ASTCA wants to borrow more money to fund its projects 2

AS Drug Control Commission to set up hotline for anonymous tipsters 3

Sharks send Wildcats home with losses in both divisions B1

Iloilo Faipule talosaga Komesina mo se tupe fa'aopoopo ... LALI B-7

*Members of the Young Old Version (YOV) Band, one of the local volunteer Filipino groups, wowed the crowd this past Sunday when they performed during the San Lorenzo Ruiz Feast Day celebrations held at the Fatu-o-Aiga Hall in Tafuna.*
[photo: Bea Galzote]

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*Exclusive by Off Da Rock will be representing American Samoa at the 2017 Pacific International Runway Fashion Show in Sydney, Australia later this month. Pictured are the owners of Off Da Rock, Joseph and Leuila Ioane. Leuila is modeling an original piece from their line. See story for details.* [photo: courtesy]

# FY 2018 budget is signed, after Lolo line item vetoes Fono amendments

## REVISED BUDGET PROCESS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH BOND GOVERNANCE COVENANTS

*by Fili Sagapolutele*
*Samoa News Correspondent*

After he line-item vetoed amendments made by the Fono, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga signed into law last Saturday, the American Samoa Government's more than $394 million budget for fiscal year 2018, which commenced on Oct. 1, 2017.

The original total FY 2018 Basic Budget submitted was $395.26 million but with the line-item veto of $500,0000 the final budget bill — or the FY 2018 budget law — now stands at $394.76 million, according to the budget document, signed into law by the governor on Sept. 30th.

In a Sept. 30th cover letter which contained the signed FY 2018 financial plan for the government, Lolo informed Fono leaders that although he has signed into law the FY 2018 budget, he used his authority granted under the Constitution to line-item veto amendments made by the Fono.

The Fono had cut $500,000 from three projects under the Special Programs and reallocated the amount to the Legislature, which then increased the Fono's budget to $7.41 million. (See last Thursday's Samoa News edition for details.)

Lolo informed Fono leaders that the $500,000 that was reallocated and added to the Fono's "All Others" budget class, is line-item vetoed, reducing this budget class down to $211,000.

"We have given considerable thought to this line-item veto which returns the Legislature to the original proposed FY 2018 budget of $6,916,500 consistent with your FY 2017 budget and reflects the amount in your original proposed budget submission," Lolo wrote.

"It would be fiscally unwise to continue the past budget practice of proposing expenditures without requisite revenues to pay them," the governor explained. "This is why the budget was presented to you in the format which it was this year." According to the governor, the Basic Operating Budget reflects ASG's experience in FY 2017 — through the first 10 months annualized — with respect to revenue collections. The administration then proposed a Supplemental Budget that reflects what "we believe to be the true costs of fully meeting the needs of our people; however, there are insufficient revenues at present to support these costs," he explained.

In order to make up the shortfall, he said the Administration has proposed several revenue measures which, if adopted, will provide the government with additional revenues necessary to fund the Supplemental Budget.

"This revised budget process was also necessary to comply with our Bond governance covenants," Lolo said, referring to the American Samoa Economic Development Authority bonds. "These call for realistic development of budgets equating expenditures to actual revenues. Submitting new revenue measures to allow us to meet this requirement is necessary before we consider expenditures connected with the provision of all services."

(See last Friday's edition, for the latest ASEDA bonds summary report.)

Lolo noted that the FY 2018 Basic Budget and the FY 2018 Supplemental Budget were submitted together, and it was contemplated that there would be "simultaneous consideration" of the two budget plans and the revenue measures to allow ASG agencies to appropriately scale the implementation of programs to meet the quality of service expected by the people.

Samoa News notes that when the FY 2018 budget call went out in June, and even during cabinet meetings, the governor informed all directors that their budget ceiling is 90% of the approved FY 2017 budget while the 10% is submitted as a supplemental.

However, the governor revealed in a letter to Fono leaders that for the FY 2018 Basic Operation budget, executive branch agency budgets "underwent cuts ranging from 8% to 20% to ensure that planned expenditures will not exceed actual revenue collections, absent the new revenue measures and a Supplemental budget."

The Legislature and Judiciary branches were not subjected to these cuts, "based on our commitment to honoring the 'separation of powers' principle," said Lolo who pointed out again that the Fono's original budget submission for basic operation was $6.91 million.

The fact that the Fono has chosen to increase that amount by $500,000 "is contrary to our efforts to create a sustainable budget until new revenues can be achieved," he said.

As for the three projects whose budgets were reduced by the Fono, Lolo said the decision to reduce them "was disconcerting", adding that these projects "are critical to the public safety of our territory, development of our youth, and keeping our highways well-maintained and safe."

The $500,000 that was lined-item vetoed from the Fono's budget will, according to Lolo, remain un-appropriated pending further action by the Fono. *(Samoa News notes that the total revenues for FY 2018 is $395.26 million, according to the approved budget, and the total expenditures amount to $394.76 million — because of the $500K that was line-item vetoed by Lolo.*

*Basically, this means revenues remain the same, while the expenditures have dropped by $500,000).*

# Local design team set to hit the red carpet later this month

## "EXCLUSIVE BY OFF DA ROCK" INVITED TO THE 2017 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL RUNWAY FASHION SHOW"

*by Blue Chen-Fruean*
*Samoa News Correspondent*

American Samoa will be represented at the 2017 Pacific International Runway Fashion Show by local entrepreneurs Joseph and Leuila Ioane, and their Exclusive by Off Da Rock designs.

Known locally for their tattoo shop in Avau, the Ioanes started their business portfolio by 'inking' their way into people's lives. Over the years, Joe, as he is known to family and friends, has tattooed dozens of people, from all over the world.

Three years ago, he decided to put his designs on fabric and with the help of his wife Leuila, who comes up with unique patterns and styles that have taken the territory by storm, Exclusive by Off Da Rock was born.

