Hawaiian Air says seat assignments are all about ... Page 2

Gold Star Mothers & Family Day 2017 Page 5

Finau Sui Fofoga Fetalai Teena ripoti Komiti Teuteu a maota e lua Le Lali

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale and Deputy Attorney General Lornalei Meredith appeared before the House Legal Affairs & Judiciary Committee on Tuesday to discuss issues regarding changes at the Immigration Office.

Now: Immigration ID cards only processed once a week — issuance & photo — only on Wednesday.

[photo: AF]

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Letter of Intent filed by ASG for Tui Samoa Cable

Compiled by Samoa News staff

Samoa News has learned that the American Samoa Government has filed their 'Letter of Intent' with the Samoa Submarine Cable Company (SSCC) to join the Tui Samoa cable. This was reported by the Samoa Observer.

The Observer reported that the cost may have gone up, given that they did not sign on when they were first approached. This is according to Pepe Fia'ailetoa Fruean, of SSCC, during an interview with the Samoa Observer.

The SSCC held a conference call earlier this month with American Samoa Telecommunications Authority Chairman of the Board and Interim C.E.O, Puleleiite Tufele Li'a Jr and A.S.G. Official Aoe'e Aldofo Monetnegro.

"They have come up with their proposal," Pepe told the Samoa Observer. He did not go into details of American Samoa's proposal, but pointed out there may be changes in the cost from the first offer that was only good up until July 2017.

"If they had signed on when we asked them, once the Cable lands in Samoa then we can start the process of laying the cable between the two Samoas."

"But because we had no arrangement, the Cable stops here then it goes back to Fiji then to Tonga. Then it goes back to Fiji then it's back to our waters and there are costs where the cable travels."

"The cost that was on the table for them (ASG) then, may not be same cost now. We have to ask the Cable people, because without the commitment, we cannot make the arrangements."

In the spirit of unity, Pepe believes the two Samoas need to work together for a better future of the Samoan people and the much faster and cheaper Internet that comes with the Tui Samoa Cable.

"We will continue to engage with American Samoa as we believe in the spirit of unity," said Pepe.

He said it is a win-win for the two Samoas with the new undersea fiber optic cable and once it's laid it will be called the Two Samoa Cable.

As reported earlier, by Talanei news, Puleleiite announced they were signing on with the Tui Samoa Cable. The decision follows concerns expressed by the Governor of American Samoa, Lolo Matalasi Moliga, who had told the Samoa Observer that he was "not satisfied" with the proposal from Samoa about the Tui Samoa cable.

Earlier this year, Lolo told the Samoa Observer he was concerned about "conflicting" money obligations, as well as the "lack of clarity" in terms of cost and benefits analysis.

"The presentation (by Samoa) was conducted in a manner where we were left with many unanswered questions," the governor said in March.

But things appear to have been sorted out now.

Samoa's cable is due to go live in January 2018.

The move coincides with the agreement the former Board of Directors of ASTCA signed with Hawaiki Cable, which is scheduled to launch service in American Samoa next year.

Puleleiite has said the capacity of the existing American Samoa Hawaii Cable is maxed out and going with Samoa's Tui Samoa cable is the fastest solution to the bandwidth problem, which according to the Interim CEO is the reason the Internet is so slow in American Samoa.

(Continued on page 4)

Case of fake ID cards brings changes to Immigration Office schedule

NOW: IMMIGRATION ID CARDS ONLY PROCESSED ONCE A WEEK —ISSUANCE & PHOTO

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHLS) have launched a joint investigation into the issuance of fake ID cards used by Asians to travel. Because of this, changes have been made, like setting aside just one day out of the week - Wednesday - for the issuance of immigration ID cards, just to set controls while investigations are underway. This is according to testimony by Attorney General, Talauega Eleasalo Ale, during a hearing on Tuesday before the House Legal Affairs/ Judiciary Committee, chaired by Rep. Toeaina Faufano Autele.

The new changes at the Immigration office regarding the issuance of ID cards and entry permits have resulted in a lot of complaints from the public. The AG told faipule the issue came to light when members of the New Zealand Police Force visited our shores 3 months ago, looking for information from the local Immigration Office, about a group of Chinese people who tried to use their American Samoa Immigration ID cards to enter their country, without obtaining a travel visa from the NZ Immigration Office.

Talauega revealed that a box containing over 100 Chinese passports was confiscated by DPS last month from the airport, and it is now under police custody.

Because of all this, Talauega said the governor has called for new policies to be set up, regarding the issuance of entry permits and Immigration ID cards. According to the AG, it is unclear at this time how the fake Immigration ID cards were issued — whether they were issued from American Samoa or created elsewhere — but one of the things they have recognized is how fast the ID cards to foreigners are being issued.

He referred to the one-day-a-week policy and said, "This is part of the efforts to implement the governor's directive to deal with illegal immigration. We're working together with the Immigration Board, and they feel that restricting the taking of Immigration ID photos to one day will help control any discrepancies."

Talauega said he hopes the issuance of fake ID cards was not something that was done by local Immigration officials; but if it turns out that the fake ID cards were issued from here, someone will be held responsible.

Rep. Fetui Fetu Jr. doesn't think anyone else would do this, and believes our own people did it.

The Manu'a faipule told the AG that he has received a lot of complaints from members of the public about the continued conflict between his office and the Immigration Office, and added that if this is one of the reasons why there are so many problems with the Immigration Division, something has to be done to settle the differences between the two.

Fetui referred to an incident where an Asian

(Continued on page 4)

The Vaiala Tongan and Ilaoa & To'omata women's teams are pictured with the women's FFAS National Cup after their game on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Pago Park Soccer Stadium. Vaiala Tongan took the cup away from Ilaoa & To'omata following a 6-0 win. See story in today's Sports section.

[FFAS MEDIA/Brian Vitolio]

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Hawaiian Air says seat assignments are all about weight distribution and safety

EXTRA STEP IS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROCESS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has urged Hawaiian Airlines to reevaluate its policy for flights to and from American Samoa, for which passengers have to stand in line for check-in bags and separately also stand in line "to secure a seat assignment".

