

BOH donates \$10K to
sHope House

Page 3

Schools supplies pizzas
galore for Summer Youth

In Sports

Fa'amanino i fanau aoga le va
feagai faigamalo a AS ma le
Malo Tele

Le Lali



Interns from the Summer Youth Employment Program are getting hands-on experience working with the first responders at the Fagatogo Fire Station. Yesterday morning, the trainees got the chance to spray the high pressure hose used to extinguish fires.
[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



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FRIDAY, JULY 28 , 2017

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As promised — repealing taxes, reforming taxes towards mo' taxes

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The Lolo Administration, as promised, has proposed to change the way the excise tax is imposed on imported beer, heavy equipment and secondhand goods, while imposing a new import tax on non-carbonated sugary drinks — which the government claims is a “health hazard” to local residents.

The proposed amendments were introduced last Friday in both the Senate and House, but won't be taken up in committee until lawmakers reconvene Aug. 21st following their current 4-week midsession recess.

In his cover letter, which included language of the proposed bill to Fono leaders, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga first points out that local excise tax laws have been unchanged for many years

(Continued on page 5)

New hospital on LBJ's 'wish list' has no “official” price tag, Congress told

\$200M: THAT'S THE UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATE THAT ASG CAME UP WITH ON ITS OWN

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

American Samoa's ballpark figure of \$200 million for a new hospital, with a request to be funded by the federal government, has no supporting documents, but it's an “unofficial” amount for the proposed facility on ASG's “wish list”, according to testimony by American Samoa Medicaid Agency director Sandra King-Young, in response to questions at this week's Congressional panel hearing.

King-Young along with LBJ Medical Center chief executive officer Taufete'e John Faumuina and US Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) director of budget, Thomas Busanich were witnesses invited to testify before the US House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs this past Tuesday, assessing the current conditions and challenges at LBJ.

Building a new hospital has been mentioned several times by the Lolo Administration in the last two years and early this year, ASG made

known its clear intention of looking to the federal government for money to fund a new hospital.

In his official written statement to the subcommittee Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga pointed out that the hospital's deteriorating condition continues to become more expensive and necessary repairs for health and safety are done as best as possible with limited resources.

He said the best option for the territory to ensure immediate compliance with federal laws is to construct a new hospital located in a tsunami-free zone. He explained that during the 2009 tsunami, the hospital sustained significant damage and it needs to be relocated to higher ground.

“To continue to repair a deteriorating facility that is nearly 50 years old is not a good long-term investment in financial resources,” said Lolo, but didn't provide an estimated cost of the new hospital.

As part of his verbal testimony, as well as his official written statement, Taufete'e told the sub-

(Continued on page 12)



(L-R) Hope House board chairman Ta'afano Joe Tavale; BOH executive Jon Murakami; BOH executive EJ Tyler Ozu; Monsignor Viane Etuale, Vicar General of the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago; BOH executive Hobbs Lowson; and Hope House board member Larry Sanitoa, chairman of the Hope House 30th Anniversary Committee - pictured yesterday before BOH executives made its annual \$10,000 donation to Hope House.
[photo: FS]



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Meat import substitution a go, says Samoa's Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries

CHICKEN SHORTAGE HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR MEAT IMPORT SUBSTITUTION STRATEGY, HE SAYS

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — July 27, 2017 — With 70% of beef currently being imported into Samoa, there is a huge opportunity for local farmers to enter the market as commercial sellers, according to Samoa's Minister of Agriculture, Laaulilalemalietao Leuatea Polataivao Fosi. And with the recent and unexpected shortage of imported chicken on commercial shelves, which may have lasted less than a week, the MAF Minister, who is also in

charge of livestock, remains firm on the government's conviction to start a meat import substitution strategy. With that in mind, since July 2012, the World Bank and the Samoan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have been working with these farmers through the Samoa Agriculture Competitiveness Enhancement Project (SACEP). Its goal is to support livestock producers and fruit and vegetable growers to improve their productivity and take greater advantage of market opportunities.

Samoa imports 40 containers of meat every month at a staggering cost and as an import substitution, the Livestock Division under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture is reviewing chicken farming, says the Agriculture Minister.

Soon to be opened are chicken and poultry farms at the Livestock Division's home at Vailima. The project is in line with the government framework striving for less reliance on imported meat, and to encourage families to take up chicken farming as an import substitution.

Already the Division has procured three incubators to technically hatch broiler chickens for consumption and layer chickens to mass produce eggs.

And 200 imported chicken broilers are also on island.

"With the incubators, we have the capacity to supply broilers and laying chickens to not only commercial farms but also families who may be interested" to start "a small chicken farm for their own food security," said Laaulilalemalietao.

The project's longer-term aim is to support farmers to increase production and improve processing to meet domestic needs.

"We're thinking big and starting small with our meat import substitution," said the Minister. "The ultimate target is for local livestock farmers to meet 50% of our meat import needs."

Aside from poultry and pig-gery industries, cattle farming is also a major component of SACEP.

The chicken and piggery farms at the Livestock Division Vailima will be dedicated and commissioned in the near future.

BACKGROUND AMERICAN SAMOA FOOD SECURITY

In October 2012, Samoa News reported that because American Samoa depends on imported food, a comprehensive assessment report for the territory cites food security as a vulnerability, which the federal and local governments are called upon to address.

Ensuring food security for American Samoa has been on the forefront of ASG efforts for

at least the past four years as local farmers and families have been urged to return to the land and sea in order to be self sufficient instead of depending on imported foods, which will also cut down on costs of food items.

Titled 'Addressing the Threat of Long-Term Energy Supply Disruption: a Strategic Energy Assurance Plan for American Samoa', the two-year comprehensive assessment report was carried out by Arizona-based Westmoreland Associates.

The report points out that American Samoa is heavily import dependent, including food imports. Additionally, any threat to the continuance of an economy based on frequent resupply of food and provisions, including fuel, leaves the social and economic infrastructure of the territory less able to sustain an energy supply disruption.

