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Vikings shut out Wildcats B1

Fa'asea to'atele o tagata mai fafo i suiga ua faia Ofisa ... LALI

Bruckner Chase returns to American Samoa with NOAA national weather service for beach and ocean safety film project and program development — the "Blue Journey Dangerous Waves" film series. Read story inside for details. [courtesy photo]

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Only Lolo or Lemanu can stop the issuance of an ASG paycheck

THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REASON IS IF TREASURY CAN'T COVER PAYROLL

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Concerned that ASG employees, who become "victims of a director's failure" to manage his or her agency's finances, resulting in non-issuance of payroll checks, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has laid down a specific policy to ensure that every employee gets a paycheck.

ASG gets paid every two weeks — on Monday — but over the past several months many executive branch employees have complained to the news media about not getting their paychecks, which are already set aside to pay bills and other obligations, such as loans that include those paid to off island vendors.

Employees, who get paid via direct deposit, usually have the money in their bank accounts the weekend before Monday.

The governor, in a Sept. 19th memorandum to Human Resources director Eseneiaso J. Liu, ASG Treasury Uelinitone Tonumaipea, and ASG Budget and Planning Office director Catherine Saelua, outlined the set policies for issuance and non-issuance of payroll checks.

"It is unacceptable for employees to become victims of the director's failure to effectively manage his/ her agency's finances, precipitating preclusion from receiving their paychecks," Lolo wrote. "This is a severe hardship on many of our employees as they live from paycheck to paycheck."

The governor pointed out that many of the employees have fixed liabilities to pay and delays would only destroy their credit worthiness and subject them to unanticipated interest and penalty payments. "For some, it could mean no food on the table for their respective families," Lolo noted.

Accordingly, said the governor, the "decision not to issue paychecks to employees rests with me, and the Lieutenant Governor; but our decision is based on reports" from Liu, Tonumaipea and Saelua detailing reasons for the purported action.

"The only legitimate reason for the non-issuance of a paycheck is the disclosure from the Treasurer that there is no money to cover payroll," the governor wrote.

"Simultaneously, supplemental payroll checks will be issued Monday — or the latest, Tuesday — for all employees who didn't receive their payroll checks in the normal distribution process," he explained, adding that names of employees who might not get paid in the scheduled payroll are known when the payroll pre-listing is printed.

According to Lolo, it shouldn't be difficult to prepare the supplemental payroll to run on Monday, the day of payroll distribution. "These policies will be in effect unless altered by a superseding memorandum," he concluded.

Lolo raised the issue at last Thursday's cabinet meeting.

OTHER MONEY ISSUES

Other money-related issues discussed at the cabinet meeting, include closing out fiscal year 2017, which officially ends before 12 midnight on Sept. 30, 2017. The governor informed directors that preparations are underway to close FY 2017 financial records, according to information from the Governor's Office regarding the meeting.

Lolo recalled that 2017 was a challenging fiscal year because of the negative effect on economic activities in the territory. For example, last December's closure of Tri Marine International's Samoa Tuna Processors Inc., cannery laid off some 700 workers; delays in federal grants reimbursements; and a five-month suspension of cigarette shipments to American Samoa.

Lolo urged directors to pay attention to expenditure documents sent to the Budget Office for processing after the cutoff date, and to expect their return for re-issuance in the new fiscal year. As previously reported by Samoa News, Aug. 18th was the cut off date for purchases for all government agencies for FY 2017, as the Lolo Administration works on ensuring there is no overrun for the current fiscal year. At last Thursday's cabinet meeting, Lolo reminded directors that StarKist Samoa will temporarily shut down operations for five weeks and this would put a dent in ASG's projected revenues. Therefore, he urged directors to practice

(Continued on page 6)

Training to arm local police officers kicks off

POLICE COMMISSION: "…IT'S TIME TO MAKE IT HAPPEN"

by Ausage Fausia
Samoa News Reporter

Training to arm local police officers kicked off yesterday morning at the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) in Tafuna, under the supervision of Ernest Haleck, who arrived last week from Honolulu, HI.

Haleck is the lead instructor in Firearms and Tactics for the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) and Department of Public Safety in American Samoa. He holds instructor certifications in Firearms, Less Lethal Munitions, Defensive Tactics, Arrest & Control. Thirty-six new and senior police officers from various DPS divisions were selected to be part of the training - including members of the newly established Vice & Narcotics Tactical Unit. Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson delivered the opening remarks, welcomed Haleck, and told police officers that the law gives the police commissioner the authority to ensure this training is conducted thoroughly — step by step — in order for cops to be certified to be armed while performing their duties.

"You have been selected to be part of this training because you are top officers in our field. As you can see, we have experienced a lot of issues in American Samoa — and our job is to

(Continued on page 4)

Ernest Haleck, a certified Firearms and Tactics Instructor from Honolulu, during yesterday's official opening of a training session held at the OMV conference room and aimed at preparing local cops to be armed. See story for details. [photo: AF]

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

PR NO. 06-2017

In the Matter of the Estate of

LEFAGAOALI'I SUNIA

BY: **LIUPUA ANDREW SUNIA**
Petitioner

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have issued from the High Court of American Samoa, Trial Division, Territory of American Samoa to LIUPUA ANDREW SUNIA, for the Estate of LEFAGAOALI'I SUNIA, deceased, who died on September 5, 2015 in American Samoa.

