korea missile threat. With revisions to Japan's defense plans underway, ruling party hawks are accelerating the moves, and some defense experts say Japan should at least consider them. Abe called North Korea's missile firing on Aug. 29, 2017, an "unprecedented, grave and serious threat." (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi, File)



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Bea)



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FILE - In this Aug. 27, 2017 file photo, demonstrators clash during a free speech rally in Berkeley, Calif. Police in Berkeley, California say they need an additional weapon to combat violent protests that have repeatedly hit the city. The city council will decide Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017, whether to let officers use pepper spray to control crowds that turn violent.

(AP Photo/Josh Edelson, File)

Berkeley police get to use
pepper spray at violent protests

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — The Berkeley City Council on Tuesday gave police permission to use pepper spray to repel demonstrators attacking officers and others during violent protests that have repeatedly hit the city this year during political protests.

The 6-3 vote by the council came ahead of another planned speech Thursday at the University of California, Berkeley.

The city banned pepper spray in 1997 as a crowd-control weapon, though most law enforcement agencies permit officers to use it to disburse violent crowds, Berkeley police Chief Andrew Greenwood said.

Greenwood sought such permission at an emergency council meeting, saying it is preferable to batons and tear gas, which the city is allowed to use but disburses far wider than pepper spray.

The council rejected its use for crowd control Tuesday, but agreed to modify its ban and expand police powers to use it.

The council said pepper spray “shall not be used as a crowd control technique to disperse a crowd or move a crowd,” the motion stated. “Police may use pepper spray upon specific individuals within a crowd who are committing acts of violence upon police or others.”

Berkeley police do carry small canister of pepper spray for use on individual suspects. But the police chief said officers need permission to use bigger canisters if necessary.

Officers were preparing for

violence as soon as Thursday when conservative political commentator and former Breitbart editor Ben Shapiro appears on campus and again later this month when conservative figures have been invited to speak.

“It is a request made of urgency,” Greenwood said.

Dozens of people lined up at City Hall to oppose arming Berkeley police with the larger canister of pepper spray, saying it is too easy for officers to use and has the potential to be used on peaceful protesters.

Some cities nationwide banned pepper spray after several high-profile incidents of police using it on peaceful protesters. An incident in which students at the University of California, Davis, were pepper-sprayed during a peaceful demonstration in 2014 led to a \$1 million legal settlement for the protesters.

Ishmael Tarikh, a civil rights lawyer with the National Lawyers Guild, said police must issue a dispersal order before firing tear gas canisters. Tarikh said police don't have to issue a warning when using pepper spray. “It's a blunt instrument used for a very precise problem,” he said. Four political demonstrations have turned violent in Berkeley since February, prompting officers to come up with new strategies to control rowdy and sometimes dangerous crowds. Berkeley police said they have not deployed tear gas at the other protests.

Police say they are struggling to balance free speech

rights with preventing violence. Berkeley is facing a “large, armed coordinated group” at political events, Greenwood said.

“Our officers do not have the tools to address this threat,” he said.

Joseph Giacalone, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a former New York City police sergeant, said it would be advantageous for police to be able to use pepper spray during protests but tactical decisions should be made based on the conditions.

He said although tear gas and pepper spray often cause the same effects, shooting tear gas at a group of protesters often means spraying innocent bystanders and people frequently throw the cans back at officers.

“There are going to be bystanders in that crowd, and let's face it, the people you're trying to control come prepared for it. They have gas masks on,” Giacalone said.

Later this month, a conservative group says it plans to bring former White House adviser Steve Bannon to speak on campus along with former Breitbart editor Milo Yiannopoulos and politically conservative commentator Ann Coulter.

A Yiannopoulos appearance on campus in February was canceled for safety reasons when protests turned violent and spilled into downtown Berkeley. Protesters smashed windows of businesses and marred walls with graffiti.

Jimmy Carter to Trump: ‘Keep the peace ... tell the truth’

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter offered a damning indictment of U.S. foreign policy and domestic affairs Tuesday, saying money in politics makes the nation more like an “oligarchy than a democracy” and casting President Donald Trump as a disappointment on the world stage.