Under Food Security, the report quotes one source, who "estimates that there is roughly a 20-day supply of food in American Samoa homes, stores, and warehouses at any given time."

In the comprehensive assessment report, it states that while the land and sea provide food to the American Samoan people, food imports represent the dominant source of food bought and consumed on a daily basis in the territory.

"Loss of energy supplies for more than a few hours, in the absence of back-up generators, causes the spoilage of fresh and frozen stores of food and could quickly result in spot food shortage," it says.

In addition, the inability of cargo ships or planes — especially those carrying perishable foods — to take on adequate fuel once in American Samoa could also cause an interruption in their re-supply visits.

"This represents an additional vulnerability should energy supply disruptions last beyond a few days," the report pointed out.

Food security and the availability of locally grown produce was part of the focus of the July 2012 Farm Fair hosted by the Department of Agriculture with support from the local business community including the Chamber of Commerce and the American Samoa Power Authority.

Then-Agriculture Department director Lealao Soloata Melila Purcell Jr., told Samoa News at the time that "we need to look at the food security that we have from the local farmers" and what is available in agricultural produce grown locally.

Additionally, the department is also trying to find out from farmers what they are not growing locally and the government can work on adding other produce for them to grow for local consumption.

A target of the government in 2012 was to work closely with

(Continued on page 5)

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Four of the elderly residents (front row) of Hope House, along with two Hope House board members, Bank of Hawaii senior executives, Hope House staff and Monsignor Viane Etuale (third from left) after BoH executives presented its annual \$10,000 donation to Hope House during a brief ceremony yesterday morning.

[photo: FS]

BOH donates \$10K to Hope House

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ALREADY BEING PLANNED

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Preparations are underway to mark the 30th anniversary of Hope House, which accepted its first elderly resident three decades ago and is the only facility of its kind in American Samoa providing 24-7 care for elderly patients, the terminally ill, and children with severe disabilities.

Hope House has again reached out to the business community, which has for many years offered monetary contributions to fund, among other things, operations of the facility, as well as upgrades and repairs.

Yesterday morning during a brief ceremony at the Hope House compound, Bank of Hawaii senior executives - including two from Honolulu who arrived Wednesday night — made their annual contribution of \$10,000 that was accepted by Monsignor Viane Etuale, Vicar General of the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago on behalf of Bishop Peter Brown, leader of the Catholic Church in American Samoa.

Hope House board member, Larry Sanitoa, who is also the chairman of the 30th Anniversary Committee said, BoH is again making their “generous annual donation in support of Hope House, the only home care facility.”

The Honolulu-based financial institution “for the past 14 years, generously donated over \$140,000 to support the difficult work of the management and staff that operate and maintain Hope House,” he said.

He added that this year Hope House will celebrate its 30th anniversary since the Nazareth House/Hope House was dedicated in 1987 and the Hope House board has started organizing the annual Hope House Golf Tournament fundraising

event, set for Sept. 30.

“This annual fundraising event helps raise the needed funds to maintain Hope House,” he said, adding that the 30th anniversary celebration will include a Diocesan Mass on Sept. 24 in addition to a week full of activities.

Speaking on behalf of BoH was Hobbs Lowson, vice president of the West Hawaii-Kona Market. He was accompanied to the ceremony by Jon Murakami, vice president and Branch and Community Banking Division Manager; and vice president of BoH American Samoa, EJ Tyler Ozu.

Lowson, who previously headed the local BoH operation, noted that this is Murakami’s first visit to the territory and “he is very impressed with what he sees here at Hope House.” Lowson acknowledged the Hope House staff for their contribution to the management of the facility.

“There truly is no better cause than the cause served here, taking care of American Samoa’s elderly, terminally ill, and the disabled. We are very proud of our 14-year history of support for this program,” he said, before officially announcing the \$10,000 donation.

Monsignor Viane Etuale pointed out that in the last 14 years, BoH “has repeatedly and faithfully [made] financial contributions to Hope House. You have demonstrated your deep commitment to our work at Hope House, providing the services necessary for our residents. There is no full way to express our gratitude for your loyalty.”

Bishop Brown, the Hope House board, and the administration, as well as the whole Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago “are continually inspired by the dedication and generosity

of donors like yourself, who answer the call and give again and again.”

“Your gift has already been used to pay for such things as utilities, food and supplies to name, but a few, for our patients. And you make it possible for our patients living here to lead happier and comfortable lives.

“Our staff includes social workers, nurses and doctors who volunteer their time to make sure at-risk seniors retire with dignity and grace,” he said and noted that Hope House is more than a nursing home. “We’re a place for seniors and those who are disabled to come to build a real life. You are an important part of the community that they built here.”

In closing he again expressed appreciation to BoH “for your compassion and support. We hope that you continue to partner with us in our commitment to provide care for our residents.”

Several residents of Hope House along with the management team of Beatrice Block were present during the ceremony. The facility has about 30 staff providing 24/7 care service. In addition, there are 16 teachers and staff working for the Hope House Day Care Center.

In his letter to the business community and friends, Bishop Peter Brown expressed his gratitude for the tremendous support to Hope House over the years, adding that “your ongoing contributions and donations has enabled Hope House to renovate and repair many infrastructure challenges and issues faced these past years”.

“In the midst of the local economic uncertainty and possible budget cuts from the federal government, we are seeking and depending on the good will and generous contributions from our

(Continued on page 6)

LAND COMMISSION

NOTICE is hereby given that SATELE GALU SATELE of VAILOA, American Samoa, has executed a LEASE AGREEMENT to a certain parcel of land commonly known as ASOTAU which is situated in the village of VAILOA, in the County of TUALATAI, WESTERN District, Island of Tutuila, American Samoa. Said LEASE AGREEMENT is now on file with the Territorial Registrar to be forwarded to the Governor respecting his approval or disapproval thereof according to the laws of American Samoa. Said instrument names SATELE GALU SATELE as LESSEE.