In response, Hawaiian Airlines president and chief executive officer, Mark Dunkerley explained that the "new procedure" is for "safety" reasons.

LOLO'S LETTER

In his Aug. 30th letter, the governor informed Dunkerley of "issues that have caused an uproar among our people" saying that he is not sure at this time whether the airline's newly instituted practice requiring "our people to check-in their bags at the counter and then stand in line at the gate to secure a seat assignment is permanent."

"If so, I would humbly urge that you revisit this policy because it is conjuring unpleasant comments which question Hawaiian Airlines' commitment to improving air transportation services to American Samoa," Lolo wrote.

"As you well know this is a persistent element of frustration over the obvious lack of recourse when new practices implemented appear insensitive to the dignity of our people," he said. According to Lolo, "We have accepted the implied notion that many Samoans may be physically large in build which supposedly prompted and justified the policy of weight distribution and abated any pre-issuance of seats."

Now, he said, passengers have to stand in line to check bags at the check-in counter and then stand in another line again to obtain a seat at the gate.

"Our people are perplexed why the flights to American Samoa are being singled out as this process is not practiced for any of Hawaiian Airlines' other flights," he said, and noted that many flights show large passengers being seated next to each other and smaller — physically — passengers are seated with a blocked seat between them.

"We have quietly acquiesced to all of Hawaiian Airlines' initiatives to maximize its profits," Lolo informed Dunkerley. "On behalf of my people, I am asking that Hawaiian Airlines please re-evaluate the necessity of making travel to and from our territory more difficult than need be." Lolo also "recognized with appreciation" Dunkerley's "commitment to ensure that our patients are transported to access medical treatment not available in American Samoa."

DUNKERLEY'S REPLY

In his Sept. 21st reply letter, Dunkerley first thanked Lolo for acknowledging the airlines' efforts in transporting patients for medical needs off island.

As for the issue raised by the governor, Dunkerley said he shares Lolo's "frustration with the procedure... imposed on our Pago Pago travelers", adding that "none of us" at Hawaiian "are enthusiastic about having to follow the procedures" for the Pago flights.

"In addition to the sensitivities you reference, with which we empathize, it adds a step in our boarding process," he wrote, and noted that this means Hawaiian needs more manpower to handle a Pago flight than an equivalent flight to another destination.

"The reason we are following this new procedure is safety," he said and explained that when the carrier plans a flight, it makes an assumption on the weight of passengers and their carry-on baggage, which determines how much fuel is needed, including an added reserve.

"If a flight systemically burns more fuel than estimated in the flight plan, it indicates that the assumed passengers and baggage weight are too low."

"In this circumstance, we are obliged to conduct a 'weight survey' where, over a period of time, we weigh passengers and their carry-on baggage on the flight which burns more fuel than planned," he said.

The airline has done this not only for the Pago flights, but for other destinations as well, he said. Normally, if the results of the survey are a modest increase in assumed passenger weight, Hawaiian simply loads fuel on the flight. In the case of Pago Pago, the airline's airport survey revealed the need to add 30 pounds to the assumed weight for each passenger — this number excludes carry-on bags, he explained.

However, this increase was sufficiently large to create another problem, he said and explained that each aircraft has a maximum weight that can be supported across a row of seats to ensure that the floor will support the seats in the event of an accident. He said adding 30 pounds to the assumed weight of each passenger on Pago flights "meant that a row of seats in economy [class], the maximum allowable weight was exceeded if every seat was filled by an adult."

This left Hawaiian with a "stark choice — either we block one seat per row in economy or ensure that at least one seat per row either remained empty or was filled by a child, whose weights are assumed to be much lower," he said.

"We did not want to block one seat in each row on every flight because that would have had the double consequences of denying American Samoa some of the seats that we currently sell in the community and, as a result, increasing the costs of the seats that remained to be sold," he explained.

Instead the airline calculated that "we could maximize the number of passengers we carry by juggling the seating arrangements on the airplane such that in every row in economy either there is an empty seat or a seat is occupied by a child," he continued.

"It's this 'juggling process' which is the extra step we employ on our Pago Pago flights," said Dunkerley, and it's a "cumbersome process that we don't enjoy implementing any more than our travelers like

(Continued on page 8)

PUBLIC NOTICE

FROM THE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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

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

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FY 2018 budget on its way to Governor for approval or not

SENATE AMENDMENTS STILL IN CONTENTION DESPITE HOUSE ACQUIESCING

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Both the Senate and House have endorsed the amendments made by the Senate to the House version of the fiscal year 2018 budget bill, and the Fono has given final approval of ASG's more than $395 million financial plan for the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, 2017.

The budget bill is now being enrolled in Fono records before being transmitted to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga for review and approval, with possible line-item vetoes on the table due to the Senate's amendments.

While the final budget's total remains unchanged at $395.26 million, the amendments in the bill increases the Fono's budget by $500,000 to $714.2 million. Funding source for the $500,000 are cuts from three projects under the Special Program:

- $200,000 from the Local Road Maintenance Subsidy, which now has a $600,000 budget;
- $100,000 from the DPS Law Enforcement, which now has a $100,000 budget; and
- $200,000 from Western District Youth Multi-purpose Center, which now has a $700,000 budget.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Prior to yesterday's Fono approval of the budget bill, a Conference Committee of both chambers convened at the Fono Guest Fale to discuss the Senate amendments, which had been rejected by the House.

As lawmakers gathered to start the budget debate after 8:30a.m. yesterday, it was announced that Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie and House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale were attending a meeting with the governor and the Fono leaders would be heading back to the Senate chambers soon.

While waiting for the Fono leaders, Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee chairman, Sen. Magalei Logovi'i explained the amendments made by senators.

He said that while $700,000 is allocated for the Fono in the Governor's FY 2018 Supplemental Budget, the Senate decided it was best that the Fono's entire fiscal year budget be a part of the basic budget, instead of a supplemental.

Therefore the Senate cut $500,000 from three projects under the Special Programs and reallocated that amount to the Fono.

Magalei explained that when the supplemental budget is presented to the Fono, lawmakers could then amend it by reallocating $500,000 from the Fono's supplemental to cover the three projects affected in the basic budget, and the other $200,000 in the supplemental that was proposed for the Fono could be used for other purposes by the governor.