Carter’s criticisms, offered at his annual presentation to backers of his post-presidency Carter Center in Atlanta, went beyond Trump, but he was particularly critical of the nation’s direction under the Republican president’s leadership.

The 39th president, a Democrat, offered this advice to the 45th: “Keep the peace, promote human rights and tell the truth.”

Carter, 92, did not mention explicitly Trump’s threatening exchanges this summer with North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un, but the former president said the U.S. should engage directly with the insular leader and discuss a peace treaty to replace the cease fire that ended the Korean War in 1953.

“I would send my top person to Pyongyang immediately, if I didn’t go myself,” Carter said, noting that he’s been three times to the country, even as successive U.S. administrations have refused to deal with the regime.

The North Koreans, Carter said, want a treaty that guarantees the U.S. will not attack unless North Korea attacks the U.S. or an ally, particularly South Korea. “Until we talk to them and treat them with respect — as human beings, which they are — I don’t think we’re going to make any progress,” Carter said.

He also dismissed Trump’s optimism that he can engineer Middle East peace. Trump has tasked his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, with handling the issue that has vexed U.S.

administrations for generations, but the president notably backed off the long-held U.S. position calling for a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

Carter said he is “practically hopeless” that anything Trump comes up with would give “justice to the Palestinians.”

“I don’t think Trump or his family members are making any process in that respect,” he said. Carter criticized both Israeli and Palestinian leaders for a lack of flexibility, but he singled out Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a Trump ally, for having “no intention at all of having a two-state solution.”

The former president and his wife, Rosalynn, largely steer clear of partisan politics, long having yielded any active role in the Democratic Party. But they maintain their high-profile advocacy through the Carter Center, which focuses on human rights, public health and democratic elections.

Carter on Tuesday defended the center’s role in monitoring the August presidential elections in Kenya that the country’s Supreme Court later discarded. The court has ordered a new election.

The Carter Center’s monitoring team, led by former Secretary of State John Kerry, said days after the vote that the process of casting paper ballots was fair, but that the electronic tabulations were “unreliable.” Carter said Tuesday that international monitors were not allowed to observe the counting process.

The center also remains engaged in trying to end the Syrian civil war, Carter said. He noted that he and others from the center have engaged Russian President Vladimir Putin and others trying to broker peace.

FA’ASALALAUGA o le talatalaga o le Suafa SA’OLE

O le a taoto ia fa’apāpā e lē gae’e, ma mamau faapa le sopo’ia ou paia, sā ma faigā Samoa, auā o oe o le ao mamala i le faasouga o ao o le atu folasa. Mai le Taisamasama o le Tuimanu’a na alofisā ai tupu, se’ia pa’ia le Taiulaula o Nafanua na tauilo ai malō...TULOU, TULOUNA LAVA!

Ae ua sausau fialele ma faaosofia le manu nai Utufiu, ina ua a’e se manatu i suli o le suafa **SA’OLE** o lo’o nonofo i le aiga, mai le afio’aga o Aunu’u:

Paia lava lea i le afio Lupega, Afio Ma’opu, Sa’o ma le Tama Aiga; Fetalaiga maualuga ia i la’ua Fuiava ma Taufi, Tainane Sale’aumua, Fofoga o Sagatu ma le Lauti na Laulelei...

E le o nofoia le nofoa o Tavita; o lo’o talaivao pea le suafa **Saole** o le tatou aiga; o lea ua a’e ai se manatu, ua alagatatau ona saili se tasi e tulai mai i le foe e taitai ma tausi lo tatou aiga.

O le mea lea, e taalo atu ma le ava tele, i suli uma ma faleao o loo papa’aao i itu e fia o Samoa ma le lalolagi atoa, a’o feoi o gafa na sausau sema o le suafa **“SA’OLE”**...afio mai ma tala mai aao, sei o tatou mulumulu aufoe faatasi, ae ā le faamoemoe o se fa’asa’osa’o o le tatou aiga.

