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Team American Samoa departs tonight for Ashgabat **B3**

Five local Customs officers were certified by lead instructor, Daniel Evin Cornier of AMK9 company in Florida, after successfully completing a one-week course to familiarize them on all tactics necessary to perform the task of controlling the influx of illegal drugs through the local ports of entry.

A close relationship between the four-legged customs canines and their respective handler is a must in their line of duty.

The certified customs agents are pictured with Cornier, Acting Chief of Customs Keith Gebauer, and Robert Ho Chee of the Governor's Office.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



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Cops are at the airport to help, not interfere

LE'I: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson's message to those involved in illegal activities: "We will come to you." See story for full details. [photo: AF]

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson says cops are not trying to interfere with the work of Customs officers stationed at the Pago Pago International Airport, and there seems to be some confusion on what's happening at the airport.

"There is nothing that can stop police officers from being involved in anything in the territory. If we believe there is criminal activity, whether it's on the road, at the airport, at sea, on the mountains, under the valleys, your backyard or wherever - we will come to protect your family, the community, and also to uphold the law," Le'i told Samoa News last week.

The Commish was responding to concerns allegedly voiced by community members - including some Customs agents - regarding the presence of DPS police officers inside the arrival area at the airport. "Custom officers are doing their job," he said. "Police officers are also doing their job.

I'm not going to discuss anymore on this issue because there are ongoing investigations and leads involving drugs entering the territory, through the airport, postal service, and containers. All I can say is that we're not trying to interfere with Customs' job," he continued.

The issue was raised during a Senate Transportation Committee hearing on an Administration bill seeking to amend provision of local law regarding vehicle registration fees.

Senator Magalei Logovi'i said there had been complaints from Customs agents regarding officers with the newly created police task force unit being present and allegedly getting involved with Customs' work at the airport, specifically checking passenger bags at the arrival area.

Magalei, a former ASG Treasurer, pointed out that the US Federal Aviation Administration has jurisdiction over the airport, and has specific regulations when it comes to persons

(Continued on page 8)

Some ASG directors are a 'no-show' at budget hearings

FONO LEADERS INTEND TO SEND NOTICE TO GOV. LOLO - AGAIN

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

The Fono leaders plan to - again - communicate to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, its long-standing practice that only cabinet directors, including presidents and CEOs of authorities, are to testify during budget hearings. This followed last Thursday's Fono Joint Budget Committee hearings, for which some directors didn't show up because they were either out sick or off island. This, of course, didn't sit well with lawmakers, who wanted to hear directly from cabinet directors.

The High Court and eight government offices had their FY 2018 budgets reviewed last Thursday; however, four cabinet members weren't able to attend and instead their deputies appeared on their behalf and

gave an explanation:

•Deputy Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Malemo Tausaga said Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Mauga T. Asuega has been out ill for about two weeks and therefore was unable to attend.

• Assistant public defender Michael White said Public Defender Douglas Fiaui is off island. (No details were given as to why Fiaui is off island.)

•Department of Youth and Women's Affairs deputy director Pa'u Roy Ausage said DYWA director, Jonathan Fanene is out sick.

• Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman Sen. Magalei Logovi'i informed lawmakers of the advance notice from the Governor's Office that Administrative Law Judge, Toetagata Albert Mailo, recently travelled

off-island for medical reasons.

After the hearing ended and the last witnesses left, Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie explained that communication to the Governor's Office, along with the list of budget hearings, had again, stressed that only directors can testify or that agency's budget may end up being continued for another time. He said he and House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale will meet regarding this matter, and a new letter will be sent to the Governor's Office stressing again, that only directors can testify, because there are questions that neither a deputy director nor a senior official can answer. The Fono leaders noted that delaying hearings for entities whose directors were

(Continued on page 9)



An older model blue Toyota 4Runner, heading westward, ran off the road and landed in the ocean waters of Laulii, at the sharp curve between Aumi and Lauliituai. Fortunately, there were no fatalities. Villagers crowded the area as law enforcement officials and first responders made their way to the site, to render aid to the five passengers who were in the vehicle when it went down.

The incident occurred at around 3:30 a.m. this past Saturday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a source at DPS told Samoa News that the car was traveling at a high rate of speed, and when the driver tried to negotiate the curve, he lost control and the vehicle skidded off the road, landing on the rocks and seawater several feet below.

Samoa News understands that a sobriety test was performed on the driver at the LBJ Medical Center - via a breathalyzer - and he passed. Samoa News was told that the driver's blood alcohol level was not tested at the scene as, considering the seriousness of the accident, immediate medical attention superseded anything else. Samoa News was unable to confirm as of press time yesterday, if the driver or any of the four passengers were still hospitalized.

[photo: BC]



AG briefs senators on sex offender registry requirements

SEN. MUAGUTUTI'A: FOR THEIR SHAMEFUL ACTS, THE OFFENDERS' PHOTOS SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

There are more than 100 sex offenders already registered under the American Samoa sex offender registry, and Sen. Muagututi'a M. Tauoa is suggesting that convicted sex offenders' photos be made widely available to the general public, for their shameful criminal acts toward their victims, especially children.

Muagututi'a's suggestion to Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, was made during a Senate Judiciary & Immigration Committee hearing last Friday on an Administration bill, seeking to amend the current American Samoa Sex Offenders Registration and Notification Act.

Talauega provided background on the local statute, which was amended in 2014 to bring American Samoa in compliance with federal law - the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) - and further strengthen the nationwide network of sex offender registration and notification programs.

He said the amendment, which he fully supports, will bring American Samoa into

compliance with current federal law regarding sex offender registration. According to the AG, the feds provide funds for American Samoa's program, and without full compliance, the territory faces the possible loss of this important funding from the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) awarded from the US Justice Department.

Talauega stressed the importance of protecting children from being victim's of sexual assault, and that prompted quick support of the bill from some senators, who called for a much greater protection of "our young children".

Muagututi'a, who supports the bill, said that not only should the sex offenders be required to register, their photos must be widely distributed so that the general public is fully aware of who they are, people who committed very shameful acts against children. He said the public should be able to view the photos of these types of people - referring to sex offenders.

Muagututi'a's suggestion regarding the photos has been voiced over the years by members of the public, and has increased in the past several months as more and more defendants are being convicted of sexual acts against minors, some as young as 11 years old.

During the Senate hearing, committee chairman Sen. Tuiagamoia Tavai wanted to know who enforces the provision of the statute, requiring a sex offender to register.

Talauega explained that staff with the Attorney General's Office handle the registration of sex offenders, and the staff communicates with the court, which provides updates on persons convicted of sex crimes and required to register as sex offenders.

There are currently more than 100 sex offenders who have registered under the American Samoa Sex Offender Registry (ASSOR), and photos and information about sex offenders and where they reside are all available on a webpage, Talauega said, referring to the ASSOR public website <americansamoa.nsopw.gov> in which the name of a sex offender can be searched.

Talauega said the goal of the webpage information is to let the community know where the sex offender resides, and the sex offender is required to update where they live. If the offender fails to do so, there is provision of the law which addresses such issues.

Tuiagamoia asked about sex offenders who leave the territory, such as those from neighboring Samoa.

Talauega said individuals who opt to leave the territory are required by law to contact the AG's Office to provide their new address and contact information in the US, and the information is then updated on the webpage as well as in their records. This information is also available to those off island.

But for someone who returns to Samoa, he said, local statute does not apply there but if the person returns to American Samoa later on, that individual is required by law to contact and register again with the AG's Office.

Under the territory's current law, Tier II sex offenders may have their registration periods reduced to 10 years if they maintain a clean record for 10 consecutive years, but this provision is not in compliance with SORNA, according to the governor, who notes that the proposed amendment "will allow the government to continue monitoring individuals who have committed more severe sexual crimes."

