

The ASCC General Assembly this past Friday to begin the Spring 2017 semester included the official installation of Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato (second right) as the college's new president. Dr. Pato is seen here receiving congratulations from (left to right) Adult Education, Literacy and Extended Learning Director Mr. Tauvela Fale, newly appointed Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Lina Galea'i Scanlan, and Vice President of Administrative Services Dr. Mikaele Etuale.

[Photo: J. Kneubuhl]



Le Aute Bar owner "Mama" to serve 90 days in jail

Page 2

Packers flip script, experience last-second playoff win

SPORTS



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# Electrocution accident kills one worker, injures five others

THREE STILL IN HOSPITAL, TWO HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM LBJ

by Joyetter Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu  
Samoa News Reporter

"The unfortunate incident has taken the life of a young man and the Department of Public Safety expresses its deepest condolences to the mourning family, but in the meantime, the Criminal Investigation Division is currently investigating the matter," said Acting Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny

Thompson. Responding to Samoa News questions, Le'i said that a total of six men were injured as a result of an electrical incident at the Manu'a store located at the Tafuna Industrial Park, one fatally, and to date (yesterday) two have been released from the hospital, another two remain in the Intensive Care Unit and one is in the Surgical Ward.

The former Human Resources Director, told

Samoa News that the police have been working on this case since the incident on Saturday — working around the clock to get to the bottom of this as "it is a heartbreaking incident." He said that in the next few days, the CID should have a report, but in the meantime the investigation continues.

(Continued on page 12)



The area where the deadly accident took place on Saturday morning around noontime. Yellow police tape encloses the area, with a fire truck and firefighters stationed on site as a precautionary measure. It's unknown at this time what exactly caused the accident — only that six were injured, one fatally, while two have been released from the hospital, another two are still in ICU, and one remains in the Surgical Ward.

[Photo: BT]



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K5 student Skye Whitey Fruean answering questions from judges about her project entitled "Soap Souffle" during the school science fair at the Home of the Flames last Friday. Half of the judging panel included Donna Gurr of the Dept. of Education, Veronica Vaouli of ASPA, and Isabelle Gao-teote of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa [pictured]. [Photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

# Aute Bar owner "Mama" to serve 90 days in jail

Translated by Samoa News Reporter

Chief Justice Michael Kruse and Associate Judges Mamea Sala Jr and Muasau Tasina Tofili handed down a 90-day sentence for Tumuatasi Lefatia also known as "Mama" — the owner of Le Aute Bar last week Friday.

Two years ago, the police raided the Le Aute Bar with 30 officers participating. As a result of the raid, Lefatia was charged in March 2015, with one count of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, which carries a jail term from five to ten years and a fine between \$5,000 and \$20,000.

She was also charged with three counts of unlawful possession of a weapon and each charge is a class A misdemeanor, punishable with up to one year in jail, a fine of up to \$1,000 or both.

However in a plea agreement last year that was read in court in August, one of the three misdemeanor counts was amended to illegal possession of firearm ammunition, which the defendant pleaded guilty to, while the rest of the charges were to be dismissed.

At the time, Chief Justice Michael Kruse asked assistant attorney general Tyler Danzel if the plea agreement is in the interest of justice and the people of American Samoa to which Danzel said yes.

Danzel also told the court that the government has filed with the court a written statement explaining the reason for moving to have the defendant plead guilty to the misdemeanor charge.

In taking the plea agreement under advisement, Kruse also ordered the Probation Office for a pre sentence report before the court makes a decision on the agreement.

Last Friday, the defendant was sentenced to one year in jail however execution of sentence was suspended and she placed on a two-year probation under the condition that she serves 90 days in jail.

Lefatia was also ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000 and to remain a law abiding citizen and she's not allowed to be in possession of drugs.

She's subject to be checked by the probation

office or a police officer at anytime at her residence or on her property as a condition of her probation.

Prosecuting the case is Assistant Attorney General Bob Pickett and Lefatia was represented by Sharron Rancourt.

#### BACKGROUND

According to the government's case, police officers executed a search warrant for the house occupied by Lefatia and Le Aute Bar. It's alleged that police entered the residence when the defendant was in her bedroom. Court filings say that police uncovered live ammunition on a sofa inside the bedroom.

Police also uncovered alleged drug paraphernalia; three digital scales, cut up straws; a box of straws containing 305 straws, and 25 pills believed to be oxycodone (an opioid pain medication, sometimes called a narcotic and used to treat moderate to severe pain.), scissors with burnt tips and a glass pipe allegedly containing methamphetamine, which was found inside a pool stick case that was found in defendant's bedroom.

Police also found money in the amount of \$4,184.

Lefatia's brother, Ah Kiong or Ationo Talamoa was also arrested with his sister, during the execution of the search warrant.

He originally faced charges of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine with intent to distribute; unlawful possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine; unlawful possession of a controlled substance, marijuana; and two counts of possession of a prohibited weapon.

In a plea agreement reached in March this year, Talamoa pled guilty to possession of a controlled substance and possession of a prohibited weapon, and in return the government moved to dismiss the remaining charges.

He was sentenced to seven years for unlawful possession of a controlled substance, and one additional year for the possession of a prohibited weapon, with jail terms to be served consecutively.

# Treasury's Accomplishment Report: About 70% of local revenue from taxes

by Samoa News staff

Of the \$104.45 million that the American Samoa government collected in local revenue about \$71 million came from taxes, which is ASG's largest revenue contributor, according to ASG Treasury Department's Accomplishment Report for 2013-16, provided late last month to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga.

In his Samoan address, during his Jan. 9 State of the Territory Address, the governor informed lawmakers about the increase in local revenue collections since his administration took the helm of government in 2013.

According to the governor, in the year 2013 local revenue collected totaled \$90.3 million, for the year 2014 a total of \$98.9 million was collected; in the year 2015 a total of \$101.04 million was collected and in 2016 a total of \$104.4 million has been collected.

The numbers for 2016, according to the Treasury Department Accomplishment Report, shows that these are preliminary and unaudited numbers.

Of the total revenue collection, the report states that \$71.06 million came from taxes — \$12.65 million in corporate taxes; \$27.04 million in individual taxes; \$26.44 million in excise taxes; \$1.90 million for soda tax and \$3.02

million for the military-cover over tax, according to FY 2016 preliminary & audited as of Sept. 30, 2016.

(If compared to FY 2015, taxes totaled \$68.73 million: \$15.07 million for corporate; \$30.01 million for individual; \$20.29 million in excise tax; \$2.03 million for soda tax; and \$1.31 million for military cover over tax.)

As compared to previous years, the income taxes collected slightly decreased in FY 2016 for a combined shortfall of \$6 million between corporate and individual, the report says, adding that the military cover over tax nearly doubled to make up for the other areas.

The report says several factors play into the corporate number decrease. For example, Michaels and other large projects are completed, as well as a decrease in individual and projects ongoing.

(Michaels is the US based contractor for the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority's multi million dollar BLAST project)

"Enforcement continues to be a focus of the tax office, recruitment of auditing and collection officers are ongoing," the report says. And in the New Year, Treasury Department is looking to attain a tax lawyer and consultant to target primarily on individuals owing taxes to ASG.

The report notes that the military cover over tax significantly increased, however, Treasury is still reviewing the status of this tax with the US Internal Reserve Service and the US Department of Defense.

