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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

SPORTS

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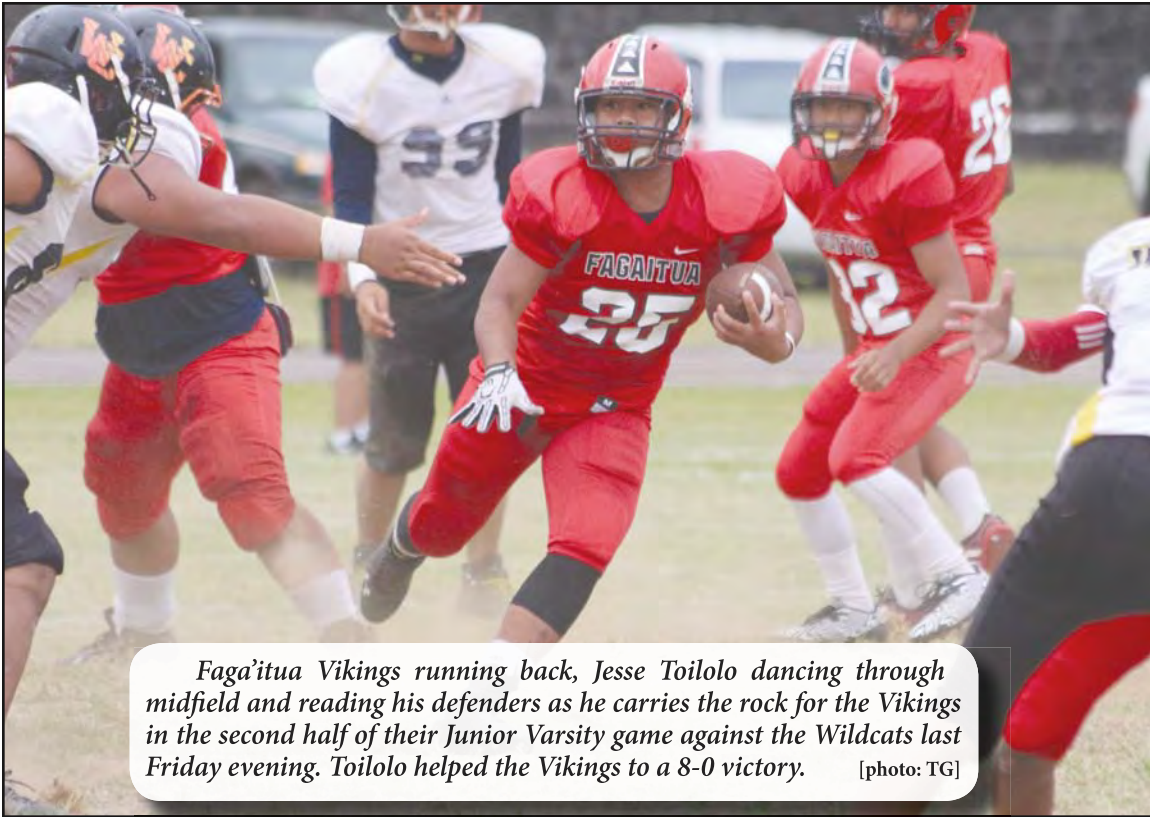
CONGRESSWOMAN AUMUA AMATA

ASHSAA HS FOOTBALL



Vikes shut out Wildcats

FAGA'ITUA WINS ITS SECOND VICTORY OF THE SEASON IN BOTH DIVISIONS



Faga'itua Vikings running back, Jesse Toilolo dancing through midfield and reading his defenders as he carries the rock for the Vikings in the second half of their Junior Varsity game against the Wildcats last Friday evening. Toilolo helped the Vikings to a 8-0 victory. [photo: TG]



O'Neil Ah Ching of the Vikings storming towards the sidelines to gain huge yardage for Faga'itua in their Junior Varsity match up against the Wildcats last Friday evening – the Vikings won 8-0. [photo: TG]

by T. Gasu
Samoa News Sports
Correspondent

During the third week of the American Samoa High School Athletics Association's (ASHSAA) football season, head coach Sua'ese Pooch Ta'ase and his Faga'itua Vikings claimed their second win of the season in both divisional battles against the Nu'uuli Wildcats.

The Vikings' varsity squad shut out the Wildcats with a final score of 53-0.

Meanwhile, the Vikings' JV team was able to score the only touchdown of their match-up against Nu'uuli, during the final minutes of the game.

Congresswoman Aumua Amata is sponsor of the coverage of the ASHSAA football season 2017-18.

The Faga'itua Vikings defensive unit, spearheaded by three freshmen players: Maurice Ta'ala and the Mageo twins (Georgia & Georgie), led the Vikings to a lopsided victory against the Wildcats this past Saturday at the Veterans Memorial Stadium.

JUNIOR VARSITY: FAGA'ITUA 8 - NU'UULI 0

Despite a resounding performance by the Vikings varsity team, Samoa News cannot say the same for its JV squad, as the Wildcats' defensive unit managed to stop the Vikings throughout ninety-nine percent of the ball game.

It wasn't until the final minutes of the match, that Faga'itua's desperate passing game finally struck gold.

3:22 remaining in the ball game — Faga'itua Vikings first down inside Wildcats territory — and the Vikings quarterback turns to float one to the corner of the end zone that was caught

by Elijah Taufuiava for the only touchdown of the match.

The two-point conversion hand off to Iosua Ato was good enough to give Faga'itua the win, their second one this season.

VARSITY DIVISION: FAGA'ITUA 53 - NU'UULI 0

The Big Red Machine wasn't playing around when they opted to send the opening kick off to the Wildcats — as their defensive unit stomped all over Jerry Isaako, Iosefa Mauga and Nu'uuli's offense, putting pressure on them from the get.

11:52 into the opening quarter, and Faga'itua's Vito Kitiona looks far to find a wide open Jeffery Fulu, who had no one covering him on a post route play action pass between Fulu and Kitiona for the opening touchdown of the game.

The two-point conversion by DJ Grey put the Vikes ahead with an early 8-point lead.

9:55 still in the opening quarter and the Vikings march the ball downfield, spotting a fortunate first down situation on the Wildcats' 5-yard line — a quarterback keeper by Kitiona added six more points to the Vikings lead.

Later on in the match, 10:02 into the third quarter of play, and the Vikings find another open window.

The Vikings' third down on the Wildcats' 25-yard line, and Kitiona hits Aroni Taua'a in the numbers to score another Faga'itua touchdown. The two-point conversion by Kitiona extended the lead to 20 points.

In the third — Faga'itua's Kitiona again punched in six points from a quarterback keep, but this came after he had bombed a long pass out to receiver Steven Fiso for a huge setup gain of yardage.

(Continued on page B4)



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Steelers tackle Villanueva: mix up led to anthem flap

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Alejandro Villanueva just wanted to get a glimpse of the American flag, the symbol he wore on his military uniform during three tours in Afghanistan before beginning an unlikely journey from Army Ranger to the NFL.