Magalei said he read in the newspaper yesterday — referring to Samoa News — about a House concern that the $500,000 to the Fono's basic budget will be used to hire personnel.

To be clear, he explained, the supplemental for the Fono does not include any personnel costs but covers expenditures such as travel, materials and supplies and utilities — which are listed under "All Other".

The $500,000 added to the Fono's basic FY 2018 is to cover these expenditures and not for personnel, he pointed out. (Samoa News can confirm that the supplemental for the Fono does not cover personnel costs, according to the supplemental budget document.)

House Vice Speaker, Fetu Fetui Jr., suggested to await the arrival of Savali before the debate proceeds as the House Speaker can have a chance to address the conference committee on the House's position.

Two other senators suggested to move forward with the discussion on the Senate amendments so that everyone has a better understanding.

Fetui wondered if the Fono doesn't have a sufficient budget, as proposed at $6.91 million saying that the House agrees with this budget. And if the Senate believes the $6.91 million budget is not sufficient, then the House requests an explanation.

Sen. Tuaolo Manaia Fruean noted that whatever changes are made by the Fono, the final decision on the budget bill rests with the governor.

About 20 minutes into the discussion, the Fono leaders arrived from their meeting with the governor but no information was revealed on the purpose of the meeting.

Savali said the House didn't take the Senate amendments lightly but the three projects affected by the cuts are important to the community.

He shared the House's stand — leave the budget as the governor submitted it.

Gaoteote pointed out that all lawmakers take these programs seriously but added that the Fono's proposed basic budget is not sufficient to fully fund Fono operations. He said the Fono requires a full basic budget, instead of having to wait on a supplemental budget.

At that point, it appeared that it was going to be difficult to reach a consensus and Sen. Tuaolo suggested putting the matter to a vote, saying there are 14 senators present (less than the number of faipule), and that will be the Senate vote count.

He said everyone has their own opinion set on the issue and more debate won't change the outcome. He again noted that final approval of the budget bill rests with the governor.

Fetui disagreed with carrying out a vote, but said if that's what the Senate wants, then that's how it is. He again asked whether the $6.91 million is not sufficient enough for the Fono, adding that the Fono should set an example, like other ASG departments and agencies whose basic budgets were also reduced.

Additionally, there are pending revenue measures from the Administration in the Fono and if these money bills are approved, it's the pubic that will carry the burden, he said.

Gaoteote reiterated that $6.91 million is not sufficient to fully carry out the Fono's work and operations. He said a final decision on the budget bill should be from a consensus.

Four others senators also spoke in support of the amendments, while Sen. Fa'amausili Mau Mau Jr., seconded Tuaolo's motion for a vote on the matter, but Rep. Tu'umolimoli Saena

(Continued on page 8)

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Violeta Miranda, left, and her son John Taylor, 10, who is a transplant patient, sit next to Lori Flores, Neveah Flores, 14, and Aaron Flores at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, Neb., Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017, as they listen to Matt and Melissa Graves, parents of Lane Thomas, the 2-year-old Nebraska boy who was killed by an alligator last year at Walt Disney World talk about the foundation they created to help families with children receiving organ transplants. **(AP Photo/Nati Harnik)**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Medicaid office hopes reimbursement program will encourage more visits

"WE WANT TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM GOING IN TO CRISIS"

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

Members of the local community are pleased with the announcement earlier this month that the American Samoa Medicaid Agency is now reimbursing facility fees for all legal residents to the Department of Health's Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and its five Community Health Centers (CHC) in Leone, Tafuna, Amouli, Ofu, and Ta'u.

This means qualified legal residents no longer have to pay $10 for visits to the DOH health centers.

In response to Samoa News questions about the program, Director of the American Samoa Medicaid Office, Tofoitaufa Sandra King Young said, "It is the policy of the Medicaid program to help Medicaid eligible beneficiaries access primary care services for health promotion and disease prevention."

She continued, "We want to encourage people to seek early detection and engage in prevention and health care management."

Under the program, all legal residents can now seek dental services, mental health services, and primary care services - even cancer screening for women - at all DOH community health center for free. This does not apply to prescriptions.

"This will be a permanent benefit so long as there is local match and federal match dollars for the Medicaid program," Tofoitaufa explained.

When asked about the benefits of the program, Tofoitaufa responded that, "By doing away with the facility fees, the hope is that more people will seek care before they get too sick. It is better to prevent the onset of disease rather than to treat, especially in the late stages. We want to prevent people from going into crisis."

Tofoitaufa pointed out that any qualified practitioner could carry out the services, as outlined in the Medicaid State Plan.

On Sept. 15th, the ASMO director shared that the Medicaid office, under the Lolo Administration, worked closely with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop a payment method for the FQHC community health centers.

And even though the FQHC could have been a Medicaid provider when it was designated an FQHC, Tofoitaufa said the American Samoa State Plan did not have a payment method or eligible provider provision for the FQHC.

"This required significant justification, financial modeling and analysis by the Medicaid agency to justify the payment method for the FQHC before Medicaid could officially submit a request to CMS, to make the DOH FQHC community health centers eligible for Medicaid funding reimbursement," Tofoitaufa wrote.

For now, local residents are thankful, especially those who are in the low income bracket and opt to self-medicate at home when they are sick, instead of forking out $10 to seek medical assistance at the health centers.

With the reduction in government work hours, the looming 5-week StarKist shutdown, and the Fono proposal of a 7% sales tax, "anything that can save us money is a blessing," said one local mother of six who says she spends hundreds a year on medical care, especially for her youngest kids.

"Even though prescriptions are not covered under this program, just being able to see the doctor for free is such a wonderful benefit," she said.

Case of fake ID cases...

Continued from page 1

left the territory with an expired permit, saying he heard from sources that Asians travel to Apia and come back to the territory, instead of returning to their own country.

He said this is a practice that has been ongoing for many years, and it must be stopped right away.