This past Sunday, Samoa News spoke to Joe who indicated that he and his wife will be departing the territory on Saturday, Oct. 14th, to attend the 2017 Pacific International Runway Fashion Show set to be held in Sydney, Australia on Oct. 21st.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# ASTCA wants to borrow more money to fund its projects

## INCLUDES FUNDING HAWAIKI CABLE AND TUI CABLE CONNECTIONS

*by Ausage Fausia*
*Samoa News Reporter*

While the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) is planning to use both Tui Samoa and Hawaiki Cable, CEO Puleleiite Tufele Li'a Jr. said he will recommend to the American Samoa Government to stay with Hawaiki Cable — not only is it cheaper but its capacity is big enough to cover internet services around the island.

Members of Hawaiki Cable will be arriving on island this week, to sign an agreement with ASG — and afterwards, Puleleiite said ASTCA will then announce to the public why they believe Hawaiki Cable is more advanced than the Tui Samoa Cable.

That was Puleleiite's testimony before the House Communications Committee last week, during a hearing to discuss some of the issues pertaining the ASTCA's operations.

The hearing was chaired by Committee vice chairman, Rep. Vailoata E. Amituana'i.

According to Puleleiite, ASTCA is one of the authority's the government is relying on in terms of financial needs, because it had strong revenue collections in the past.

Although he did not elaborate on the exact current financial situation of ASTCA, he told the committee that things have changed since he was appointed to lead the operation, adding that for the month of September only, the office budget will now be back to black again.

"These are the only information [sic] I can provide for you, but if you want to hear more about ASTCA operations — only Governor Lolo can provide such information," Puleleiite told faipule, adding that the information he is providing is based on the time since his appointment.

Rep. Sataua Dr. Mataese Samuelu wanted the CEO to elaborate on why ASG has submitted a proposal to the Samoa Submarine Cable to become part of the Tui Samoa Consortium, as he believes ASTCA should stay with the service that Hawaiki Cable would provide us. Puleleiite said the two new undersea fiber optic cables will provide fast internet service for the people, businesses community — for everyone.

"The reason why the internet service is slow now is because there's not enough bandwidth from the existing American Samoa Hawaii Cable. Its capacity has maxed out, and going with Samoa's Tui Samoa Cable is the fastest solution to the bandwidth problem," Puleleiite said. He told representatives that ASG has submitted a proposal to the Samoa Submarine Cable to become part of the Tui Samoa Consortium.

"While ASTCA is planning to sign on to Samoa's new undersea fiber optic cable, which is due to go online January 2018, we will also honor an agreement that the former Board of Directors of ASTCA signed with Hawaiki Cable, which is scheduled to launch service in mid 2018. As you are aware, our internet service is so slow. The current American Samoa Hawaii Cable has only provided 400megabytes, and from the O3B network 145 MB, with just 1 gigabyte of capacity shared by both Samoa and American Samoa. The Tui Samoa cable will provide 10 gigabytes," Puleleiite explained.

When asked by Rep. Timusa Tini Lam Yuen whether ASTCA has enough revenues to cover the cost of both cables, Puleleiite responded said no — it is looking for another loan to cover the cost.

"ASTCA is in the process of obtaining a second loan from the American Samoa Government Employees' Retirement Fund, to assist us in funding some of the critical projects that need to be completed, and projects that ASTCA is planning in relation to undersea fiber optic infrastructure," Puleleiite said.

Although he did not reveal the loan amount, Puleleiite told the committee that ASTCA is planning to submit a loan application this month, when all the needed information is put together.

Asked about the status of the first loan obtained from the ASG Retirement Fund last year, Puleleiite said the loan has a balance of $3.2 million left on the $4.7 million loan and payments are good.

He also spoke about plans involving the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and also upgrading the mobile phone network. One of the questions that was asked during the hearing had to do with the total number of ASTCA workers who were told to retire. Rep. Sataua wanted to know if the new CEO is willing to fill these positions.

Puleleiite confirmed that 7 workers were told to retire, and there is no intention to fill these vacant positions.

Sataua also asked Puleleiite to clarify why ASTCA is not receiving any dividends from the $9 million that the government invested in the American Samoa Hawaii Cable.

While he predicts dividends will be paid, Puleleiite told the committee that a firm answer to the question should come straight from the governor.

Vailoata reminded Puleleiite the concerns from government leaders about security issues, if American Samoa connects with the Tui Samoa cable.

He said this is one of the major issues ASG is trying to secure — to make sure that all information we're going to share while using the undersea

*(Continued on page 4)*

# AS Drug Control Commission to set up hotline for anonymous tipsters

**WHEN YOU SEE IT, REPORT IT**

*by Fili Sagapolutele*
*Samoa News Correspondent*

A hotline will be set up for the public to anonymously report tips about incidents involving illegal drugs in the territory, and Human and Social Services director Taeaoafua Dr. Meki Solomona is urging students, youth, and everyone to use the service.

"When you see it, report it. Call the hotline, it is going to be anonymous," Taeaoafua told the audience yesterday at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium, during the official launch of the week-long activities for the American Samoa Drug Control Commission (ASDCC), which is setting up the hotline.

"Report it. You never know, it might be a leader in your village, it might be your pastor, it might be your best friend, it might be someone that you know," he said and urged students, including those in the audience from both public and private schools that if they don't want to report incidents to school officials, use the hotline. "Pick up the phone, report it. We will never be able to catch them, if we don't report who it is behind all of this."

He reminded all sectors of the community in attendance that everyone needs to stand together and stand strong to fight the serious drug problem — spreading fast — faced by the territory, and not to be afraid. He added that the ASDCC can make a presentation at local schools, as part of the community effort of working together.

"Not one single person can do this [alone]," he said and offered a recommendation to everyone. "Don't get on the blame game. Work together and we'll find a solution."

Taeaoafua, a member of the ASDCC, invites the community to attend tomorrow's DHSS presentation on "Prevention of Underage Drinking & Alcohol Misuse" at the Su'igaula ole Atuvasa Beach Park, which is also the venue of presentations by four other government entities that are members of ASDCC.