The massive left tackle and West Point graduate has no interest in becoming a symbol in a fight he wants no part of, no matter how it may have looked on Sunday at Soldier Field, when Villanueva found himself standing alone as the flag waved, the national anthem played and his teammates remained covered in darkness in a tunnel behind him.

The optics made it appear as if Villanueva was making a statement about where he stands in the mushrooming political battle that has turned high-profile athletes' action (or inaction) during the playing of

the "Star Spangled Banner" into a national referendum on patriotism.

Villanueva insists he was not, that saluting the colors had everything to do with miscommunication and nothing to do with him setting himself apart from the organization, the coaches or the players who have helped craft his improbable success story. "It's a very embarrassing part on my end," Villanueva said on Monday. "When everyone sees images of me standing by myself, everybody thinks the team and the Steelers are not behind me and that is absolutely wrong. It's quite the opposite."

The Steelers met as a team on Saturday night to discuss how to handle the anthem following president Donald Trump's tweets suggesting players who don't stand for it should be fired.

Coach Mike Tomlin told his

players whatever they decided, they needed to do it as a team. When the group couldn't reach a consensus, they opted to remove themselves from the situation by staying off the field until after the anthem was played. Villanueva reached out to quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, asking if he could be at the front of the pack. Roethlisberger told Villanueva to meet in the tunnel four minutes before kickoff. Villanueva said he arrived early and walked out far enough to see the flag. He asked a security guard when the anthem would start and was told "20 seconds." He turned back toward his teammates in the tunnel when the music began playing. So Villanueva did what he's done his entire life: he stopped and put his right hand over his heart even as his mind raced.

"The decision was 'Do you walk out of the national anthem and join your teammates?'" Villanueva said. "I know that would have looked extremely bad. Or as a team do you start moving halfway through the national anthem? What you can get out of this is that we essentially butchered our plan."

Leaving the 29-year-old Villanueva and the Steelers in a difficult spot. Roethlisberger and the rest of the 53-man roster was ready to join Villanueva but was slowed by a group of Chicago fans exiting the field. Then the first verse was roaring through the loudspeakers and it was too late. "I wish today we would have continued down," Roethlisberger said. "I know there would have been a lot of chaos and commotion because the guys behind us wouldn't know what was going on. There was no division there. That's just the way it appeared through pictures and cameras and stuff."

Roethlisberger said the entire team will take the field on Sunday when Pittsburgh plays in Baltimore, though it's uncertain whether they will present a unified front or have some players protest in some form.

Either way, they will be there alongside Villanueva, who defended his teammates for the surreal scene at Soldier Field, placing the blame on himself.

"The entire team would have been out there with me, even the ones that wanted to take a knee would have been there with me had they known these extremely (difficult) circumstances," he said. "Because of that I've made Mike Tomlin look bad, and that's my fault and my fault only. I've made my teammates look bad and that's my fault and my fault only. I also look bad and that's my fault and my fault only."

Regardless of the actual intentions of all involved, the combination of Villanueva's background and the striking image of his No. 78 cutting a singular figure against the Soldier Field grass on a politically.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP: Financial and Single Audit Services for 2017-2019
Approved to issuance by: Ruth Matagi-Fa'atili; DBAS President
Date of issuance: August 16, 2017
Date & Time Due: October 30, 2017
No later than 2:00 pm local time

DBAS requests proposals for financial audits and the related single audits for a period of three years, beginning with the audit of fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2019. Fiscal and calendar years are coincident at DBAS.

DOCUMENT

Requests for proposal packet outlining requirements will be available for pick up at DBAS on Friday August 18, 2017 or emailing charmaine@dbas.as for information regarding the RFP. It can also be accessed through the DBAS website: www.dbas.as (click public notice)

The Request for Proposals (RFP) describes the specifications for the services to be provided in sufficient details to permit competition and allow the interested party to properly respond to the RFP.

This RFP is issued under Title 28, Chapter 1, of the American Samoa Code Annotated.

DBAS invites the submission of proposals to include pricing and other details as indicated in the specifications. Attachments will be provided as an aid in presenting a comprehensive proposal consistent with the requirements of DBAS.

DBAS will select a contractor who best meets the needs of DBAS. The factors for selection will include, but not be limited to the following: understanding of the requirements of the financial and single auditors; verifiable ability to perform well; good reputation; flexibility, including ability to respond quickly to needs of a small client in a remote location and throughout the year; and reasonability of costs.

The proposals will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives from DBAS management and board. The committee may request interviews with potential contractors after reviewing the proposals before the final selection is made.

Submission: Proposals must be received by DBAS no later than 2:00pm local time on October 30, 2017. They may be mailed or hand delivered in a sealed envelope to:

Development Bank of American Samoa
PO BOX 9
Attention: Charmaine Faleaana
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

They may also be emailed to charmaine@dbas.as, as an attachment in Word Format with a confirming email required to confirm receipt; or faxed to DBAS at (684) 633-1163 with a confirming fax to confirm receipt. The original is to follow by airmail first class.



Steven Fiso of Faga'itua returning a kick-off for the Vikings in the third quarter of their Varsity game last Saturday morning against Nu'uuli. [photo: TG]

US Open finalists knocked out in first round at Wuhan Open

WUHAN, China (AP) — U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens and runner-up Madison Keys were knocked out of the Wuhan Open in the first round on Monday.

In their first matches since the final at Flushing Meadows, the 17th-ranked Stephens lost to Wang Qiang of China 6-2, 6-2, while the 12th-ranked Keys was beaten by fellow American Varvara Lepchenko 6-2, 7-6 (4).

The last time Grand Slam finalists lost their next match was after 2005 Wimbledon, where Venus Williams beat Lindsay Davenport.

Also, defending champion Petra Kvitova lost for the first time in Wuhan on her third visit. Kvitova won in 2014 and last year, when she dropped just one set. It took Peng Shuai 3 ½ hours to knock her out 7-6 (7) 6-7 (5) 7-6 (3).

Stephens' serve was broken early in both sets. Wang closed out the victory on her sixth match point.

"I wasn't moving that great,

just was a tough day for me," Stephens said.

Keys, seeded 10th, broke Lepchenko early in the second set, but the qualifier rebounded. Lepchenko was broken while serving for the match at 6-5 but rushed to 5-1 in the tiebreaker.

Kvitova had won all seven previous contests against Peng, but China's best player began by taking her first set off the Czech in four years. Kvitova evened the set score, and they kept breaking each other's serve in the decider until Peng held for 4-3. Peng served for the match at 5-3 but Kvitova rallied and saved a match point at 6-5 down. Peng finally won in the tiebreaker on her fourth match point.

They weren't the only upsets.

Seeds No. 5 Johanna Konta and No. 12 Angelique Kerber, and former U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur were also sent packing. Konta lost to Ashleigh Barty of Australia 6-0, 4-6, 7-6 (3) in the second round, and Kerber lost her opener to Caro-

line Garcia of Spain 3-6, 6-3, 6-1. Stosur fell to Swiss wild card Jill Teichmann 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. Konta, who occupies the last spot in the Race to Dubai, served for the match, but Barty broke back to force the tiebreaker and earned her career-best win. Konta has lost her last four matches.

