Iulai 2023| Lolomiga 0016

TAPUITEA

The Official Newsletter of the American Samoa Government

IA MANINO LE FOLAUGA

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Manu'a Cession Day Festivities

The Manu'a Cession Day was more than just a celebratory event; it was a powerful reminder of the shared history and identity of the people of Manu'a and American Samoa. The Cession Day festivities brought together generations of families, uniting them in their homeland and strengthening their cultural bonds.

DMWR's Fishing Tournament

The Department of Marine Wildlife (DMWR) hosted a Fishing tournament as a part of the Cession Day celebration on Thursday, July 13, 2023. The fishing tournament began at 5:00 a.m. and culminated at 5:00 p.m. with an award ceremony.

Lieutenant Governor Talauega extended a proposition to the fishermen in the Manu'a district who have their boats docked at the wharf and are not taking part in this year's competition. The proposal encourages them to guarantee their participation in next year's tournament.

In contrast to previous years, this year's competition had a new component - it welcomed the participation of young individuals. The objective was twofold: First, to increase awareness about the decreasing number of fishermen; and second, to encourage involvement in this particular activity among the younger generation.

Community Competition & Youth Activities

Among the activities launched on July 14, 2023 were the Department of Agriculture's Annual Farm Fair, Volleyball Tournament and game booths spearheaded by the Department of Human Resources(DHR) and the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs (DYWA), game booths and friendly competitions, ASTCA PopUp Shop, and many more activities for the youth and communities of Manu'a.

Governor Lemanu commended efforts made by the government departments demonstrating their genuine commitment to equality and inclusivity across all islands of the territory.

The day concluded with a special movie night for the young children. This collaborative event, sponsored and organized by the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) and the American Samoa Visitors Bureau (ASVB), brought smiles to the faces of young participants and created an unforgettable experience.

Carnival, Community Sports league, and Entertainment

Day Three of the Pre-Manu'a Cession Day Festivities, began with an array of activities for the youth organized by the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Department of Youth & Women's Affairs (DYWA) at the Manu'a High School gymnasium in Ta'u, Manu'a. Simultaneously, the Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA) hosted the 2023 Cricket League at the Malaetele Avaloa. Later in the evening, the pre-Cession day festivities were concluded with traditional performances and entertainment by different church and village groups.

Dedication Ceremonies and Site Visits at Major Development Sites in Manu'a

On July 14, 2023, Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga and Lieutenant Governor Talauega E. V. Ale, and members of the Cabinet, Legislature, and the community, attended two momentous dedication events that took place in Manu'a, showcasing the government's remarkable progress and development. The first event celebrated the completion of access road enhancements in Ta'u, while the second event marked the grand opening of a state-of-the-art port facility located at the wharf.

Ta'u Access Road. Governor Lemanu delivering special remarks at the Ta'u Access Road dedication.

Faleasao Warehouse & Manu'a Port Administration Office

This particular project began during the pandemic and experienced regular delays in its completion. The two-story building, measuring 30 feet wide and 50 feet long, comprises a lower section for storage purposes and an upper portion intended for office use. Notably, the entire structure is constructed using metal materials. The Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Division in Manu'a and the Silva Group Company oversaw the construction of the project. The Director of Public Works (DPW), Faleosina Voigt, expressed her appreciation to Viliamu Sega and Tofa Sii Pose Salesa of M&O Division in Manu'a for their diligent efforts and unwavering commitment towards successfully completing this project. The Silva Group Company was also commended for their outstanding efforts.

Site Visit to Faleasao Access Road

DPW Director Faleosina mentioned that the primary goal of this project is to construct the access road for Faleasao Elementary School, in Ta'u, Manu'a. The access road provides a short-cut access route from Faleasao Elementary School directly to the Manu'a consolidated high school area and the Manu'a Dispensary area. This will also be an emergency escape route to higher grounds for the school.

Second Gentlemen Emhoff Stops Over in American Samoa En Route to 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup

On July 18, 2023, the United States Second Gentleman to Vice President Kamala Harris, Mr. Doug Emhoff, made a stopover in American Samoa for a refueling session at the Pago Pago International Airport. Mr. Emhoff is leading the U.S. Presidential delegation to attend the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Opening Ceremony in Auckland, New Zealand.

Welcomed by Acting Governor Talauega E. V. Ale and Good Lady Marian Ale, this momentous stopover in American Samoa showcased the essence of cultural exchange and mutual respect. Mr. Emhoff was graciously presented with a few traditional gifts symbolizing the hospitality of the people of American Samoa.

In return, Mr. Emhoff presented Acting Governor Talauega Challenge coins and expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome and the gifts received.

Mr. Emhoff will be joined by Tom Udall, U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and the Independent State of Samoa; Emmy Ruiz, director of the White House Office of Political Strategy and Outreach; Tina Flournoy, a member of the President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition; and Lorrie Fair, former U.S. Women's National Soccer Team player. The opening ceremony is scheduled for July 20, 2023.

Muagagana Fa'asamoa
E Mamae Le Tava'e I Ona Fulu

O le tava'e o se manulele e faapelepele tele i ona fulu ma mitamita i lona si'usi'u umī sinasina, ma e saafi tagata i lona uiga o le faamemelo i ona fulu i le muāgagana lenei, E mamae le tava'e i ona fulu. O isi upu e uiga faatasi e iai le Maefulu Faatava'e, ma le "Ua se tava'e faapelepele i ona fulu." E moomia i lona uiga o le filemu pe a ui atu i luma le seu tava'e, ae lele saosaoa pe a ia iloa se isi i ona tua. E mafua mai le manulele lenei nisi suafa o tama'ita'i o Tava'esina ma Tava'etoto, ma nisi.