The Senate committee is expected to act soon on the measure before it's reported to the full Senate floor for a decision.

As previously reported by Samoa News, the local sex offender registry is overseen by the Attorney General's Office, under the ASSOR Division. The purpose of the ASSOR is to track and register sex offenders who reside, attend school, or are employed in American Samoa, and to make available information to the public for their use.

The website page makes it clear that "registering information should never be used to threaten, intimidate, or harass another." The information is also in the Samoan language, and names of sex offenders can be searched on the webpage.



Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale testified last Friday before a Senate committee on an administration bill, which amends the local sex offender registry statute. See story for details.

[photo: FS]



American Samoa Government
DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE

Public Notice

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

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

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

Comments may be submitted to:

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


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Mixed reactions from House members regarding business tax bill

SOME SAY AUDIT, OTHERS SAY SCRAP IT, FEW SAY IT IS GOOD FOR ASG

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Manu'a Faipule, Rep. Toeaina Faufano Autele is calling the Administration bill to propose a 1% alternative minimum business tax (AMBT), a "real business and economic development killer."

Toeaina, an educator by profession, said the Tax Office has the right to audit businesses who are suspected of filing incorrect information on their annual income - a move to avoid them from filing their fair share of taxes to the government.

He said this bill will penalize businesses that have an honest loss, forcing them to pay a minimum 1% tax on their gross receipts, driving them further in debt and possibly out of business.

In the absence of the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Lavea Legae'e Mauga, the chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Rep. Vailiutama Steve Leasilolagi chaired last Friday's hearing to discuss the AMBT, which becomes effective in tax year 2018 if approved by the Fono.

Members of the ASG Revenue Task Force told lawmakers that the AMBT is to ensure that all businesses subject to taxation in American Samoa will pay their fair share of taxes, to help with the government's financial woes.

Task Force member, Treasurer Ueligitone Tonumaiepa, said the AMBT bill, as well as other revenue measures submitted by the Administration, is a proposal - a request, and the House makes the final decision.

Another task force member, Executive Assistant to the Governor, Iulogologo J. Pereira said he believes the bill is good for all businesses, especially those who have been operating in the territory for many years and paying less or no tax at all.

Rep. Gafatasi Afalava said he fully understands the dif-

ficulties faced by the government, but at the same time, does not want something that affects honest businesses, who continue to contribute to the economy. He told the task force that after his did his research, he found out that this bill will affect businesses who are honest with their loss, and those who are paying their taxes to the government annually.

Rep. Veevalu Meauta L. Mageo sought a clear explanation from the task force about how many businesses are paying their 1% tax to the government annually - and how many are not.

Iulogologo said that over a 3-year period, on average, only 13% of corporate tax filers paid over 1% income tax of gross revenue, leaving 87% paying less than 1% on the adjusted gross income.

Tonumaiepa added by saying there are a lot of businesses that have been operating in American Samoa for many years, but when they file taxes, they end up paying less than 1% or nothing at all in taxes.

Rep. Manumaua Wayne Wilson said he fully supports the bill, because this is another solution to the government's financial problem. He said he believes there are a lot of businesses who are providing incorrect information to the Tax Office every year, saying that they were operating on a loss.

"How can a business survive for a period of seven years if they operated on a loss each year? Something is wrong," said Manumaua. "I believe this is the only move the government can make to stop the problem."

Rep. Vaetasi Tuumolimoli S. Moliga told the task force that another way to help the government is to enforce the law in terms of collection, and also to monitor businesses that are suspected of providing false information to the government. He thanked the task force for these sorts of bills, which he said will allow all local businesses to

come together and provide their share to the government.

Rep. Samuel Ioka Ale Mel-eisea said that while there are a lot of businesses in Tualauta District - he is not sure whether all of these businesses are honest in paying their taxes to the government. While he supports the motive of the bills, he recommends that businesses that truly suffer a loss, and non-profit corporations, be exempt from the business tax.

To follow up on the issue of "87% of businesses are paying less than 1% on the adjusted gross income," Mageo asked the task force if they ever conducted an audit to check on those businesses. Tonumaiepa said yes.

"I believe the phrase: Leave no stone unturned," said Mageo, "If the government worked hard to avoid this ten years ago, this will not be a problem for the government today."

After Tonumaiepa repeated that all businesses subject to taxation in American Samoa will pay the proposed AMBT, Gafatasi wanted to know the specific types of businesses targeted by the AMBT. Tonumaiepa replied that corporations are targeted under the AMBT, but not sole proprietors or partnerships. He said the bill exempts non-profit organizations, and new business operating within a two-year period, from the time it started, will not be subjected to the AMBT.

Towards the end of the hearing, Vailiutama said auditing business records is the only solution to the problem.

The committee will call another hearing soon, to hear testimony from the private sector.

In addition to Tonumaiepa and Iulogologo, also present during the hearing were Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, Budget Director Catherine Saelua, Acting Chief of Customs Keith Gebauer, and Port Director Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele.



Reps. Toeaina Faufano Autele and Veevalu Meauta L. Mageo.

[photo: AF]

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THE CONVERSATION

IT'S GO TIME!

by Benjamin Hampton

Welcome back to The Conversation! Before we launch into the meat of this week's column, it's important that we first revisit our structure and framework, the pillars if you will, that are supporting and driving the focus of The Conversation.

Challenge > Conversation > Clarity > Committed Collaboration > Change

Once we as a community recognize a Challenge, that begins a Conversation. During the Conversation we gain Clarity over what the issues are, who the players are, and what can be done moving forward. That leads to Committed Collaboration from those in the community willing to stand their ground, speak in courage and firmly act in love towards those who need to change. By continuing to do what is right and refusing to back down, this leads to our ultimate goal of Change.

The reason for this column being created was not only for getting people refunded for being overcharged by the OMV for all these years. That was simply the first issue to be brought up and discussed in the context of this column. I knew that much bigger issues are among us, and would need to be addressed. And here we are, right in the middle of some major flak! What we do here is critical to future success of this community.

To give you an update on that briefly, we are still in the dark as to what the government plans to do as their final word. Refunds were supposed to be issued, and officials at DPS had assured us they would be. Then the AG said they weren't going to issue refunds; then senators the following day said refunds were owed, and would be. Just a few weeks later the Senators in a session then stated that the new bill did not have provisions for refunds to be given, therefore refunds would not be issued.

Does anyone else feel like they're being played with like a yo-yo?

Trust me, that issue is far from being over. For the record, a new bill does not need to have provisions made for a refund to be issued when current laws and common sense dictate that when people have been overcharged for a service by any business or governing body, especially those governed by laws as are the fees for the OMV, money is owed. To say otherwise is ridiculous and laughable. Truth is stranger than fiction!

However, the OMV issue is simply proof that we have problems in leadership, and that there is an obvious struggle for our local leaders to first of all see what is right, and secondly to do what is right as it pertains to people's money and the government's oversight in that area.

So while that issue is still continuing

to be dealt with, we must move on to a much bigger issue pertaining to people's money: the revenue task force and the recommendations that have been written up in a proposed bill that is being looked at right now.

Therefore, this week's Conversation is largely going to be "authored" by Mr. Tom Drabble, as he shares some actionable steps from his perspective, promised in last Friday's column

My thoughts only: Unfortunately over the years no serious thought has been given to most, if not all, revenue measures that our Administration has proposed and, in the most part, enacted.

The Business sector has been ineffective by not being allowed a reasonable hearing by those in power.