Today's presentation at Suigaula is "Prevent Youth Tobacco Use" by the Health Department; Thursday's theme is "Prevent Prescription & Opioid Drug Misuse" presented by LBJ Medical Center, and Friday's theme is "Prevent Illicit Drug Use & Youth Marijuana Use" — a joint presentation by Public Safety and the local Homeland Security.

In his keynote address, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga called for a united American Samoa in the fight against illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use by teenagers. He said this is not the first time the government has reached out to all sectors of the community for help, adding that the only way to find solutions is for everyone to work together.

He said the only solutions by the government is that laws are in place to deal with drug offenders, but that isn't enough — at this point — because there is a dire need for the full protection of the community, especially the children of American Samoa. Lolo recalled a familiar phrase, "It takes a whole village to raise a child", saying this is what his administration is working on, for the entire community to work together and it starts from the family level, then the village, districts, and the entire territory.

He said coalitions to prevent drug abuse have been established but it only brings in money while solid solutions must be found in order to combat illegal drugs and other social problems faced by American Samoa today.

The governor established,

*(Continued on page 7)*


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# Letter to the Editor

## OP ED: "NEUTRALLY DIVIDED"

***By Donald Nelson***

The Sun is available to all for a limited time, those times are more or less equal with very few excuses for divide. Now imagine, if companies were in charge of the sun and they could control, how many hours of light, the intensity of the light, based on ones payment. This is where the analogy gets strange, in some cases you might only be allowed certain frequencies of light, because of its popularity.

The internet is a universal service based on a set of standards, most nominally TCP/IP. On Feb 26, 2015 the FCC adopted the open internet rules; rules established to create a definition for the internet providers as common carriers ("Open Internet," n.d.). These rules outline different sections, clear Bright-Line rules, No Unreasonable Interference or Unreasonable Disadvantage to Consumers or Edge Providers, Enhanced Transparency, Scope of the Rules, and Enforcement ("Open Internet").

Bright- Line rules are pretty clear and they are as follows, No Blocking, No Throttling, No Paid Prioritization ("Open Internet").

Net Neutrality is about not allowing ISPs to be more then just rented data pipes to transport this data (Gillula, 2017). Many ISPs have abused their position by attempting to enforce data caps for particular sites, throttling, prioritization, packet manipulation, tracking users with intent to sell, to name a few (Gillula).

While internet access is protected in some ways, in no way is it a public utility that would mandate and regulate price, quality of service and benefits to access, at-least, not universally at a federal level (Crowcroft, 2007). Because the internet specifically is not a utility it naturally creates a divide by not being recognized as a fundamental service for use.

E-government Act of 2002, establishes the importance of accessibility for all on the internet, including the disabled, but not its provision to all.

It's clear that the government understands the importance of the information being made available on the platform. People without internet in their homes can not utilize it as the resource that it is. However, this lack of access may not necessarily represent a disadvantage. Just because the resource is there does not mean that it will be used to one's advantage, but to not have it available as a resource does.

Internationally Net Neutrality is a very distant idea. The open internet is not so open around the world. The great firewall of China is a great example. It is possible that new technologies will continue to evolve the way we connect and that invention is the the only thing standing in the way of current infrastructure and what the internet might become.

References:

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Open Internet. (n.d.). Retrieved March 26, 2017, from https://www.fcc.gov/general/open-internet

(Editor's Note: For American Samoa, the high cost for internet service not always delivered with consistency by either provider — there are two on island — no matter what you pay is frustrating.

Of course there is the understanding that you are paying for "up to" the speed capacity you bought, meaning it is not guaranteed. And with ASTCA now seriously entering the 'data package' delivery service — it becomes important to understand what both providers can legally sell to us; and what it cannot ask us to pay for… ra)

*FILE - In this Feb. 1, 2013, file photo, an employee of North Raleigh Guns demonstrates how a "bump" stock works at the Raleigh, N.C., shop. The gunman who unleashed hundreds of rounds of gunfire on a crowd of concertgoers in Las Vegas on Monday, Oct. 2, 2017, attached what is called a "bump-stock" to two of his weapons, in effect converting semiautomatic firearms into fully automatic one* **(AP Photo/Allen Breed, File)**

*American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) CEO, Puleleiite Tufele Li'a Jr. appeared before the House Telecommunications Committee for a hearing last week.* **[photo: AF]**

## ASTCA...

*Continued from page 2*

fiber optic cable is secure and protected. Puleleiite assured the committee that information passed between American Samoa and the United States is well secured, and added that the internet connection with undersea fiber optic cable uses 5 different layers for communication — layer 3 up to 5 are well secured, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has given approval — of these layers for ASG.

## Local ...

*Continued from page 1*

In its sixth year, the PIR is Australia's largest Pacific Fashion Show. Designers from New Zealand, Australia, and other Pacific nations will be traveling to the Land Down Under for the event, to showcase their latest designs.

Altogether, the Ioanes will be displaying 12 pieces, all custom-made and original, featuring various 'elei designs for both men and women.

According to Joe, it was the 2Samoas Fashion Week back in 2014 that offered the spring board that led to him and his wife diving into the world of fashion design.

It was indeed the break they needed. Their infamous "Original Red Dress" went viral after their close friend and local photographer Ammon Fepulea'i, owner of "Exposed Photography", snapped photographs of their designs and uploaded them online. Joe said at first, they had a slow start. But the ball started rolling and requests for special orders from here, there, and everywhere started pouring in. Not just from locals, but also from fans off island.

Women and teens are in love with the contemporary modern dresses printed with traditional Samoan motifs. The color schemes work together and the designs are unique — all the things a woman looks for in a dress. "I am so overwhelmed by everyone urging me to showcase my designs overseas," Leuila told Samoa News, adding that she's "just truly humbled by the experience and how far God has brought us. I am super excited over anything just to represent American Samoa fashion. Yes, it's happening!"

Altogether, the trip will cost the Ioanes about $9,000

The couple has set up a GoFundMe page where people can donate and "off island friends and supporters can help their girl get to the red carpet," Leuila continued. "I don't know what to expect and how this will all play out, but by faith and your support, all is possible."