The Treasury report stressed, "We have improved collections in the last two years due to enhancements to our human capital resources, a new Tax Manager and Chief of Customs, and more importantly, enforcement of laws and regulations.

"However, we can do more. Our future initiatives include increased enforcement with additional manpower, the implementation of a Scanning system to better manage and scan all incoming cargo to increase border security and integrity of our revenue collection," the report says.

Additionally, Treasury's Tax Division is collaboratively working with the Commerce Department to ensure that the business license renewal process involving businesses and corporations have filed their respective taxes and any collections owed to the government is to be collected.

Moreover, it says there are "cooperative efforts with our legal counsel representative to introduce proposed amendments to our tax laws that is required to

(Continued on page 5)

# Task Force appointed to review revenue-generating measures for ASG

**FOCUS: TO MAXIMIZE GETTING MONEY FOR THE GOV'T**

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has appointed a task force to review revenue-generating measures for the American Samoa Government. The panel's first meeting is scheduled for this week, as they have until later next month to provide findings and recommendations for review by the top leaders of the Executive Branch.

In appointing the six-member task force early last week, the governor says the existence of legal measures for the generation and collection of revenues were enacted years ago, and yet the economic and business dynamics have changed continuously compelling "doubt over their legal sufficiency with

(Continued on page 5)



## DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

### 2017 (First Quarter)

## COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR OF TRAINING AND EVENTS

DATE	PROJECT/ACTIVITY	DATE	PROJECT/ACTIVITY
January 23 - April 13	Culinary Training 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) MWF Instructor: Malia Lui	January 23 to March 31	Walk and Talk Program 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm (M/W/F)
January 23 - April 13	Flower Arrangement Training 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) T/TH Instructor: Malia Lui	January 23 to March 31 (Tutuila) January 23 to March 31 (Manu'a)	Wrestling Program 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH) 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH)
January 23 - April 13	Elei/Hand Print Training 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Session 1) 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Session 2) MTWTH Instructor: Tou Collins	January 23 to March 31	Gymnastics Program Kinder gym - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (M-F)
January 23 - August 25 (Tutuila)	Sewing Training 8:00 am to 11:00 am (Session 1) M/W 8:00 am to 11:00 am (Session 2) T/TH 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Session 3) M/W 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Session 4) T/TH	January 23 to March 31	Health and Fitness Program 5:30 am to 6:30 am (M-F) Morning Session 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm (T/TH) - Afternoon Session
September 5 - December 7 (Manu'a - Fitiuta, Ta'u, Faleasao)	Every Day Instructor: Johanna Samana	January 23 to March 31	Weightlifting/Powerlifting training 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (M-TH)
January 23 - March 8	Basic Computing/Resume Preparation/Job Application/Interview Preparation Session 1 - M/W/F, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm	January 23 to March 31	Volleyball training 6:30 am to 7:30 am (M-TH)
January 23 - April 13	Basic Samoan Oratory Language and Cultural Training 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm (M/W)	January 25 to March 29	College Prep for Student Athletes 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm (W)
		January 23 to March 31	National Football Training 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (F)
		February 6 - 10	Coaches National Level 1 Certification Course 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm (M-F) Instructor: Ethan Lake
		February 7 - April 6	Teen Mothers and Parenting Training Session 1 10 am to 12 pm (T/TH)
		March 14	Service Providers Fair - Mulugaveve

Call 644-2835/644-2836 to register for any of the programs/courses at the Department of Youth & Women's Affairs Office in Pago Pago. Deadline for registration is Thursday, January 19, 2017 @ 4p.m. Fa'afeso'ota'i mai le matou ofisa ile 644-2835/644-2836 auā le resitara mo polokalama o lo'o fa'apea ona faailo atu i le kalena.  
E tapunia le resitara o vasega ile Aso Tofi, Ianuari 19, 2017 ile 4p.m

Orientation for all programs/courses is scheduled for Friday, January 20th, 2017 at 9a.m-10a.m & 3p.m - 4p.m

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Thousands of Pacific Telecommunications Conference attendees gather this week for workshops, meetings, negotiations and libations (above at the Tapa Bar) at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki, Hawaii. Representatives from both Samoas, and neighboring Pacific Islands and associated cable/satellite entities are participating in the event. [Photo: Barry Markowitz]

# Fed Court considers U.S. gov't motion to extradite Fletcher to Tonga

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

After hearing oral arguments early last week, the federal court in Honolulu has “taken under submission” the US government’s motion to extradite US citizen, Dean Jay Fletcher, to Tonga, where he is wanted for allegedly beating his wife to death last July on the couple’s boat, ‘Sea Oak’.

US District Judge Kenneth J. Mansfield heard oral arguments on the US Justice Department’s motion to extradite Fletcher back to Tonga on Jan. 10. Tonga authorities accuse Fletcher of escaping that country while charges were pending against him for the murder of his wife.

Fletcher landed in American Samoa on Oct. 3, 2016 and was taken into custody by local authorities, which later turned him over in mid November last year to US Marshal agents. Fletcher was then taken to Honolulu to await the extradition hearing to return him to Tonga.

Prior to the Jan. 10 hearing, Fletcher’s attorney, Melinda K. Yamaga, with the federal public defender’s office, argued that some of the evidence as presented by the government is not relevant and should be excluded.

For example, Fletcher objects to any references to allegations of interference with the course of justice and escaping from lawful custody, including any references to alleged attempts to dispose of evidence, and matters relating to the bed sheet.

“These charges are not sought in the extradition warrant and are therefore not relevant,” Yamaga argued.

On the issue of the bed sheet, the government said that based on evidence from the Tonga government that was provided through the Tonga’s extradition request, a witness — who had known Fletcher for about 10 years — told police that he observed on July 8, 2016 a “blood stained sheet” in the dinghy — which was used by the couple for transportation between their boat, the Sea Oak, and the harbor.

On the same day, the witness says he saw Fletcher submerge something into the waters, the government alleges. Divers later recovered what the witness recognized to be the same sheet, or bed sheet, he has seen in the dinghy from 30 meters below the surface of the harbor, the same area that the witness had claimed where he saw Fletcher submerge the sheet.

According to the government, DNA testing revealed that “brown staining on the sheet probably consisted of blood, but testing could not confirm the presence of blood.”

However, Yamaga argued that this assertion by the government “is incomplete and therefore a misleading summary of the actual forensic report,” which does not discuss the results of DNA testing.

“Therefore, the government’s statement that DNA testing revealed anything is simply false,” she further argued. “At best, the results of this forensic analysis are confusing and inconclusive.”

Yamaga’s motion revealed information that was not included in documents filed by USDOJ in court. According to the defense, a person — who resides in Tonga and knows Fletcher, allegedly told Tonga police that Fletcher “worked for the US Army and he was chased from there and imprisoned for injuring one of the American soldiers.”

Yamaga said Fletcher objects to such a statement, which has no merit. She suggests that the government get evidence from the original source — the US Army.

She also cited multiple statements by

witnesses who claim to have observed Fletcher severely beating his wife on the dinghy on July 6. However, when the officers rode in the dinghy on July 7, they made no observations that suggest such a beating actually took place.

“There were no observations of anything broken, damaged or blood stains on the dinghy,” she argued. “The witnesses’ accounts defy common sense. There is no way such a horrific and sustained beating could have occurred on the small dinghy without it overturning.”