"I don't think there's anything wrong, I just think these new challenges are very important for my development as a player," Konta said.

Garcia dropped the first set to former No. 1 Kerber but broke early in the second and asserted control from there, to the point she won seven straight games and led 5-0 in the third set.

"Some games were very tough, very long, but I kept winning," Garcia said.

Also advancing were Agnieszka Radwanska, who plays Barty next, Lauren Davis of the U.S., Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic, Alize Cornet of France, and Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands.



Madison Keys, of the United States, left, holds up the finalist trophy as Sloane Stephens, of the United States, holds the championship trophy after Stephens won the women's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, in New York. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)



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Los Angeles Lakers guard Lonzo Ball poses for a picture during NBA basketball media day, in El Segundo, Calif., Monday, Sept. 25, 2017.

(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

Lakers are happy with the hype
surrounding rookie Lonzo Ball

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — He has a Facebook reality show and a family shoe brand. His dad talks big on ESPN. He was the No. 2 overall draft pick and expects to transform one of the NBA's glamor franchises.

Other than that, Lonzo Ball is an ordinary teenager.

The 19-year-old guard comes with otherworldly expectations, with the Los Angeles Lakers having fallen on hard times. They hope the local product can help them rejoin the NBA's elite.

Ball's journey officially begins Tuesday when the Lakers open training camp, but he appears to have already won over his new teammates during summer workouts.

"When you play with a pure

point guard like that, it just makes it easier for everyone," center Brook Lopez said. "He elevates players to a whole other level.

"I know it's going to be great for me, just being on the receiving end of his passes. He's going to gift-wrap baskets for me. He's so good at turning other players into impact, amazing players. He's going to be a transcendent talent."

That has been the plan all along, particularly from his outspoken father LaVar Ball, who almost seemed to will his son's journey from Chino Hills High School to UCLA to the Lakers.

If Lonzo Ball seems to arrive with the trappings of circus, he appears the calm in the center of the storm.

"Honestly, Zo is relaxed," forward Julius Randle said. "Zo is chill. He's one of the guys.

For as much as he has going around him, you would never know." Ball doesn't say a lot himself, and what he does say comes out in rapid-fire fashion. Reporters circled around some eight deep Monday at the team's media day, but Ball appeared to take it in stride.

"I've been kinda like this my whole life, so I really don't feel anything to be honest," he said. "It's just playing a game, the game I love."

That approach has hardly gone unnoticed by legendary point guard Magic Johnson, now the Lakers' president of basketball operations.

"I told him, he's just like me," Johnson said. "When I came here there were a lot of expectations put on my shoulders and the Lakers as an organization. Now I'm his boss, but I'm also his big brother."



PUBLIC NOTICE

FROM THE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

The Secretary of American Samoa wishes to inform the residents interested in obtaining a notary public commission, or in renewing a commission, that the next course on notary law and ethics will be offered on September 26th, 27th, and 28th, 2017 (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from 5:30pm – 7:30pm, at the American Samoa Community College. As is required by the Notary Act of 2007, Public Law 30-18, as amended, anyone who wishes to obtain a Notary Public Commission must undergo and successfully complete a course on Notary law, procedure and ethics.

Please contact Melesete Haleck or Sally Faumuina at the Office of the Governor at 633-4116 to register and for more information, or visit the website www.americansamoa.gov, and click on the "Secretary of American Samoa" hyperlink to find out more.

► Vikes shut out wildcats...

Continued from page B1

The Vikings have a reputation for turning up the heat in the second half and this past Saturday, they surely lived up to it when they just stepped on the gas and floored it without mercy.

7:32 still in the third quarter, and Kitiona finds Fulu again on the long pass for a huge gain, one that set them up inside the Wildcats' red zone, where Kitiona sent Pitonu'u Ah Sue up the middle for another Faga'itua touchdown.

The two-point conversion, a quick slant pass out to Steven Fiso secured them a 38-point lead.

With just a minute remaining in the third quarter, Kitiona decided to run in his fourth quarterback keep for a touchdown, and the Wildcats just couldn't find an answer to Faga'itua's unstoppable No-Huddle Offense, especially

after Nu'uuli lost its best defensive player, middle linebacker Branson Pualau to an injury during the third quarter of the game.

Samoa News points out that this was Pualau's first appearance on the field this year, as he sat out their first game against Tafuna due to a knee injury that occurred during summer preparations.

It appeared last Saturday that Pualau has re-injured the same knee. He was out for the rest of the game.

3:58 remaining in the ball game, and the unstoppable Big Red Machine attacked again, Faga'itua's second down on Nu'uuli's 10-yard line, a pitch play out to Advent Migi was good for the final touchdown of the game.

The two-point conversion by Tauma'oe Filipino was good and results in a final score of 53-0.



Pitonu'u Ah-Sue of the Vikings carrying this one to the house – scoring his first touchdown of the game in the third quarter of play against the Nu'uuli Wildcats last Saturday morning at the Veteran Memorial Stadium. Ah-Sue helped the Vikings in a 53-point victory against Nu'uuli. [photo: TG]

Some in NFL set to move past Trump-prodded anthem displays

A day later, there were signs that some around the NFL already were ready to move on from their anthem-related gestures prodded by President Donald Trump’s profane broadside against such actions.

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, a two-time Super Bowl champion, said Monday — after a sleepless night — that he regretted that most of his team remained in the tunnel during “The Star-Spangled Banner” instead of appearing on the sideline before a 23-17 loss at Chicago on Sunday.

“Moving forward, we will be on the field,” Roethlisberger said. “What we do when we’re out there is yet to be determined.”

Other players and coaches indicated that their teams would discuss as a group how they want to proceed next weekend during the anthem.

But there seemed to be a sentiment that fewer people would participate.

“I would anticipate maybe this one was stronger this week than it’s ever been, because (Trump’s) comments affected people on such a different level,” Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Quinn said. “We haven’t talked about it further as a team, but my initial response would be it would settle more back down.”

More than 200 NFL players made some form of gesture at games on Sunday — many kneeling or sitting on the bench — in reaction to comments and

tweets by Trump, who called on team owners to fire players who followed former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick’s lead by kneeling during the national anthem. Some owners locked arms with players. Trump’s unprompted raising of this issue began with a speech Friday night in Alabama, where he told a crowd of supporters, “Wouldn’t you love to see one of these NFL owners when somebody disrespects our flag to say get that son of a bitch off the field right now, out, he’s fired, he’s fired.”

He then followed up with a series of inflammatory tweets over the weekend and into Monday, even drawing other sports such as the NBA and NASCAR into the fray.

“After this first week,” Quinn said, “I think people wanted to come out loud and clear and say, ‘This isn’t cool.’”

Kaepernick, who no longer has a job with any NFL team, began kneeling during the anthem in the preseason a year ago to make a statement about social inequality and police treatment of blacks in the United States.