Local businesswoman Ta'aloga Drabble is sponsoring part of the couple's trip, making arrangements to pay for some of the expenses, according to Joe.

Currently, the couple has been able to raise close to $3,000 on their GoFundMe page and close to $1,000 in donations from families and friends.

"I just want to thank God for the opportunity," said Joe. "We are very strong in our faith, and we believe that without Him opening doors for us, we wouldn't be able to go out there and do the work we do in the community. It also helps that we've been blessed with people who surround us with positive vibes, people who believe in us and encourage us."

Asked about his expectations of the trip, Joe said he is "intimidated" because this is something they have never done before but added, "now it's time to step out and overcome that fear."

He said although the trip is expensive, they are trying to get out there to experience what it's like.

## Gunman had 'bump-stock' device that could speed fire

The gunman who unleashed hundreds of rounds of gunfire on a crowd of concertgoers in Las Vegas had two "bump-stocks" that could have converted semi-automatic firearms into fully automatic ones, officials said. The devices have attracted scrutiny in recent years from authorities. California Sen. Dianne Feinstein has long railed against them. Several years ago, she told The Associated Press she was concerned about the emergence of new technologies that could retrofit firearms to make them fully automatic. "This replacement shoulder stock turns a semi-automatic rifle into a weapon that can fire at a rate of 400 to 800 rounds per minute," she said.

A semi-automatic weapon requires one trigger pull for each round fired. With a fully automatic firearm, one trigger pull can unleash continuous rounds until the magazine is empty. The purchasing of fully automatic weapons has been significantly restricted in the U.S. since the 1930s. In 1986, the federal National Firearms Act was amended further to prohibit the transfer or possession of machine guns by civilians, with an exception for those previously manufactured and registered. Numerous attempts to design retrofits failed until recent years when bump stocks came on the market. The device basically replaces the gun's shoulder rest, with a "support step" that covers the trigger opening. By holding the pistol grip with one hand and pushing forward on the barrel with the other, the shooter's finger comes in contact with the trigger. The recoil causes the gun to buck back and forth, "bumping" the trigger. Technically, that means the finger is pulling the trigger for each round fired, keeping the weapon a legal semi-automatic.

Las Vegas shooter Stephen Paddock had 23 guns in his hotel room. Two officials familiar with the investigation told the AP that Paddock had two bump stocks. They are investigating whether those stocks were used to modify weapons used in the massacre, according to the officials, who were briefed by law enforcement and spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still unfolding.

# Pacific Island News in Brief

*compiled by Samoa News staff*

## AMATA WELCOMES COMMERCE DEPARTMENT EFFORT TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE RED TAPE

Washington, D.C. — Monday, October 02, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata welcomed Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross's statement on the Department of Commerce's major emphasis on reducing regulations and the progress that has already been made, especially his mention of preventing unnecessary fishing restrictions.

"Fishing is important to American Samoa's economy and provides jobs, but more than that, it is a traditional way of life for many," Aumua Amata said. "I'm pleased that the Secretary of Commerce recognizes possibilities for improvements to fishing rules, and I welcome his efforts to reduce unnecessary red tape."

Congresswoman Amata attended the Commerce Department event, titled "Cut the Red Tape: Eliminating Regulation to Create Jobs and Growth".

In his remarks highlighting the hundreds of rules that have already been reduced since January, and other rules that will continue to be reviewed, the Secretary specifically mentioned the need for flexibility on some rules regarding fisheries.

"Federal rules serve a purpose and some rules will always exist, but we want policies that encourage profitable, responsible fishing and understand the long traditions in places like American Samoa," continued Congresswoman Amata. "American Samoa depends on small businesses and fishing, and both could use relief from excessive regulation."

*(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata's Office, Washington, D.C.)*

## PASSPORT DECISION FINAL, SAYS P.M.

The decision is final.

The former Head of State, His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi and the Masiofo, Her Highness Filifilia Tamasese, will not be granted an extension of their diplomatic passports.

This was confirmed by Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, who is also the Minister of Immigration. Tuilaepa rejected reports that his administration had decided to reconsider the decision. He said this is not a matter to be decided by Cabinet.

"This comes under long-standing policies put in place in accordance with the United Nation laws," he said. "Passports are important travel documents that must be utilized in a careful manner.

"What I mean is that people nowadays are using fake passports to enter countries with the intention of committing a crime," The Prime Minister said. "That is why when it comes to passports, all the details on it must be accurate, because if the details are incorrect the punishment is hefty if one is convicted,"Tuilaepa pointed out this is not the first time they have dealt with issues pertaining to diplomatic passports.

"It's not only (Tui Atua) Tupua who has sought a diplomatic passport. There were other former Ministers and Members of Parliament who had also requested for diplomatic passports.

"The passports are government property and the passport goes with your role at the time.

"However once you're no longer occupying the position, you go back to using an ordinary passport because you are again an ordinary person.

"You cannot use a diplomatic passport indicating you are the Head of State when in fact you are no longer the Head of State. If we do that, then that means we are fooling other countries."Tuilaepa's comments are in line with comments from the Head of Immigration and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Agafili Shem Leo.

As reported earlier, the C.E.O. explained that the former Head of State and his wife, who held the position for ten years, had diplomatic passports during their tenure.

Once their term was up, the diplomatic passports were no longer valid.

This, he said, has been a long-standing government

*(Continued on page 8)*

***Newly arrived Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar prepare to leave a madrasa that they used as a transit shelter in Shahparirdwip, Bangladesh, Monday, Oct. 2, 2017.***

**(AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe)**


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# 'I'm going to die': fear grips Vegas strip; gunman kills 59

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The rapid-fire popping sounded like firecrackers at first, and many in the crowd of 22,000 country music fans didn't understand what was happening when the band stopped playing and singer Jason Aldean hustled off stage.

"That's gunshots," a man could be heard saying emphatically on a cellphone video in the nearly half-minute of silence and confusion that followed. A woman pleaded with others: "Get down! Get down! Stay down!"