In the main, revenue policy makers have grasped at what they see as easy pickings - for example, the 10% tax on LPG gas (LPG gas use should be encouraged as a much more cost-effective answer than electricity for heating and cooking, not discouraged by an unfair tax).

In addition, our policy makers get confused as to what should be a legitimate charge for services, and an exorbitant charge just to raise revenue. A good example of that is Business License fees.

So, how do we fund Government operations in the most beneficial way? Firstly, we need to start thinking positively rather than negatively. We have all seen some quite ridiculous measures presented, many passed into law but most simply being a total waste of everyone's time. A good example of that is the current proposed tax on "Sugary Drinks". This should not even be a topic for discussion.

The question is, how do we sort out the good from the bad? Well, how about starting out with some basic premises?

GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE IN BUSINESS:

Shipyards, Port (and shipping), ASTCA, ASPA, Territorial Bank, (previously) Hotel

2. Government has a right to charge a reasonable fee for legitimate services.

3. It is the duty of the private sector to assist and ensure that Government is properly funded.

4. Government has a duty to operate efficiently.

5. TAXATION: (Should not be confused with fees for services)

a.) Keep as much money in the hands of low income workers as possible

b.) Assist business development by keeping up-front costs and fees as low as possible.

c.) Apply taxes at the END of a business cycle. i.e. on income or on sales.

d.) Taxes should not be applied in a discriminatory fashion (Hotel tax, commercial vehicles, tax on second-hand vehicles, tax on construction equipment.)

At this point, what should happen (but is not going to) is to rescind unfair and/or undesirable taxes and fees such as:

a.) Minimum alternative wage tax (2% - or 6%?)

b.) Duty on motor vehicles (10% and 25% for commercial) - There should be no discrimination between private and commercial vehicles. Commercial vehicles will pay more anyway based on annual license fee structure but should not be on basic cost. (These items will attract the SALES TAX anyway)

c.) Hotel tax

d.) Duty on LPG gas

e.) 5% import duty.

No doubt others.....

Given that items 1 through 4 are not going to happen any time soon, how should the Chamber react to the current revenue-raising legislation?

a.) Continue to stress the need for Government to control their costs, particularly payroll

b.) Insist that adequate collection procedures for current tax laws are in place and followed

THEN:

1. Proposal to bring personal income tax laws to mirror current USA rates: The Chamber should OPPOSE this measure. The reason? This will only benefit HIGH WAGE EARNERS and will force much higher taxes and fees in other areas (such as sales tax) which primarily are borne by low-income workers. A perfect example of the rich getting richer.

2. 7% Sales tax proposal. SUPPORT the concept of a Sales Tax (but not necessarily the rate) HOWEVER...apply on ALL goods and services and then MAKE EXCEPTIONS to influence behavior. e.g. (ideas only) No sales tax on building job-creating investments, No tax on LOCAL supply of fish, agricultural products etc. No sales tax on rents, no sales tax on medical services etc. (This subject needs a lot of research.)

3. Phase out the 5% duty over 5 years. OPPOSE (see above) however I would suggest a 1% import fee (in place of the 5%) to cover administration and audit of import/sales tax.

4. Charge 25% on construction equipment..OPPOSE another discriminatory tax simply because it is a big ticket item. Again, this equipment will attract the sales tax anyway.

5. Tax on "Sugary Drinks" - OPPOSE. Totally subjective...where does this thought process stop? Cookies? Snacks? How about fruit juices? Very sugary.

6.25% tax on second hand vehicles OPPOSE. Same argument as above. How about second hand clothes? Also, the Chamber should not support protectionist measures.

7. Proposed change in method for taxing beer: SUPPORT (no-brainer). Eliminates the opportunity for importers to present a false invoice to reduce tax liability.

6. Port fees: OPPOSE. This should be an enterprise fund and not used as a tax substitute. The Port is one of our biggest resources and holds tremendous possibilities for economic development. It will be destroyed in exactly the same way that ASTCA was by channeling revenues into the General fund rather than Harbor redevelopment. "

TOM:

Thank you Tom for your thoughts here. Perspective is needed, and there needs to be restraint exercised before these laws are enacted. Let's consider this as a community and please share any thoughts you have!

Perhaps there needs to be at the very least an committee formed to address this at a community level, if the will of the people is going to continue to be ignored by those in roles of leadership as Senators and Fono Representatives.

Remember, they work for us, NOT the other way around, and they only can use money that is sourced from local people and the Federal government. Either way, it is the will of the people that must be both heard and served, not the will of the government.



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FONO BRIEFS

by Samoa News staff

FONO CONFIRMS THREE NEW ASED A BOARD MEMBERS

The Fono has officially confirmed the governor's nomination of three new board members for the American Samoa Economic Development Authority, which Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga said plays a vital role in the government's attempt to expedite improvement of the local infrastructure system, and establish projects that grow the territory's economy.

Two weeks ago, the Senate endorsed the nominations of Chief Procurement Officer, Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton; Public Works director Faleosina Voigt; and Commerce Department deputy director Uili Leauanae.

Late last week, the House voted unanimously (12-0) for Crichton and Voigt, and (11-1) for Leauanae. With the confirmation process now completed, the trio can fully participate and vote on ASED A board decisions. The House vote followed a House Economic Development Committee hearing, during which there were no questions pertaining to the ASED A bonds issued in 2015 - whereby ASG collected some \$78 million in new money for fund various projects. The committee plans to hold at a later time a hearing to get an update on the projects as well as the status of bonds repayment, and they also plan to find out if there are any unused bond revenues. Some lawmakers did share with the nominees suggestions regarding concerns over funds from the bonds being allocated for certain projects, which are not fully operational. For example, seed money for the government-owned Territorial Bank of American Samoa, which is to provide banking needs for local residents, but TBAS is still unable to provide full banking services at this point, especially since the bank is still waiting for a routing number from federal regulators. Another example is the multi-million-dollar MV Manu'atele, to serve the Manu'a islands, but the vessel is still faced with several problems and therefore unable to sail at times. Additionally, bond money allocated for the purchase of the x-ray scanners to help increase revenue collection, but the problem now is that fees are added on to importers, hiking their costs, which are then passed on to consumers.

SPORTS COMPLEX

Concerns from lawmakers regarding the lack of golf carts as well as improvements to the green field at the Ili'ili Golf Course were raised during last Thursday's Fono Joint Budget Committee hearing, where the Governor's Office was among the ASG entities whose basic

budget for fiscal year 2018 were being reviewed. Some of the entities that come under the purview of the Governor's Office is the Sports Complex, which oversees public facilities like the Veterans Memorial Stadium and the golf course. Toleafoa Henry Tavake is the executive director of the Sports Complex.

During the budget hearing, Sen. Alo Fa'auuga noted the lack of sufficient golf carts and problems with course green, which needs improvements.

These are two issues that have been raised by lawmakers in both the Senate and House since early this year, as some of them are golfers and have noticed what they describe as "problems" not being addressed. The governor's executive assistant, Iulogologo Joseph Pereira informed the committee that improvements to the golf course, including the purchase of carts, all depend on revenues collected, but that doesn't prevent the government from making improvements.

Iulogologo said the Sports Complex is proposing to purchase 15 carts under the FY 2018 Supplemental Budget (which is has yet to be introduced in the Fono). According to the Basic Budget, the Sports Complex is projecting to collect \$298,000 in revenues from fees and charges it imposes on facilities it oversees. The revenue is allocated to cover only personnel costs for 20 employees. Under the Special Programs budget category, a total of \$300,000 is from the annual ASG subsidy for the Sports Complex, with \$449,000 to cover salaries of four employees, and the rest for other expenses. In justifying the subsidy, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga explained that there are more sporting and social activities being accommodated at the stadium while the golf course is being developed to a level that will entice the hosting of international golfing events and hopefully resurrect the Amateur-Professional Golf Tournaments staged in the past, thereby "improving our tourism potentials". The annual subsidy ensures that the facilities - stadium and golf course - are maintained properly on a consistent basis to expand their useful life, said Lolo. Also under Special Programs, is a separate \$200,000 allocation for "Veterans stadium improvement" which, according to the governor, are funds to support activities dedicated to improving the stadium's condition.