O le polokalama e faapea: O le a faia le talatalaga a le tatou aiga potopoto i le Maota o Sauma i Aunuu, ia Setema 16, 2017 i le 9:00 i le taeao. Faamalūlū atu, o lou le auai o le a le taofia ai se finagalo autasi o aiga i lea aso.

Matou te tatolo i le Atua ia maua se laolao lelei i ala ma le vasa, auā le fetalololoa’i o le tatou aiga i lea aso. O le toese o nuu potopoto o le mea tāua, ina ia maua pea le nofo fealofani, e pei o le igoaipu a le tatou aiga.

Ua faia lenei faasalalauga i le agaga maualalo ma le ava tele e tataui i ai.

O suli uma o le suafa Sa’ole o lo’o nonofo i le aiga.



American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB-2434-17

Issuance Date: August 31, 2017

Closing Date: September 19, 2017
No later than 10:00am (local time)

1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are being solicited to provide **Tech Equipment** for the LA-Immigration System Upgrade.

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), **Tuesday, September 19, 2017** 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



FILE - In this June 30, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump and their son Barron Trump board Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., en route to Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J. As President Donald Trump’s administration alters some parts of the former first lady’s legacy, Mrs. Trump is keeping other parts of it alive, from public policy to high fashion to family ties.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster,



First responders and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center staff help a patient onto an evacuating bus during an active shooter incident on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017, at the medical center in Lebanon, N.H. A family member shot and killed a 70-year-old female patient in the Intensive Care Unit earlier in the afternoon.

(Charles Hatcher/The Valley News via AP)

Authorities: Man shoots mother dead in hospital, is arrested

LEBANON, N.H. (AP) — A Rhode Island man who fatally shot his mother in the intensive care unit of New Hampshire’s largest hospital, sending dozens of police officers scrambling there and briefly forcing a lockdown, has been arrested, authorities said. No one else was injured in the violence.

Authorities said Travis Frink, of Warwick, Rhode Island, was expected to be arraigned Wednesday on murder charges for the shooting at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon.

Attorney General Gordon MacDonald identified the victim as Frink’s 70-year-old mother, Pamela Ferriere, of Groton. MacDonald said the 49-year-old Frink signed into the medical center’s visitor center just after 1 p.m. Tuesday

and went to the intensive care unit. Soon after, Lebanon police received a call about shots fired in in the intensive care unit.

“The facts gathered to this point reveal that the purpose of Mr. Frink’s visit to the hospital today was to kill his mother,” MacDonald said, adding that the crime scene was still being investigated and that more than one shot had been fired. “No other patients, visitors or staff were physically injured as a result of the incident today.”

Frink was detained as he tried to leave the grounds of Dartmouth-Hitchcock, authorities said. He was in custody late Tuesday and couldn’t be reached for comment. No possible motive for the shooting was released. Rhode Island state police said the shooting suspect’s car had Rhode Island plates so police in New Hampshire reached out to the state’s Fusion Center, an information center under the command of the state police that also involves representatives from local, state and federal agencies. The center helped identify the suspect as a Rhode Island resident.

Authorities released very little information about Frink, although a 2013 story in the Providence Journal said that police suspected that alcohol played a role in the death of his wife and son, whose bodies were found in a running car in an apartment complex.

The shooting sparked panic at the hospital as employees and patients were evacuated into the parking lot. People were told to avoid the area around the hospital, and traffic was stopped on a route leading to the medical center. WCAX-TV reported that an employee said all workers received an email from the hospital about a “code silver,” indicating a violent situation is unfolding, telling them to get out if possible and otherwise to shelter in place.

Susan Flynn, who was about to have surgery at the hospital, told WCAX she and her husband escaped to a patio soon after the shooting.

“We were sitting in this patio area and two police came running out with guns and those shields that they wear and said, ‘Run, run!’ So we ran out of there as fast as we could and on to next location and kept moving and moving to different locations until they put us in a secure location,” Flynn said.

Joanne Conroy, the president of Dartmouth-Hitchcock, praised her staff for its response and said everyone had taken part in several active-shooter trainings in the past.

“Today was an incredibly stressful day and a tragic day for the affected family,” she said. “We had the best outcome from this. Nobody else was hurt, and that is all we can ask for.”





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