Then the pop-pop-pop noise resumed. And pure terror set in.

"People start screaming and yelling and we start running," said Andrew Akiyoshi, who provided the cellphone video to The Associated Press. "You could feel the panic. You could feel like the bullets were flying above us. Everybody's ducking down, running low to the ground."

While some concertgoers hit the ground Sunday night, others pushed for the crowded exits, shoving through narrow gates and climbing over fences as 40- to 50-round bursts of fire rained down on them from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay casino hotel.

By Monday afternoon, 59 victims were dead and 527 injured in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

"You just didn't know what to do," Akiyoshi said. "Your heart is racing and you're thinking, 'I'm going to die.'"

The gunman, identified as Stephen Craig Paddock, a 64-year-old retired accountant from Mesquite, Nevada, killed himself before officers stormed Room 135 in the gold-colored glass skyscraper.

The avid gambler who according to his brother made a small fortune investing in real estate had been staying there since Thursday and had busted out windows to create his sniper's perch roughly 500 yards from the concert grounds.

The motive for the attack remained a mystery, with Sheriff Joseph Lombardo saying: "I can't get into the mind of a psychopath at this point."

Paddock had 23 guns — some with scopes — in his hotel room, authorities said. They found two gun stocks that allow the shooter to replicate fully automatic fire, and are investigating whether weapons used in the massacre had those modifications, according to a U.S. official briefed by law enforcement who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still unfolding.

At Paddock's home, authorities found 19 more guns, explo-

*(Continued on page 9)*

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FROM THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT OF KS MART

*Members of the AS Drug Control Commission, selected by Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga, who attended the official launch of the ASDCC yesterday morning at the Fale Laumei. See story for details.* **[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]**

# AS Drug Control...

*Continued from page 3*

in August, the ASDCC which is tasked with specific goals, including reducing and eliminating the supply of illicit drugs; and reducing drug-related consequences, crimes, violence, and healthcare impacts.

Lolo said the ASDCC remains in affect unless it's rescinded by law or by a new administration taking office.

The governor has already declared Oct. 1- 6 as American Samoa Drug Control Launch Week under the theme, 'American Samoa Be Wise, Prevention Saves Lives'.

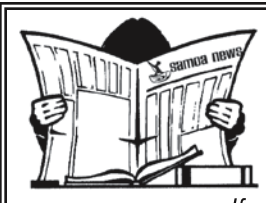
He also proclaimed October 2017 as the start of the territory's Comprehensive Drug Control Initiative, aimed to deter, prevent, and control substance and alcohol abuse which shall be administered and managed by the American Samoa Drug Control Commission with a membership comprised of religious, government and traditional leaders, businesses, community organizations, and all relevant stakeholders.

According to the governor's proclamation, the government is investing $1 million to support programs that help with interdiction, prevention, rehabilitation and restoring a productive life for those afflicted with this disease. (See last Friday's Samoa News edition for full details of the Proclamation.)

Under the now approved FY 2018 Budget's Special Programs, overseen by the Governor's Office, $1 million is allocated for the drug enforcement task force, which was established to identify and develop strategies with input from all parties involved in combating the serious drug problem on island.

These funds will finance the task force's efforts through established outreach and drug control programs, according to the project description, which also states that the efficacy of any strategy is predicted on the involvement of the community and village oversight infrastructure.

"These funds will help develop these needed linkages from all facets of our community, businesses, and the American Samoa Government," it says.



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## Pacific Island News...

*Continued from page 5*

policy.

The C.E.O. explained that diplomatic passports are made available to relevant government officials including the Head of State, Members of the Council of Deputies, Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers and the Prime Minister while they are in office.

He said there are three types of passports. These include the diplomatic passport, official passport and ordinary passport.

"There are regulations which govern the issuance of diplomatic passport that are mainly for government officials," he said.

"For example, the Head of States, Council of Deputies, Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers and the Prime Minister.

"From the beginning, it is policy that once the official no longer holds the position, the government cancels the diplomatic passport.

"The reason the passport is cancelled is that it goes together with the designation," he said. "This same practice applies to the official passports for the C.E.O. position."

"Once you are no longer the C.E.O. the official passport will also be cancelled.

"This is the normal practice; once the official title is cancelled it's likewise for the diplomatic passports.

"This however does not apply to the regular passports, once the official passport is cancelled the regular passport is still valid which he or she can use anywhere in the world."

*(Source: Samoa Observer)*

### MAN IN SAMOA TO DEFEND HIMSELF IN SEX CRIME CASE

A Samoan man, in Samoa, in his late forties will be defending himself in court today against 46 charges including rape, unlawful sexual connection and indecent assault.

The defendant was successful in applying for the government to pay a lawyer.

However, yesterday, the court accepted the defense lawyer's application to withdraw as counsel because of a dispute with the defendant.

The 2015 victims of the alleged sexual offenses were girls under 16 years of age who are the youngest sisters-in-law of the accused.

The case will be presided by three men and a two women assessors in the presence of a Supreme Court judge.

*(Source: RNZ)*

### IS THE 'NZ DREAM' LIVING UP TO PACIFIC EXPECTATIONS?

Every year, tens of thousands of Pacific people jump at the chance to get New Zealand residency under the Pacific Access Scheme, the first version of which was set up in the 1960s to recognize the special relationship between Aotearoa and the Pacific.

The lure of better wages, healthcare and education is among the many reasons people grab a form and apply.

Over the past 15 years, roughly 500,000 Pacific Islanders have made a bid for one of the 1750 places on offer annually, in the hope of new opportunities and a better life in New Zealand. But what happens when things don't work out as planned? Especially for those who have to borrow heavily from family just to get to the "land of milk and honey"?

The quota system, which is drawn by random ballot, allows up to 75 citizens of Kiribati, 75 of Tuvalu, 250 of Tonga and 250 of Fiji to become residents.

For Samoans, their allocation is the largest, at 1100 spots, and this year a record 36,000 people registered for it.