Such improvement, he said, could be done through purchases of necessary equipment for ground up-keeping, and repair and maintenance for both the stadium and golf course, as well as other operational costs.

SENATE CONFIRMS IMMIGRATION BOARD

MEMBER

In a 12-0 vote last Thursday, the Senate confirmed the governor's nomination of Rep. Gafatasi Afalava to the ASG Immigration Board. A full Fono confirmation now rests with the House whose members are expected to cast their votes later this month. Samoa News notes that the Senate is also represented on the Board.

During a very brief Senate Judicial/Immigration confirmation hearing last Thursday, Sen. Magalei Logovi'i asked the nominee how many foreigners he is sponsoring.

Gafatasi replied, "none".

Sen. Paepae Iosefa Faiai suggested to Gafatasi for the board to revisit and comply with local immigration laws, when making their decisions. For example, he pointed to a special provision of immigration law, which allows sponsoring of a foreigner for "special skills" not found locally. He said there are many Asians taking over local jobs, which are not "special skills", such as engineers. Paepae added that he recently visited the Territorial Correctional Facility and found a high number of foreigners incarcerated there, with the government spending a lot of money to care for them.

EDUCATION ISSUES

The House Education Committee has scheduled a hearing Thursday morning with DOE director, Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga for an updated status report of public schools for the new school year (2017-2018), which began last week Tuesday.

Among the subjects to be covered in the hearing, according to committee chairman Rep. Vaetasi Tuumolimoli S. Moliga, are the number of classroom teachers, number of school buses, and the status of the federally funded school lunch program.

Another issue lawmakers want to learn more about, is allegations regarding a Leone High School teacher who had sexual contact with two male students. This past July, the Senate committee addressed the same issue and were informed by ASDOE officials that the case was turned over to police, the teacher had left the territory, and Matagi-Tofiga, who was off island at the time, had more information on the matter. Two weeks ago, Sen. Paepae Iosefa Faiai called on the Senate Education Committee for a follow-up hearing with Matagi-Tofiga on the matter.

Meanwhile, Samoa News has received word from several people who claim that the teacher in question has returned to the territory, but it's unclear if the teacher is back at classroom teaching.

(See Samoa News July 20th edition for more details.)



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Compiled by Samoa News Staff STREAMLINING FEDERAL PERMITS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

(Based on press release) Congresswoman Aumua Amata welcomed last week's effort by the Small Business Committee examining the need to strengthen small businesses and streamline the federal process of obtaining permits.

"We depend on small businesses in American Samoa, and want federal policies to encourage them to experience growth, help their communities and create jobs," said Aumua Amata. "Federal permits serve a purpose, but often that purpose gets weighed down in such a complicated process that it becomes an unnecessary burden on a small business. An owner of a corner shop could run into so many costs and delays that it struggles

to get started or stay open."

Last Wednesday, the House Small Business Committee held a hearing titled "Expediting Economic Growth: How Streamlining Federal Permitting Can Cut Red Tape for Small Businesses". Specifically, the Committee heard testimony on the ways that multiple agencies often overlap on oversight of a single small business project, causing delays and extra expenses.

"Unlike larger corporations, a small business in American Samoa doesn't start out with a staff of lawyers, accountants and other experts to handle all the federal requirements, so it's important to examine ways to simplify this process for them," Aumua said. "Most new or expanding small businesses must start out by getting a series of government permits allowing them to build, acquire property, sell a product or provide services. Ideally, these regulations should be a safety net that act more as guidance to small businesses and not an obstacle."

(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata's Office)

AMATA TOURS FT. BENNING, ATTENDS AIT GRADUATION OF SAMOAN SOLDIER

(Based on press release) Congresswoman Aumua Amata attended an American Samoan soldier's Advanced Individual Training graduation ceremony at Fort Benning, Georgia, and she was able to visit to the National Infantry Museum, where Governor Peter Tali Coleman is the only American Samoan inductee in the Hall of Honor.

"We have a proud tradition of uniformed service in American Samoa, and I'm so pleased to welcome Private Noah La'au Aitaoto to the next step in his Army career," said Aumua Amata. "Congratulations to him on this accomplishment and his hard work, and thank you to his proud family. I know all of American Samoa appreciates each of our service men and women who honorably serve in a uniform of the United States military."

Aumua attended the graduation ceremony of the 198th Infantry Brigade, where she met the graduate's family, including his father Dr. Naseri Aitaoto, and other American Samoans on the base: Phil Maine Manuma (Pago Pago), Mumaina Lagai (Vailoa), Ali'ioaiga Lesi'i (Ta'u), and Toloa'i Sosene (Amalu'ia).

She greatly appreciated Brigadier General Christopher Donahue's tour of Fort Benning's extensive facilities, during which he took time to point out her father's name in the Museum's Hall of Honor.

"Seeing the name Peter Tali Coleman at the Museum was a special moment for me," Amata

(Continued on page 7)

Congresswoman Aumua Amata attended the Advanced Individual Training (AIT) graduation ceremony for Samoan soldier PVT Noah La'au Aitaoto at Fort Benning, Georgia last week. See story for details.

[photo: courtesy]

samoa news

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▶ Community Briefs...

Continued from page 6

continued. “Fort Benning has an important mission training up leaders in the Army and in their lives after service, and they go about it with dedication and professionalism.”

The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center includes an extensive collection of artifacts and 190,000 square feet of galleries, and as of this summer, more than 2.5 million people have visited the Museum. Fort Benning is home to the Maneuver Center of Excellence, and each year, trains thousands of soldiers and officers.

(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata’s Office)

\$900,000 GRANT FROM NOAA FOR AMERICAN SAMOA’S COASTAL PRESERVATION

(Based on press release) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has awarded a grant of over \$900,000 to the American Samoa Government.

“I welcome this financial support for American Samoa’s coastal management efforts,” Congresswoman Aumua Amata said. “Healthy coasts and waters are essential to American Samoa’s future.”