A handful of players had carried on what Kaepernick started; a half-dozen engaged in some form of protest last week.

“It certainly is our hope that people stand during the national anthem, but we also respect their right to make a personal statement or expression of their personal beliefs,” NFL spokesman Joe Lockhart said in a conference call with reporters

on Monday.

“In the first couple weeks of this year, it was a handful of people expressing themselves. We defended their right to do that,” Lockhart said. “There were a whole lot of people this weekend doing that, and the only thing that has changed were some comments from someone who lives in Washington.”

As for what happens now, Miami Dolphins guard Jermon Bushrod hoped the discussion and attention generated by the past few days can lead to some good. “You can’t do something and have no action behind it. Now we have to figure out what’s the next step,” said Bushrod, who stood arm-in-arm with teammates for the anthem before Miami’s loss to the New York Jets.

“The tone and the delivery of everything from the President was kind of divisive. It angered a lot of people,” Bushrod said. “We’re just trying to bring awareness to something that needs to be cleared up. Nobody is trying to disrespect the flag or the military. It’s a tough situation where we feel we needed to come together.”

Roethlisberger’s Steelers was one of three teams that did not appear on the field for the national anthem at all Sunday — the Seattle Seahawks and Tennessee Titans were the others — and Lockhart said no players would be punished for that.

He also said the league will continue to have the anthem played before every game.





O le malo fa'aaloalogia na malaga mamao mai Peretania ia Sister Sheila, o se tasi o Tama'ita'i Sa sa auai i le fa'atulaia o le Hope House mai lona afuaga i le tausaga e 1985 - 1987 ma na faatoa toe mae'a lea auaunaga i le tausaga 2009.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]



Fa'asea to'atele o tagata mai fafo i suiga ua faia Ofisa Femalagaaiga

tusia Ausage Fausia

Ua avea suiga ua fa'atula'i e le Loia Sili i le tautua a le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga a le atunu'u ma mafua'aga o le tele o fa'asea ma ni isi o tagata mai fafo, o lo o autova'a atu mo le pu'eina o a latou I.D mai le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga, ina ia tusa ai ma tulafono tau Femalagaaiga lo latou aumau ai i le teritori.

O le suiga fou e pei ona fa'ataoto e le afioga i le Loia Sili ia Talauega Eleasalo Ale, ua avea ai le aso Lulu o vaiaso uma, o le aso lea e pu'e ai I.D a tagata mai fafo, suia mai ai i le tulaga tuai sa i ai, o le mafai lea ona pu'e le I.D a le tagata mai fafo i soo se aso o le vaiaso.

Na fa'atumulia le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga i Utulei i le to'atele o tagata na laulaututu i le laina mo le tele o itula, ao tau fa'agasolo le pu'eina o a latou I.D. O ni isi o i latou na toe fo'i e le i pu'eina ni I.D ina ua fiu e tutu i le laina. Ae o isi na toe fo'i ona o galuega ma ni isi o fuafuaga fa'atino.

Na taua e se tasi o Tama matua i le Samoa News e fa'apea, afai ua i ai ni fa'aletonu i totonu o le tautua a le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga, e tatau la ona saili e le malo le auala e fofu ai ia fa'afitauli, ae le o le faia o suiga e pagatia ai tagata mai fafo o lo o maua ai tupe a le malo i tausaga uma.

"Aisea o le a safa ai fua matou o tagata mai fafo pe afai o lo o masalomia le le fa'amaoni o tagata faigaluega i le fa'atinoina o a latou tiute. I lo'u lava taofi na o a'u, afai o tagata faigaluega a le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga le mafua'aga, e tatau ona fai i ai se fuafuaga, ae le o le faia o nei suiga ua tele ai le safa ma le tigaina o tagata mai fafo, ae o i latou nei o lo o maua ai isi vaega tupe mo le malo," o le fa'asea lea a se tasi o Tama.

Na taua e se tasi o tagatanu'u o Amerika Samoa na oo atu e fa'afou pepa nofomau a ni isi o lona aiga mai Samoa o lo o ia sponsor e fa'apea, e le mafai e le malo ona foia le fa'afitauli o lo o tula'i mai, se'i vagana ua sui tagata faigaluega o lo o masalomia lo latou fa'atinoina

o nei faiga le fa'amaoni.

"E le fou le mataupu e fa'atautu i I.D pepelo o lo o tuuina atu e le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga i tagata mai fafo. Sa tutupu i nofoaiga ua mavae, lea fo'i na mafua ai ona molia ni isi o tagata faigaluega i le tulafono ma fa'asala i le falepuipui ina ua ta'usala i latou. E le o tagata mai fafo la le mafua'aga, o totonu lava o le lotoifale a le malo," o le saunoaga lea a le sponsor.

Na taua e le afioga i le Loia Sili a le malo ia Talauega Eleasalo Ale i le Samoa News e faapea, o suiga e pei ona faia i le tasi lea o le aso e pu'e ai I.D a tagata mai fafo, o se tasi lea o vaega o le fuafuaga a le kovana ua fa'ataoto, ina ia taofia ai le tuuina atu o I.D pepelo i tagata mai fafo.

Na fesili le Samoa News pe le o i ai se fuafuaga e toe iloilo toto'a lenei suiga, ona o tulaga fa'aletonu e pei ona moli-mauina i le to'atele o tagata ua a'afia uma i lenei suiga, ae na saunoa le Loia Sili e fa'apea, o le a se'i toe vaavaai i ai i se taimi o i luma.

Na taua e se sui o le Komiti Fa'afaoe a le Ofisa o Femalagaaiga i le Samoa News e fa'apea, talu ona fa'atula'i mai e le Kovana le latou Komiti Fa'afaoe fou lenei, ua tele talosaga mo pepa nofomau tagata mai Asia ua latou teena.

O le tele o talosaga a tagata mai Asia sa teena, o talosaga na fa'aulu e pisinisi o lo o pulea fo'i e tagata Asia, mo se avanoa latou te sponsor ai tagata Asia e galulue i a latou pisinisi, i lalo o le vaega o le Tulafono lea e mafai ai e le pisinisi ona sponsor tagata mai fafo.

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O popolega e pei ona fa'aalia e ni isi o Senatoa ma Faipule, o le tele o galuega ua ave uma e tagata mai Asia, ae o galuega nei sa tatau ona galulue ai tagatanu'u o Amerika Samoa.



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Tatala vaiaso fa’amanatuga 30 tausaga Hope House i Fatuoaga

tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

O le sauniga lotu i le aso Sa ua te’a sa tatala aloaia ai le vaisao e fa’amanatu ai 30 tausaga o le Hope House, na ta’ita’ia e le afioga Epikopo Peter Brown ma le pa’ia o le Aufaigaluega tofofi a le Ekalesia Katoliko i le latou Malumalu o le Aiga Pa’ia i Fatuoaga.