Any person who wish, may file his objection in writing with the Secretary of the Land Commission before the 19TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2017. It should be noted that any objection must clearly state the grounds therefor.

POSTED: JULY 21, 2017 thru SEPTEMBER 19, 2017
SIGNED: Taito S.B. White, Territorial Registrar

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One of the activities in this year's Summer Cultural Maintenance Program involves storytelling which introduces the participants to legends and tales about the Samoan Islands.

[photo: Mark Espiritu]

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

by Samoa News Staff

AHEC SUMMER PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

The American Samoa Area Health Education Center (AHEC) summer program is in full swing and the participants have been engaged in various activities. Yesterday, the group made their first of three planned visits to the LBJ Medical Center in Fagaalu for orientation, after which they will begin shadowing health professionals.

Program coordinator Monica Afalava told Samoa News yesterday that the two-week event, called the 2017 Summer Health Academy, is free of charge and targets 16-18 year olds.

“Our mission statement is ‘Improving the health of our community through education and health workforce development’ because we believe that American Samoa is capable of ‘Growing Our Own Healers’,” Afalava explained.

ACCORDING TO HER, THE ACADEMY WAS DESIGNED TO:

1. Expose students to various health professions available in American Samoa;
2. Educate them about how to lead healthy lifestyles;
3. Introduce them to services that government agencies and departments provide to protect

and enhance our health; and

4. Provide training to gain leadership and clinical skills

The American Samoa AHEC program is under the umbrella of the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) and will be ongoing daily from 9 a.m. - 3p.m. until next Friday, August 4th. “The academy was designed to expose students to various careers in the health field, while also educating them about how to lead healthy lifestyles, in hopes that they would be interested in pursuing a career in the health field,” said Afalava. The program is sponsored by the Department of Youth and Women’s Affairs and GHC Reid & Company, Ltd. Partners include the AS-EPA, ASPA, ASCC Land Grant, ASCC Nursing program, DHSS, DOH, DOA’s Veterinary Clinic, LBJ Medical Center, OPAD, Voc Rehab, Veterans Affairs’ community based outpatient clinic, Aj Bok Dalmacio, Cassandra Bess Lund, Erica Afalava-Magalei, Florence Wasko, Ioane Vaimaona, Peteru Lam Yuen, and Toefuataina Taai.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY LEADERS WORKING WITH CONSULS ON PASSPORT EXPIRATIONS

Because of the many opportunities available for them in

the territory, more and more Filipinos are choosing to settle down in American Samoa.

For many of them, this means they are limited in the number of times they can travel home to visit family members and friends. One key reason is the expiration of their passports.

In response, the local Filipino community leaders are working with the consul from off island to assist with this issue.

The consul’s representatives are set to arrive in mid-August and will conduct passport renewals August 26-28.

The outreach is for any Filipino residing in American Samoa with an expired passport and in need of a renewal. This is also a great opportunity for Filipinos to ask any questions they might have regarding immigration issues. According to group president Ray Sello, the program will be conducted on a “first come, first served” basis, to keep everything structured and organized. It will be held at the old warehouse in Tafuna across from Napa.

New officers and board members for the local Filipino community were recently elected and next month’s consul visit is one of many programs they hope to offer, for their people.

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Director of the ASG Office on Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Regulations, Tapaau Dr. Daniel Aga discussing the relationship between American Samoa and the United States yesterday morning during a presentation to participants of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) inside the DHR conference room.

[photo: Ausage Fausia]



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Registraton for all Catholic Schools are open and new school year starts Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.

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Hope House residents and staff applauding after Bank of Hawaii executives made its annual \$10,000 presentation during a brief ceremony at the Hope House facility yesterday morning.

[photo: FS]

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- Maintain a calendar to ensure timely submission of letters of inquiry, proposal deadlines and reports.
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- Develop and monitor budget for grants and funded programs.
- Prepare quarterly and annual reports and submit to the President and Board of Directors summarizing the evaluation of all grants and funded programs.
- Organize training programs for DBAS staff prior to implementation of new grant or funded programs.
- Liaison with agencies or departments of ASG to implement and administer "pass through" funding programs.
- Maintain a database of various funding agencies and grant programs for the bank.
- Assume any other duties as assigned by the President.

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Ability to maintain confidentiality.

Please submit your Resume & Application to the Development Bank of American Samoa located in Pago Pago - 2nd floor. This job posting will expire Thursday – August 3, 2017.

► **BOH donates \$10K...**

Continued from page 3

business partners and friends,” he said and shared that this year marks the 30th anniversary of Hope House.

Nazareth House/Hope House was dedicated in January 1987, when the facility was first started by the Sisters of Nazareth who accepted the invitation of the late Cardinal Pio Taofinu’u to open a home for the elderly on the grounds at the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago, according to a Fact Sheet provided to reporters yesterday by the Hope House board.

The Sisters came to American Samoa on June 22, 1984 and funded the construction of Nazareth House and the first elderly resident was received on March 1, 1987.

In response to requests from local residents, the Montessori pre-school was opened next to Hope House on April 10, 1987.

A subsequent request was made for the Sisters to provide respite care for children with severe disabilities.

The first child was received on August 12, 1987.

The Sisters of Nazareth worked tirelessly for some twenty-five years to materialize Cardinal PioTaofinu’u’s vision for a home-care facility for the infirm, disabled, and elderly without regard for the denomination in faiths.

The Sisters of Nazareth left American Samoa in early 2009.

Hope House’s current operations can be broken down into three components; Care for the Elderly, Care for the Children with severe disabilities, and Day Care Center for Children. The Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago, under the guidance Bishop Brown, oversees the operation of all three components.



Hundreds of workers participating in this year’s Summer Youth Employment Program gathered at the EOB Tuesday afternoon to pick up their first paychecks. The last day for the SYEP workers is next Friday, August 4th.