All creditors with a claim against the Estate of LEFAGAOALI'I SUNIA are required to submit their claims to the Administrator of the Estate within 60 days of the first publication of this notice.

Submit all claims to:
Estate of LEFAGAOALI'I SUNIA
LIUPUA ANDREW SUNIA, Administrator
C/O Toetasi Fue Tuiteleleapaga
Attorney at Law
5614 Leone
Pago Pago, AS 96799

Dated: September 22, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 9/26/17

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

PR NO. 09-2017

In the Matter of the Estate of

TAUESE PITA FITI SUNIA

BY: **LIUPUA ANDREW SUNIA**
Petitioner

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have issued from the High Court of American Samoa, Trial Division, Territory of American Samoa to LIUPUA ANDREW SUNIA, for the Estate of TAUESE PITA FITI SUNIA, deceased, who died on March 26, 2003 in the state of Hawaii.

All creditors with a claim against the Estate of TAUESE PITA FITI SUNIA are required to submit their claims to the Administrator of the Estate within 60 days of the first publication of this notice.

Submit all claims to:
Estate of TAUESE PITA FITI SUNIA
LIUPUA ANDREW SUNIA, Administrator
C/O Toetasi Fue Tuiteleleapaga
Attorney at Law
5614 Leone
Pago Pago, AS 96799

Dated: September 22, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 9/26/17

Senator asks if Territory is getting any share of settlement between StarKist and USDOJ

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Sen. Tuaolo Manaia Fruean wants to know if American Samoa is getting any share of the multi-million-dollar proposed settlement agreement between StarKist Co., and the US Department of Justice, over the cannery's violation of federal environmental laws in Pago Pago Harbor.

USDOJ is currently accepting public comments for a 30-day period, which began Sept. 18th, on the settlement through a proposed Consent Decree filed with the federal court in Pittsburgh, where the federal complaint was lodged by USDOJ, on behalf of the US Environmental Protection Agency, against StarKist Co., and its American Samoa subsidiary StarKist Samoa Inc.

A copy of the proposed 40-page Decree, as well as the address to file public comments, is available through federal portal <www.federalregistry.gov>.

Under the Decree, USDOJ says StarKist will pay a $6.3 million penalty and provide emergency response equipment to the territory's Department of Public Safety, Fire Services Bureau, for use in responding to chemical releases. (See Samoa News Sept. 13th edition for details).

In particular, StarKist is required to perform a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) requiring it to purchase and donate no less than $88,000 worth of specified emergency response equipment to the local Fire Bureau.

At last Thursday's Senate session, Tuaolo inquired about the settlement and where the money will go, saying that if American Samoa is not benefiting from such a huge proposed judgement, then what is the purpose of it.

He said the cannery has polluted the territory's waters and we should benefit from the settlement, instead of the money being left in the US where it will benefit others.

And if American Samoa is not getting this money, Tuaolo suggests that local leaders communicate with Congresswoman Aumua Amata. He said American Samoa needs this financial assistance, and $6.3 million is a huge amount of money. He suspects that when the judgment becomes final, there will probably be suggestions that money be allocated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Coast Guard. "But what about Tutuila and Manu'a?" he asked. Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie acknowledged the issue raised by Tuaolo, and said the Senate leadership will provide an answer soon.

According to USDOJ, the Decree requires StarKist to improve the facility's ammonia refrigeration system and discontinue using chlorine gas and butane, which will greatly reduce the risk of hazardous substance releases. In addition, StarKist has submitted emergency planning information to local responders and will implement a new system for notifying the public, in real time, in the event of a release. To prevent oil spills, StarKist is upgrading four large above ground oil storage tanks containing diesel oil, used petroleum oil, and food-grade oil — a byproduct of fish processing. The four tanks, located only feet from inner Pago Pago Harbor, were found to have inadequate secondary containment structures as required by the Clean Water Act. In its own audit, StarKist identified additional problems, including violations of hazardous waste management and notification regulations, and disclosed them to USEPA.

StarKist Co., and StarKist Samoa are owned by South Korea-based Dongwon Industries. USDOJ said StarKist Co. is the world's largest supplier of canned tuna, and the American Samoa facility processes and cans tuna for human consumption and processes fish byproducts into fishmeal and fish oil.