I le sauniga sa momoli tau-laga ai le Tina o le atunu’u, Cynthia Malala Moliga ma le vasega lava o tina masani o le Ekalesia i Fatuoaga. O le Lauga sa fofogaina e Epikopo Peter Brown lea sa ia aumaia ai le fe’au mai le Tusi Pa’ia, “O le malo e Lagi e tusa lea ma le Matai sa alu atu e saili lana aufaigaluega e galueaina lona tovine...”

“O le galuega e le tatau ona tu’u, e tatau ona faia i so’o se itula e mana’omia ai. E tofufo’i le tagata ma le taimi e vala’aulia ai mo le galuega, ae tasi lava le tau. E tutusa le tau i le leva ona faigaluega mai ma le tagata fo’i na fa’ato’a fa’afaigaluega i le toe itula o mana’omia ai le galuega ia faia. E o’o ina muamua e na mulimuli, ae mulimuli e na muamua.”

“I le galuega a le Atua e tutusa tagata uma, e tutusa le tau, ma e tutu taito’atasi fo’i le tagata e tali i lana galuega na fai. O le galuega alofa, o le galuega e te le fa’atali mo se tau, aua e mautinoa le tau mai a le Atua. O ai na te iloa, ala o le soifuaga o lumana’i, e tele le avanoa e ono aoga ai lenei tautua i nisi o i tatou ma amata ona tino matutua ma ua mo’omia le tausiga fa’apitoa a le Hope House mo oe?”

Sa ia fa’afetaia le o’o mai o Sister Sheila ina ia auai i le fa’amanatuga o le 30 tausaga o lenei auunaga aoga tele a le Hope House lea sa amatalia o le Nazareth Home. O le tofi fo’i o lo’o ia te i latou o ta’ita’i o lafu mamoe, sa tima’i lava Iesu ia Peteru, “Ia fafaga la’u lafu mamoe!” ma e fa’atolu lava ona tima’i Iesu i lena mana’oga taua.

O lana lauga fo’i sa tele le vaega o le fa’afetai sa ia fa’ao’o ia i latou uma sa avea ma o lo’o avea pea le Hope House ma nofoaga o lo’o foa’i i ai, e ala i tupe, o mea’ai o sapalai o mea uma e fa’aaoga i le tausiga o gasegase ae maise fo’i o fa’afiafiaga ma asiasiga ina ia fa’anofo leleia ai agaga o’otia o matua, fanau ma gasegase o lo’o tausia i lea nofoaga fa’apitoa.

O lana fa’afetai sa matele i Kamupani, le Malo, ma Fa’alapotopotoga Eeseese i totonu o Amerika Samoa, ae masie o Aiga ma Tagata ta’ito’atasi, “Ia outou iloa, e leai se manuia o ia i matou a’o le Atua na te fa’amanuia ia te outou i le alofa ma le agalelei sa outou faia.”

O le tala’aga o lenei Maota o Fa’amoemoega, sa mua’i fa’atuina o le Nazareth Home ma sa amatalia i le tausaga 1987 a’o va’aia fa’atasi le Pule’aga i Pago Pago ma Samoa e lana afioga Katinale Pio Taofinu, ae faigaluega ai le tama’ita’i o

le Ituaiga Sa, Sisters of Nazareth lea na fa’ato’a to’ai taunu’u o latou sui iloga e amata afuafua lea galuega i Amerika Samoa i le tausaga 1985.

Ua le gata la ina afuafua le fa’atula’ia o se nofoaga e tausia ai tagata matutua ae ua fa’apena ona fa’atalanoa ai ma le amataga o se nofoaga e tausia fa’apitoa ai fanau iti i aso ta’itasi. Lea fo’i ua aofia ai le Nofoaga e aoao ai fanau Fatuoaga Montessori.

Peita’i, a’o le’i o’o ina tatala lea tautua mo fanauiti, ae toe maua mai le isi soso’oga o tautua a fanauiti e ala i Day Care ma ua toe fa’aofi atu ai fo’i ma lena tautua i le atufalega lava e tasi ua i ai fa’atasi ai ma le Hope House i le taimi nei.

O le oo mai o Sister Sheila mai Peretania, ina ia fa’ao’o ma fa’ailoa i tagata uma o Amerika Samoa lo latou agaga faafetai tele i le alolofa ma le lima foa’i o le atunu’u atoa ma le sapaapaia o i latou uma sa galulue faatasi i lenei nofoaga (Faauau itulau 8)



Le ma’a fa’ailo o le atoaga o le 30 tausaga o le Hope House i Fatuoaga ua maea saunia e le Komiti Fa’afaoe ma ua fa’apa’iaina i le sauniga na tatala ai le vaiaso fiafia e fa’ailo ai le auunaga ua au a lea nofoaga i le Fatuoaga.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

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tusia Ausage Fausia
PAULO LAUTI
O le masina o Novema lea ua tolopo i ai le ulua'i iloiloga o le mataupu a le susuga ia Paulo Lauti, i le mae'a ai lea o lona teena o moliaga mamafa e 10 ua tu'uaia ai o ia e le malo - e mafua mai i le fa'alavelave lea ua tu'uaia ai o ia i lona ave fa'agaoi lea o se vaega tupe e tusa ma le \$5,000 mai lona uncle. O moliaga mamafa ua tu'uaia ai e le malo ia Lauti e

aofia ai moliaga e 5 o le gaoi, atoa ai ma moliaga e 5 o lona faia o ni tusitusiga tau fa'ase. O ia moliaga uma o lo o fa'atulaga mai lea i le vaega C o solitulafono mamafa, lea e mafai ona fa'asala ai se tasi i le toese mo le umi e le silia i le 7 tausaga, pe fa'asala foi i le salatupe e le silia i le \$5,000 - poo le fa'asala fo'i lea i fa'asalaga uma ia e lua. O lenei mataupu na tofu atu i le Ofisa o Leoleo i le masina o Iulai na te'a nei, ina ua maitauina e le uncle a le ali'i ua molia se tulaga fa'aletonu i lana teugatupe o lo o i totonu o le lala o le Faletupe a Hawaii.

Na maua le avanoa e fesiligia ai e le uncle le ua molia e uiga i lenei mataupu, ae sa ia fa'afiti na te lei gaioia se vaega tupe mai totonu o lana teugatupe. O le mafua'aga lea na tofu atu ai loa le mataupu i le Ofisa o Leoleo, ina ua mana'omia e le uncle se fesoasoani mo le sailia o lana tupe ua leiloa poo fea ua ave i ai. E tusa ai o fa'amaumauga a le fa'amasinoga, e 5 siaki na sasae ese mai e le tagata mai le tusi siaki a le na a'afia.