Ituau faipule, Rep. Manumaua W. Wilson asked Talauega to explain the new policy on issuing entry permits and requiring an 'Okay To Board' approval and a $20 entry fee for travelers from countries under the US visa waiver program. He wanted to know if the $20 entry fee would have an impact on the local tourism industry.

Talauega said the main purpose of the governor's new policies is to combat illegal immigration.

For example, all visitors to the territory must secure a 30-day permit before entering and only the attorney general or his designee is authorized to approve such permits.

He provided to the committee copies of the governor's Aug. 29th memo explaining all the requirements for those requesting entry permits to enter the territory.

The AG pointed out that the governor's memo also requires that citizens of the 38 countries listed under the American Samoa Entry Permit Waiver Countries (EPWC) program seek approval before entering the territory and pay a $20 fee.

Manumanua wanted to know who is responsible for the fare of an over stayer, who is ordered to leave the territory, and wondered what is so difficult about sending an over stayer back to their country.

Talauega said the main reason why there are so many over stayers in the territory is because of the shortage of manpower at the Immigration Office.

He said there are not enough employees to do the work, especially those who follow up with the sponsors to remind them about when a foreigner needs to return to their country.

The AG said his office has now implemented a new plan to ensure that everyone who enters the territory on a 30-day permit will return to their country.

He said they are now working together with DPS and DHLS, and every month, they will provide them with a list of everyone whose 30-day permits have expired, after which the police will go looking for them in the villages.

The AG added that an advertisement featuring a list of everyone whose entry permit has expired will also be printed in the newspaper, to make it easier for the public to identify them and report them to law enforcement.

Family of boy killed by gator helps kids getting transplants

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The family of a 2-year-old Nebraska boy who was killed by an alligator at Walt Disney World last year has created a foundation to help families with children receiving organ transplants.

Matt Graves said Wednesday that after their son Lane's death, they wanted to help other families fighting for their children's lives. Melissa Graves dried tears from her eyes while her husband spoke. "Lane had a very special light about him. We promised him at his wake we would turn this tragedy into good for many families," Matt Graves said. Lane was playing on a beach outside Disney's Grand Floridian Resort and Spa last year when an alligator grabbed him and dragged him into the lake. Matt Graves jumped into the water to try to rescue his son but was unable. Lane's body was found 16 hours later.

The Lane Thomas Foundation will help pay travel and living expenses for families with children being treated in Omaha at Children's Hospital or Nebraska Medicine.

Transplant families often have to spend weeks or months in Omaha after an operation, and the long recovery time often forces one parent to quit a job to be with the child. Fifteen families have already received financial support from the foundation for non-medical expenses this year. "It just took a burden off my chest," said Violeta Miranda, whose 10-year-old son is recovering.

Letter of Intent...

Continued from page 1

He had indicated that the Territory was going with both the Tui cable and the Hawaiki cable.

In March of this year, Lolo said approval from the federal government was required in order to sign on with Tui cable and the territory would be asking "the federal government for money to fund it and they have already expressed their concerns given the cable will be laid through foreign countries."

To date, there has been no announcement by ASG that permission was granted or not needed by the federal government, or that funding has been forthcoming or even denied.

[Samoa News contributed to this report]

Amata thanks American Samoan firefighters in Wildfire hearing

Washington, D.C. — Wednesday, September 27, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata participated in a hearing exploring wildfire solutions, and highlighted the contributions of American Samoa's firefighters.

"In recent years, firefighters from American Samoa have traveled more than once to join the fight against major fires in the western United States, including this August, and I was pleased to commend their efforts before other Members of Congress," said Amata. "This year, millions of acres of forest have been lost, but studying this year's wildfires and response efforts can yield valuable information to prepare for future disaster responses."

The hearing, titled "Exploring Solutions to Reduce Risks of Catastrophic Wildfire and Improve Resiliency of National Forests", explored the possible reasons behind the severity of the damage this year, then examined possible ways to improve the response and reduce the risk.

The Modoc National Forest and the California Bureau of Land Management posted pictures of American Samoan firefighter teams on their sites.

The Congresswoman's full prepared remarks to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations is below:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for holding this oversight hearing to explore solutions to reduce the risks of wildfires.

You know Mr. Chairman – as we all do – when the fire bell rings, there are no politics among the response of our brave men and women in the firefighting corps.

The firefighting family is a very close knit group extending throughout the United States and all its territories, including a small place where I come from, American Samoa.

Firefighters from American Samoa based in the National Park of American Samoa just this past August recently fought side by side with their fellow fire fighters in Modoc National Forest in Alturas, California and Sheehy Memorial Fitness Park in Redding, California last year. The Samoan firefighting crew responded to the call to help their fellow firefighters in multiple instances in California and Nevada over the past several years. There is a long and proud tradition of courage in both Samoan and firefighting culture and I commend all the firefighters in the States and Territories for putting themselves in harm's way in order to protect the natural beauty of all of our Parks for the recreation and enjoyment of everyone.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your leadership.

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- WESSON OIL - 64oz $7.50/pc
- WESSON OIL - 1GAL $10.05/pc
- OIL - 5GAL $24.95/pc
- SF FLOUR - 2LB $1.20/pk
- SF FLOUR - 5LB $2.50/pk
- SF FLOUR - 10LB $4.99/pk
- HUNTS KETCHUP - 13.5oz $1.25/pc
- HUNTS KETCHUP - 24oz $1.80/pc
- HUNTS KETCHUP - 44.5oz $2.99/pc
- HUNTS KETCHUP - 64OZ $3.75/pc
- HUNTS KETCHUP - 7LB $5.10/pc
- BF MAYONNAISE - 8OZ $1.75/pc
- BF MAYONNAISE - 15 OZ $2.65/pc
- BF MAYONNAISE - 30OZ ..... $ 4.65/pc
- BF MAYONNAISE- 48 OZ $6.55/pc
- BF MAYONNAISE - 64 OZ $8.10/pc
- BF MAYONNAISE - 1GAL $12.50/pc
- GRAN BAR OATS & HONEY $2.75/pk

Gold Star Mothers & Family Day 2017
Honors Moms who have lost a son or daughter in Service to the United States.