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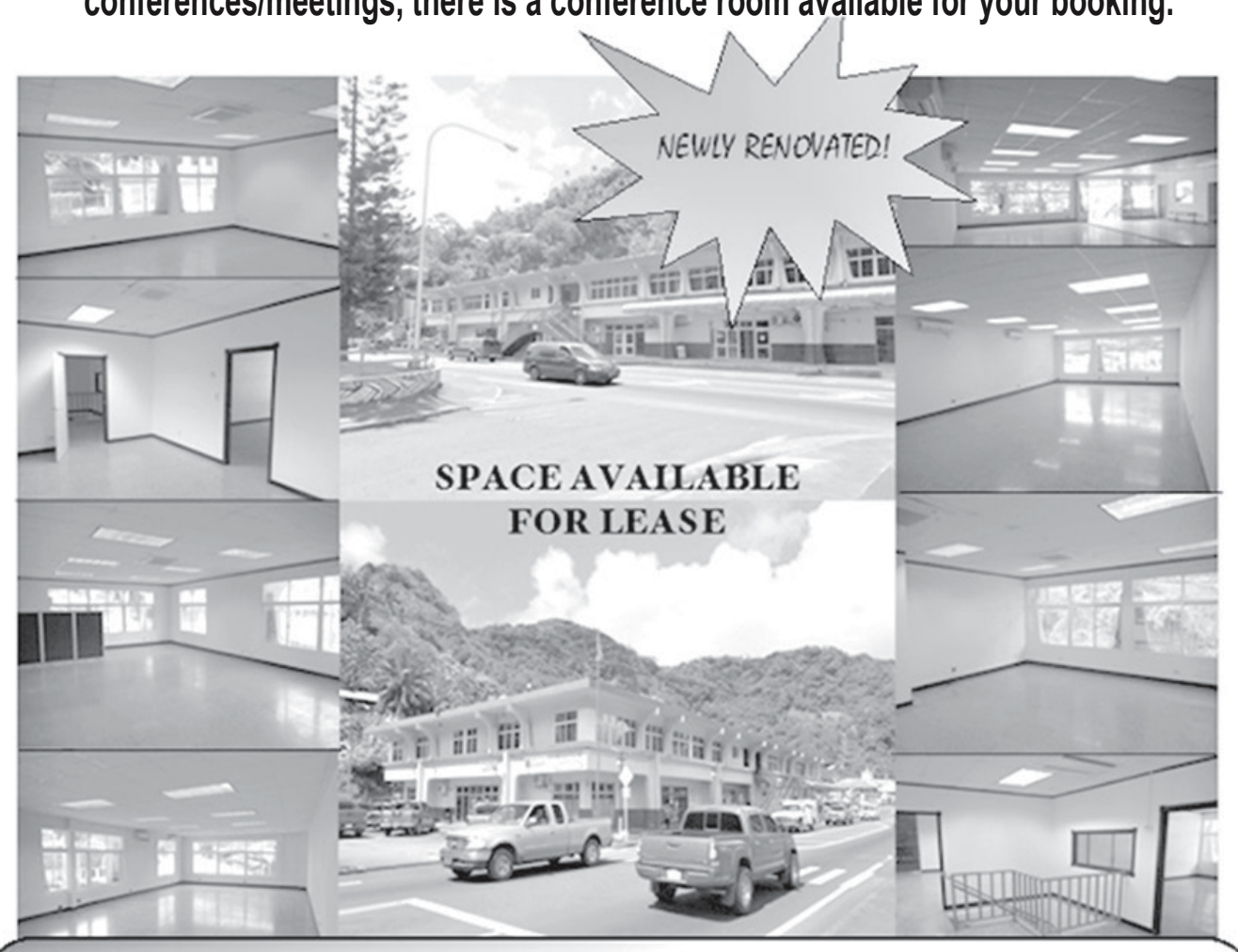

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samoa news

Senate business wrapping up

APPROVES FY 2018 BUDGET WITH FONO BUDGET HIKE, PASSES EXCISE TAX BILL- THEIR VERSION

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The Senate has reduced the excise tax for imported non-carbonated sugary drinks and hiked the current 5% miscellaneous excise tax. The changes are included in the Senate version of an Administration bill, which seeks to amend several provisions of local excise taxes.

The measure was approved during third and final reading yesterday. Also approved in final reading yesterday by the Senate is the House version of the fiscal year 2108 budget, which the Senate amended by hiking the Fono's budget by $500,000.

EXCISES TAX

The Administration had proposed several amendments to local statute, dealing with excise tax. Among them is the gradual reduction of the 5% miscellaneous excise tax over a period of time.The Senate amended its version of the bill by hiking it up another 5% to a total of 10%, with the effective date set for Jan. 1, 2018, which is also the same time the current 2% wage tax is repealed. The Senate made clear in the bill that "revenues from the 10% excise tax shall be deposited in the general fund for appropriation by the Legislature." Except that $500,000 from this excise tax goes towards the ASG student financial aid (or the ASG Scholarship Fund) and one-percent is earmarked for repairs, renovations, and upgrading of all public school facilities and equipment in American Samoa.

Another provision proposed by the administration in the bill, establishes a tax of 15-cents per 12-fluid ounces or fraction thereof, for all non-carbonated sugary drinks for sale by the importer.

However, the Senate reduced the tax down to 5 cents per 12-fluid ounces.

GHC Reid & Co., a major beverage distributor on island, had argued during a Senate hearing early this month that the tax is too high and this is now the same as carbonated drinks. They suggested a lower percentage for this category, being the healthier alternative. South Pacific Distributors (SoPac) echoed this point of view.