[photo: Sabrina Sinapati]

Taufetee tells congressional panel of challenges faced by LBJ

by Sabrina Amosa
Special to Samoa News

During his testimony before the members of the Subcommittee of Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs this week, LBJ Medical Center CEO Taufete'e John Faumuina focused on areas of challenges or needs at the local hospital.

They are: Compliance with CMS standards; inadequate staffing and workforce development; healthcare facilities; and financial condition.

Taufetee first provided a brief history of the LBJ, telling the congressional panel that the hospital was erected in 1968 and opened its doors to provide comprehensive high quality and low cost effective health care and related services that address the health needs of the people.

However, he added, in order to keep the LBJ open, there is a need to retain medicare certification through CMS. "We must comply with conditions of participation," the CEO said.

With regards to "Compliance with CMS standards" Taufetee said LBJ needs to adopt a suitable budget to address all non-compliance issues pertaining to medical staffing, nursing staffing, and supporting services across the board, to meet the standard of care.

He said the need to comply comes with substantial financial commitment and involves offering better compensation; recruiting qualified doctors, nurses, certified technicians and supporting staff; having an appropriate budget to properly provide maintenance for the facility and schedule preventive maintenance and repairs for all equipment.

On the issue of inadequate staffing and workforce development, Taufetee told the Subcommittee members that with 150 beds at the LBJ Medical Center, 95 physicians are required but currently, there are only 57.

Additionally, the 73 registered nurses at LBJ

don't fulfill the requirement of 110, and LBJ is also required to have 11 pharmacists but there are only 3 on staff.

He told the congressional panel that the LBJ must contract off island services to read the diagnosis for the radiology department.

For healthcare facilities, Taufetee said that presently, 41 percent of the facility has been renovated to meet CMS standards, but upon completion of the labor and delivery, nursery, and other expansion and renovation projects, the facility will be 65% renovated.

The CEO urged the Subcommittee members to consider the plea to fund a new hospital to meet the need for quality care in American Samoa. (See story for full details of new hospital discussion during the Congressional committee meeting).

On the issue of financial condition, Taufetee said the annual budget appropriation is quite inadequate and there is a need to increase federal appropriations, explore other revenue sources, lift the cap on Medicaid, restructure the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) so it is favorable for American Samoa, and extend the expiration of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) funds beyond 2019.

The oversight hearing on "Assessing Current Conditions and Challenges at LBJ in American Samoa" took place in the nation's capital this past Tuesday.

Witnesses included Thomas Bussanich Director of the Budget Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior; Taufete'e John Faumuina CEO of Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center; and Sandra King-Young, Medicaid Director for the American Samoa Medicaid Agency.

Two other local witnesses who were invited

(Continued on page 11)



Three of the six interns currently getting on-the-job training at the Fire Station in Fagatogo, getting instructions from a local firefighter on how to properly fold and store the hose used to extinguish fires.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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[Photo: Barry Markowitz, 7/26/17]

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Cool Stuff: “The Egg” Drone

by Barry Markowitz

Powervision unveiled the “Egg” last year at InterDrone 2016.

The "Egg" is a uniquely remarkable drone design concept that none of us has yet spotted in the South Pacific.

The Egg has an effective video transmitting range of 3.1 miles using a 2.4 ghz transmitting frequency.

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Of course, in Samoa, we would have called it "The Football" or the "Gilbert" (rugby ball).

An upcoming Cool Stuff will feature Powervision's Explorer underwater drone, an exciting new technology that will be highly embraced in our Pacific Islands.

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Pacific Island News in Brief

AUMUA ANNOUNCES U.S. DOT GRANTS WORTH \$500,000

Washington, D.C. — Thursday, July 27, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata is pleased to announce that the Department of Transportation has awarded Pago Pago International Airport \$500,000.

“I’m glad that U.S. DOT has seen the need for improvements for the airport. I will continue my efforts in Congress to ensure that American Samoa’s transportation infrastructure is brought into the 21st Century,” Amata said. Specifically this grant will be used for infrastructure around Pago Pago International Airport. “I want to thank Secretary Elaine Chao and her team at U.S. DOT for awarding these funds. I also want to thank American Samoa Director of Transportation Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele and her staff for obtaining this funding for our beautiful home,” concluded Amata. [Source: Congresswoman Amata Office, Washington DC]

SAMOA REVEALS ICT PLANS

Government has assured the high level participants attending the Commonwealth Broadband Pacific Forum in Apia this

week of its genuine intention to improve broadband connectivity nationally and globally.

In her opening address, Acting Prime Minister Fiaame Naomi Mataafa reassured the gathering that included Shola Taylor, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecoms Organization, the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of the South Pacific and Chair of the Council of Regional Pacific, (CROP) Professor Rajesh Chandra of Samoa’s genuine intentions. “The Samoan Government truly believes in improving broadband connectivity, nationally and globally to help drive social and economic development,” said the Deputy Prime Minister. “At this time the new “Tui-Samoa Submarine Cable” is being constructed and will connect Apia, Tuasivi in Savaii, to Fiji and onward to United States of America via the Southern Cross Cable Network that runs from Australia and New Zealand to the USA. Wallis and Futuna, a French territory, as well as Vanua Levu in Fiji will also get branching units off the Tui-Samoa cable.” Fiaame also touched on the Samoa Submarine Cable Company (SSCC), a public private agency, which

is managing the project and will operate it when completed at the end of the year. Elaborated the Acting Prime Minister, “SSCC are also very much involved in a few more cable projects in the pipeline including the new Manatua cable from Tahiti to Samoa with branching units to Cook Islands and Niue. “SSCC have signed an MOU with the Southern Cross Project NEXT for a connection to Samoa, on their new cable from Australia New Zealand to the USA. “Discussions and exchange of information is well in progress for a new cable from Samoa to Tokelau and Tuvalu. “An offer has been made to the Government of American Samoa for connection to Tui Samoa cable, and we await their response.” “With Samoa’s plans for building a Data center, an Innovation center and a National Cyber security center at the same location of the Cable Landing station, neighboring island countries have been encourages to connect to Samoa and make use of the facilities.” Government’s mission is for Samoa to become the Pacific Hub for Information Telecommunication Technology by the year 2020.