Na saili e Leoleo fa'amaumauga mai le Faletupe a Hawaii, ma fa'amaonia ai, o siaki uma nei e 5 sa fa'aaoga i ai le laisene ave ta'avale a le ua molia e tala ai i tua tupe mai le teugatupe. O le siaki muamua e \$1,600 na tala i le aso 23 Me 2017. O le siaki lona lua e \$1,200 le aofa'i na tala i le aso 1 Iuni. O le siaki lona tolu e \$600 na tala i le aso 5 Iuni. Soo ai ma le siaki lona fa e \$1,300 na tala i le aso 30 Iuni. Ma le siaki lona lima e \$400 na tala i le aso 3 Iulai. O lo o taua i fa'amaumauga a le fa'amasinoga e fa'apea ma fa'amaumauga a le Faletupe na maua e Leoleo, na fa'amalosi e

le ua molia le saina a lona uncle i luga o siaki uma nei e 5 - ona ia fa'aaoga lea o lona laisene ave ta'avale e tala mai ai. Ua taulimaina fo'i e Leoleo se tusi fa'atoese a le ua molia sa tu'uina atu i lona uncle, e fa'amagalo ai le gaioiga sese ua faia, atoa ai ma lana talosaga mo se avanoa na te toe totogiina atu ai lana tupe. E \$5,000 le vaega tupe lea ua fa'atulaga e tatala ai Lauti, e fa'atali ai taualumaga o lana mataupu lea ua fa'agasolo nei i luma o le fa'amasinoga mauualuga.

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Tatala vaiaso...

Mai itulau 7

ma poloketi sa fa'aofi i ai, lea ua fa'auau pea lava e o'o mai i le aso, nei tautua aoga. "E ala ona tumau se auau-naga po'o se galuega tautua, ona o le lima foa'i o tagata lautele, kamupani ma fa'alapotopotoga ae maise le Malo, aua o lo'o fa'aolaola pea le auau-naga leni ona o foa'i o fa'atupe ai." O se isi lea fua sa saunoa i ai le tama'ita'i Sa, i se talanoaga ma ia. Na fa'alauiloa e Sister Sheila le galuega mai le amataga, ina ua faia le fa'aiuga a Epikopo Quinn Weitzel e lafo le galuega i le Dominican Sisters mai Filipaina e fa'auauina ona ua to'agaogao atu lava le aofaiga o Tama'ita'i Sa mai le Nazareth Sisters iinei, sa tu'u ese ai loa ae toe taliu Sheila ma isi o i latou i o latou tofiga fou i fafo e galulue ai. O le tausaga e 2009 na tu'ua ai e le toe sui mai le Sisters of Nazareth le atunu'u. I le sauniga lava i le aso Sa, na fa'aalo ai le ma'a o le galuega sa tapena i ai Epikopo Peter Brown ma le Komiti Fa'afaoe a le Hope House. O lea ma'a ua i ai le ata o le na moe manatunatu i mea lelei ma sa ia talosaga fo'i mo Tama'ita'i Sa o le Sisiters of Nazareth ina ia latou uluai tatalaina lea tautua, Le afioga Katinale Pio Taofinu'u! Sa tutula'i le Failautusi a le Maota o Sui ia Fialupe Fiaui Lutu e tolaulauina le Iugafono malilie fa'atasi a le Fono Faitulafono e taualoa ai le auau-naga ma le tautua a le Hope House i totonu o le atunu'u e ala i le tausiga fa'apitoa o Tama ma Tina matutua, fanau ua i ai mana'oga fa'apitoa tau le tino ma le mafafafau, ae mise o fanauiti ua po'ia i gasegase tumau.

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TAOA SENIOR CITIZEN CAREGIVERS special meeting on Wednesday, September 27th @ 9:00am in the Pago Pago TAOA Center. For more information, please contact Aveuma Tautolo at 633-1251. [09/27]

TAXI OWNERS ASSOCIATION [TOA] Meeting to be held on Sep. 28, 2017 @ 5PM. I le fale o Manu Ulberg, new members are welcome. Call 770-2844 [9/28]

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MANA COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE is now holding support groups for people who suffer from mental illness or any form of disability. Join me every Friday @ 12Noon @ the Alliance office in Nu'uuli. For more info call Liz Mailo @ 272-3257 or 699-0272.

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SAMOAN SAINTS ORGANIZATION Roadside Clean Up on the 21st and 29th of this month until the end of the year. All are welcomed. Meet in front of Lupelele Elementary School, 5:30pm, rain or shine. Do it for our beautiful island. Contact Jay @ 254-0651 for more info.

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Universal Crossword

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- 1 Striped fish
5 Angel's top-
per
9 Affect
emotionally
14 Spot of
wine?
15 Nod's
neighbor
16 Result
17 1990 film
with Diane
Keaton and
Elliott Gould
20 Throw
forcefully
21 Twists, as
facts
22 Magnify
25 ID you
cannot see
26 Map detail
28 Havana's
country
32 Archer's
weapon
37 Baseball
legend
Hank
38 Make sure
everyone
knows that
you're star-
ring
41 Soothe, as
fears
42 Oil and
sugar
in companies,
at times
43 Any high
schooler
44 Bit of land in
the ocean
46 Explosive
initials
47 Dangerous
African flies

- 53 Disney
employee
58 Sorta
59 College
football
event from
1994-2010
62 Sharp
mountain
ridge
63 Napoleon's
exile site
64 Canal to the
Hudson
65 Kentucky
Derby
flowers
66 Minute bits
of time
67 Hamiltons
DOWN
1 Suds it up
2 Sickly pale
3 Shoplift
4 Regional
woodland
5 Skirt's end
6 Noisy bustle
7 Advance
credit to
8 Type of kick
9 Hard seed
cover
10 Aware of
11 Friendly
intro?
12 Short and
not sweet
13 Big name in
61-Down
18 "Musket"
ender
19 "It ___ all
that bad!"
23 Barbed
remark
24 Organic
compound
27 Eddy

- 28 First
murderer
29 Push to do
something
30 Physics
Nobel
Niels
31 Picnic pests
32 Informal talk
33 Actor's part
34 Gaw at
35 Musial or
Laurel
36 Short
37 Thrilla in
Manila
boxer
39 Track
gathering
40 Salamanders'
relatives
44 Gung-ho
about
45 Mall tenants
46 IRS dues
48 Duke
Ellington's
initials

- 49 Lhasa's
place
50 Noise in the
night
51 Olympic
star Moses
52 Things run
by 45-Down
53 Way out,
e.g.
54 Infamous
Roman
emperor
55 Bad day for
Caesar
56 Give out in
small por-
tions
57 Sound
made from
rough
breathing
60 Major
network
61 Fuel type

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	E	S	A	T		C	U	B	S		A	S	P	S	
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F	U	N	N	Y		M	O	N	E	Y	H	O	N	E	Y
		A	E	S	O	P				A	O	R	T	A	L
A	C	T			A	U	L	D		T	E	R	S	E	
M	O	I	L	S		P	E	A	L	S		Y	E	T	
P	I	N	E	T	A		B	R	E	E	S				
	F	A	K	E	S	N	A	K	E	A	C	H	E		
		S	E	T	I	N		S	T	O	O	L	S		
W	A	D		P	I	T	O	N		S	T	O	L	E	
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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