“Even more improbable is the suggestion that Mr. Fletcher was able to navigate successfully to the [Sea Oak] during this assault,” Yamaga further argued and points out that it’s “illogical that during this entire time” his wife never called for help to the multiple witnesses nearby.”

She said, “The three witnesses reported that they believed the beating they observed was severe enough that she would likely die, yet none made any effort to assist or report what they observed in broad daylight.”

“...We submit that the shoddy, improbable, and inconsistent evidence does not even meet a finding of probable cause,” Yamaga argued.

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# Guam and American Samoa denied committee vote in U.S. House

by Radio New Zealand staff

Congressional representatives of United States territories like Guam and American Samoa have been denied the right to vote in the Committee of the Whole.

The right was reinstated in 2007 but revoked in 2011 when Congress came under the control of the Republican party.

House rules adopted by the current Congress this month did not reintroduce the right, despite testimony from the representative from Guam, Madeline Bordallo.

Pacific Daily News reported Bordallo reminded the House

Rules Committee that restoring territorial voting rights was a purely symbolic gesture, as their votes would not be allowed to influence legislation.

She said if their votes during the Committee of the Whole affected the outcome, there would be another vote, excluding the territories.

Bordallo said she was deeply disappointed the Republican majority continues to disenfranchise millions of Americans who live in the territories by denying their Congressional representatives even symbolic voting rights on the House floor.

## Task Force...

Continued from page 3

respect to maximizing revenue generation for the government.”

Lolo points out that in the last four years ASG has begun the process of assessing these revenue measures; and changes have been made to some — such as business licensing fees, corporate tax rates reduction and others.

“This initiative requires continuation, thus it is deemed necessary to establish the Task Force to complete this needed process,” said Lolo, who added that the panel is to review and assess the effectiveness of all existing revenue generating legislation with respect to existing economic and financial environment.

“The Task Force will recommend amendments to existing revenue generating legislation deemed to be obsolete and irrelevant in maximizing revenue generation” for ASG, according to the governor, who added that the panel is to submit its report

before or by Feb. 25, 2017 for his and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga’s review.

The Task Force will be chaired by Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale and its members are ASG acting Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaiepa; Budget and Planning Office acting director Catherine Aigamaua Saelua; Commerce Department acting director Keniseli Lafaele; Port Administration acting director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Tuia-Poumele; Criminal Justice Planning Agency’s former director Keith Gebauer; and the governor’s executive assistant Iulogologo Joseph Pereira.

Samoa News understands that Talauega has called for the Task Force’s first meeting to be held Jan. 18 to discuss a game plan for how it plans to accomplish its mission as set by the governor. The panel has also been provided copies of recently enacted laws — such as the hike in cigarette and tobacco tax; the hotel occupancy tax; and hike in business license fees.

## Treasury’s Accomplishment ...

Continued from page 5

strengthen enforcement and oversight.”

The report says Treasury has “identified the shortfalls and deficiencies in our overall collection” — but “we have also identified recommended solutions to address these shortages with the continued implementation of corrective measures.

“With executive support, interdepartmental collaboration and financial assistance, we anticipate meeting our goals and objectives,” the report says. “We extend our gratitude and appreciation for the continued support and look forward to an even better fiscal year collections for 2017.”

Samoa News will report in future editions on other issues cited in the 38-page report.



## AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT “Pesticide Applicator Training”

ASCC Land Grant Program will be conducting a Pesticide Applicator Safety training for those who handle farm chemicals. If you are using farm pesticides or you are planning to use chemicals in the near future, this is a good opportunity for you to attend this important training. The training schedule is as follows:

**Date:** January 23 - January 27, 2017  
**Time:** 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.  
**Place:** ASCC Land Grant Training Room

Registration is FREE. To confirm your participation for this training, please call Joyce or Helen at 699-1575/2019.

Thank You.

### FAAALIGA FA’ALAU’ITELE

#### “A’oa’oga mo i latou o lo’o fa’aaogaina vaila’au o’ona”

O le a faia se a’oa’oga mo i latou o lo’o fa’aaoga vaila’au o’ona i fa’ato’aga. Afai o lo’o e fa’aaoga vaila’au o’ona po’o e fa’amoemoe fo’i e te fa’aaoga i se taimi o i luma, o lou avanoa lelei lenei e te ‘auai ai i lenei a’oa’oga taua. O taimi la nei mo lenei vasega.

**Aso:** Ianuari 23 - Ianuari 27, 2017  
**Taimi:** 12:00 - 4:00 i le afiafi  
**Nofoaga e fai ai:** Potu mo A’oa’oga a le Vaega o Laufanua ma Atina’e a le Kolisi Tu’ufa’atasi ma Alaalafaga o Amerika Samoa.

“E leai se totogi o le resitala. Afai e te fia ‘auai i lenei a’oa’oga, fa’amolemole ia fa’afeso’ota’i mai Joyce po’o Helen i le telefoni 699-1575/2019

Fa’afetai.



### American Samoa Government OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

## INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB 025-2017

**Issuance Date:** January 11, 2017

**Closing Date:** January 25, 2017  
No later than 2:00 p.m. (local time)

#### 1. INVITATION

Sealed bids are invited from Department of Agriculture Certified Farmers to provide “Supply of Local Produce” for the Department of Education, School Lunch Program.

#### 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), January 25, 2017 at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

#### 3. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A Pre-Bid Meeting for all Department of Agriculture certified farmers will be held on January 19, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Agriculture Conference Room.

#### 4. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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

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

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

**DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON**  
Acting Chief Procurement Officer

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In this Monday, Jan. 16, 2017 photo, man fills a plastic container with water from a tap water in Damascus, Syria. Water cut-offs have been almost continuous since Dec. 22, in the worst water crisis known to Damascus residents. It comes at a time when the country is suffering electricity cuts and lack of other services as Syria's conflict approaches its seventh year in March.

(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

# Mounting frustration in Damascus amid widespread water cuts

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Omar Tarshan had never visited any of Syria's famous public baths until three weeks ago, when a water shortage in his Damascus neighborhood forced him to look for an alternative place to shower.

On Monday night, the 25-year-old accountant came with a colleague, Safwat Hariri, to the 1,000-year-old bath house in the old quarter of Damascus — the Hammam al-Malik al Zahir — where each was given two towels, a loofah and a piece of traditional olive oil soap. Minutes later, they stepped into the bath, enveloped by thick vapor.

The two men share the frustration of many other residents of the Syrian capital, forced to wait in long lines to fill their jerry cans after fighting with rebels in a valley northwest of Damascus cut off the main water line for the city last month. The more affluent, pay tanker trucks to come and fill up their tanks at home.

"We have no water at home and so I discovered the public bath," said Tarshan, a terry cloth wrapped around his waist.

The bath house, like others in Syria, has its own well and doesn't rely on the public water network.

Since Dec. 22, the fighting in Barada Valley has severely restricted the flow of water to Damascus, piling up more hardship on the city's 5 million people already suffering massive power cuts, rising food prices and general erosion in all services as Syria's brutal conflict is about to enter its seventh year.

President Bashar Assad's government forces fighting for control of the opposition-held Barada Valley say the rebels contaminated the area's Ein al-

Fijeh spring with diesel. The rebels say government airstrikes damaged the water source.

As insulated as Damascus has been from the effects of the civil war that has torn much of the country apart, the recent water crisis has dominated the talk in much of the city.