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



Two participants of the Summer Youth Employment Program smiling after they received their first paychecks which were disbursed Tuesday afternoon inside the EOB atrium.

[photo: Sabrina Sinapati]

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.045.WTR
Issuance Date: July 18, 2017

Closing Date & Time:
August 17, 2017 at 2:00 pm AS Time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for the:

“Upper Amouli Tank Replacement Project”

Submission

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) invites you to submit a proposal for the provision and construction of a 320,000 gallon replacement tank at Upper Amouli in American Samoa. This project is part of ASPA's effort to improve its service to the people of American Samoa. This project is fully funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The selected Offeror must provide a proposal that specifically and completely addresses a plan for the completion of the tasks which are detailed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Packet Attachment B, The Scope of Work (SOW).

A complete RFP package may be picked up from the ASPA Procurement Office located at the Tafuna ASPA compound. You may also view this RFP online at ASPA's website, www.aspower.com. For more information about this RFP, please contact the following person(s):

Ioana S. Uli
ASPA Procurement Manager
ASPA Procurement Office
PH: 684-248-1234
bids@aspower.com

The American Samoa Power Authority reserves the right to:

1. Reject all proposals and **reissue a new or amended RFP**;
2. Request additional information from any Offeror
3. Select a firm for award based on other qualifications than “least cost” (e.g. capability to complete work in a timely fashion or proven technical capabilities);
4. Negotiate a contract with the Offeror that is selected for award;
5. Waive any non-material violations of rules set up in this RFP at its sole discretion.

Approved for Issuance:

Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.043.WW
Issuance Date: July 21, 2017

Closing Date & Time:
August 7, 2017 at 2:00 pm AS Time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for:

“The East Side Village (ESV) Wastewater Collection System Project, Package 5 – Phase I (Rebid)”

Submission

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) invites you to submit a proposal to provide professional services for the East Side Village Wastewater Collection System Project, Package 5 – Phase I (Rebid), within municipal collection systems of American Samoa. This project is part of ASPA's East Side Village Program funded through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The selected Offeror must provide a proposal that specifically and completely addresses a plan for the completion of the tasks which are detailed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Packet Attachment B, The Scope of Work (SOW).

A complete RFP package may be picked up from the ASPA Procurement Office located at the Tafuna ASPA compound. You may also view this RFP online at ASPA's website, www.aspower.com

For more information about this RFP, you may contact:

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3. Select a firm for award based on other qualifications than “least cost” (e.g. capability to complete work in a timely fashion or proven technical capabilities);
4. Negotiate a contract with the Offeror that is selected for award;
5. Waive any non-material violations of rules set up in this RFP at its sole discretion.

Approved for Issuance: Utu Abe Malae, Executive Director



This undated photo shows Montana Mike's Steakhouse in Clinton, Okla. Walter and Carolyn Schumacher, a married couple who own a Holiday Inn Express, the steakhouse and a waterpark are the subjects of a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups over their treatment of foreign workers.
(Robert S. Bryan/The Clinton Daily News via AP)

Lawsuit: Trafficking scheme lured Filipinos to Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Owners of an Oklahoma hotel and other businesses engaged in a human trafficking scheme that lured workers from the Philippines promising good wages but instead paid them less than the minimum wage, according to a lawsuit.

Three Filipino workers brought to Clinton, Oklahoma, about 80 miles (128 kilometers) west of Oklahoma City, paid thousands of dollars in recruiting fees to cover visa-related costs that should be incurred by sponsoring U.S. employers, according to the complaint filed Wednesday in federal court. The lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups, says the immigrants were threatened with physical harm when they complained that their compensation didn't meet contractual obligations. It also seeks class-action status.

Walter and Carolyn Schumacher, who are married and own a Holiday Inn Express, a steakhouse and a waterpark in Clinton, deny the allegations, their attorney said Thursday. “Mr. and Mrs. Schumacher are heartsick about these allegations,” Kevin Donelson said.

He said he believes the allegations will be proven false once the case is resolved.

An FBI spokeswoman and an Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman said they were not aware of the case, but would not be able to comment on whether an investigation is underway. A U.S. Department of Labor spokesman said he was not aware of an investigation into the case.

Donelson said neither he nor the Schumachers have been contacted by any federal agency or prosecutor about an investigation.

Nonprofit law firm the Equal Justice Center and employee rights group Legal Aid at Work joined the ACLU of Oklahoma in filing the lawsuit. It seeks an

unspecified amount in punitive and compensatory damages for the workers because it alleges they were paid less than their contract allows and less than the federal minimum wage.

The lawsuit contends that from 2008-14, the Schumachers' companies applied to the federal Department of Labor to employ more than 100 foreign workers.

It alleges that workers recruited for housekeeping jobs at the hotel were paid \$4.25 per room cleaned. Servers at the steakhouse made \$2 per hour plus tips, and housekeepers and servers at the waterpark made \$1 to \$2 per hour less than promised. Low pay and short workweeks meant the immigrants couldn't repay debts they incurred just to get to the U.S., the lawsuit says.

One plaintiff worked at the hotel, one at both the hotel and the steakhouse, and one at the waterpark, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit says Walter Schumacher intimidated employees by saying he was carrying a gun when he picked them up from the airport. The filing also claims that although the Schumachers promised they would pay for roundtrip airfare to and from the Philippines, Walter Schumacher said the only way he would send anyone back was “in a box.”

Donelson said the Schumachers deny “the substance of the allegations and what took place.” Brady Henderson, an ACLU lawyer, said the public often thinks of human trafficking in the form of sex work.

“It has a lot more elements of indentured servitude or slavery than they realize,” Henderson said. “Most people probably don't realize how prevalent it is, potentially in their own communities.”