The scheme allows citizens from five Pacific nations to rely on the luck of the draw in a ballot as to whether they'll get a chance at residency here.

Mangere MP and Labour Pacific Island Affairs spokesperson Aupito William Sio, who is Samoan, says securing a suitable permanent job offer before getting here is often a big hurdle.

"When your name is drawn out, you [still] have criteria you have to meet, like health, and a key one is a job offer. Now that is problematic when the applicant is living in the islands and jobs to apply for are out here in Aotearoa New Zealand."

But there are increasing calls for more support for quota immigrants.

The Labour MP for Mangere believes more support of these clients is needed.

"When you invite people to come here to Aotearoa New Zealand and you provide them with a process where they can come here to live permanently you want them to succeed. And therefore we have an obligation to the Pacific which is separate and distinct and different to the rest of the world, we have this obligation to ensure that when they do come that they succeed and that they don't end up on the scrap heap of unemployment or looking for unaffordable homes and therefore it becomes really important that our families looking to migrate here to NZ that they are well prepared."

Morganan Morganan manages the Papatoetoe Budgeting and Family Services and says half of his clients are on the Pacific quota. He migrated to NZ from Fiji 18 years ago and says Pacific people are always shocked to find out how difficult it is to live here.

Auckland University Associate professor of Development Studies, Yvonne Te Ruki-Rangi-O-Tangaroa Underhill-Sem has done significant research on development, gender and labor mobility in the region and says more could be done "You know the people that carry those quota people are the communities who are here. They are the ones who offer accommodation, they are the ones who give the leads into jobs and support those on the quota. I think a lot more needs to be done but from where I sit in terms of the different models of having Pacific people coming into our region, the quota model is a good one but it doesn't have the scaffolding around it to make sure that you get successful citizens coming out of it and not another bunch of Pacific people who are in the low skilled low cost labour sector."

The next round of Pacific quotas will open for registrations in April 2018.

*Reed Broschart, center, hugs his girlfriend Aria James on the Las Vegas Strip in the aftermath of a mass shooting at a concert Monday, Oct. 2, 2017, in Las Vegas. The couple, both of Ventura, Calif., attended the concert.*
**(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)**

# ‘I’m going to die’:…

*Continued from page 6*

sives and thousands of rounds of ammunition. Also, several pounds of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer that can be turned into explosives such as those used in the 1995 Oklahoma bombing, were in his car, the sheriff said.

The FBI said it found nothing so far to suggest the attack was connected to international terrorism, despite a claim of responsibility from the Islamic State group, which said Paddock was a “soldier” who had recently converted to Islam.

In an address to the country, President Donald Trump called the bloodbath “an act of pure evil” and added: “In moments of tragedy and horror, America comes together as one. And it always has.” He ordered flags flown at half-staff.

With hospitals jammed with victims, authorities put out a call for blood donations and set up a hotline to report missing people and speed the identification of the dead and wounded. They also opened a “family reunification center” for people to find loved ones.

More than 12 hours after the massacre, bodies covered in white sheets were still being removed from the festival grounds.

The shooting began at 10:07 p.m., and the gunman appeared to fire unhindered for more than 10 minutes, according to radio traffic. Police frantically tried to locate him and determine whether the gunfire was coming from Mandalay Bay or the neighboring Luxor hotel.

At 10:14 p.m., an officer said on his radio that he was pinned down against a wall on Las Vegas Boulevard with 40 to 50 people.

“We can’t worry about the victims,” an officer said at 10:15 p.m. “We need to stop the shooter before we have more victims. Anybody have eyes on him ... stop the shooter.”

Near the stage, Dylan Schneider, a country singer who performed earlier in the day, huddled with others under the VIP bleachers, where he turned to his manager and asked, “Dude, what do we do?” He said he repeated the question again and again over the next five minutes.

Bodies were lying on the artificial turf installed in front of the stage, and people were screaming and crying. The sound of people running on the bleachers added to the confusion, and Schneider thought the concert was being invaded with multiple shooters.

“No one knew what to do,” Schneider said. “It’s literally running for your life and you don’t know what decision is the right one. But like I said, I knew we had to get out of there.”

He eventually pushed his way out of the crowd and found refuge in the nearby Tropicana hotel-casino, where he kicked in a door to an engineering room and spent hours there with others who followed him.

The shooting started as Aldean closed out the three-day Route 91 Harvest Festival. He had just begun the song “When She Says Baby,” and the first burst of nearly 50 shots crackled as he sang, “It’s tough just getting up.”

Muzzle flashes could be seen in the dark as the gunman fired away.

“It was the craziest stuff I’ve ever seen in my entire life,” said Kodiak Yazzie, 36. “You could hear that the noise was coming from west of us, from Mandalay Bay. You could see a flash, flash, flash, flash.”

The crowd, funneled tightly into a wide-open space, had little cover and no easy way to escape. Victims fell to the ground, while others fled in panic. Some hid behind concession stands or crawled under parked cars.

Faces were etched with shock and confusion, and people wept and screamed.

Tales of heroism and compassion emerged quickly: Couples held hands as they ran through the dirt lot. Some of the bleeding were carried out by fellow concertgoers. While dozens of ambulances took away the wounded, some people loaded victims into their cars and drove them to the hospital. People fleeing the concert grounds hitched rides with strangers, piling into cars and trucks.

Some of the injured were hit by shrapnel. Others were trampled or were injured jumping fences.

The dead included at least three off-duty police officers from various departments who were attending the concert, authorities said. Two on-duty officers were wounded, one critically, police said.

Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman said the attack was the work of a “crazed lunatic full of hate.”

The sheriff said authorities believe Paddock acted alone. While Paddock appeared to have no criminal history, his father was a bank robber who was on the FBI’s most-wanted list in the 1960s.

As for why Paddock went on the murderous rampage, his brother in Florida, Eric Paddock, told reporters: “I can’t even make something up. There’s just nothing.”

Hours after the shooting, Aldean posted on Instagram that he and his crew were safe and that the shooting was “beyond horrific.”