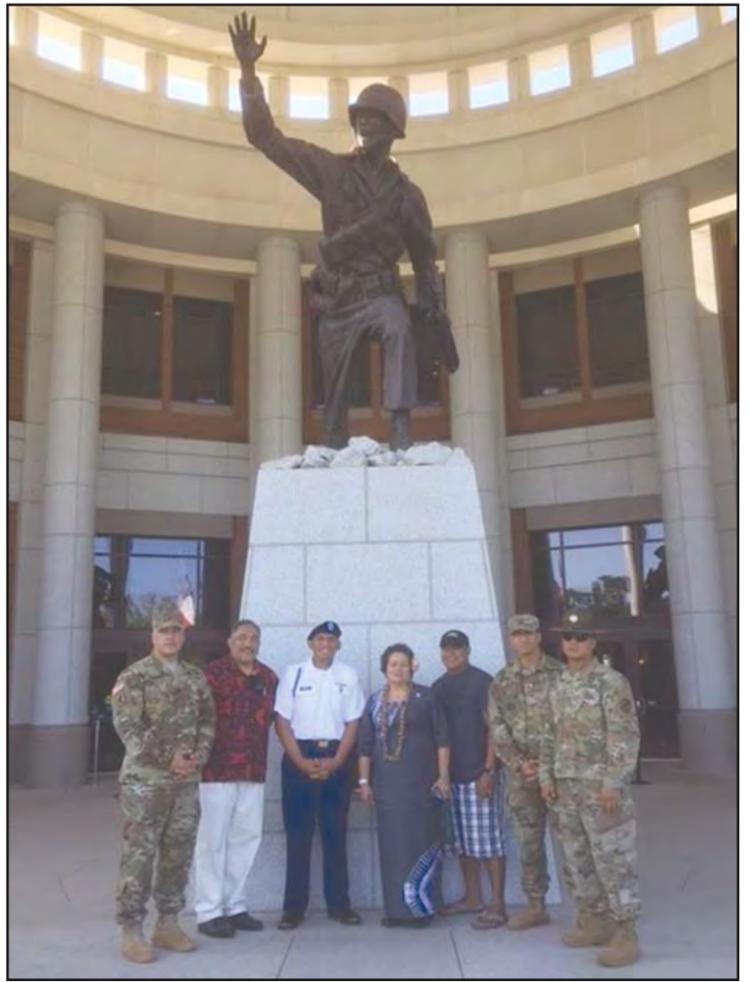
Specifically, this \$940,000 grant through the National Coastal Zone Management Program is designated for the American Samoa Department of Commerce. The funds are for the territory’s federally approved coastal management program. The Coastal Zone Management Program is a vol-

untary federal-territory partnership to protect, restore, and responsibly develop coastal communities and resources through a balance of economic development, coastal uses and natural resource protection.

The NOAA funds can be used for removal of hazards, water quality, habitat protection, community development and safety in land use planning.

“I appreciate this funding from NOAA, and their recognition of American Samoa’s coastal preservation needs,” the Congresswoman continued. “Congratulations also to director Keniseli F. Lafaele and the Department of Commerce, and I know they’ll be making good use of these funds.”

(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata’s Office)



Congresswoman Aumua Amata and local soldiers stationed at Ft. Benning, Georgia, pictured in front of the historic Infantryman Statue, built in 1960. [photo: courtesy]



Feds, Texas offer choices for students homeless after Harvey

HOUSTON (AP) — Michael Evan Hilburn says he can’t wait to start kindergarten this week at a school about 20 miles from the Houston shelter where he and his father have been living since Harvey devastated the city.

The 5-year-old is a beneficiary of state and federal laws that seek to make it easier for homeless kids to go to school — a blessing, his father said, as they try to overcome the chaos of a catastrophic disaster that has disrupted life in the nation’s fourth-largest city.

“The sooner he’s in school, the sooner I can start work,” Michael Howard Hilburn said. “I want him to be happy, make lots of friends. He needs consistency.” The Texas Homeless Education Office estimates that about 35,000 to 40,000 students have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. On top of that, more than 200 school districts and charter schools statewide canceled or delayed classes, some indefinitely.

Jeanne Stamp, the office’s director, said some families have relocated to Dallas and San Antonio but Houston is sure to see their already large number of homeless children balloon. Federal protections require schools to immediately enroll children who have lost their regular homes, including those affected by a natural disaster. That federal law allows homeless children to either stay in the school they were attending or enroll in the school in the neighborhood where they are currently staying, with transportation costs divided equally between the two districts if there’s a funding dispute.

The Texas “Third Choice” law goes even further, allowing homeless students the choice to enroll in any school district in the state, regardless of their school of origin or the location of the place where they are staying.



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Cops are...

Continued from page 1

allowed inside restricted areas of the airport. He said he doesn't want the airport to be cited for violating FAA regulations.

According to Le'i, police officers are not involved with Customs' duties and responsibilities; but instead, are stationed nearby to monitor the work being carried out at the airport. He emphasized that Customs still has jurisdiction at the arrival area of the airport - as dictated by local law.

During his confirmation hearing before the Fono earlier this year, Le'i said he was questioned by senators and faipule, whether the police force is ready to respond if there are any serious incidents such as terrorist activities, hostage situations or high risk warrant arrests - and his response was "no, the police are not ready to respond." Eight months have passed since he became Police Commissioner and Le'i said many changes have been made within the department, to ensure police officers are ready to fulfill their responsibilities.

As for the arming of police officers, Le'i said Firearms and Tactics instructor, Ernest Haleck is arriving this week from Honolulu to conduct training for our local cops before they are officially armed. Haleck is the lead instructor in Firearms and Tactics for the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) and Department of Public Safety in American Samoa.

He holds instructor certifications in Firearms, Less Lethal Munitions, Defensive Tactics, Arrest & Control. As for the Vice & Narcotics Tactical Unit that was established last month, Le'i said agents from Customs and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are also part of the team - and they will all train together on how to track down those who are involved in the local drug trade.

"We are not trying to interfere with anyone's responsibilities," Le'i reiterated. "No. Customs agents, Immigration officers and also the Quarantine Division are doing their job as dictated by law. They have their own people to do their job, but if something falls through the cracks in our observation, that's the time when police officers will get involved," he explained.

"A police officer's job is to uphold the law and protect our people.

We are the front line and we will interdict and enforce the law. Whoever is part of any illegal activity on island, we got news for you. We will come to you, and we will cut off your organization and the line of communication or whatever, to make sure our children are safe. We are not going to allow these illegal substances in the classrooms. Enough is enough."

Samoa News has received several public inquiries about Le'i being seen on the road, with some wondering why he is out there instead of maintaining his role as "Police Commissioner, overseeing police operations from the main office in Fagatogo." Le'i, a military retiree, responded, "As Commissioner, the position that I hold, I can perform duties like any other cop.

So the fact that I'm out there early in the morning, weekends, and so on, is to help, protect, and to serve the citizens of American Samoa. I cannot with a good and clear conscious execute all of the responsibilities that I've sworn to uphold by sitting in my office."

He said he feels very uncomfortable, sitting in the comfort of his office, coming in and going home every day, knowing that cops - men and women - who have sworn to uphold the law and protect the people who are most important to him, are out there working hard without him providing the assistance they need.

"I'm not on the road because I want to be on the road. It is my job and obligation. I was sworn in to uphold the law. I can't sleep at home, knowing people are hurt and need help. So the right thing to do is to be out there, helping," Le'i concluded.



American Samoa Power Authority

September 8, 2017

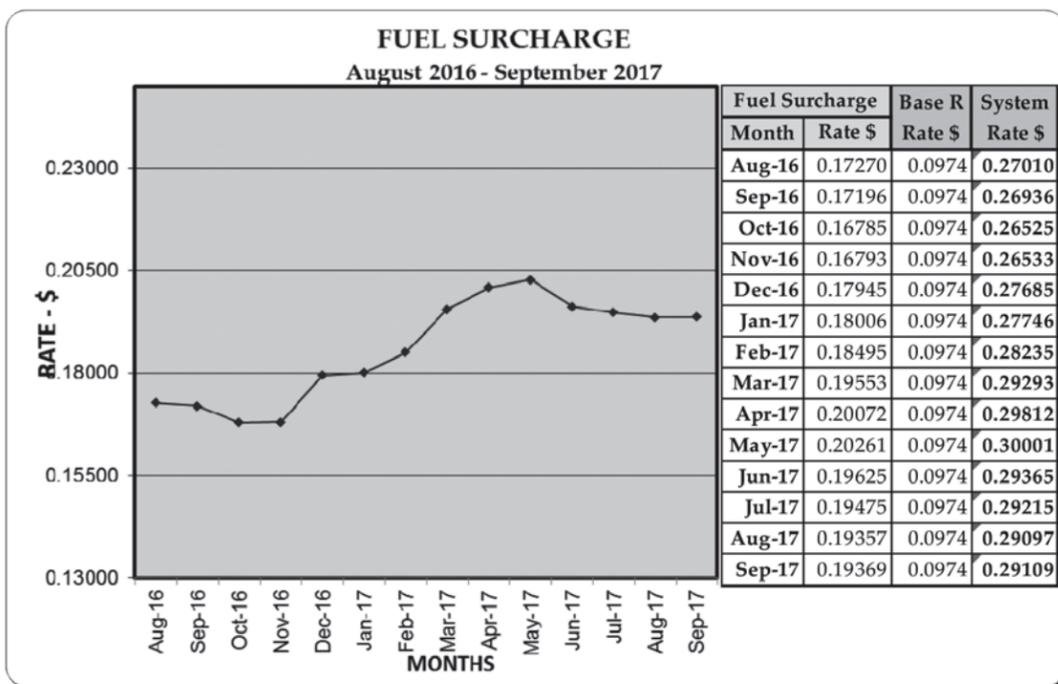
Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

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

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

The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a "pass-through" revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.