Residents line up in front of public taps with containers in hand; others crowd around huge water tankers parked in residential neighborhoods. Government-owned tanker trucks ferry water around the clock to hospitals. Prices of bottled waters have doubled, as the fighting-stricken valley — Wadi Barada in Arabic — is home to some of the country's most famous drinking water companies.

A driver of one of the state-owned tanker trucks filled it up on Monday morning at a public tap in western Damascus, before heading across town to one of the city's main hospitals. "We cannot leave hospitals without water," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he did not have permission to talk to the media.

There are concerns of illnesses spreading because people and restaurants don't have enough water to wash produce and clean utensils properly.

Private tanker truck owners are seeing their businesses boom. They sell 1,000 liters (264 gallons) of water for about \$10 — a huge amount of money in a country where many people make no more than \$100 a month.

The manager of the Damascus bath house, Bassam Kubab, said work has more than doubled since the water crisis began. But this has come at a cost to the quality of service, since he cannot afford to hire

(Continued on page 7)





FILE - A Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016 file photo showing US President elect Donald Trump greeting his daughter Ivanka Trump during the grand opening of Trump International Hotel in Washington. Trump wanted to praise his daughter on Twitter — instead he accidentally sent his message to another Ivanka. The message was directed to a woman named Ivanka Majic in Brighton, southern England. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

# Donald Trump praises wrong Ivanka in Twitter shout-out

LONDON (AP) — U.S. President-elect Donald Trump wanted to praise his daughter on Twitter — instead he accidentally sent his message to another Ivanka.

Trump retweeted a message from a Twitter user that said his daughter was “great, a woman with real character and class.”

But the user tagged the wrong Ivanka, a mistake repeated by Trump — and the message was directed to a woman named Ivanka Majic in Brighton, southern England.

The tweet quickly gained attention, with thousands of retweets and favorites overnight Tuesday.

Majic, a local government worker, replied to Trump Tuesday, saying on Twitter: “And you’re a man with great responsibilities. May I suggest more care on Twitter and more time learning about climate change.”

Majic said it wasn’t the first time she had been confused for Ivanka Trump on social media, and that she had previously tried to encourage those who tweeted her to vote for Hillary Clinton.

“It’s quite amusing because I’m getting all this attention, and yet my politics couldn’t be further from Donald Trump’s,” she told Britain’s ITV in a phone interview.

three girls. Instead of showering every other day, each family member now showers once a week, he said.

Sufian Mohammed Sharif came with his son in their pickup truck, packed with all kinds of small and large containers to take to their home in the suburb of Domar.

“In the past, we did not think about water ... now it has become a burden, an extra expense and humiliation,” said the 55-year-old truck owner.

At one of the public taps in the Mazzeh neighborhood, about 20 people came to fill their water containers within half an hour.

“Not suitable for drinking,” read a sign in Arabic above the tap. Among those filling up was a small, elderly woman who was lugging several empty plastic bottles.

## Water cuts...

Continued from page 6

more staff, it would take too long for them to learn the business and who knows, by then the crisis might be over.

“This increase of work is not in our interest if we are speaking long term,” Kubab said as dozens of customers crowded the bath house all at once — each paying \$3.5 to use the showers.

Jihad al-Masri, a 52-year-old owner of a store that sells clothes, drove after work to a public tap in the western neighborhood of Mazzeh where he filled more than 10 containers to take home for washing dishes and showers.

“It has been more than 15 days and we don’t have a drop of water,” said the father of

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# Meet A Spelling Champ!

The student at the right will represent Masefau Elem in the American Samoa Spelling Bee to be held February 22nd. The winner of that Bee will represent American Samoa in the 89th annual Scripps Howard Spelling Bee to be held in Washington, D.C.



## BIOGRAPHY OF A 2017 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

- What is your name?  
**Devine Leano Pesé**
- What is your school name?  
**Masefau Elementary School**
- What grade are you in?  
**Grade 8**
- Who is your English Teacher?  
**Tolutasi Fale**
- Who are your parents?  
**Maselino & Matauaina Pesé**
- What village are you from?  
**Masefau**
- What was your winning word?  
**ILLITERATE**

Spelling Bee Winners, if you've not filled out your biography and had your picture taken, please come in to Samoa News.



## Territorial Spelling Bee

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American Samoa

**In The High Court of American Samoa FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT DIVISIONS**  
 FDA/JG No. 11-16  
**IN RE: A MINOR CHILD**  
**NOTICE/FA'AALIGA**

**TO: MOTHER/VASANA AMOSA**  
 Unnamed Father/ Mo le Tama o le Tamaititi

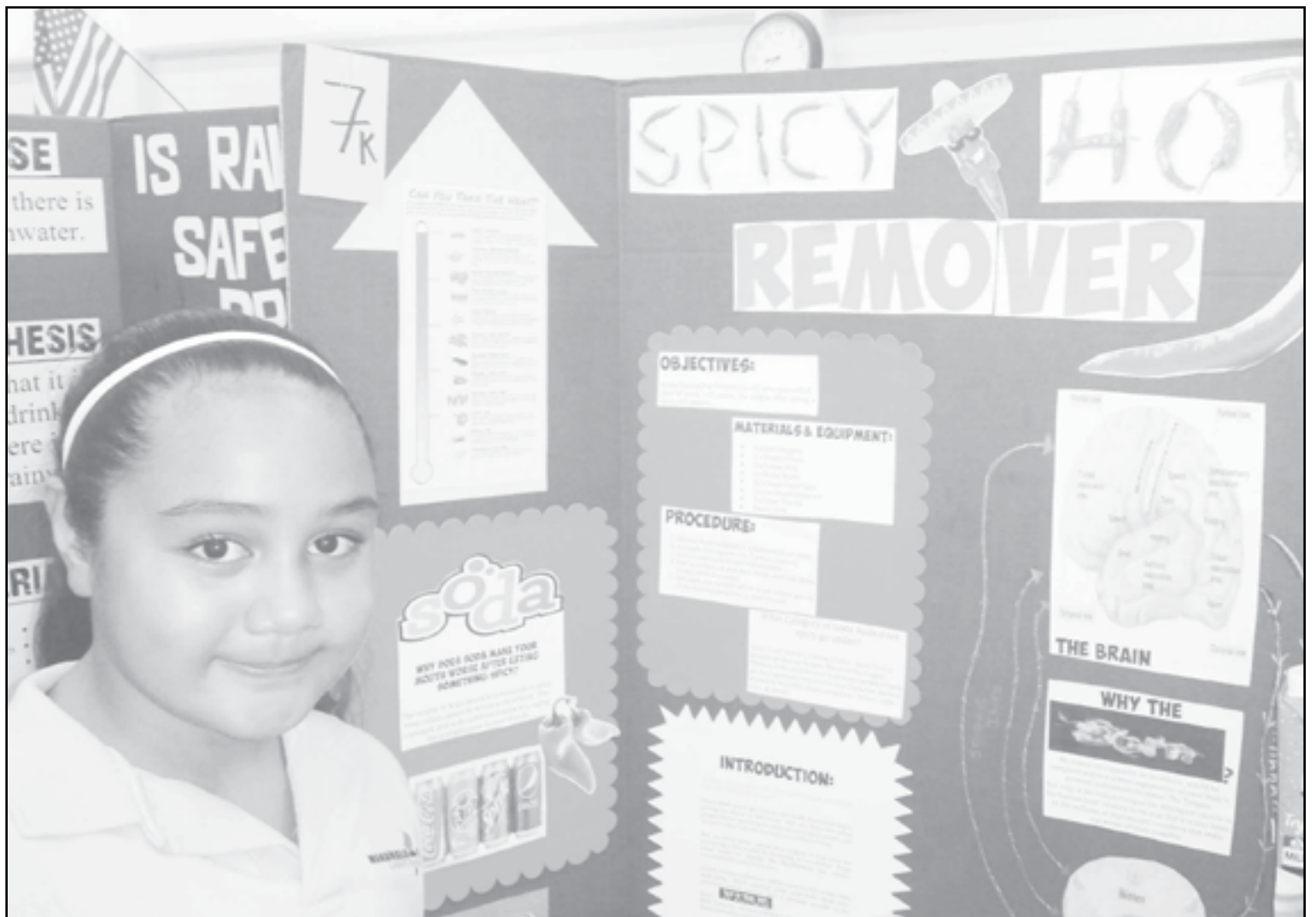
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR MINOR has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa by Nu'uuli and Judy Tupai, residents of Pago Pago, American Samoa, for a minor male child alleged born to you on September 2, 2000, at LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Faga'alu, American Samoa. You have two months and ten days from the first publication of this Notice to answer or otherwise respond to this Petition by filing such response with the Clerk of the High Court of American Samoa at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa, and by serving such response upon attorney Frederick J. O'Brien at American Samoa Legal Aid, Inc., at the Leatialua Building in Pago Pago, or by mail at P.O. Box 5984, Pago Pago, AS 96799. Your failure to respond within the time set forth above may result in granting by default the relief prayed for in the PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR MINOR.