UNITED STATES ARMY SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

The Survivor Families of Fallen Soldiers
Cordially invites Moms who have lost a son or daughter in Service to the United States
To a Prayer Breakfast Fellowship
and
Resource Sharing Event

On: Friday September 29, 2017
At: The SFC Konelio Pele
US Army Reserve Center
When: 0700 – 1400

US ARMY RESERVE FAMILY PROGRAMS
Survivor Outreach Services

Refreshments
by the Survivor Families
and Partners of Survivor
Outreach Services

US ARMY RESERVE FAMILY PROGRAMS
Survivor Outreach Services

Vala'aulia Fa'apitoa mo Tina o Fitafita ua Maliliu.

6999216/Mrs. Julia Foifua
6999364/Ms. Lati Fuamatu

Mo ni isi Fesili valaau mai i le
6999216/6999364
Mrs. Salilo J. Foifua
Ms. Lati Fuamatu

Aso Faraile 29 Setema, 2017
Ofisa Tutotonu o le Army Fa'aleoleo
Mafutaga Tatalo ma ni Fa'asoa aoga mo oe ma lou Aiga
7:00 am – 2:00 pm

Saunia e Aiga, Uo ma Pa'aga a lenei Porokalama se fa'amalositino mo lo tatou Aso.

Launch Week Schedule

- **Sunday, October 1, 2017**- Open call to all faiths/ denominations to use their worship services scheduled for this day to promote a single message of protecting our families from the dangers of using alcohol, tobacco & other drugs.

- **Monday, October 2, 2017**- Official Launch of American Samoa's Drug Control (ASDC) Plan at Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei

- **Tuesday, October 3, 2017**– **Theme 1:** Prevent Youth Tobacco Use

- **Wednesday, October 4, 2017**– **Theme 2:** Prevent Underage Drinking & Alcohol Misuse

- **Thursday, October 5, 2017**– **Theme 3:** Prevent Prescription & Opioid Drug Misuse

- **Friday, October 6, 2017**– **Theme 4:** Prevent Illicit Drug Use &Youth Marijuana Use

Pacific Island News in Brief

Compiled by Samoa News staff

PASSPORT INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY

As required under the Passport Act and the Public Service Act, the Immigration division of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has begun an investigation in to allegations of a potential breach of the Passport Act.This is in relation to reports received by the Ministry last week that passports have been illegally procured.

The Samoa Observer reported that the Samoa government through the Immigration Office has launched an investigation into allegations that someone is "selling Samoan passports" online.

The Ministry in a press release said, "it takes any allegation seriously and wishes to assure the public that security of our passports remains intact."

Relevant action in accordance with the law will be taken upon completion of the investigation. The Immigration Office will continue to monitor, review and improve processes to ensure the safety and security of Samoa.The Samoa newspaper reported that it "understands that the allegation was made in an email from one 'Joanna Slewion,' which the Samoa Observer had referred to the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as the Ministry responsible for Immigration."

[Sources: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary and Samoa Observer]

ADEC INNOVATIONS — CALL CENTERS – HEADING TO SAMOA

The largest Call Center operator in the Philippines is heading to Samoa.

Based in Manila, ADEC Innovations is committed to set up a Call Center in Samoa once the Tui Samoa Cable is operational at the end of the year.

ADEC's Chief Executive Officer James M. Donovan made the commitment while in Apia attending the recent Pacific Island Forum leaders meeting. He has reassured government that he will return in November to continue negotiations with the relevant government officials.

"He's committed to start a call center with 50 to 100 seats in the initial stages," says ICT Minister Afamasaga Rico Tupai.

"As stated by the Prime Minister, government's multi-million tala ICT investment represents more than just improved and affordable internet connectivity; it covers a range of sectors with employment creation

(Continued on page 9)

Bring the Children
Carl's Jr.®
KIDS EAT FREE
ALL DAY
With the purchase of any Adult Combo.
Good for one Cool Kids Combo per child.
Offer good till White Sunday 8th October 2017

FILE - In this Thursday, May 4, 2017, file photo, Assemblyman Kevin Mullin, D-South San Francisco, urges lawmakers to approve his measure to move the presidential primary from June to March in Sacramento, Calif. California lawmakers have voted to move the state's presidential primary three months earlier to give the nation's most populous state more influence in choosing the nominees. **(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli, File)**

California seeks more sway by moving up presidential primary

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation Wednesday to move up California's 2020 presidential primary in a bid to give the nation's most populous state more sway in choosing the Republican and Democratic nominees.

Holding an earlier primary in California, which is expensive to campaign in, could shake up the nominating contests by giving an earlier edge to candidates with more money. The state is home to 11 media markets.

Elected officials and Democratic leaders said the bill gives California the spotlight it deserves given its record of pushing the national conversation around immigration and other issues.

"With all due respect to our brothers and sisters in Iowa and New Hampshire, California is the beating heart of the national resistance to Trump," Eric Bauman, chairman of the California Democratic Party, said in a statement. "When it comes to deciding the Democratic nominee, our voices need to be heard early in the process."

Iowa and New Hampshire will still have their early say.

The measure puts the state's primary on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, often known as "Super Tuesday," when as many as a dozen states hold nominating contests. It will still fall after the earliest caucuses and primaries in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

In 2016, California held its primary in June when Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump were already the major party nominees. California typically awards the most delegates.

FY 2018 budget...

Continued from page 3

Moliga disagreed and like Gaoteote suggested reaching a decision by consensus.

Savali reiterated the importance of the three projects affected by the budget cuts. He said the House has the utmost respect for the Senate and the Fono as an institution of law making and is trying to protect the Fono from criticism that may arise out of such changes.

He then offered an apology to House members for the decision he was going to announce — and that is, to go with what senators had requested.

He noted the importance of both the Senate and House working together as there are pending revenue measures from the Administration needed to fund the supplemental budget.

Gaoteote added that both Chambers working together is important if the Fono wants good government. He expressed appreciation to the House but also noted that the final approval of the budget bill rests with the governor.

As the discussions ended and some lawmakers started to rise up from their chairs with others already on their feet, Fetui was overheard saying that he had hoped the entire day would be spent on debating the budget, adding that it was a waste of time attending the conference committee debate.