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



Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for September 2017			
Rate - \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.19928	0.19928	0.19928
Renewable Reduction	-0.00559	-0.00559	-0.00559
Fuel Surcharge	0.19369	0.19369	0.19369
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.10650	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.29109	0.30019	0.28329

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

Some ASG...

Continued from page 1

not present, could further delay the budget review, because it's unclear when director - who are out sick - will return to work.

All cabinet directors for eight executive branch agencies were present for the review of their respective agencies' budget at last Friday's scheduled hearing, except for Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, Papali'i Violet Richmond who, according to a representative from her office, has been on leave for several months.

It was reconfirmed at the hearing that the Workmen's Compensation office has had its own budget, separate from the Department of Human Resources for three years now, following an executive order from the governor.

The majority of the 17 executive branch entities that went through budget hearings last Thursday and Friday netted very little to no questions, with committee leaders and Fono leaders reminding lawmakers to focus their questions specifically on the basic budget, which needs to be approved by the Fono before the start of FY 2018 on Oct. 1, 2017.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

There was discussion on allowing the use of the English language, because White is not Samoan. However, Sen. Fai'ivae Iuli Godinet said this will "contradict" the Senate rules already in place, that the Samoan language is the official language when it comes to the Senate's work. Fai'ivae noted an incident last Tuesday during a Senate hearing, where Deputy Treasurer of Revenue Keith Gebauer, who had experience on the issue discussed at the time, was not allowed to continue using the English language because of the Senate's rule that only Samoan is used because it's the official language of conducting Senate business. Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie agreed with Fai'ivae and explained that this was to ensure that senators fully understand the details of any measure discussed before making a final decision.

Sen. Magalei Logovi'i, chairman of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and co-chair of the joint Fono budget hearings, pointed out that White is not Samoan and doesn't speak or understand Samoan. This was echoed by House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale, who recommended continuing the hearing, using the English language. Gaoteote agreed. In a Senate committee hearing two weeks ago, Gebauer testified using the English language, on two Administration bills, which the governor wants endorsed by the Fono.

At the hearing, Gaoteote interjected, saying that Samoan is the official language when it comes to the Senate's work - both hearings and sessions. He said that if the government wants support from the Senate, a thorough explanation

in Samoan is necessary to ensure that all senators fully understand. This was supported by other senators, who were a bit uneasy because at times, Gebauer was talking too fast and giving lengthy statements as a reply, instead of providing a direct response.

NEW YOUTH CENTER - DYWA

DYWA deputy director Pa'u Roy Ausage was asked by House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale about the possibility of setting up a youth center on the Western District, similar to the one in Pago Pago which houses the DWYA office. Pa'u responded that the Western district facility will be located on government land next to the Office of Motor Vehicles in Tafuna, and a ground-breaking is set for next month. Under the Special Programs budget category, which is overseen by the Governor's Office, a total of \$900,000 is allocated for the "Youth Multi-Purpose Center". According to the project description, the allocation will fund the first phase of the DYWA Youth Multi-Purpose Center in the Western District identical to the Pago Youth Center, to "house youth programs and further enhance the development of our youth" on the Western District.

ALJ OFFICE

It was revealed during the budget review for the Office of the Administrative Law Judge, that Toetagata's current six-year term expires this month, and local attorney Marie Ala'ilima is the ALJ ProTemp.

Under local law, the ALJ is appointed by the governor for a six-year term and confirmed by the Fono.

DHR

House Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman, Vailiuaama Steve Leasiolagi, who is also the joint budget committee co-chair, sought details on the number of ASG employees affected by the reduction in working hours from 80 to 70 hours per pay period. He also wanted to know how much money the government has saved because of it.

Department of Human Resources director, Eseneiaso Liu said she didn't have the specific details on hand but can provide a report. Vailiuaama said the committee wants this document. Liu said the reduction of working hours currently affects only those who make \$30,000 or more, which is about 25% of the workforce. Sen. Fonoti Tafa'ifa Aufata recommended that once the government's finances are back on track, ASG should pay the hours of the workers affected by the reduction. Responding to a question on the current ASG workforce, Liu said it's 4,276 and this does not include the authorities like LBJ Medical Center and ASPA. Of the total number, 3,311 of them are career service employees and the rest includes contract workers, the Fono's workforce, and senior citizens under the Territorial Administration on Aging's employment program, which is federally funded.

Budget hearings resume today for seven ASG entities.



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA CONSULATE-GENERAL

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Urgent passport 2 days processing	Adult \$550	Child \$300

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Replacement for lost or damaged DOI (still valid)	\$150
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- Samoan citizens	\$50
- Non- Samoan citizens	\$100

CONFIRMATION OF TRAVEL MOVEMENTS

- Samoan citizens	\$50
- Non Samoa citizens	\$100

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FAASILASILAGA TAU OFISA KONESULA AOAO O SAMOA

E faasilasila atu i lo outou paia ma mamalu e faapea, E afua atu i le Aso Gafua Oketopa 09 2017, o le a faamamaluina ai tau fou mo Tusifolau, Tusimalaga, Pepa Malaga, ma Pemita Ulufale i Samoa, e pei ona faailoa i lalo.

TUSIFOLAU:

E faia i le 5 aso faigaluega	Tagata matutua \$250	Tamaiti (e 16 tausaga ma lalo ifo) \$125
E faia i le 2 aso faigaluega	Tagata matutua \$300	Tamaiti (e 16 tausaga ma lalo ifo) \$175
Talosaga mo se isi tusifolau fou pe afai ua leaga po ua leiloa foi (a'o aoga pea)		
E faia i le 5 aso faigaluega	Tagata matutua \$500	Tamaiti (e 16 tausaga ma lalo ifo) \$250
E faia i le 2 aso faigaluega	Tagata matutua \$550	Tamaiti (e 16 tausaga ma lalo ifo) \$300

TUSI MALAGA (DOI)

E faia i le 2 aso faigaluega	\$100
E faia i le 1 le aso faigaluega	\$100
Talosaga ona ua leiloa po ua faaleaogaina fo'i (ae lei maea le aoga) ma e 2 aso e faia ai	\$150
Talosaga ona ua leiloa po ua faaleaogaina foi (ae lei maea le aoga) ma e fia maua i le aso lava lea	\$200

PEPA MALAGA (CI)

Mo tagatanuu Samoa e faia ile 1 aso faigaluega	\$60
E le o se tagatanuu Samoa e faia ile 1 aso faigaluega	\$200

FA'AOPOPOGA

Faaopopoga o suafa matai/faaipoipo ma isi	\$60
Fa'afouga o tusifolau/tusimalaga (mo mafuaaga le maalofia)	\$60

PEMITA ULUFALE MO US NATIONALS (Tuaina atu i totonu 24 itula)

E oo atu i le 14 aso	\$20	Manaomia vave	\$30
E oo atu i le 30 aso	\$40	Manaomia vave	\$50
E oo atu i le 60 aso	\$60	Manaomia vave	\$70
Pemita uia ai Samoa mo isi Atunuu (transit permit)			\$50
Manaomia vave			\$60
Pemita Ulufale i soo se taimi-multiple mo le 12 masina)			\$150

TUSI FAAMAONIA

• Mo soo se auaunaga e manaomia	
Tagatanuu Samoa	\$50
E le o ni tagatanuu Samoa	\$100
Faasalaga mo le silia o aso faatagaina i Samoa (permit overstaying)	\$200 e togiina i Samoa.