But G.H.C Reid and SoPac disagreed over the Administration's proposal in imposing the tax on imported beer. Currently, excise tax on imported beer is 190% of the value, but the Administration is seeking to amend it to 35-cents per 12-fluid ounces, or fraction thereof — basically it means 35-cents per can. The Senate kept this proposed amendment in place without any changes: 35-cents per 12-fluid ounces, or fraction thereof. The Administration argued — and G.H.C Reid agreed — that the new tax method prevents fraudulent invoices being presented to Customs.

Also left unchanged by the Senate is the Administration's provision, imposing a 25 percent excise tax on heavy construction equipment. The bill clarifies that heavy construction equipment is designed specifically for executing construction tasks and will not be used for general operation on public roads.

The Senate version now goes to the House where its version is pending in committee.

SENATE CORRECTS AMENDMENTS ON BUDGET BILL

The Senate last Friday approved in second reading the House version of the fiscal year 2018 budget, with what they said are the correct amendments, reflecting the right funding source of the $500,000 that the Senate added to the Fono's FY 2018 Basic Budget.

Prior to that, during last Thursday's Senate session, the one-page document distributed to senators from the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee shows five projects under the Special Program, that will be cut and become

(Continued on page 6)

FILE- In this June 12, 2017, file photo, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, left, listens as President Donald Trump speaks during a Cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington. Zinke said Monday, Sept. 25, that nearly one-third of employees at his department are not loyal to him and Trump, adding that he is working to change the department's regulatory culture to be more business friendly. **(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)**

(l-r) Guam State Forester, Joseph Mafnas; Secretary of USDA, the Honorable Mr. Perdue; American Samoa State Forester, Mary Taufete'e; and Marshal Islands State Forester, Lajkit Rufus at the National Association of State Forester (NASF) Conference in West Virginia. [photo: courtesy]

Bruckner Chase partners with NOAA through "Blue Journey Dangerous Waves" film series

September 24, 2017 – Pago Pago, American Samoa — Bruckner Chase, Uila o le Sami, who swam from Aunu'u to Pago Pago in 2011 is back on island as part of a National Weather Service Ocean Today expedition to create an educational film series on beach and ocean safety that will focus on the unique hazards around the island.

This innovative project with the National Weather Service is the first time the agency has taken beach and ocean safety to specific areas and focused on creating place specific protective factors.

Chase is the ocean safety expert for the project and the host of the series that will release a "Surf Zone Safe" introductory film along with specific pieces for American Samoa, the East Coast, Pacific Northwest, Southern California and Hawai'i as part of Ocean Today's Full Moon initiative that will be available for safety and educational uses around the world.

The project finishes filming on Sept. 25 in Leone.

Bruckner will be on-island until Oct. 2 speaking with various schools, government agencies and village groups to explore ways to continue contributing to empowering those in American Samoa while also enhancing the safety, well-being, and health of everyone in community.

Chase is a globally recognized expert in ocean and aquatic safety and conservation, with extensive experience working with lifeguards, ocean athletes, race directors, and first responders from around the world including Poland, Denmark, and Australia.

Since his last trip to American Samoa in 2013 he has become one of the top surf lifesaving athletes and watermen in the world.

He is the only American to win a medal at the grueling Australian Coolangatta Gold Surf Lifesaving Iron Man.

In 2016 he competed in the Lifesaving World Championships finishing in the top ten in every event in which he competed.

He is the Technical Director and Surf Lifesaving Ambassador for Red Bull and their Surf and Rescue Professional Championships.

Most recently he competed at the USLA National Championships helping the East Coast's Monmouth County win the team championship.

He is the Masters Team Coordinator for the USLA and a special advisor for the upcoming 2018 Lifesaving World Championships to be held in Adelaide, Australia.

Training…

Continued from page 1

protect everyone in the territory — including people who come in everyday," Le'i said.

He spoke about the continuing argument among leaders and members of the community regarding the arming of police officers and said the law has been there for many years, and it's time to make it happen.

"There's no question about how dangerous our job is — but if we can learn everything and get certified — we can put together a good team to protect our country. There are very serious issues around our island today, and we can cure them all if we work together. Like I said, I selected you to be in this group because you are special. I'm not saying that other police officers are not; what I'm saying is that you have been selected because I know you can do better," Le'i shared. Haleck will be using the LAPD model for training, which is what he's been using and is different from what is currently being taught in the local police academy.

In an exclusive interview with Samoa News, Le'i said the main reason why police officers need to be trained is to make sure they are well prepared and ready to protect the country if anything happens on our shores.

Le'i noted that during his confirmation hearing before the Fono earlier this year, he was questioned by legislators, whether the police force is ready to respond if there are any serious incidents such as terrorist activities, hostage situations or high risk warrant arrests — and his response was "no, the police are not ready to respond." Nine months have passed since he became Police Commissioner and Le'i said many changes have been made within the department, to ensure police officers are ready to fulfill their responsibilities. According to him, the current training is not because police officers want to carry guns to threaten people or to have war with the public — it's all about the safety of the people.