Samoa News notes that the supplemental budget is yet to be introduced in both the Senate and House.

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA
P.O. BOX 9, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Office: (684) 633-4031 Fax: (684) 633-1163.
Website: www.dbas.as

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

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

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

DOCUMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hawaiian...

Continued from page 2

being subjected to."

"We regret the sensitivities that this exposes and we mean no disrespect," he informed the governor. "But we must operate in accordance with the safety rules of the FAA and therefore feel that we are stuck with the current system for the time being."

Dunkerley also shared with the governor that the airline has asked Boeing — the maker of the 767 aircraft which the carrier uses on the Pago flights — and Airbus, maker of Hawaiian's other long haul aircraft, whether the floor strength limitations can be increased safely.

"We hope that they will be able to give us latitude to dispense with the current limitations," he wrote, and thanked the governor for reaching out on this and "all matters of interest to the residents of your islands."

IN APIA FOR THE PIF MEETING — (l-r) Samoa's head of mission to New Zealand, High Commissioner Leasi Papalii Tommy Scanlan; ADEC Innovation's Chief Executive James M. Donovan; ICT Minister Afamasaga Rico Tupai; and a government official from the Philippines. **[courtesy photo]**

Pacific Island Briefs...

Continued from page 7

as a key component.

"ICT is not just about the technologies themselves; it's about the impact they are having on our communities and economies, enabling us to leapfrog over more traditional, out dated and expensive systems of the past, and transform our lives."

ADEC is one of the spin-offs from the marketing strategy spearheaded by the government to promote its ICT drive utilizing the Tui-Samoa Cable and its new partnerships with international stakeholders, says Afamasaga.Government target is to realize government's vision for Samoa to become the Pacific ICT Hub by 2020.

ABOUT ADEC: ADEC INNOVATIONS IS AN IMPACT INVESTING COMPANY THAT DESIGNS, DEVELOPS AND DELIVERS A DIVERSE DATA MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY PORTFOLIO OF ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) SOLUTIONS.

With a global force of over 5,000 employees, ADEC's presence spans five continents – Asia, Australia, Europe, Africa and North America.

[Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary]

CHINESE GOV'T FUNDS SCHOLARSHIPS AT PRIMARY & SECONDARY GOVT SCHOOLS

$80,000 funded under the Guangdong Huizhou Friendship Scholarship Program for funding scholarships were distributed to principals of 20 Primary and 10 Secondary Government Schools at the MESC Fale Samoa on Wednesday, 27 September 2017. This is the second year of the program and it will benefit 550 students from financially challenged families attending the above schools.

The Guangdong Huizhou Friendship Scholarship Program is funded by Huizhou, Guangdong, The People's Republic of China in honor of the MOU between Samoa and China signed in 2015. His Excellency, Ambassador Wang Xuefeng expressed the commitment of the Peoples' Republic of China to support students' access to quality education in Samoa. Tauti Faamatali'i Jenny Lauano, Acting CEO of the Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture, expressed the great appreciation of the Ministry and the people of Samoa for this generous initiative and assistance. The Chinese Ambassador will also be awarding 20 additional tertiary scholarships to in-service teachers who have achieved outstanding results in the teacher upgrade programs.

These scholarships will be awarded during the World Teachers' Day Celebration on the Oct. 5th in front of the government building.

[Source: Samoa Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture]

Midnite at the OASIS

PART III
THREE'S A CHARM

FLY BY NITE BAR - BOWLING ALLEY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017
630PM - 12AM • $15

"THE BAR OPTION" AKA (TBO)
BANNED FROM THE SUN
ANGIE & THE VIBE

PLUS: Ulale, Peke, Peta Siulepa Chico w/ Vaitoa Hans Langkilde, Jessica Afuola, & others ..

Contact Us

Monica:	**258-4197**	**Angie:**	**733-7673**
Peta:	**258-0793**	**Rhonda:**	**633-5599**

Could your community-based project use some grant money?

Does your organization primarily serve American Samoans?

Attend our 3-day Project Planning and Development training at the Tradewinds Hotel, presented free by the U.S. Administration for Native Americans (ANA). *Come with an idea, leave with a plan.*

Oct. 4 – 6, 2017 (9am)

To register, visit our website:

www.anapacificbasin.org

or call us toll-free at: 1-844-944-9544

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FAGALII TO TONGATAPU	WST	818.30	1,494.50	761.95	1,396.51
	USD	334.00	610.00	311.00	570.00
	TOP	701.40	1,281.00	653.10	1,197.00
PAGOPAGO TO TONGATAPU	WST	761.95	1,445.50	761.95	1,396.51
	USD	311.00	590.00	311.00	570.00
	TOP	653.10	1,239.00	653.10	1,197.00
TONGATAPU TO FAGALII	WST	901.60	1,494.50	845.25	1,396.50
	USD	368.00	610.00	345.00	570.00
	TOP	772.80	1,281.00	724.50	1,197.00
TONGATAPU TO PAGOPAGO	WST	901.60	1,445.50	845.25	1,396.50
	USD	368.00	590.00	345.00	570.00
	TOP	772.80	1,239.00	724.50	1,197.00

Office locations: Taufusi next to Maria's Pharmacy - Ph(685)30005 | Fagalii airport terminal - Ph (685)30007 | Faleolo airport terminal - Ph (685)7530003 | Tafuna airport terminal - Ph (684)6993002 | Nukualofa Tonga: c/- Jones Travel Ph(676)26110 and Palu Aviation Ph(676)21111

Book online, at your favourite Travel Agent or at any of our offices.