Fa'amolemole ia utagia mai ua fa'auluina le talosaga mo le tofia o se tagata e tausia se tagata laitiitit tausaga i le Fa'amasinoga Maualuga o Amerika Samoa e Nu'uuli Tupai ma Judy Tupai, o tagata o lo'o alaalai i Pago Pago, Amerika Samoa, mo se tagata laitiiti na faapea na e fanaua ia Setema 2, 2000, i le Falemai LBJ, Faga'alu, Amerika Samoa. Ia le umi atu ma le lua masina ma le sefulu aso mai le fa'asalalauina muamua o lenei Fa'aaliga e le tali ai pe e te fa'a'aloa mai sou manatu i lenei mataupu i le Failautusi o le Fa'amasinoga Maualuga o Amerika Samoa i le Fale Fa'amasino i Fagatogo Amerika Samoa ma tauaao mai ai se kopi o lau Tali i le Aili'i Loia o Frederick J. O'Brien i le Ofisa Fesoasoani Fa'alutalafono Amerika Samoa i le Fale o Leatialua Pusa Meli 5984, Pago Pago, Amerika Samoa 96799. O lou le tu'uina mai o se tali i le mataupu i le taimi fa'atulagaina e mafai ai loa ona talia ai loa e le Fa'amasinoga Maualuga o Amerika Samoa le TALOSAGA MO LE TOFIA O SE TAGATA E TAUSIA SE TAGATA LAITIITI TAUSAGA.

DATE/ASO: September 22, 2016

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 10/24 & 11/25/16



Third grader Jadyn Craig stands in front of her science project entitled "Spicy Hot Remover" last Friday during her school's science fair competition.

(Photo: Blue Chen-Fruean)



**AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY**

Human Resource Department, Tafuna  
 PO Box PPB, Pago Pago  
 American Samoa 96799  
 Phone No: (684) 699-3033  
 Fax No: (684) 699-3046  
 humanresource@aspower.com

**PUBLIC JOB POSTING**

Position Title	Information Systems Specialist	Posting Date	January 9, 2017
Department	ICT	Deadline	January 20, 2017 4:00 PM
Division	Support Services	Pay Rate	\$11.87 to \$13.79 per hour
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation	Job Grade/Status	H/1/A-H/4/D, Non-Exempt
Reports To	ICT Manager		

**Major Duties & Responsibilities**

Highly responsible, professional, technical, and administrative work of considerable difficulty involving coordination of short and long range planning, analysis, report design, implementation and maintenance of mission-critical business process solutions for ASPA's ICT department. Incumbent is responsible for maintaining the department's information technology database and reporting needs using networked and distributed computing architectures and applications. Work is performed under the general supervision of the ICT Supervisor. Serves as administrator for the on-going maintenance of ASPA's Information Communication Technology Departments' information technology systems, applications and databases, as applicable. Coordinates the research, analysis, installation, maintenance and management for the department's operating and application system software and hardware. Provides technical support to system users. Manages, monitors and analyzes system and application performance, documents problems and explores, evaluates, and recommends solutions. Coordinates the design of database structures and develops documentation standards for the effective use, control, updating, maintenance and back-up of databases. Assures integrity of database design and complimentary report software - Showcase, including database reports. Assures proper and balanced interface between specific business applications/systems and ASPA's primary systems, as applicable. Researches, plans, develops, coordinates and performs the implementation of system/application changes, including upgrades, updates, modifications and customizations and maintains documentation for changes implemented. Researches, previews, and tests application/systems new releases, fixes, updates and expanded functional uses. Provides training and support to system users. Serves as liaison between functional users, department management and ISS technical staff. Performs related work as required. Other Important Duties keeps informed and abreast of major trends and developments in the computer field. May perform selected duties of the administrative supervisor, as necessary. Performs related work as required.

**Minimum Requirements**

Education	Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or Information System Management
Experience	Three (3) years related work experience in information technology.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	Considerable knowledge of computer technology and current technical industry capabilities, standards and trends. Ability to work with both SQL (Structured Query Language) and AS400 query. Ability to conduct independent research and define results. Ability to furnish competent technical advice and recommendations on hardware capabilities, system reporting, and development, and related matters. Ability to analyze facts and exercise sound judgment in arriving at conclusions. Ability to interact effectively with functional representatives and technical co-workers one-on-one and/or in team environments. Ability to organize time and resources for maximum benefit. Ability to communicate clearly and concisely, orally, and in writing. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships as necessitated by the work. Ability to work irregular and/or additional hours. Skills to include, but not be limited to, use of the following tool sets or equivalent products: Microsoft Office 2013 desktop toolset, (Access, Word, Excel, etc), system support and/or development in client/server environment, working knowledge of an Open Database Connectivity (ODBC), database (AS400, Linux, etc.), Structured Query Language/Structured Query Reports (SQL/SQR), Windows7, and a basic understanding of networks and network design. Minimum Training and Experience Possession of a bachelor's degree in computer science, management information systems, business administration or a related field and three years of professional and technical experience that includes experience with application systems in a client/server environment; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

**Qualified applicants:** Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA Tafuna (address listed above) by the deadline listed above. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on pre-employment drug test.  
**No phone inquiries accepted.**

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# King Day parade turns violent when 8 shot in Miami

MIAMI (AP) — A national holiday celebrating nonviolence and Martin Luther King Jr. erupted into mayhem when eight people were shot at a park named after the slain civil rights leader.

Hundreds of people had gathered in the park after the annual MLK Day parade in the Liberty City neighborhood, and the shooting sent people running in all directions Monday afternoon. Police said they were not sure what started the shooting.