“It hurts my heart that this would happen to anyone who was just coming out to enjoy what should have been a fun night,” the country star said.

Before Sunday, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history took place in June 2016, when a gunman who professed support for Muslim extremist groups opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people.

A suicide bombing at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, killed 22 people in May. Almost 90 people were killed in 2015 at a concert in Paris by gunmen inspired by the Islamic State.

# IN THE COMMUNITY

*(Photos: Bea)*

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# DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA
# PUBLIC NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
# HUD-HOME PROGRAM YEAR 2016-2017

In accordance with the American Samoa Government **Citizen Participation Plan** for Community Planning and Development Programs, an estimated amount of **$573,260 in HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds** will be available at the Development Bank of American Samoa to provide long-term mortgage financing for the construction of new homes across the Territory.

*Figure 1: Home in a floor zone area*

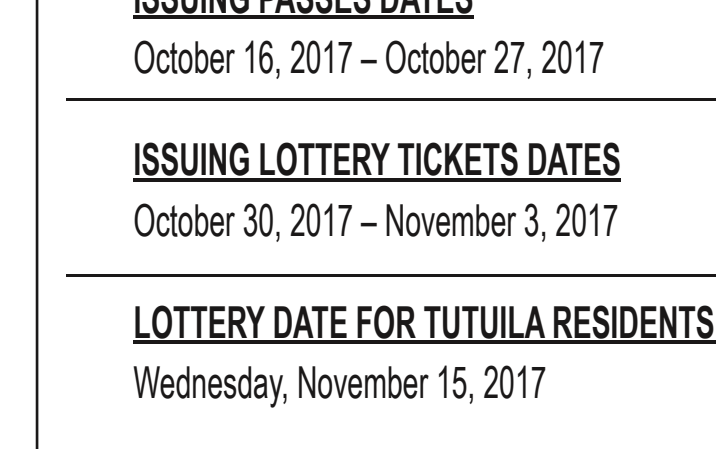

*Figure 2: Standard Home*

Those who are **eligible to apply** include **U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals and American Samoa Permanent Residents**. To qualify for an affordable, home loan, must provide a warranty deed or land lease agreement completely registered and certified by the Territorial Registrar's Office during the workshop with a valid form of identification.

**Attendance is mandatory for all who wish to apply** as it is important that all potential applicants are well aware and informed about HOME. Therefore, DBAS and DOC will conduct community workshops for all local residents throughout the Territory on the following dates and locations:

## HOME LOTTERY SCHEDULE FOR TUTUILA RESIDENTS ONLY

| WORKSHOP / LOTTERY DATES | TIME | DISTRICT | PLACE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wednesday, October 11, 2017 | 9:00 am | Western | Iliili Catholic Hall |
| Thursday, October 12, 2017 | 9:00 am | Central & Eastern | DYWA Youth Center-Pago Pago |

| ISSUING PASSES DATES | TIME | PLACE |
|---|---|---|
| October 16, 2017 – October 27, 2017 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm | DBAS Office in Pago Pago |

| ISSUING LOTTERY TICKETS DATES | TIME | PLACE |
|---|---|---|
| October 30, 2017 – November 3, 2017 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm | DBAS Office in Pago Pago |

| LOTTERY DATE FOR TUTUILA RESIDENTS | TIME | PLACE |
|---|---|---|
| Wednesday, November 15, 2017 | 9:00 am | Lee Auditorium – Main Building |

## HOME LOTTERY SCHEDULE FOR MANU'A RESIDENTS ONLY

| WORKSHOP/LOTTERY DATES | TIME | DISTRICT | PLACE |
|---|---|---|---|
| TBA | TBA | Fitiuta | TBA |
| | | Tau/Faleasao | TBA |
| TBA | TBA | Ofu | TBA |
| | | Olosega | TBA |

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# FALETUPE O ATINA'E O AMERIKA SAMOA
## POROKALAMA FAATUPU (INIVESI) FAAPAAGA MO FALENOFO
# POROKALAMA TAUSAGA 2016-2017
## FA'AALIGA O TUPE UA IAI NEI

Ua faia lenei fa'asalalauga e tusa ai ma le Fuafuaga Auai o Tagatanuu ua faavaeina e le malo o Amerika Samoa mo le Polokalama Faatupu Faapaaga mo Falenofo (HOME) o le a faatupeina i se aofa'iga e $573,260 e fa'atupe ai aitalafu fa'aumiumi mo le fausia o falefou i Amerika Samoa. O e agava'a ona talosaga mo nei nogatupe o nesionale o Amerika, sitiseni o Amerika, ma e ua iai pepa nofo mau i Amerika Samoa.

*Figure 1: Home in a floor zone area*

Mo i latou e agava'a i lenei nonogatupe mo le fausiaina o falefou i lalo ole porokalama o falenofo, e tatau ona taua'aoina mai pepa o fanua (deed/lease agreement) ua uma ona fa'amauina pe resitara i le Ofisa o Resitara a le malo.

*Figure 2: Standard Home*

E taua tele lou auai i semina o le a fa'atautaia e le Faletupe o Atina'e fa'apea le Ofisa o Fefa'atauaiga ma Alaga Manuia. O lou le auai mai, o le a le maua ai sou avanoa mo le loto ua fuafuaina mo lenei tausaga. O lea ia, fa'amolemole fa'autagia mai lenei fa'asalalauga mo aso ma nofoaga o le a fa'atautaia ai semina mo le mamalu o le atunu'u e fia auai:

### SE'I FA'ATULAGAINA MO I LATOU I TUTUILA

| ASO O LE SEMINA | TAIMI | ITUMALO | NOFOAGA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wednesday, October 11, 2017 | 9:00 am | Sisifo | Hall – Ekalesia Katoliko Iliili |
| Thursday, October 12, 2017 | 9:00 am | Fagaloa / Sasa'e | Fale o tupulaga i Pago Pago |

| ASO E TUFATUFAINA AI PEPA PASI | TAIMI | NOFOAGA |
|---|---|---|
| October 16, 2017 – October 27, 2017 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm | Ofisa DBAS i Pago Pago |

| ASO E TUFATUFAINA AI PEPA LOTO/SE'I | TAIMI | NOFOAGA |
|---|---|---|
| October 30, 2017 – November 3, 2017 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm | Ofisa DBAS i Pago Pago |

| ASO O LE LOTO/SE'I MO I LATOU I TUTUILA | TAIMI | NOFOAGA |
|---|---|---|
| Wednesday, November 15, 2017 | 9:00 am | Fale Laumei i Utulei |

### SE'I FA'ATULAGAINA MO I LATOU I MANU'A

| ASO O LE SEMINA | TAIMI | ITUMALO | NOFOAGA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Toe Fa'alauiloa atu | Toe Fa'alauiloa atu | Fitiuta | Toe Fa'alauiloa atu |
| | | Tau/Faleasao | Toe Fa'alauiloa atu |
| Toe Fa'alauiloa atu | Toe Fa'alauiloa atu | Ofu | Toe Fa'alauiloa atu |
| | | Olosega | Toe Fa'alauiloa atu |

American Samoa Government

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

# AMERICAN SAMOA DRUG CONTROL LAUNCH WEEK

*"American Samoa Be Wise, Prevention Saves Lives"*

*October 1-6th, 2017*

# PROCLAMATION

## UNVEILING OF THE TERRITORY'S DRUG, OPIODS, ALCOHOL PREVENTION, INTERDICTION, CONTROL, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY INITIATIVE

***WHEREAS,*** Drug and alcohol use in the territory of American Samoa poses a significant threat to the future of our children, our people and our territory; and

***WHEREAS,*** the percentage of students reporting to have used drugs for the first time before the age of 13 increased to 9% in 2015 from 4.7% in 1993; and

***WHEREAS,*** the percentage of students reported to have used methamphetamines (ICE) increased to 11.2% in 2015 from 5.7% in 2007; and

***WHEREAS,*** the percentage of students reported to have ever used any form of cocaine increased to 11.2% in 2015 from 3.9% in 1993; and

***WHEREAS,*** thirty-three (33) out of every hundred (100) students reported that they were offered, sold, or given drugs on school property; and

***WHEREAS,*** Many of our children and our people are risking their health and future because of drug and alcohol use; and

***WHEREAS,*** the effects of drug and alcohol use are reflected in the increasing reports of drug and alcohol related crimes and the upsurge of other social ills; and

***WHEREAS,*** less obvious and yet pervasive are the personal tragedies which destroy a person, family or community and which may cause the loss of a job, disruption of schooling and the loss of our territory's productive capacity; and

***WHEREAS,*** every day there are positive examples proving that recovery from alcohol and substance use disorders is possible; and

***WHEREAS,*** simultaneously many are struggling with and are vulnerable to the disease of alcohol and drug addition; and

***WHEREAS,*** when these effected and powerless individuals who are family members, friends, neighbors are unable to get help our families, our villages, our churches, our government and our territory are not as strong as they can be; and

***WHEREAS,*** the burden is on all of us to help our loved ones seek life-saving services when needed and steer and encourage them to access services to move them toward recovery; and

***WHEREAS,*** Drug use and substance disorder is a disease of the brain and the many misconceptions surrounding this illness create harmful stigmas that discourage individuals from seeking the treatment they need; and

***WHEREAS,*** by treating drug and substance use disorders as seriously as other medical disorders, with an emphasis on prevention and treatment, people can recover; and

***WHEREAS,*** family support is vital in our fight to deter the spread of this crippling disease and is a significant element in the pathway to recovery; and

***WHEREAS,*** this disease can touch any individual indiscriminate of age, gender, religion, social standing, economic or financial status, or nationality thus necessitating that a priority be placed on the development of effective strategies to combat its propagation; and

***WHEREAS,*** we are promoting evidence-based health and safety initiatives that aim to prevent drug use, increase opportunities for early intervention and integrated treatment in health care, and support recovery; and

***WHEREAS,*** in response to the growing opioid overdose epidemic, we must identify and highlight tools that can help reduce drug use and overdose, such as evidence-based prevention programs, prescription drug take back events, medication-assisted treatment for people with opioid use disorders, and the overdose reversal drug naloxone; and

***WHEREAS,*** we have demonstrated our commitment and our resolve by investing one million dollars ($1 million) to support programs that help with interdiction, prevention, rehabilitation and restoring productive life for those afflicted with this disease; and

***WHEREAS,*** substance abuse disrupts our families, schools, and communities and limits the success of young people across our territory along with destruction of relationships and stands in the way of academic achievement; and

***WHEREAS,*** every day, hundreds of young people try drugs or alcohol for the first time, and for many, this decision will have a profound impact on their health and well-being; and

***WHEREAS,*** preventing substance use before it begins is the most effective way to eliminate the damage caused by drugs and the abuse of alcohol; and

***WHEREAS,*** substance use impacts everyone, and each of us can play a part in helping the next generation make choices that support physical, mental, behavioral, and emotional health; and

***WHEREAS,*** parents, mentors, and community members can model a healthy lifestyle and should talk with kids early and often about the dangers of drug and alcohol use as an integral element of our territorial drug control strategy.

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOLO MATALASI MOLIGA,*** Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as the start of the **Territory's Comprehensive Drug Control Initiative** aimed to deter, prevent, and control substance and alcohol abuse which shall be administered and managed by the American Samoa Drug Control Commission with a membership comprised of Religious Leaders Government Leaders, Traditional Leaders, Business, Community Organizations and all relevant stakeholders.

I call upon all residents of American Samoa to engage in appropriate programs and activities orchestrated by the American Samoa Drug Control Commission to promote comprehensive substance abuse prevention efforts within our community.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,*** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, fully recognizing and taking combative action against the disease that can touch any individual in any community and robs our children of their future and severely weakens the capacity of our Territory.

Lolo M. Moliga

**LOLO M. MOLIGA**

*Governor of American Samoa*