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MD Sports 7ft Billiard Table
w/ Bonus Table Tennis Top
$699.95

Rikon 10-308 Meat Saw
with Grinder, 10 inch
$999.95

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CALL SAMOA MARKETING AT 699-5151

Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar's office for the registration of the Matai Title AIONO of the village of FALENIU by URSULA FITIMALEAFA TE'O-MARTIN of the village of FALENIU, county of TUALAUTA, WESTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title AIONO shall be registered in the name of URSULA FITIMALEAFA TE'O-MARTIN in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: **AUGUST 15, 2017 thru OCTOBER 16, 2017**
SIGNED: **Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar**

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga lenei ua faasalalauina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauina o le suafa matai o AIONO o le nu'u o FALENIU e URSULA FITIMALEAFA TE'O-MARTIN o FALENIU faalupega o TUALAUTA, falelima i SISIFO.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai lenei fa'aaliga. Afai o lea leai se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o URSULA FITIMALEAFA TE'O-MARTIN e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa. **08/28 & 09/28/17**

Notice for Proposed Registration of Matai Title

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 6.0105 of the Revised Code of American Samoa that a claim of succession which has been filed with the Territorial Registrar's office for the registration of the Matai Title **FAUMUINA** of the village of LELOALOA by FAUMUINA, JOHN JR. of the village of LELOALOA, county of MAOPUTASI, EASTERN District.

THE TERRITORIAL REGISTRAR is satisfied that the claim, petition by the family and certificate of the village chiefs are in proper form.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone so desiring must file his counterclaim, or objection to the registration of this matai title with the Territorial Registrar Office before the expiration of 60 days from the date of posting. If no counterclaim, nor any objection is filed by the expiration of said 60 days, the matai title FAUMUINA shall be registered in the name of FAUMUINA, JOHN JR. in accordance with the laws of American Samoa.

POSTED: **AUGUST 18, 2017 thru OCTOBER 17, 2017**
SIGNED: **Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar**

Fa'aaliga o le Fa'amauina o se Suafa Matai

O le fa'aaliga lenei ua faasalalauina e tusa ma le Maga 6.0105 o le tusi tulafono a Amerika Samoa, e pei ona suia, ona o le talosaga ua faaulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa, mo le fia faamauina o le suafa matai o **FAUMUINA** o le nu'u o LELOALOA e FAUMUINA, JOHN JR. o LELOALOA faalupega o MAOPUTASI, falelima i SASA'E.

Ua taliaina e le Resitara lea talosaga, faatasi ma le talosaga a le aiga faapea ma le tusi faamaonia mai matai o lea nu'u, ma ua i ai nei i teuga pepa a lea ofisa.

A i ai se tasi e faafinagaloina, ia faaulufaleina sana talosaga tete'e, po o sana faalavelave tusitusia i le Ofisa o Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na faalauiloa ai lenei fa'aaliga. Afai o lea leai se talosaga tete'e, po'o se faalavelave foi e faaulufaleina mai i aso e 60 e pei ona taua i luga, o lea faamauina loa lea suafa matai i le igoa o FAUMUINA, JOHN JR. e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono a Amerika Samoa. **08/28 & 09/28/17**

Notice for Proposed Registration of Land

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the request which has been received by the Territorial Registrar for the registration of a certain land **FUILOA** which is situated in or near the village of MAPUSAGAFOU, County of TUALAUTA Island of TUTUILA, from MAGALEI LOGOVI'I of the village of MAPUSAGAFOU as a/an COMMUNIAL LAND land of MAGALEI FAMILY.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that anyone claiming an interest in the above named land, may file an objection with the Territorial Registrar's Office within 60 days from the date of posting of this notice. If no objection is filed within 60 days from the date of posting of this notice, the land proposed herein will be registered as such in accordance with the law of American Samoa.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the survey and description of the said land are now on file in the Territorial Registrar's Office where they may be examined at any time prior to the expiration of the said sixty (60) days..

POSTED: **AUGUST 17, 2017 thru OCTOBER 17, 2017**
SIGNED: **Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar**

Fa'aaliga o le Fia Fa'amauina o se Fanua

O LE FA'AALIGA LENEI ua fa'asalalauina ona o le talosaga ua fa'aulufaleina mai i le Ofisa o le Resitara o Amerika Samoa ina ia fa'amauina le fanua o **FUILOA**, e tu pe latalata ane i le nu'u o MAPUSAGAFOU, Itumalo o TUALAUTA i le motu o TUTUILA, ina ia fa'amauina e MAGALEI LOGOVI'I ole fanua FAITELE o LE AIGA SA MAGALEI .

SO O SE TASI e aia ma fa'atu'iese i le fanua ua ta'ua i luga ia fa'aulufaleina mai sana fa'atu'iesega tusitusia i le Ofisa o le Resitara i totonu o aso e 60 mai le aso na fa'aalia ai lea fa'aaliga. Afai o le a leai se fa'atu'iesega e fa'aulufaleina mai i totonu o aso e 60, o le fanua lenei o le a fa'amauina e pei ona ta'ua i luga e tusa ai ma aiaiga o le tulafono i Amerika Samoa.

O LE FA'AFANUA ma fa'amatalaga e uiga i lenei fanua, ua iai nei i le Ofisa ole Resitara, ma e avanoa mo se iloiloga i so'o se aso i totonu o le 60 o le faitauina o aso. **08/28 & 09/28/17**

FILE- In this July 14, 2017, photo, United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura speaks at a news conference at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The United Nations,Äô top envoy for Syria says the next round of talks between the government and opposition will take place as soon as ‚Äúin about a month,Äù and no later than early November. De Mistura said Wednesday, Sept. 27, that both sides should show readiness to negotiate on four key issues: local and central governance, a new constitution, U.N. supervised elections and combating terrorism.

(Xu Jinquan/Pool Photo via AP, File)

UN envoy calls for new round of Syria talks in about a month

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N.'s top envoy for Syria announced Wednesday that new talks between Syria's government and opposition will take place "in about a month" and said this eighth round must finally move to "genuine negotiations on the political future" of the war-ravaged country.

Staffan de Mistura told the U.N. Security Council that both sides should use the coming month to create conditions for the talks in Geneva "to be meaningful," and to participate "without preconditions."

His announcement that talks will start no later than the end of October or very early in November comes as the Syrian government reverses military losses in much of the country's strategically important west and as foreign governments cut support for rebel forces.

With the civil war now more than 6 1/2 years old, Syrian President Bashar Assad and his allies have taken control of the country's four largest cities and its Mediterranean coast. Backed by Russian air power and Iranian-sponsored militias, pro-government forces have marched across energy-rich Homs province and were fighting Wednesday on the east bank of the Euphrates River.