The wounded ranged in age from 11 to 30. Only one of those shot was in critical condition Monday.

Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez tweeted that it was a "shameful closing" to the parade.

"Certainly not what the followers of Dr. King Jr. want out of our community," he wrote.

Miami-Dade Detective Daniel Ferrin said two suspects were questioned and two guns had been recovered.

The parade has been a tradition since the 1970s. People gather on the streets to barbecue, listen to music and celebrate King's life.

The shots rang out around 3:40 p.m. as bikers and ATV riders roared past in celebration. Their motto: "Bikes up, Guns down." The Miami Herald (<http://hrlid.us/2ji9upu>) reported.

Police evacuated and closed the park after the shootings.

Terrell Dandy, who was in the park, said it was peaceful until he heard three gunshots. Then the crowd began to stampede out of the park.

"It was good until you had these idiots out there shooting," Dandy told the newspaper. "It was just a bunch of commotion."



A concerned mother is meet by Miami-Dade police officers as she searches for her child after several were injured in a shooting at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park in Miami-Dade, Fla., Monday, Jan. 16, 2017. The Miami Herald reports that hundreds of people had gathered in the park after the annual MLK Day parade.

(Carl Juste/Miami Herald via AP)





**FILE** - In this Wednesday, July 5, 2006, file photo, a Chinese chemical weapons expert aligns poison gas bombs dug from a pit in Ning'an, northeastern China's Heilongjiang province. China's military said Tuesday that more than 2,500 abandoned Japanese wartime chemical weapons collected from northern China, including Beijing and the port city of Tianjin, have been destroyed in a four-year disposal process.

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File)

**In The High Court of American Samoa FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT DIVISIONS**  
 FDA/JG No. 03-14  
 SEGILA P. VAEAO & TAFAGO S. VAEAO, Petitioners,  
 In the interest of a minor,  
 DOB: November 20, 2006, in American Samoa  
 And concerning mother Peverita Vaeao and an Un-named father,

**NOTICE/FA'AALIGA**

**TO: Un-named Father American Samoa**  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named person that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to establish minor guardianship for a Female child (d.o.b.: November 20, 2006 in AS). A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice, in which the Court may enter an order granting the guardianships. If you have any objection, or wish to claim or assert your parental rights, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of first publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA'AALIGA E TU'UINA atu i tagata ua ta'ua i luga; ua failaina se talosaga i le Fa'amasinoga Mauluga ina ia fa'amautuina se tagata tausii mo se tamaititi (d.o.b.: November 20, 2006 i Amerika Samoa). O le iloiloaga o lea mataupu, ma le faia o le fa'aiuga a le Fa'amasinoga mo se tasi e fa'amautu ai le tausiga o le tama, o le a faia lea i le mae'a o le lua (2) masina ma aso e sefulu (10) mai le taimi na faia ai lenei fa'aliga. Afai e te tete'e i lea talosaga, pe e te mana'o e puipui i ou aia fa'amautua, po'ou aia tatau, ia e o'o mai i le fale fa'amasino ma failaina lau tete'e ae e le'i mae'a le lua (2) masina ma aso e sefulu (10) mai le taimi o lenei fa'aliga.

DATE/ASO: January 05, 2017  
 CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 01/9, 01/17, 01/23

# China says 2,500 chemical weapons destroyed

BEIJING (AP) — China's military said Tuesday that more than 2,500 abandoned Japanese wartime chemical weapons collected from northern China, including Beijing and the port city of Tianjin, have been destroyed in a four-year disposal process.

Japan and China have been working together on the biggest chemical weapon cleanup effort in history, a decades-long, diplomatically sensitive project that is seen in China as a reminder of the wartime atrocities it suffered during Japan's 1937 invasion and subsequent occupation.

Under the terms of a 1997 treaty, Tokyo is responsible for cleaning up hundreds of thousands of chemical weapons left behind by its occupation troops at the end of World War II. China says thousands of Chinese have been killed or hurt since the end of the war in 1945 by accidents related to the buried weapons.

China's ministry of defense said Tuesday that the weapons' disposal at a facility in Shijiazhuang city in Hebei province, neighboring Beijing, had finished in a "safe, orderly and smooth manner." The weapons are generally burned in specially designed furnaces.

The remaining pieces of Japanese chemical weapons are difficult to find and destroy because they were scattered widely, the ministry said. It urged Japan to "increase manpower and resources" to finish the job.

China has repeatedly urged Japan to speed up the project, which was initially scheduled to be completed in 2007 but has hit delays.

China estimates that Japanese troops left behind more than 2 million chemical weapons, mostly in the northeastern region of Manchuria. The cleanup of the biggest cache — a site with nearly 700,000 chemical bombs at Haerbaling in Jilin province — is scheduled to be finished in 2022.

The Japanese government said in 2015 that it finished destroying another cache at a facility in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

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# Forever a mystery? MH370 search ends after nearly 3 years



**FILE -** In this March 31, 2014 file photo, the shadow of a Royal New Zealand Air Force P3 Orion is seen on low level cloud while the aircraft searches for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean, near the coast of Western Australia. After nearly three years, the hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 ended in futility and frustration on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017, as crews completed their deep-sea search of a desolate stretch of the Indian Ocean without finding a single trace of the plane. (AP Photo/Rob Griffith, File)

**In The High Court of American Samoa FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT DIVISIONS**  
FDA/JG No. 05-14

SERIAL P. VAEAO & TAFAGO S. VAEAO, Petitioners,

In the interest of a minor,  
DOB: February 9, 2008, in American Samoa  
And concerning mother **Peperita Vaeao** and an **Un-named father**,

**NOTICE/FA'AALIGA**

TO: **Un-named Father American Samoa**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named person that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to establish minor guardianship for a Female child (d.o.b.: February 9, 2008, in AS). A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice, in which the Court may enter an order granting the guardianships. If you have any objection, or wish to to claim or assert your parental rights, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of first publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA'AALIGA E TU'UINA atu i tagata ua ta'ua i luga; ua failaina se talosaga i le Fa'amasinoga Maua'uga ina ia fa'amautuina se tagata tausi mo se tamaititi (d.o.b.: February 9, 2008 i Amerika Samoa). O le iloiloga o lea mataupu, ma le faia o le fa'aiuga a le Fa'amasinoga mo se tasi e fa'amautu ai le tausiga o le tama, o le a faia lea i le mae'a o le lua (2) masina ma aso e sefulu (10) mai le taimi na faia ai lenei fa'aliga. Afai e te tete'e i lea talosaga, pe e te mana'o e puipui i ou aia fa'amatua, po'o ou aia tatau, ia e o'o mai i le fale fa'amasino ma failaina lau tete'e ae e le'i mae'a le lua (2) masina ma aso e sefulu (10) mai le taimi o lenei fa'aliga.