Mo nisi auaunaga manaomia faamolemole faafesootai mai le tatou ofisa.

Telefoni: 633-5919 • 633-5920

poo le emeli: amtvpk1@gmail.com

Ma le faaloalo tele lava,

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SAMOA



[l-r] Sen. Paepae Iosefa Faiai; House Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman, Rep. Vailuama Steve Leasiolagi; and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman Sen Magalei Logovi'i, at the conclusion of the Fono joint budget committee hearing last Friday, which is co-chaired by Vailuama and Magalei. (Read story on page 1)

[photo: FS]

Weakened Irma lashes much of Florida; full impact unknown

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Irma gave Florida a coast-to-coast pummeling with winds up to 130 mph Sunday, swamping homes and boats, knocking out power to millions and toppling massive construction cranes over the Miami skyline.

The 400-mile-wide (640-kilometer-wide) storm blew ashore in the mostly cleared-out Florida Keys, then marched up its western coast, its punishing winds extending clear across to Miami and West Palm Beach on the Atlantic side.

Irma's core was nearing the heavily populated Tampa-St. Petersburg area early Monday, moving inland in a much-weakened state. While it arrived in Florida a Category 4 hurricane, by nightfall it was down to a Category 2 with winds of 100 mph (160 kph). Meanwhile, more than 160,000 people waited in shelters statewide as Irma headed up the coast.

There were no immediate

reports of deaths in Florida. In the Caribbean, at least 24 were people were killed during Irma's destructive trek.

Bryan Koon, Florida's emergency management director, said late Sunday that authorities had only scattered information about the storm's toll, but he remained hopeful.

"I've not heard of catastrophic damage. It doesn't mean it doesn't exist. It means it hasn't gotten to us yet," Koon said.

In the low-lying Keys, where a storm surge of over 10 feet (3 meters) was recorded, appliances and furniture were seen floating away, and Monroe County spokeswoman Cammy Clark said the ocean waters were filled with navigation hazards, including sunken boats. But the full extent of Irma's wrath there was not clear.

The county administrator, Roman Gastesi, said crews would begin house-to-house searches Monday to check on survivors. And an airborne relief mission, led by C-130 military cargo planes, was gearing up to bring emergency supplies to the Keys.

Storm surge was a big concern. The National Hurricane Center said a federal tide gauge in Naples reported a 7-foot (more than 2-meter) rise in water levels in just 90 minutes late Sunday.

Many streets were flooded in downtown Miami and other cities.

In downtown Miami, two of the two dozen construction cranes looming over the skyline collapsed in the wind. A third crane was reported down in Fort Lauderdale. No injuries were reported.

A Miami woman who went into labor was guided through delivery by phone when authorities couldn't reach her because of high winds and street flooding. Firefighters later took her to the hospital.

An apparent tornado spun off by Irma destroyed six mobile homes in Palm Bay, midway up the Atlantic coast. Flooding was reported along Interstate 4, which cuts across Florida's midsection.

Curfews were imposed in Miami, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale and much of the rest of South Florida, and some arrests of violators were reported. Miami Beach barred outsiders from the island. Fort Lauderdale police arrested nine people they said were caught on TV cameras looting sneakers and other items from a sporting goods store and a pawn shop during the hurricane.

More than 3.3 million homes and businesses across the state lost power, and utility officials said it will take weeks to restore electricity to everyone.

While Irma raked Florida's Gulf Coast, forecasters warned that the entire state was in danger because of the sheer size of the storm.

세계인과 함께 하는 **KBS WORLD** **bluesky** **m@na** **CHANNEL 47** * (E) English Subtitles * (L)-Live Programming/News * (R)-Rerun

"Channel 47" KBS WORLD Program of American Samoa

* The programs listed below may change without notice due to copyright issues. (Sep 10~16, 2017) *

Time of American Samoa	Sunday (9/10)	Monday (9/11)	Tuesday (9/12)	Wednesday (9/13)	Thursday (9/14)	min	Friday (9/15)	Saturday (9/16)	min
10 : am	Jisook's Table for O' Battle Trip (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	00'	Music Bank (E,R)	Encore Drama	00'
11 : am		Encore Drama "Sungkyunkwan Scandal" (E,R)				00'	My Neighbor Charles	Sungkyunkwan Scandal	
12 NOON	Music Bank (E,R)	Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E,R)				50'	K-pop World Festival		
1 : pm	The Return of Superman (E,R)	Daily Drama "Lovers in Bloom" (E,R)						(E,R)	
2 : pm		Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Girl's Generation 1979 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Manhole Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)			The Beauty (E,R)	30'
3 : pm	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	30'	Battle Trip (E,R)	Music Bank (E,R)	30'
4 : pm	Encore Drama Sungkyunkwan Scandal (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	My Father is Strange (E,R) Final	Wed-Thu Drama Manhole (E,R)	Guerilla Date (E,R)	50'	My Golden Life (Working title) Weekend Drama (E,R)		50'
5 : pm	Encore Drama Sungkyunkwan Scandal (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	My Golden Life (Working title) (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Manhole (E,R)	The Return of Superman (E,R)	00'	Mon-Tue Drama	Wed-Thu Drama	00'
6 : pm	Encore Drama Sungkyunkwan Scandal (E,R) # 14, 15, 16.	Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	My Golden Life (Working title) (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Manhole (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)		Girl's Generation 1979 (E,R)	Manhole (E,R)	
7 : pm	Gag Concert	Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E,R)						Hollo Counselor (E,R)	20'
8 : pm		Daily Drama "Lovers in Bloom" (E,R)							
9 : pm	History of Korea (E)	KBS World News Today (Live)				40'	Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	40'
10 : pm	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Music Bank (E)		Gag Concert (E)	"The Return of Superman" (E)	00'
11 : pm		Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E)				20'	Music Bank in Singapore (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E)	40'
12 : 00		Daily Drama "Lovers in Bloom" (E)				50'	K-pop World Festival		
Next Day									
1 : am		KBS 9 News (Live)		KBS 9 News (Live)			KBS 9 News (Live)		00'
2 : am	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Girl's Generation 1979 Mon-Tue Drama (E)		Manhole Wed-Thu Drama (E)		20'	My Golden Life (Working title) Weekend Drama (E)		20'
3 : am	Hollo Counselor (E)	We Like Zines (E)	Yu Huiyeol's Sketchbook (E)	Happy Together (E)	Music Bank (E)	30'	Mon-Tue Drama Girl's Generation 1979 (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Manhole (E,R)	30'
4 : am	Encore Drama "Sungkyunkwan Scandal" (E)				"The Return of Superman" Special (E)		Gag Concert (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)	50'
5 : am	KBS World E-Today	KBS World E-Today	KBS World E-Today	KBS World E-Today	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	10'	Music Bank in Singapore (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	30'
6 : am	History of Korea (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	The Beauty K-pop World Festival	K-RUSH (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles				
7 : am	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Gag Concert (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	40'	K-pop World Festival		
8 : am	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Girl's Generation 1979 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Manhole Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		50'	My Golden Life (Working title) Weekend Drama (E,R)		50'
9 : am	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines	Sketchbook	Happy Together	Music Bank	00'	Sungkyunkwan Scandal (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles Guerilla Date	00'

*Note: If you need this Schedule, e-mail <hyunhwilee@gmail.com>. and I will send it to you every week!