Tuesday, Sep-
tember 26,
2017

Happy Birthday: This could be a fruitful year if you go about getting what you want in a practical manner. Don't reveal secrets or let anyone else take care of your personal affairs. Staying in control will ward off setbacks. Taking interest in what you do and following through with your plans will be the best way to bring about positive change. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 28, 33, 42, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Partnerships may need an adjustment. Speak from the heart and you'll come to an agreement and a timeline that works for you. Making travel plans or discussing pursuits that may come with a bit of a learning curve will bring beneficial results.*****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Joint financial endeavors are discouraged. It is best not to take someone's word about an investment that has risk involved. Do your own thing and put your energy into your own advancement, not helping someone else get ahead. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Hold off and listen. It's important to know the complete set of circumstances before you make a decision that could alter a relationship you have with someone. Trust will be a factor in how you move forward. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your thoughts and your emotions undercover. It is best to wait and see what others have to say before you go out on a limb. Focus inward and work on self-improvement instead of trying to change everyone around you. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Network with the people you can learn something from. Be careful not to fall into a trap set by someone with ulterior motives. Gather information and fact-check everything you hear. A change at home will turn out to be beneficial.*****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Personal problems will prevail. Deal with children and older relatives carefully. Use intelligence rather than force to coax others to do things your way. Nurture a special relationship with someone you love. Romance is encouraged. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do your own thing and avoid getting involved in situations that involve institutions. Do your own legwork and summarize what you have to get done in order to be successful. An honest day's work will pay off. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be fooled by what someone is saying. Pitching in and helping is a nice gesture, but not if someone is taking advantage of you. Invest more time into what you want to achieve. A physical improvement will boost your confidence. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It is best to stick to what's most familiar. If you venture too far off the beaten path, you will encounter situations that are confusing or emotionally challenging. Problems with siblings or peers are best avoided. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Hidden matters will be divulged. Keep your personal information, documents and passwords tucked away. Stay focused on what you can do to improve your position. Avoid anyone who appears to be out of control. Make a promise to someone you love.*****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Getting involved in an event that will bring you in contact with other people who work in your industry will lead to unexpected proposals. Consider what's being offered and the best way to take advantage of the opportunity. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll feel limited by someone who depends on you. Try to be patient, but don't miss out on something because you have agreed to unreasonable demands. Be straightforward about what you will and will not do. **

Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

ALCOHOLIC RECOGNIZES SOBER TRUTHS AFTER WIFE LEAVES HIM

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 17 years to the love of my life. I met her 40 years ago while we were growing up in the same neighborhood. Last year she decided our marriage is over.

Nine years into our marriage, I became an alcoholic. Try as I might, I couldn't find a way to stop drinking. Year after year she stuck by me, hoping something would change. I never laid a hand on her, but I was verbally abusive at times while I was drinking.

Last year I found out that, due to my drinking, I had developed a heart condition that may end my life. I think it was the last straw for her because even after getting the news, I continued to drink. Seven months ago she told me we are done.

Since the day she said it, I have been clean and sober, and my heart is getting stronger. I have tried contacting her, but she won't return my calls or letters. I know the trust is gone, but I so badly want my wife back. I don't think she believes I'm finally sober because we have gone down this road many times. How do I prove to her that I have changed and it will no longer be an issue? This is breaking my heart and has given me an insight into what she must have been feeling all these years.

-- LEARNED THE HARD WAY IN INDIANA

DEAR LEARNED: The best way to prove to your wife that you have changed and won't fall off the wagon again is to continue living a clean and sober lifestyle. If you have friends or family in common, when they see what you are accomplishing every day, they may mention it to her. Even if you receive no response, continue writing to her and describing how your health is improving. I can't guarantee it will bring her back, but it may help.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for two years and are doing great. We both have careers we enjoy. However, he makes more money in a week than I sometimes earn in a month. Neither of us has financial problems, but I feel like this makes him superior to me.

Am I shallow for comparing the two of us this way? He assures me that he will love me the same regardless of how much money I make, or even if I choose not to work at all.

We have been talking about buying a house and moving in together. Should I give in and let him "take care of me," or consider higher-paying job opportunities that would allow me to feel better about myself and pull my fair share of the weight? --- KRISTIN IN NEW YORK

DEAR KRISTIN: You need to ask yourself why your self-esteem is tied to how much money you earn. According to your boyfriend, you ARE pulling your fair share of the weight. You say you enjoy your career. I would hate to see you sacrifice it in order to go to a job every day that you may be less happy doing because you earn less than your boyfriend.

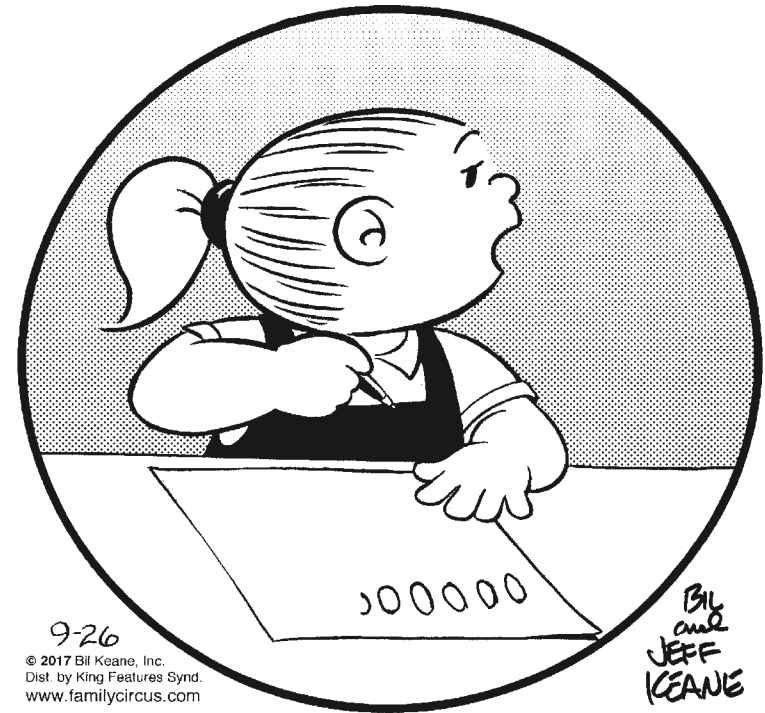
9/26

CITRUS GROOVE By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20								21						
22					23	24		25						
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38								39	40					
41								42						
43					44	45								
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53	54	55	56				57			58				
59								60	61					
62						63				64				
65						66				67				

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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www.familycircus.com

"I forget. Which am I s'posed to be practicing, my O's or my zeros?"

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA, A ROCKING BATHTUB WAS DESIGNED TO REPLICATE OCEAN WAVES!

WHO!
FLAMINGOS CAN DRINK BOILING WATER!

BUILT IN 1894, BURLINGTON, IOWA'S **SNAKE ALLEY** IS UNBELIEVABLY CROOKED—BOASTING FIVE HALF-CURVES AND TWO QUARTER-CURVES THAT SPAN 275 FEET.