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in June there are 20 million victims of human trafficking around the world.

California Supreme Court ruling bolsters bullet train foes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — U.S. law does not allow state-owned rail projects to completely bypass California's strict environmental regulations, the state Supreme Court said Thursday in a decision that ensures further legal complications for the planned \$64 billion bullet train between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The high court overturned a lower court ruling and gave renewed hope to those who have used the California Environmental Quality Act to challenge the high-speed rail project championed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

"It basically says that California has a right to control its own railroads and decide whether they should be required to consider carefully the environmental impacts of their projects," said Stuart Flashman, who represents several San Francisco Bay Area cities in a lawsuit that claims the bullet train project violates state environmental law.

Richard Frank, an environmental law expert at the University of California, Davis School of Law, said the ruling, however, was not a "sweeping or unqualified victory" for those who have challenged the high-speed rail project. That's because the court also said in some cases, U.S. law will trump the state's statute.

"The standard that the California Supreme Court sets here is a fact-based one," he said. "In some circumstances, there will be federal pre-emption but not on a blanket basis."

The case pitted the state's High-Speed Rail Authority against Central Valley farmers concerned about the bullet train's effect on agricultural land.

In a 6-1 ruling, the state Supreme Court said a lower court interpreted federal law too broadly when it said the U.S. trumped state environmental review for projects involving railroad operations.

The ruling came in a lawsuit that challenged plans to introduce freight trains on a Northern California rail line. The suit was not directly connected to the high-speed rail project.

but farmers and the rail authority said in legal briefs before the ruling that the decision could apply to it.

"Our legal team is still evaluating today's ruling to determine what, if any, impacts it would have on the high-speed rail project," said Lisa Marie Alley, a spokeswoman for the High-Speed Rail Authority.

Alley said the agency has been conducting both federal and state environmental reviews and plans to keep doing so.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye said it was highly unlikely that Congress intended to leave the state "without any means of establishing the basic principles under which it will undertake significant capital expenditures" on a rail project.

The ambitious high-speed rail project has faced numerous lawsuits alleging violations of the state environmental law.

Those could have disappeared if the California justices had ruled the other way.

The rail authority also could have been freed from a host of regulatory and procedural requirements that might slow construction of the line.

The push to avoid the state environmental law may seem ironic for a signature project of Brown, who has positioned himself as a leader on environmental issues.

But the rail authority said to be successful, it must be subject to the same regulations as other railroads. A finding that federal law trumps the state's environmental act would further its "ability to achieve the transportation, environmental, and economic benefits the high-speed rail system has to offer," it said in a filing.

Legal experts said Thursday's ruling may not be the final word on the issue. It is



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► Taufetee...

Continued from page 7

— Dr. Reese Tuato'o LBJ's Chief of Internal Medicine, and Motusa Tuileama Nua, Director of the AS Department of Health — were not present during the hearing.

According to Doug LaMalfa, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, the oversight hearing was to "evaluate and discuss the current state of the healthcare facility and the quality of the treatment accessible to American Samoans."



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IN THE COMMUNITY



A screen shot from live video of the US House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs hearing on Tuesday, shows ASG Medicaid Agency director Sandra King-Young, responding to questions from Puerto Rico Congresswoman Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon on how ASG came up with \$200 million price tag for a proposed new hospital.
[photo: US House subcommittee video]

► New hospital on LBJ's wish list...

Continued from page 1

committee that there is a need for a new hospital to replace the current aging facility, which has undergone repairs and renovations — thanks to grant funding from DOI over the years.

With the completed expansion and extensions of existing infrastructure, Taufete'e said LBJ is still struggling to cut down on patient waiting time in ER and Clinical Services because of the overwhelming number of patient visits, with ER seeing an average of over 2500 visits per month.

The patient admission process is also delayed due to overflow and non-availability of beds in the wards because of constant high census, he said.

"One of the solutions that we are presently exploring is a new 200-bed hospital to accommodate increase in population, as well as inpatient and outpatient visits," Taufete'e said in both his verbal and written testimony.

"Space in the present location is severely limited, and we are unable to expand the existing building, which in turn limits services."

In her verbal testimony, King-Young said that when it comes to challenges faced by LBJ, the Medicaid Agency "is most concerned about the hospital's compliance" with the US Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) conditions of participation and compliance under the American Samoa State Medicaid Plan. She added that non compliance puts at risk Medicaid and Medicare funding for the LBJ hospital.

"The biggest help to ensure LBJ meets compliance is the construction of a new hospital. Thus we respectfully recommend the committee should introduce authorizing legisla-

tion to provide funding for the construction of a new hospital for American Samoa," she said, adding that the territory has already secured a potential site for the construction.

While the 50-year old hospital was repaired after the 2009 earthquake and tsunami, King-Young said the hospital continues to struggle with infrastructure standards to maintain CMS certification.

"It would be more cost effective to replace the current facility so it meets the modern standards of CMS conditions of participation under a new hospital facility," she said, but didn't specify the cost of the proposed new facility.

In her official written statement to the subcommittee, King-Young said "American Samoa needs from Congress an appropriation of \$200 million for a state of the art hospital that would be fully compliant with Medicare Conditions of Participation and CMS standards for infrastructure."

Puerto Rico Congresswoman, Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon, who is also the subcommittee chair, asked King-Young, "how did you arrive at this figure [\$200 million]?" to which the Medicaid director responded, "that's the number that we have thrown round, amongst ourselves locally, talking about what it would take to build a new hospital on our wish list. But there's no official documentation."

King-Young said that Congresswoman Aumua Amata had suggested — earlier in the hearing — "a really great idea" for a report from the US Government Accountability Office (GAO), working with the US Interior Department "and our local government to come up

with a realistic estimate on how much it would take us to build a new hospital."

"You don't have supporting document that establishes that \$200 million, correct?," Gonzalez-Colon asked again, and King-Young replied, "that's an unofficial estimate that we came up with on our own."