De Mistura told the council that fighters for the Islamic State extremist group are "being beaten back." He pointed to the breaking of a three-year siege of Deir el-Zour city by IS, also known as ISIS, and the U.S.-led international coalition taking control of most of the city of Raqqa, once the de facto capital of the militant group's self-styled caliphate.

He pointed to the creation of four de-escalation zones as "an important next step" in efforts to reduce violence.

These zones should be a precursor "to a truly nationwide cease-fire" and action to provide humanitarian aid to all in need, he said. Talks in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana, which have focused on local cease-fires and de-escalation zones, "should be seen as laying the basis for a renewed Geneva process," he added.

De Mistura called on both Syria's government and opposition to use the weeks before the next talks "to assess the situation with realism and responsibility."

He said the divided opposition has "a duty to signal that it wants to speak with one voice and a common platform in genuine negotiations with the government." The government has a duty "to genuinely negotiate with the opposition," he said.

De Mistura said both sides should show readiness to negotiate on four key issues: "credible" and "inclusive" local and central governance; a schedule and process for drafting a new constitution; U.N. supervised elections; and combating terrorism.

On the humanitarian front, U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock told the council that during July and August the U.N. and its partners reached only 280,500 of the 1.23 million people it sought to assist. He blamed "bureaucratic delays and blockages by all sides."

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley accused the Syrian government of denying aid to besieged and suffering communities and she said it has refused to come to the negotiating table "in good faith."

"If the Syrian people don't see a political process working in parallel with our de-escalation efforts, the violence will resume," she warned. "The only lasting solution in Syria — the only way to end the violence and defeat terrorism — is through a political transition, one that does not allow Iranian influence to replace ISIS or Assad in power."

ACCURACY

We make an issue of it every day.

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

samoa news

FILE - In this April 23, 2015 file photo, protestors of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents working with Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio are arrested by Phoenix Police officers for blocking the intersection in front of the U.S. Federal Court in Phoenix. An audit report produced in a racial profiling case against the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office says Hispanics are more likely to be searched and arrested by sheriff's deputies in traffic stops than white people. The report was issued nearly four years after a judge ordered a sweeping overhaul of then-Sheriff Joe Arpaio's office after concluding officers had racially profiled Hispanics in immigration patrols.

(AP Photo/Matt York, File)

Audit: Phoenix-area deputies more likely to arrest Hispanics

PHOENIX (AP) — A U.S. judge ordered a sweeping overhaul nearly four years ago of the office then led by Sheriff Joe Arpaio after finding that his deputies had systematically racially profiled Hispanics in traffic patrols targeting immigrants.

The agency in metro Phoenix is still dogged by those problems after newly released findings say that its officers treat minorities differently than white people.

Immigrant rights attorneys who brought the profiling case against the agency said in court Wednesday that the overhaul is being made more difficult by officers and supervisors who are resisting the changes.

An audit conducted by criminal justice researchers at Arizona State University as part of the racial profiling case said Hispanics are more likely to be searched and arrested by deputies in traffic stops than whites.

The study, released last week, examined 31,000 traffic stops from July 2015 through June 2016, near the end of Arpaio's 24-year tenure.

"The likelihood of Hispanics being arrested or searched over time has not decreased, or even changed," wrote the researchers, who had conducted an earlier study of the agency's traffic stops. "Conversely, the length of stop for Hispanic drivers, while still longer than whites, decreased across years."

It was released a month after President Donald Trump pardoned Arpaio for his misdemeanor conviction of intentionally disobeying a court order in the profiling case.

Thirty-three Democrats in Congress filed a friend-of-the-court brief Wednesday that asks the judge in Arpaio's criminal case to reject the pardon and move forward with his sentencing. They argue the pardon is an invalid encroachment by the president on the power and independence of the courts.

Jeffrey Crouch, a professor of politics at American University who has written a book on presidential pardons, said the Democrats' request is extremely unusual.

"I highly doubt whether they will be able to overturn Arpaio's pardon," Crouch said, adding that Democrats' goal may be to generate interest in the controversy.

Sheriff Paul Penzone, who took office in January after defeating Arpaio, is developing plans for confronting the problems identified in the new audit, including training for deputies and their supervisors.

Penzone said it will take time to change the agency's culture.

He said his office will confront those problems through discussions with employees, training and, if needed, through firings.

"Resistance won't be tolerated," Penzone said.

Cecillia Wang, one of the lawyers who pressed the profiling case against the agency, said the overhaul is being complicated by some of the agency's supervisors who were recruited into the agency by Arpaio and believe they have a duty to protect officers against allegations of bias.

Another report issued this summer by officials who are monitoring the agency on the judge's behalf charts the status of the sheriff's office in complying with the court-ordered overhaul.

The agency was deemed 40 percent compliant with the first phase of the overhaul and 58 percent compliant in phase two, according to the report, which covered the first three months of this year.

U.S. District Judge Murray Snow expressed frustration with the agency's slowness in setting up an alert system to help supervisors identify problematic behavior by officers.

The system was ordered nearly four years ago, yet training for using it is now underway.

"I am a little tired of this process taking this long," Snow said.

Taxpayers in metro Phoenix are on the hook for legal costs in the case until the sheriff's office fully complies with the court-ordered changes for three straight years. By next summer, the costs are expected to reach $92 million.

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Launch Week Schedule

- **Sunday, October 1, 2017**- Open call to all faiths/ denominations to use their worship services scheduled for this day to promote a single message of protecting our families from the dangers of using alcohol, tobacco & other drugs.

- **Monday, October 2, 2017**- Official Launch of American Samoa's Drug Control (ASDC) Plan at Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei

- **Tuesday, October 3, 2017**– **Theme 1:** Prevent Youth Tobacco Use

- **Wednesday, October 4, 2017**– **Theme 2:** Prevent Underage Drinking & Alcohol Misuse

- **Thursday, October 5, 2017**– **Theme 3:** Prevent Prescription & Opioid Drug Misuse

- **Friday, October 6, 2017**– **Theme 4:** Prevent Illicit Drug Use &Youth Marijuana Use