DATE/ASO: January 05, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 01/9, 01/17, 01/23

**LAPATA'IGA MO MATAFAGA**



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

Lagolagoina le fa'amamaina o matafaga

ASEPA

**Aso o le Fa'asalalauga: Ianuari 11, 2017**  
**Fa'afeso'ota'i: AS-EPA Polokalama a le Vai - 633-2304**

Fa'asilasilaga mai le Ofisa o le Puipuiga o le Si'osi'omaga mo le mamalu o le atunu'u: sa faia su'esu'ega o gataifale ia Ianuari 10, 2017, ma fa'amaonia ai le i ai o siana (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

- Fagasa-Fagalea Stream Mouth
- Afono Stream Mouth
- Vatia Stream Mouth
- Aua-Pouesi Stream Mouth
- Aua Stream Mouth
- Laulii Stream Mouth
- Alega Beach
- Fagaitua Stream Mouth
- Masefau Stream Mouth
- Aoa Stream Mouth

E fautuaina le mamalu o le atunu'u o lo'o fa'aaogaina ia ogasami ma ta'elega ma fagotaga: talu ai ona o su'esu'ega o ia vaega o ogasami sa faia i le vaiaso ua mavae, sa molimauina ai le maua'uga o le faitau aofa'i o siana (Enterococci) mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina i le tulafono i ia vaega o ogasami. O nei siana e afua mai otaota po'o suava'i lafoa'i o tagata ma meaola. Afai ae o'o atu le faitau aofa'i o siana mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina, o lona uiga, e i ai le avanoa e ono afaina ai lou soifua maloloina ini fa'ama'i e pei o le manava-tata, o fofoga fa'apea fa'i ma manu'a o le tino pe a sao i ai le siana. Mo lou saogalemu: 'ava le inuina le suasami, ia fa'alana lelei, ma fa'amalu pe a mae'a ta'elega. O le fautuaga mai le Ofisa o le AS-EPA, fa'afeso'ota'i muamua se foma'i, a'o le'i fa'aaogaina ia ogasami, auā le puipuiga o lou soifua maloloina.

Fa'amolemole, fa'autagia mai nei fautuaga. O le a toe maua atu se isi ripoti, pe a mae'a nisi o su'esu'ega mai le Potu Su'esu'e a le AS-EPA i le vaiaso fou. O lo'o i lalo o le va'ava'aiga a le AS-EPA matafaga mo tafaoga e 44 i le motu o Tutuila, e 5 i Manua ma le uafu i Aunu'u. O fa'asalalauga mo fautuaga mo le motu o Tutuila o lo'o auina atu i vaiaso ta'itasi, ae o Manu'a ma Aunu'u e fa'asalalau atu i masina ta'itasi. Mo ni fesili pe fia malamalama atili, fa'amolemole, vala'au mai i le telefoni (684) 633-2304.

SYDNEY (AP) — The nearly three-year search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 ended Tuesday, possibly forever — not because investigators have run out of leads, but because the countries involved in the expensive and vast deep-sea hunt have shown no appetite for opening another phase.

Late last year, as ships with high-tech search equipment covered the last strips of the 120,000-square kilometer (46,000-square mile) search zone, experts concluded they should have been searching a smaller area immediately to the north. But by then, \$160 million had already been spent by Malaysia, Australia and China, who had agreed over the summer not to search elsewhere without pinpoint evidence.

The transport ministers of those countries reiterated that decision Tuesday in the joint communique issued by the Joint Agency Coordination Center in Australia that announced the search for Flight 370 — and the 239 people aboard the aircraft — had been suspended.

“Despite every effort using the best science available, cutting-edge technology, as well as modeling and advice from highly skilled professionals who are the best in their field, unfortunately, the search has not been able to locate the aircraft,” said the agency, which helped lead the hunt for the Boeing 777 in remote waters west of Australia.

“Accordingly, the underwater search for MH370 has been suspended. The decision to suspend the underwater search

has not been taken lightly nor without sadness.”

Relatives of those lost on the plane, which vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, responded largely with outrage. A support group, Voice 370, issued a statement saying that extending the search is “an inescapable duty owed to the flying public.”

Without understanding what happened to the plane, there’s a “good chance that this could happen in the future,” said K.S. Narendran, a member of the group. But last year, Australia, Malaysia and China — which have each helped fund the search — agreed that the hunt would be suspended once the search zone was exhausted unless new evidence emerges that pinpoints the plane’s specific location. More than after of those aboard the plane were Chinese.

Since no technology currently exists that can tell investigators exactly where the plane is, that means the most expensive, complex search in aviation history is over, barring a change of heart from the three countries.

There is the possibility that a private donor could offer to bankroll a new search, or that Malaysia will kick in fresh funds. But no one has stepped up yet, raising the bleak possibility that the world’s greatest aviation mystery may never be solved. For the families of the aircraft’s 227 passengers and 12 crew members, that’s a particularly bitter prospect given the

recent acknowledgment by officials that they had been looking for the plane in the wrong place all along.

In December, the transport bureau announced that a review of the data used to estimate where the plane crashed, coupled with new information on ocean currents, strongly suggested that the plane hit the water in an area directly north of the search zone.

Officials investigating the plane’s disappearance recommended that search crews head north to a new 25,000-square-kilometer (9,700-square-mile) area identified in a recent analysis as where the plane most likely crashed. But Australia’s government rejected that recommendation, saying the results of the experts’ analysis weren’t precise enough to justify continuing the hunt.

“Whilst combined scientific studies have continued to refine areas of probability, to date no new information has been discovered to determine the specific location of the aircraft,” the transport ministers of the three countries involved said in their statement Tuesday.

The lack of resolution has caused agony for family members of the flight’s passengers, who have begged officials to continue the hunt for their loved ones.

“The whole series of events since the plane disappeared has been nothing but frustrating,” said Grace Nathan, a Malaysian whose mother was on board Flight 370. “It continues to be

(Continued on page 11)



FILE - In this May 9, 2013, file photo, a worker pushes shopping carts in front of a Wal-Mart store in La Habra, Calif. Wal-Mart plans to add about 10,000 retail jobs in the U.S. as it opens new stores and expands existing locations. The world's biggest retailer said Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017, that there will also be about 24,000 construction jobs as well. (AP Photo/Jac C. Hong, File)

# Wal-Mart to add about 10,000 retail jobs in the US

NEW YORK (AP) Wal-Mart plans to add about 10,000 retail jobs in the U.S. as it opens new stores and expands existing locations.

The world's biggest retailer said Tuesday that there will also be about 24,000 construction jobs generated by its expansion plans.

There will be 59 new, expanded and relocated Walmart and Sam's Clubs locations, according to Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

The company plans \$6.8 bil-

lion in capital investments in the U.S. in the coming fiscal year, which begins on Feb. 1. The investments include construction and remodeling of stores, clubs and distribution centers, and the expansion of new services such as online grocery pickup.

Wal-Mart currently has 11,593 stores in 28 countries. The Bentonville, Arkansas, company has continued to pour money into its e-commerce and improving its stores. The chain saw its online sales improve in

the third-quarter and profit beat Wall Street's expectations. It also raised the low end of its full-year profit outlook.

Last week Amazon announced that it would add 100,000 full-time jobs over the next 18 months. Amazon said Thursday its U.S. workforce has grown from 30,000 in 2011, to more than 180,000 by the end of this year. By comparison, Walmart employs about 2.4 million people worldwide, including 1.5 million in the U.S.



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## Forever a mystery? ...

Continued from page 10

frustrating and we just hope they will continue to search. ... They've already searched 120,000 square kilometers. What is another 25,000?"

Investigators have been stymied again and again in their efforts to find the aircraft. Hopes were repeatedly raised and smashed by false leads: Underwater signals wrongly thought to be emanating from the plane's black boxes. Possible debris fields that turned out to be sea trash. Oil slicks that contained no jet fuel. A large object detected on the seafloor that was just an old shipwreck.