Congresswoman Aumua Amata announced at the hearing that she will be introducing a bill which calls for a GAO study, in partnership with DOI, US Veterans Administration and the US Department and Health and Human Services "to assess the feasibility of either a new or updated facility, and I encourage my colleagues to support the measure."

The hearing followed a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) visit to American Samoa in February this year and the visit included LBJ.

"I wanted it in the record, that our doctors and nurses who work there do an excellent job with the limited resources they have available," Amata said at the hearing. "And they should be commended for their efforts to maintain the good health of our people."

She also noted that getting qualified staff to the island "has proven to be difficult and an issue that I hope we can find a solution to through this hearing and the work that would follow."

Samoa News will report in future editions on other issues pertaining to the hearing as well as the rest of the governor's official written statement to the subcommittee.

Tuesday's hearing, which lasted nearly 90-minutes, was streamed live (4a.m. American Samoa time).

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Falanai, Hana	Lokou, Poni	Pati, Apelu	Taalefili, Tui	Tuupo, Doris
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Faletolu, Sarai	Lolani, Pope Paulo	Pene, Ann	Tagaloa, Titae	Uikirifi, Krystellen "Faga"
Farani, Tanuma'i	Loumoli, Itupa	Pene, Peleiupe	Ta-Grey, Florence	Uluenga, Sione
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Faumuiina, Peniamina	Luapo, Foster McKenzie	Peric, Taofegaui	Tagovailoa, Asofaafetai	Uu, Tineimala
Fautanu, Acorn & Valerie Sauni	Luki, Fiamaua	Petelo, Anitelea	Tagovailoa, Valasi Aulava	Vaa, Sala
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Feulufa'i, Analosa	Magalo, Julie	Poloa, Angel	Tali, Lemasaniai	Vasa, Jane
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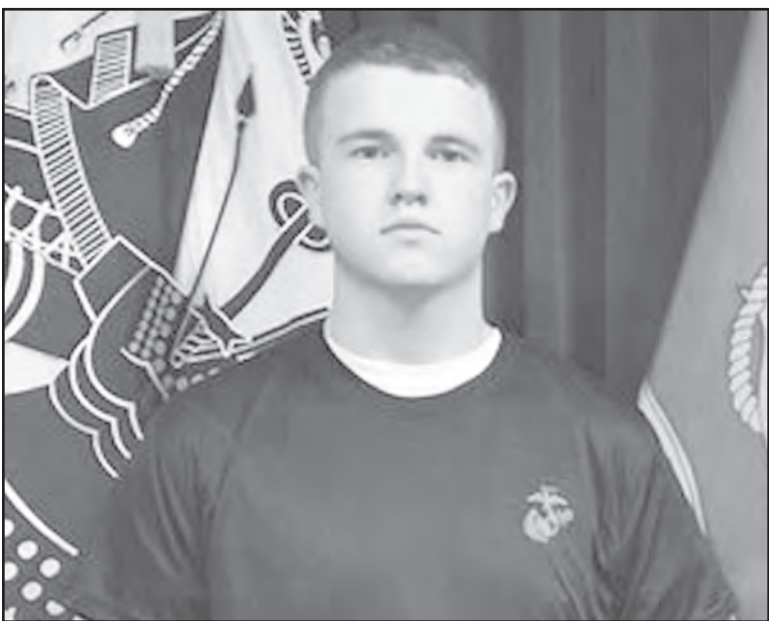
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In this undated photo provided by the U.S. Marine Corps, Tyler Jarrell, 18, poses for a photo. Jarrell was killed in a thrill ride accident at the Ohio State Fair on Wednesday, July 26, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio. The Marine Corps and school officials said Jarrell enlisted last week and was going to begin basic training next summer after his high school graduation. (U.S. Marine Corps via AP)

Thrill ride was OK'd hours before deadly state fair accident

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Inspectors repeatedly looked over a thrill ride while it was assembled at the Ohio State Fair and signed off on it hours before it flew apart in a deadly accident that flung passengers into the ground, according to authorities and records released Thursday.

Investigators worked to find out what caused the opening day wreck, which killed a high school student who had just enlisted in the Marines. Seven other people were injured, including four teenagers.

The ride's Dutch manufacturer told operators of the same attraction at fairs and festivals around the world to stop using it until more is learned about what caused the malfunction.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich shut down all rides at the state fair and ordered them inspected again. He said it was too early to say whether inspectors missed something that led to the tragedy Wednesday night.

"It's a nightmare. It's a terrible situation," the Republican governor said.

Video taken by a bystander of the swinging, spinning Fire Ball ride in action captured a crashing sound. A section holding four riders came apart, and screams could be heard as at least two people were ejected

and plunged toward the ground. Other riders were still in their seats as they fell.

Tyler Jarrell, 18, of Columbus, was thrown about 50 feet and was pronounced dead on the midway. The Marine Corps and school officials said Jarrell enlisted last week and was going to begin basic training next summer after his high school graduation.

"That was just this past Friday. Then he goes to the state fair and he is involved in this horrible tragedy. It's just devastating," said Capt. Gerard Lennon Jr., a naval science instructor in the Junior ROTC program at Jarrell's high school.

The injured ranged in age from 14 to 42. At least two were listed in critical condition. Some people were hit by debris.

Jarrell's girlfriend was among those seriously injured, her mother told The Columbus Dispatch. Keziah Lewis, a University of Cincinnati student, doesn't remember the accident and has pelvis, ankle and rib injuries, Clarissa Williams said.

"She kept asking for her boyfriend," Williams said. "I had to tell her he was the one who was deceased."

Kaylie Bellomy was in the next group waiting to board the Fire Ball.

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McConnell puts up a ‘skinny repeal’ bill targeting Obamacare

WASHINGTON (AP) — Buoyed by a signal from House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell introduced a pared-down health care bill late Thursday that he hoped would keep alive Republican ambitions to repeal “Obamacare.”