"Our roles are to uphold the law and protect our country. We cannot protect the community with empty hands. As you know, things happen. We want to make sure the community is safe and the lives of our sworn police officers are also protected," he said. "As I keep saying — for the protection of our leaders, elders, the public and everyone in this country — police officers need to be armed and ready to respond at anytime." After training, several police officers, including senior staff will be carrying guns while performing their duties 24- 7; while others will be armed "when necessary".

Le'i said that during his latest visit to other US territories such as CNMI and Guam, he noticed that police officers there are armed while on the field doing their job. "And for us to be out there with nothing is embarrassing, and I think we're playing with people's lives. So it's about time to train and arm our officers." "My philosophy is to follow the law. Prevention is better than cure. As you know, we are out there day and night, and if anything happens, our officers will respond accordingly. Our motto is to serve and protect. Right now we can serve but if any incidents should pop up" involving weapons, "how can we effectively respond with our bare hands?"

He reiterated, "We want to make sure our police officers are properly trained — mentally and physically — to be able to deal with whatever comes their way and act prudently with this weapon." Arming police officers has not been an easy issue for many in the public, including some government leaders. Some believe that arming police won't address the problem of guns and drugs, while others say the move could lead to increased violence.

Local police officers during the official opening of the 2-week training course that will certify them to carry weapons. The training is being held at the OMV conference room in Tafuna, and includes 36 police officers, with members of the new established Vice & Narcotics Tactical Unit. [photo: AF]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Compiled by Samoa News staff

STOP SEX WORK

Member of Parliament, Olo Fiti Vaai, has called on the government to end commercial sex work in Samoa.

He has also strongly criticised plans by the Ministry of Health to offer educational and counseling services to "commercial sex workers" as part of a bid to promote healthy living.

"Samoa is a Christian state and the sexual activity procuring money should not be allowed in our country," said Olo.

"What hypocrites. Samoa was recently declared a Christian country and yet they are offering services to prostitutes. Is this a joke?" Last month, the Ministry of Health said it wanted to educate and counsel "commercial sex workers."

The plan is revealed in a 98-page National HIV, AIDS, and S.T.I Policy 2017-2022 report, obtained by the Samoa Observer. Earlier this year, the Samoa Observer revealed that the number of female sex workers in Samoa was estimated at around 400. It was also revealed that most women are doing sex work for economic reasons. The age during which some of them begin sex work ranges from 13 to 21 years old. The commercial sex workers came under the prevention segment of the M.O.H. Policy report, which indicates that services are available to promote safer sex practices.

"Information Education Communication (I.E.C) and counseling services shall be made free of stigma and at no cost to commercial sex workers in order to enable them to adopt safer sexual practices," the report reads. According to Olo, the government needs to find sex workers and offer them employment opportunities.

"The Ministry of Health are encouraging them by providing counseling and education for them to have protected sex using the condoms they are distributing publicly.

"But what about giving them a solid solution and making sure these girls refrain from doing this permanently, by giving them jobs? According to a recent report an estimated 400 sex workers are in Samoa. What is the government doing about it? Nothing. And they are just offering them sex education and condoms? "Why are these women in this position? The reason is very clear, it's due to economic reasons. These girls are forced into this lifestyle." He believes the blame falls squarely on the shoulders of the government. Olo also pointed out the amendments that need to be made in the law to reflect that Samoa is a Christian State.

"The government should also revise the local laws that coincide with the reality of Samoa being a Christian State, in terms of law enforcement against the Sodom and Gomorrah lifestyle found in our Country," said Olo Fiti. He told the Samoa Observer, the Attorney General and the Ministry of Police should not sit idle on this issue.

"The A.G. is the one who supported Samoa becoming a Christian State, he should also look at the local law banning prostitution activity in Samoa.

"We hear it here and there, it does exist, what is the government doing about it… nothing.

"The Ministry of Police should be concerned about this and investigate them, after all this is the government report in which they should take serious and do their mandates in accordance to the law and investigate and look for where the prostitution activities are located and raid those places."

According to the Pacific Multi-country Mapping and Behavioral Study 2016, most women are doing sex work for economic reasons. The age during which some of them begin sex work range from 13 to 21 years old. The report was rubbished by Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi who laughed at claims that poverty and hardship are to blame for the growing number of sex workers in Samoa.

Tuilaepa attacked the "newspaper" over its coverage of the issue describing the reporting as "rubbish."

"If that is true then you shouldn't find that in America, the wealthiest country in the world, yet there are a lot of women like that in America," Tuilaepa said. "That's where it's wrong; you can't control

(Continued on page 7)

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

HCPR NO. 06-16

In the Matter of the Estate of

AGAPITO SANTIAGO

Decedent

BY: **MARK ACE SANTIAGO**

Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Letters of Administration and Petition for Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa by Mark Ace Santiago for the Estate of Agapito Santiago who died intestate on December 9, 2012.

A hearing on the Petition will be held on November 27, 2017, at 9:00 am, before the High Court of American Samoa, Trial Division, at the High Court Building in Fagatogo, American Samoa. All heirs of Agapito Santiago and interested parties may appear before the Court on said date to respond to the Petitioner.