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FEMA sees trailers only as last resort after Harvey, Irma

HOUSTON (AP) — In a 2017 hurricane season that has already seen two monster storms, Harvey and Irma, manufactured homes are turning out to be just a small fraction of the federal government’s plan to deal with displaced people, with only 1,700 trailers available.

Where exactly the Federal Emergency Management Agency plans to send those trailers, Texas or Florida, is not yet clear. But what is clear is they will only be used as a last resort.

That’s in stark contrast to 2005, when 144,000 FEMA trailers became symbols of the troubled federal response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita after lawsuits accused some of those units of being riddled with high levels of cancer-causing formaldehyde.

FEMA’s new model for monster storms honed in the wake of 2012’s Superstorm Sandy puts the emphasis on paying for hotels and apartments for temporary housing. That, along with money for super-fast fixes that allow people to move back into their own homes as quickly as possible, even before all the repairs are done.

“Our role is to provide sort of the bridge to get through the disaster,” FEMA spokesman Kurt Pickering said Saturday. “We are not intended to make people or households back the way they were before, to make them whole. We’re designed to get them through the emergency.”

A joint state and federal housing task force in Austin is working with FEMA on the best way to allocate resources. But those affected are far more likely to get government support by way of a few weeks at a hotel, a couple of months of rent in an apartment or a check for repairs, than a FEMA trailer.

“To put a mobile home or travel trailer out there is a significant expense — it really is the option of last resort,” said Mark Miscak, an emergency management consultant and former director in FEMA’s recovery division.

That’s the way it’s playing out so far after Harvey, which damaged or destroyed more than 210,000 homes across southeast Texas, mostly from the effects of floodwaters from an epic downpour of nearly 52 inches.

FEMA is picking up the tab for hotel rooms spread across Texas for about 60,000 people affected by the storm for up to two weeks. The agency is also paying a couple months’ rent at the government’s fair market rate for 27,000 additional households.

So who might get a trailer?

It might be people like the Ochoa family of hard-hit southwest Houston, with parents and two grown siblings still sleeping in their heavily damaged, moldering home, its skeletal walls recently stripped of soggy drywall.

Claudia Ochoa, 21, said FEMA offered to put her family up in motels but they were located in cities four to five hours away and they couldn’t afford to abandon their jobs.

“If we had some money, we would leave, but we don’t,” she said as her 5-year-old son played on a couch salvaged from the storm. FEMA sent a \$500 check for food and cleaning supplies, Ochoa said, but the family is still hoping for a more permanent solution.

The Ochoas’ 58-year-old neighbor, Salvador Cortez, is also sleeping in his musty, flood-gutted home. Cortez said he’s received no money or housing options from FEMA yet, despite repeated phone calls. But he didn’t want to continue imposing on his son, where his wife has been staying with four other people.

Going into the current hurricane season, FEMA had 1,700 trailers on hand in staging areas in Alabama and Maryland.

FAASALALAUAGA O le Suafa “ATIULAGI”

E le toe tauiloina taeao o le atunuu, aua ua tasi Samoa i le Atua. Samoa, e muamua le Atua. O Samoa fo’i e fa’avae i le Atua. Ta’alolo laia o ou mamalu ma ou paia, ou sa ma ou faiga, aua e le toe gae’e i se fetalaiga ma se saunoaga. Tulou, Tulou, Tulou Lava!

A’o se fa’asilasilaga lenei mo suli, aiga ma gafa o le Suafa To’oto’o o le “ATIULAGI”, i le afoaga o Luma, Ta’u, Manu’a.

O le a faia se tatou fonotaga i le **Aso To’ona’i, Setema 16, 2017, i le 10:00 i le taeao** e tau saili ai se ua agava’a e tausia lo tatou aiga.

O le a faia lenei fonotaga i le Maota o le Faatui ia Lefiti Atiulagi Pese, i Fogagogo, Tutuila, Amerika Samoa.

Ia alofa le Atua mo se fesilafa’iga manuia i lea aso.

Sainia lenei fa’aaliga e,

Suli ma Aiga Potopoto o Atiulagi



**American Samoa Government
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

PROCLAMATION

COASTWEEKS 2017

“A Healthy Coast is a Wealthy Coast”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lolo M. Moliga
LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor of American Samoa



Acting Chief of Customs Keith Gebauer, with Robert Ho Chee of the Governor's Office and AMK9 lead instructor Daniel Cornier following a certification ceremony for 5 local K9 handlers held last Friday in Tafuna. Cornier departed the territory that same evening with gifts from his students.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

US calls for Monday vote on new North Korea sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States called for a vote Monday on new U.N. sanctions against North Korea, though exactly what measures would be in the resolution remained a mystery. Security Council diplomats, who weren't authorized to speak publicly because talks have been private, said the U.S. and China were still negotiating the text late Sunday. Previous U.N. sanctions resolutions have been negotiated between the United States and China — North Korea's main trading partner and ally — and have taken weeks, and in some cases months, to finalize.

But the Trump administration adopted a totally new approach with this resolution, presenting its draft to China and all other Security Council members last Tuesday and demanding a vote in six days. Diplomats said China's U.N. ambassador, Liu Jieyi, who

was on a Security Council trip to Ethiopia, flew back to New York on Thursday to take part in negotiations.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a statement early Monday saying it was watching the United States' moves closely and warned that it was "ready and willing" to respond with measures of its own. It said the U.S. would pay a heavy price if the sanctions proposed by Washington are adopted.

Ethiopia's U.N. mission, the current Security Council president, said late Sunday that members would vote on a North Korea resolution following a meeting Monday afternoon on implementing existing sanctions against the Pyongyang government. The draft circulated by the United States called for imposing the toughest-ever U.N. sanctions on North Korea, including a ban on all oil and natural gas exports to the country and a freeze of all foreign financial assets of the government and its leader, Kim Jong Un. The U.S. is also seeking to ban all countries from hiring workers from the North and from importing textiles from the northeast Asian nation — two key sources of foreign currency. In another key measure, the U.S. draft identified nine ships that have carried out activities prohibited by previous U.N. sanctions resolutions. The draft would authorize the 192 other U.N. member states to stop these ships on the high seas to check their cargo without their consent. It would permit the use of "all necessary measures," which in U.N. language includes force, to carry out an inspection and direct the vessel to a port. Whether those provisions would remain in any resolution put to a vote Monday remained to be seen. Beijing and Moscow have called for a resolution that focuses on a political solution and proposed a freeze-for-freeze that would halt North Korean nuclear and missile tests in exchange for the U.S. and South Korea stopping their joint military exercises. That initiative was rejected by the Trump administration.

Russia argues that sanctions aren't working and President Vladimir Putin expressed concern last week that a total oil cutoff could hurt the North Korean people. Britain's U.N. ambassador, Matthew Rycroft, backed the tough U.S. measures and demand for a speedy vote, saying Thursday that "maximum possible pressure" must be exerted on North Korea to change course and give diplomacy a chance to end the crisis.

Professor Joseph DeThomas of Pennsylvania State University, a former U.S. ambassador and State Department official who dealt with North Korea, told The Associated Press on Friday that the U.S. demand for quick council action was "an indicator of how the administration thinks time has run out."




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