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Calvin & Hobbes®

by Bill Watterson

IS THAT YOU? DID YOU FIND HOBBS? IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT.

YEAH, I GOT HIM. HE WAS OUT THERE WITH THE TOBOGGAN.

OH HONEY, THANK YOU! CALVIN WILL BE SO HAPPY!!

MMF. HE'D BETTER BE, OR TOMORROW I'LL LEAVE HIM IN THE WOODS.

C'MON, WE'LL PUT HOBBS IN CALVIN'S BED SO HE'LL SEE HIM FIRST THING TOMORROW.

HE SNUGGLED UP IN HIS SLEEP! WHAT A LITTLE ANGEL!

ONLY AT NIGHT. I'M GOING TO BED.

© 1987 Watterson Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication 9-26 WATTESON

PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schultz

English Theme "If I Had a Pony"

If I had a pony, I'd saddle up and ride so far from this school it would make your head swim.

THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO GET A "D-MINUS"!

© 1970 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. Dist. by Andrews McMeel 9/26

I THINK I'LL USE THIS ONE!

GOV'T EMAIL

KUSHNER

BIGGEST THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY!

PRIVATE

CAUTION

WE MADE THIS A HUGE ISSUE!

WARNING! DO NOT USE!

PRIVATE EMAIL PROVES HILLARY IS A CROOK!

DANGER!

NO!

PRIVATE EMAIL

IT OFFERS GOOD ALTERNATIVES FOR THE WORD 'HYPOCRISY.'

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ZIGGY®

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NO STOPPING ANYTIME! NOT EVEN TO READ THIS SIGN!

Tom Willson

Sudoku Pacific

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

6				2	4			
			9	6	7	5	1	
	9	5			8			
	8		6	7		4	9	2
		9	4		3	6		
5	6	4		9	1		7	
			7			2	8	
	7	6	8	5	9			
			1	4				7

9/26 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Monday's Puzzle Answer

9/25

4	9	3	2	5	1	7	6	8
2	5	7	8	3	6	4	1	9
8	6	1	9	7	4	2	3	5
7	2	8	6	1	3	9	5	4
5	4	6	7	8	9	3	2	1
3	1	9	4	2	5	6	8	7
9	8	5	3	6	7	1	4	2
6	7	2	1	4	8	5	9	3
1	3	4	5	9	2	8	7	6

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Hagar the Horrible®

by Chris Brown

EVERY EXPERIENCE AND ACTION IN MY LIFE HAS BROUGHT ME HERE TO THIS VERY PLACE AND MOMENT...

ISN'T THAT AMAZING?

OH, I DON'T KNOW...

THAT SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF WORK FOR A BEER!

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GARFIELD®

by Jim Davis

OH, NO!

I DROPPED MY PHONE IN THE LAKE!

THAT EXPLAINS THE MEAN TWEET FROM THE CARP

Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication © 2017 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved. www.facebook.com/garfield 9-26 JIM DAVIS

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TELL ME A STORY: THE MONEY TREE

(A JAPANESE FOLKTALE)
*adapted by Amy Friedman and
illustrated by Meredith Johnson*

Long ago, a man named Isamu lived with his beloved wife, Aiko, and life was happy for many years. But one day, Isamu became very upset with the Mikado, the emperor. He lost his temper. “His laws are unjust!” he shouted to his wife. He ran to the Mikado’s palace and stood outside and shouted insults. For a while, no one paid attention, but Isamu did not stop. At last, the servants dragged him inside and explained to the Mikado what he had said. The Mikado did not accept insults from anyone, and so he sent Isamu into exile.

When Aiko heard the news that her husband was to be sent out of the country, she ran to the palace and begged the Mikado to send her with her husband. “You are forbidden to go,” the Mikado said, and so it was that husband and wife were separated from each other.

Aiko was so brokenhearted that she decided she would visit the Sacred Shrine in Ise to pray for her husband’s return. The shrine, one of the holiest sites in the country, was dedicated to the worship of Amaterasu, goddess of the sun, and Aiko was certain she would find solace there. But it was far from her home, and, left without her husband and any income, she was forced to walk. She walked with many pilgrims making their way to the site, but she grew exhausted, worn out by the distance and by her heartbreak.

After many hours, Aiko sat down to rest beneath a pine tree. For a moment, her heart felt light again as she looked out at the beautiful hillsides and felt the light breeze ruffling the leaves and her hair. The sky was a soft blue, and the mountains were breathtakingly beautiful. As she closed her eyes, she felt the first comfort since saying farewell to her husband. After a while, a man walked past, and she smiled at him and offered him a greeting. She asked, “Kind sir, do you know how far it is to the Shrine of Ise?” But the fellow was not kind at all. He was rude and angry at the world, and he snapped, “Twenty days away! Someone as weak as you will never make it.”

In truth, it was not nearly so far, but Aiko did not know that, and her eyes welled with tears. “Twenty days?” she said. “I shall never make it.”

“What do you want at the shrine?” the rude man asked.

“I must get there to pray for my dear husband to be returned to me. I am certain the gods will listen to the tender longings of a faithful and loving wife.”

The fellow laughed and walked away. For a few moments, Aiko sat on the ground, feeling only despair.

But at last she gathered her wits and

looked up at the pine tree. “If I cannot make my offering and prayers at the shrine, I shall make them here,” she said. “The gods, in their eternal kindness, will hear me.” She reached into her purse and pulled out some coins she had brought along, and these she laid upon the pine tree. She prayed that the gods would bless her and take her to her husband or return him to his home. She prayed that they would not punish a couple who had always been good and generous to others. She prayed to the gods to forgive the one moment her husband spoke in anger. The rude fellow had not gone far, and he heard Aiko’s prayers, but he wasn’t interested. He had his eye on her coins. When Aiko lay down to rest, closing her eyes, he tiptoed closer and reached to

steal the coins. But the gods had heard Aiko’s prayers, and just as the rude man reached forward, the pine tree turned into a two-headed serpent, spitting fire at the thief. The man was so terrified, he knelt and closed his eyes and began to pray with all his heart and soul. Aiko was stunned. “I have been unkind,” he said. “I am so sorry. I repent. I have done terrible things, and this woman deserves nothing but kindness.” With that, he turned toward Aiko and said, “Come, I will walk with you to the shrine. It is not far.” He led her to the shrine, and there she prayed again. The gods were listening. They softened the heart of the Mikado, and he sent

his servants to find her and bring her to the palace. “Forgive me,” the Mikado said to Aiko when she arrived. She was amazed by his words, and stood silently, listening. “I have been too harsh with your husband,” the Mikado explained, “and I wish to answer your prayers. What is your deepest desire?” “That you return my husband to me,” she said. The next day, the servants were sent to retrieve Isamu and bring him home. From that day on, the pine tree where Aiko had placed her coins was made into a shrine. Since that time, anyone who is ill and prays at that shrine is made well again, and whoever seeks the gods’ favor is rewarded in great abundance.

The Money Tree