Votes on the measure were expected deep into the night.

McConnell, R-Ky., is calling his bill the Health Care Freedom Act, but among his colleagues it’s known as “skinny repeal.” It’s not intended to become law, but to open a path for a House-Senate conference committee to try to work out comprehensive legislation Congress can pass and send to President Donald Trump.

The bill would repeal the unpopular Affordable Care Act provision that requires most people to have health insurance or risk a fine from the IRS. A similar requirement on larger employers would be suspended for eight years.

Additionally it would deny funding to Planned Parenthood, and suspend for three years a tax on medical device manufacturers. It would allow states to seek waivers from consumer protections in the Obama-era law, and increase the amount that individuals could contribute to tax-sheltered health savings accounts for medical expenses.

Ryan, R-Wis., opened a path for McConnell earlier Thursday evening by signaling a willingness to negotiate a more comprehensive bill with the Senate. Some Republican senators had been concerned that the House would simply pass the “skinny bill” and send it to Trump. That would have sent a shock wave through health insurance markets, spiking premiums.

Ryan sent senators a statement saying that if “moving forward” requires talks with the Senate, the House would be “willing” to do so. But shortly afterward, his words received varied responses from three GOP senators who’d insisted on a clear commitment from Ryan. It was not immediately clear whether the maneuver would succeed.

“Not sufficient,” said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who returned to the Capitol Tuesday to provide a pivotal vote that allowed the Senate to begin debating the health care bill, a paramount priority for Trump and the GOP. The 80-year-old McCain had been home in Arizona trying to decide on treatment options for brain cancer.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., initially said “not yet” when asked if he was ready to vote for the scaled-back Senate bill. But later, he told reporters that Ryan had assured him and others in a phone conversation that the House would hold talks with the Senate.

“I feel comfortable personally. I know Paul; he’s a man of

his word,” said Graham.

“Let’s see how everything turns out here, guys,” Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., told reporters.

The convoluted developments played out as a divided Senate debated legislation to repeal and replace Obama’s Affordable Care Act. With Democrats unanimously opposed, the slender 52-48 GOP majority was divided among itself over what it could agree to. After a comprehensive bill failed on the Senate floor, and a straight-up repeal failed too, McConnell and his top lieutenants turned toward a lowest-common-denominator solution known as “skinny repeal.” It would package repeal of a few of the most unpopular pieces of the 2010 law, along with a few other measures, with the goal of getting something, anything, out of the Senate.

That would be the ticket to

negotiations with the House, which passed its own legislation in May.

But that plan caused consternation among GOP senators after rumors began to surface that the House might just pass the “skinny bill,” call it a day and move on to other issues like tax reform after frittering away the first six months of Trump’s presidency on unsuccessful efforts over health care.

Ryan responded not long after with a discursive and far from definitive statement that blamed the Senate for being unable to pass anything, but said, “if moving forward requires a conference committee, that is something the House is willing to do.”

“The reality, however, is that repealing and replacing Obamacare still ultimately requires the Senate to produce 51 votes for an actual plan,” he said.

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In this artistic rendering provided by the Fort Worth contracting company Penna Group shows a proposed wall along the United States' southern border with Mexico. The Trump administration said Thursday, July 27, 2017, that prototypes for a proposed border wall with Mexico have been delayed until November because two companies, WNIS and Penna Group, have objected to the bidding process. (Penna Group via AP)



Contractor appeals delay Trump border wall prototypes

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Trump administration said Thursday that prototypes for a proposed border wall with Mexico have been delayed until November because two companies have objected to the bidding process, dealing another setback to the president's aggressive timetable to make good on a signature campaign pledge.

The administration initially planned to begin construction in San Diego by June. Last month, officials said they did not expect to break ground until toward the end of summer.

On Thursday, the administration sent an email to members of Congress saying appeals by two companies identified as WNIS and Penna Group delayed construction to early November, with completion scheduled for early December.

The contents of the email were provided to The Associated Press by a U.S. official who had reviewed it. The official provided the information only on condition of anonymity because it has not been made public.

WNIS and Penna Group submitted bids to build wall prototypes but failed to make it to a second round of bidders selected in May, according to the email sent to members of Congress.

Losing bidders routinely protest decisions, and additional delays are possible. The Government Accountability Office has dismissed WNIS' protest but is still evaluating the protest lodged by Parra Group. Others may object once the winners are announced.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection confirmed the delay in a statement, saying construction could begin as soon as late October. It said the project was being held back by one vendor it did not identify.

"Such protests are common in federal contracting processes and no contracts may

be awarded until the protests are resolved," the agency said. "By statute, GAO is required to issue a decision on a protest within 100 days of filing. CBP expects GAO's decision on these protests in early October 2017, which would delay construction to late October or early November, which is beyond our original summer 2017 timeline. CBP could resume contract consideration if the protest is resolved sooner."

Penna, based in Fort Worth, Texas, proposed a wall built of solid concrete in some sections and see-through steel mesh in others.

Michael Evangelista-Ysaga, Penna's chief executive officer, said in an interview that competent officials at Customs and Border Protection were under enormous pressure from the Trump White House to meet unrealistic deadlines and that they would be relieved to see the effort "hit the pause button." "This is a politically-driven project that doesn't have any substantive, detailed planning like any of the other federal projects I've worked on," he said. "They can't keep up. The project is way too complex for the type of time they've had to put it together."

Efforts to locate NWIS, the other losing bidder, were unsuccessful. That company's protest has already been dismissed, according to the email sent to members of Congress.

The prototypes — expected to be awarded to eight to 10 companies for \$200,000 to \$500,000 each — should be about 30 feet (9 meters) long and 18 to 30 feet (5.5 to 9 meters) high. The border protection agency has said it should be impossible for people to climb it on their own and that it should be impenetrable to sledgehammers and battery-operated tools trying to damage it for a full hour. It should also be aesthetically pleasing from the U.S. side.