In the absence of solid leads, investigators relied largely on an analysis of transmissions between the plane and a satellite to narrow down where in the world the jet ended up — a technique never previously used to find an aircraft.

Based on the transmissions, they narrowed down the possible crash zone to a vast arc of ocean slicing across the Southern Hemisphere. Even

then, the search zone was enormous and located in one of the most remote patches of water on earth — 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) off Australia's west coast. Much of the seabed had never even been mapped.

For years, search crews painstakingly combed the search area in several ships, largely pinning their hopes on towfish, small vessels equipped with sonar that sent information back to the boats in real-time. The ships slowly dragged the towfish through the ocean just above the seabed, hoping the equipment would detect some trace of the plane. Unmanned submarines were used to examine areas of rougher terrain and objects of interest picked up by sonar that required a closer look.

The search zone shifted multiple times as investigators refined their analysis, all to no avail. Some began to question whether the plane had gone down in the Southern Hemisphere at all.



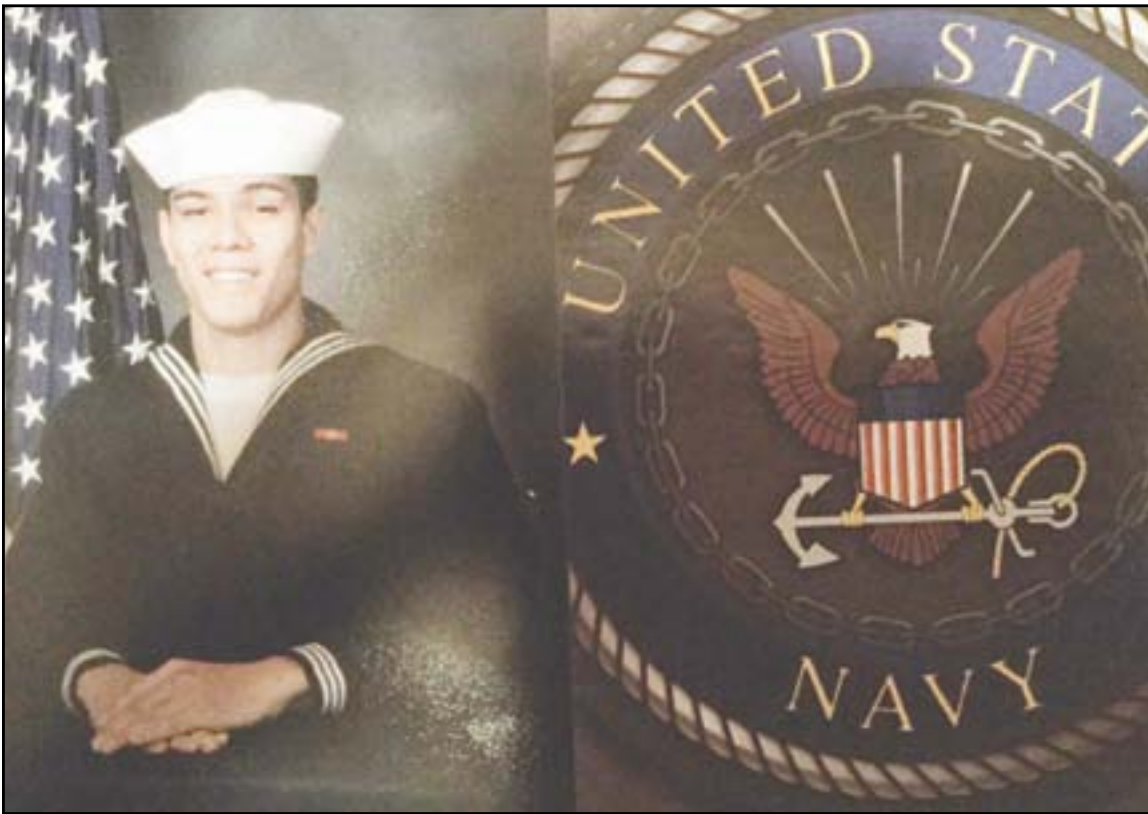
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## ▶ Electrocuting accident ...

*Continued from page 1*

The Acting Commissioner said he was contacted about the horrific incident, however upon arrival, the men had already been taken to the hospital. He could not comment as to why the incident occurred.

Unconfirmed reports from witnesses told Samoa News that a ladder fell on a live wire, while others have stated that the crane arm, that was lifting the metal struts out of containers for the Manu'a store's new warehouse/ building, located nextdoor to the accident site, struck a high tension wire, which was close to where the containers are located (see photo).

Le'i told Samoa News that since the incident, firefighters have been stationed at the scene for precautionary measures.

American Samoa Power Authority, Chief Executive Officer, Utu Abe Malae said the incident was "heart breaking."

Responding to Samoa News questions, Utu who is traveling, said apparently, "soon after the crane contacted the high tension line, the feeder tripped because of the large fault current that rushed to the nearby Tafuna power plant. If it hadn't tripped so quickly there would have been more fatalities," he said.

Utu further noted that extreme caution must be exercised when working around 'live' wires, and pointed out that there are warning signs on all heavy equipment with vertical extensions such as cranes and bucket trucks. "The "keep clear" signs must be heeded by the operator and workers on the ground.

"For example, no one on the ground is to lean against or otherwise touch the equipment while it is being operated. The operator is actually in a safer position than those on the ground touching the equipment.

"Before digging around an area, locate the presence of underground power cables," he said.

Utu further cautioned that working alongside waterways (e.g., at road bridges) with overhead or underground power cables nearby is also risky. Again, study the warning signs on the equipment itself and obey them.

"Water (not distilled) is an excellent conductor of electricity and if the high voltage line were to snap and touch the water, workers in the water would be injured or killed."

He further noted that building a house without a permit too close to a high-voltage line may seem okay to the owner at the time. "However, that is very risky and has caused electrical injuries because of a ladder coming into contact with the live wires."

He also commented about that danger of flying kites near high voltage areas.

"Even those flying kites in the park should be aware of the high voltage lines even though they appear 'far away'. A shift in the wind direction can make all the difference," he said.

The ASPA CEO also cautioned that cutting down trees next to power lines should not be done by families themselves. "They must contact ASPA to do that. Any tree within the easement of all power lines must be cut down. Value your life more than the breadfruit tree. Breadfruit pickers using long lou have been electrocuted before. A thick telephone cable that is broken and lying on the ground, say, after a cyclone, should be considered "live". Even though it is a telephone cable, somewhere along its length it may be in contact with a high voltage power line."

Utu expressed his condolences to the family of the deceased.

*A son of American Samoa, Fa'afetaileali'i Fred Raison, graduated from U.S. Navy Boot Camp last November. Raison succeeded with pride, dignity & honor.*

*His parents said, "Whenever you find yourself doubting how far you have come, remember everything you have faced, all the battles you have won, and all the fears you have overcome, God was with you and will forever be your Guiding Light. We will continue to lift you up in prayers. Your whole family is so proud of you, especially your mom."*

*Love from your parents Josie and Me Ae, your grandparents: Loise and Timothy Seigafo, Titilupe and Pulu Ae Ae Jr, Wayne Lewis Raison (Navy Retired); your brothers: Mel, Aezon and Jayvin, as well as your uncles, aunties, cousins, family and friends here and abroad.*

[Courtesy photo]



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