Dated: September 18, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 9/26/2017

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

PR: 32-17

In the Matter of the Estate of

IOSEFA ELIA

By: **LEEANN ELIA**

Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Letters of Administration has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Territory of American Samoa by LEEANN ELIA for the Estate of IOSEFA ELIA who passed away on January 14, 2017.

A hearing on the petition will be held on October 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa. All heirs of IOSEFA ELIA and interested parties may appear before the court on said date to respond to the petition.

Dated: September 11, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 9/19, 9/26 & 10/3

Fa'afetai Tele Lava

The Mental Health Awareness Month Planning Committee would like to thank the following organizations for their tireless support of our efforts to promote mental health in American Samoa. We look forward to continued partnerships in the future! Malo lava, fa'afetai!

- LDS Malaeimi Stake President Sonny Aiono
- McConnell Dowell
- Nana's Construction
- BlueSky Communications
- YSJ, Inc. (Fly Inc)
- Daily Store
- Sadies by the Sea
- GHC Reid & CO
- Steven & Sons
- Rep. Meauta Lauoi
- Pacific Basin Nursery
- Mrs. Kolopa Tuiasosopo
- Happy World
- ABC Fax
- KT Mart
- Rep. Sam Meleisea
- Social Security Administration
- Dr. Peni Biukoto
- Dr. Monita Adip
- Robert Toelupe, LCSW
- Jung Lee

FILE - In this Friday, Sept. 1, 2017, file photo, nurse Alex Wubbels displays video frame grabs from Salt Lake City Police Department body cams of herself being taken into custody, during an interview in Salt Lake City. Authorities say a Utah police officer whose rough arrest of a nurse has drawn widespread condemnation put the woman in handcuffs even after investigators told him a disputed blood draw wasn,Äôt necessary. **(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File)**

Police union blasts handling of Utah nurse arrest probe

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Two officers under investigation in the rough arrest of a nurse have been unfairly made into pariahs after body-camera footage got widespread attention online, a Utah police union said Monday. The Salt Lake Police Association said in a letter to the mayor and police chief that it is "extremely concerned and dismayed" about handling that has "corrupted" the high-profile investigation, The Deseret News reported (http://bit.ly/2jYzdr8).

"The premature release of body cam footage is particularly demoralizing as it allows the public who have not trained as police officers to make what often amounts to biased and ill-informed judgments of the police," association president Stephen Hartney said in a letter.

The mayor and police chief have apologized to nurse Alex Wubbels, who was handcuffed and dragged from a hospital after she explained she couldn't allow a blood draw on an unconscious patient under hospital policy. Dramatic body-camera video of the July 26 incident made it a flashpoint in a national debate on police use of force. The video was released by Wubbels and her lawyer, who obtained it through a public records request.

Senate business…

Continued from page 3

the source of funding for the $500,000. The amendments were approved and included in the Senate version of the budget bill.

At last Friday's session, the House version of the budget bill was presented for approval in second reading, including amendments, that were a little different than those presented on the floor last Thursday.

It was revealed during Friday's session that the document with amendments distributed to senators on Thursday was mistakenly passed out at the time.

Therefore, the correct amendments were contained in another committee document distributed to senators at last Friday's session. According to the correct amendments — $200,000 each is cut from the Road Maintenance Fund and the Western District Youth Multipurpose Center; and $100,000 is cut from the DPS Law Enforcement.

The $500,000 cut from these three projects under the Special Program, is reallocated to the Fono, which hikes their budget up to $7.41 million.

The correct amendments were approved and added to the House version of the budget bill, which was approved in third and final reading yesterday. The House version now goes back to the House and if they disagree with the amendments, a Conference Committee of both chambers will be called to iron out the final language of the budget bill.

The Senate version of the budget bill remains in the Senate at this point, while the House version moves forward.

Only Lolo…

Continued from page 1

prudent financial management in light of this potential revenue shortfall.

The shut down, set for Oct. 21st to Nov. 26th, is for upgrades and to install new equipment. The StarKist Samoa plant is expected to re-open Nov. 27th.

The governor informed directors in a letter two weeks ago that the shutdown would result in an estimated 7% loss in local revenues for the government. (See Samoa News Sept. 15th edition for details.)

Pacific...

Continued from page 5

this type of behavior."

(Source: Samoa Observer)

BRONZE MEDAL FOR SAMOA FROM ASHGABAT

The Samoa Weightlifting team wraps up the Asia Indoor Games 2017 securing the only medal for Samoa with a bronze medal from Iuniarra Sipaia in the Women90+kg.

This was confirmed by the President of the Samoa Weightlifting team Tuaopepe Jerry Wallwork via email to the Samoa Observer.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO SAVE SAMOA'S NATIONAL BIRD

An international campaign is underway to try and save Samoa's national bird, the manumea, from extinction.

There are estimated to be just a few hundred of the birds left.

Called the Little Dodo because it is a close relative of the long extinct Dodo, the manumea is described as a unique tooth-billed pigeon.

Our correspondent said few Samoans have seen the manumea, apart from its depiction on the country's twenty tala note and 50 sene coin.

Habitat destruction, rats, cats and hunting has left the bird critically endangered.

Now the Samoa Conservation Society has teamed up with Auckland Zoo and Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to try and save the bird.

It is getting help from the Darwin Initiative in the UK through the Australian National University and from the NZ Government's Pacific Development and Conservation Trust along with some help from Pelgar International.

Other partners, including Flinch Marketing in New Zealand, are developing a National Manumea Protection Campaign to reduce the impact of hunting on native birds and to protect their forest habitat.

(Source: RNZ)

"NEW TALENT, NEW STYLES" AT THE WAIATA MAORI MUSIC AWARDS 2017

Maori music displayed its diversity and its vitality at the tenth annual Waiata Maori Music Awards last week.

The awards were conceived by the late Tama Huata, Ngati Kahungunu's exponent of waiata and kapa haka as a way to revitalize and celebrate the songs of Maori artists. Huata's kaupapa was acknowledged throughout the awards night in Heretaunga, though his daughter, Ellison is now at the helm of the annual event.

She confirms that "the awards are gonna continue for many, many more [years]" and is positive about the health of Maori music. "It's really great! New talent, new styles coming through." With a younger generation of artists like Rei, Teeks and Alien Weaponry impressing the judges and audiences alike, many manuhiri (visitors) on the night reaffirmed Ellison's comments and aspirations to bring waiata Maori to bigger, mainstream audiences.

"It's cool we've got a night that recognizes all the hard work that a lot of our people put in" says Best Urban/Roots nominee Israel Starr. "Not just the artists, but the people behind the scenes as well. Ten years now just proves how strong Maori music is and hope we go another ten years."

Haka metal trio Alien Weaponry who closed the awards with a blistering performance of 'Rua Te Whenua' embodied one of the identity-searching questions that have arisen in the community, namely: what is waiata Maori, and should the awards make a distinction between Maori artists who sing and write waiata Maori and those whose material is in English?

"It's a tough question," says Troy Kingi who took home his first ever awards for Best Pop Artist and Best Male Solo Artist. He admits he hasn't got to the stage of singing in te reo yet. But that "it's about having that spirit or wairua in your music. Even though Maori artists aren't singing in te reo you can still feel that Maoritanga in there." Noel Woods reckons that waiata sung in the reo isn't an obstacle to wider success, citing the global popularity of Spanish language hit 'Despacito'. "It just goes to show it doesn't matter what language we can hit that number one spot." Adrian Wagner, manager of Wellington iwi radio station Te Upoko O te Ika, and also of Maori artist Toni Huata, poses a more fundamental discussion on what Maori music is.

"A lot of the time we are using the same old... sound that English music uses. Can we say that because something sounds like a black choir from America... that [its] Maori music even though it's in the language?"

Maaka Fiso, who was up for a Best Pop Album, has a message for anyone thinking about making waiata Maori.

"If you think you've got it, man you just need to share that with someone. We don't like to toot our own trumpet to make a fuss about ourselves but if you've got something to share with the world you need to share it." *(Source: RNZ)*

Grove Roots at Waiata Maori Music Awards

[Photo: screencapture/waiata maori music awards]

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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

Figure 2: Standard Home

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.

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

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Puerto Rico is in the dark in wake of Hurricane Maria

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Every night since Hurricane Maria hit, Miguel Martinez and his family have slept on mattresses on the porch to escape the heat inside their dark, stifling home. But it's nearly impossible to sleep with temperatures in the mid-80s.

At least once a night they climb to the roof to catch a hint of breeze. Then the 51-year-old construction worker, his three children and one grandchild climb back down again.

"It's a heat from hell," Martinez said. "We don't have a generator or a fan. We have nothing. The children get desperate. You want just a little bit of cold water, but there's none."

The power is still out across nearly all of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria smashed poles, snarled power lines and flooded electricity-generating plants last Wednesday, knocking out a grid that was already considered antiquated compared to the U.S. mainland. Generators are providing power to the fortunate few who have them, but nearly all the island's 1.6 million electricity customers were still without power Monday and facing many, many hot days and dark nights to come.

Power had been restored to a handful of hospitals and surrounding areas by Monday afternoon but Public Affairs Secretary Ramon Rosario said it will take months to fully restore power to the island.

Authorities are still figuring out the extent of the damage, let alone beginning to repair it.

Utility workers from New York have arrived to help assess the damage, while airplanes and barges are bringing in more generators. Getting the power back isn't just a matter of comfort. A long delay will mean even more pain for a Puerto Rican economy that's already reeling from a decade-long recession. With no power, even more people will leave the island to find better opportunities on the mainland and further drain its workforce. The downed power system is also damaging the tourism industry, which contributed 8 percent to Puerto Rico's economy last year.

The overwhelming smell of rotting garbage wafted through a working-class part of the Santurce section of San Juan, where 46-year-old construction worker Rafael Santana spent the night in front of a single fan thanks to a neighbor with a generator who was kind enough to throw over a cable so he could have power from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m.

By 8 a.m., Santana's forehead was beaded with sweat as he left home to seek out some shade nearby. Roberto Ruiz, a 50-year-old handyman, handed a chilled bottle of water that his daughter brought home from her job, which has power, to a neighbor seeking something to drink. "Look at this! Cold water!" exclaimed 70-year-old Jose Luis Burgos as he took the bottle and looked at it, mesmerized. "We are suffering here."

Ruiz said he jumps into the shower several times a day to cool off, letting water drip over his body instead of drying off afterward. He also leaves his windows open, which led to another problem: "Now the mosquitoes don't leave me alone." Most people have thrown open their doors and windows, anxious to feel a breeze amid the oppressive heat.

Six-month-old Rafshliany Cortijo wore only diapers as she sat in a swing placed in an open doorway. She smiled as she slowly swung back and forth.

"I bathe her six times a day," said Franchesca Rivera, the baby's 31-year-old mother. "She sweats a lot."

Mother and daughter sleep on the porch at night along with Rivera's son to stave off the heat since they don't have a generator or a battery-powered fan. Nelida Morales, a 49-year-old nanny, said her house becomes an oven during the day because three big trees that once shaded it were uprooted by the storm. "We can't go to the rivers because of floodwaters. And the beach is out of reach," Morales said as sweat beaded on her upper lip. Puerto Rico's power plants were not severely damaged, according to Gov. Ricardo Rossello. However, 80 percent of the island's transmission lines are down, and Rossello said it would take up to two years to completely rebuild the infrastructure under normal conditions. He said the plan is to restore power with some quick fixes to the network and then gradually strengthen it to avoid problems like blackouts and make it less vulnerable to future storms. The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, or PREPA, has more than 2,400 miles of major transmission lines and more than 30,000 miles of smaller distribution wires that connect homes and businesses to the grid. Much of the network is down.

ROTARY CLUB OF PAGO PAGO

TSUNAMI MEMORIAL REMEMBERANCE SERVICE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 • 11:30am
Lion's Park Tsunami Shelter

The Rotary Club of Pago Pago and Hawaiian Air will host a
Memorial Rememberance Service for the 34 Tsunami Victim's Immediate Family Members:

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017
Place: Tsunami Memorial Family Picnic Shelter at Lion's Park in Tafuna, AS
Time: 11:30am - 12:30pm

Members of the Public are invited to join with the families of the 2009 Tsunami victims on this day.

A memorial service will be conducted and all are invited to give testimonials to their lost family and friends who died on September 29, 2009.

At the end of the service light refreshments and food will be provided by Corporate partners of the Rotary Club of Pago Pago.

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

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Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, center, flanked by Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., left, and Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., right, talk about the legislation they are introducing regarding the legal status of undocumented children during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017. **(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)**

Fight over young immigrants ensnares aviation bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a fight with the GOP over immigration, House Democrats on Monday blocked a bill to extend federal aviation programs and provide tax breaks for hurricane victims. Republicans had hoped to pass a package of legislation addressing the Federal Aviation Administration and the tax breaks, but opposition from Pelosi and other Democrats stopped the bill from being passed on an expedited basis. The vote was 245-171, short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass. "America's patriotic young Dreamers must have swift action on the bipartisan DREAM Act," Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said before the vote.

Lawmakers are expected to try again as the week progresses. Neither party wants to be blamed for the furlough of air traffic control workers or for hurricane assistance being delayed.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., accused Democrats of putting politics before disaster relief and air traffic safety.

"It's shameful that politics will trump meaningful relief for families suffering from these devastating hurricanes," Ryan said. "House Democrats are willing to shut down air traffic control to make a political point." The tax breaks put into the bill for victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria would ease requirements for deducting individual property losses and allow people to draw on their retirement funds without penalty. The legislation also seeks to encourage people around the U.S. to donate to hurricane relief efforts by temporarily suspending limits on deductions for charitable contributions.

Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla, said the bill would help people recover more quickly from the storms and rebuild their communities stronger than before. He called it a first step.

"My constituents and those in other communities like my district don't have time to wait," said Curbelo who represents a far South Florida district. "They certainly don't have time to play political games."

Democrats called the tax relief inadequate and made clear that they would seek to work with Republicans to do more.

"We should be sitting down here in the next 48 hours putting together a massive package of relief," said Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass. Pelosi is using her leverage to keep relief for young immigrants in the spotlight after securing support from President Donald Trump to protect those immigrants while also bolstering border security. Trump rescinded the Obama-era program and gave Congress six months to come up with a solution.

House Democrats also announced an effort to force Republican leaders to bring up the measure on young immigrants referred to as the DREAM Act. They began a petition that requires the signatures of 218 House lawmakers to force a vote on the bill. The tactic is rarely successful, but Democrats said they believe it could work this time.

"It's up to Congress to take action to prevent families from being torn apart and to prevent young Americans in mind and spirit from being sent back to the countries of their birth but not their homes," said Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md. "This is their home."

Meanwhile, three GOP senators unveiled their own proposed solution to helping young immigrants brought into the country illegally as children. Their bill would offer those who came into the country below the age of 16 a pathway to remaining permanently.

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