Courtesy photo: Naitonal Park of American Samoa Facebook

Faaogaina (Application):

E faaaoga e faatatau i se tagata poo ni tagata ua iai mea tāua ua faapelepeleina ma puipui malu ne'i afaina e pei o le tofi o se aiga ma se nuu e pei o lana gagana ma aga tausaafia. E faapena foi i se mea totino, suafa, foliga lalelei o se tama'ita'i, se galuega, matagaluega, ma soo se mea ua sili ona faapelepeleina ma puipuia.

High School students participating in the making of the 'umu during the Aso o Tupulaga Festivities held in March 2023.

Cyber Disruption Consequences Management Workshop in American Samoa

On July 12, 2023, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) effectively hosted a Cyber Disruption Consequences Management Workshop in the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Tafuna. The workshop was organized in collaboration with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Federal Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis (OITA), and featured prominent experts, including Ms. Nicole Coughlin and Ms. Caitlyn Sarna from the Argonne National Laboratory, Mr. Raysyn Roach-Vaden from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Honolulu Office, and Ms. Jennilyn P. LaBrunda, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

The event gathered critical IT representatives from various government agencies, including the Department of Treasury, Public Works, Port Administration, ASTCA, Commerce, Legal Affairs, and Homeland Security. Representation from the private sector included Blue Sky Communications and Hawaiian Airlines.

DHS Director Samana S. Ve'ave'a delivered the opening remarks highlighting one of the key priorities of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration in this field. "At this workshop we reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding our territory's digital landscape," remarked Director Samana. He further stated, "Under this Administration, we prioritize strengthening our cybersecurity infrastructure to protect critical systems and uphold the trust of our citizens. Together, we embrace innovation and collaboration, forging a path towards a secure and resilient digital future for all."

The workshop focused on addressing cyber incident challenges and enhancing participants' understanding of effective strategies for managing consequences. Engaging in various exercises and discussions, attendees explored the complexities of American Samoa's cyber infrastructure, emphasizing the need for collaborative response strategies to mitigate disruptions in government systems and public services. Key topics of discussion were the importance of government, private sector, and public collaborations, along with operational continuity through backups and redundancy systems.

Experts from OITA, FBI, CISA, and the American Samoa Broadband Coordinating (BCORD) Office delivered informative presentations. Participants received practical tools and resources to enhance their cybersecurity practices, while lively discussions and a cybersecurity panel discussion with notable representatives fostered strong relationships with response partners and stakeholders.

The panel included Governor's Office Technology Office CIO Ray Tulafono, AS Broadband Coordinator Andrew Berquist from the Department of Commerce (DOC), Esau Esau from the DHS Fusion Center, Mr. Roach-Vaden and Ms. LaBrunda. They each shared their organization's cybersecurity responsibilities and emphasized the necessity of public-private collaboration in combating cyber threats in American Samoa. The workshop left attendees with actionable lessons and a profound understanding of the importance of planning for and managing disruptive cyber incidents.

DHS extends its gratitude to all participants, speakers, and partners for their active participation and dedication to bolstering the territory's cyber preparedness.

U.S. Coast Guard Strengthens Presence in American Samoa with Outreach and Recruiting Initiatives

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is proud to announce its enhanced presence in American Samoa, further strengthening its commitment to the region's safety and security. As part of this strategic effort, the USCG has deployed two highly skilled and dedicated personnel, Yeoman First Class (YN1) Moli PoChing and Yeoman Third Class (YN3) Adrian Baqui, to American Samoa to spearhead outreach and recruiting opportunities within the local community.

Both Petty Officers are American Samoa natives: Petty Officer PoChing hails from the village of Fagasa, and Petty Officer Adrian Baqui is from Aua. Together they bring with them a wealth of experience and passion for the Coast Guard's mission. Their presence in American Samoa aims to foster stronger ties between the USCG and the local community, encouraging engagement and understanding of the USCG's vital role in safeguarding maritime interests in the region.

In a brief meeting with the Governor's Chief of Staff, Loa Tuimavave Tauapa'i Laupola, the Petty Officers stated, "Through these outreach and recruiting efforts, we hope to inspire the next generation of Coast Guard professionals and continue fostering a culture of safety, service, and dedication." The USCG's outreach and recruiting activities in American Samoa will include a community wave in front of Samoana High School on July 22, 2023 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Additionally, personnel will be available at Sadies by the Sea poolside from Monday, July 24, 2023 through Saturday, July 29, 2023, between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. Interested individuals will have the opportunity to obtain applications, speak with a recruiter, and learn more about the rewarding opportunities offered by joining the U.S. Coast Guard.

Chief of Staff Loa commended the petty officers for their efforts in American Samoa. He stated: "Your presence here contributes to building a more resilient and inclusive force, which aligns with our vision for a safer, more prosperous future. Together, as we strengthen the bonds between our territorial government and the Coast Guard, we can achieve our shared objective of safeguarding our waters and ensuring the well-being of our coastal communities. Thank you for your service and dedication."

These efforts are in line with the USCG's ongoing commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion within its ranks. By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, USCG seeks to attract talented individuals from various backgrounds, enriching its workforce and ensuring it remains a dynamic and effective organization.

The American Samoa Government Celebrated and Honored the American Samoa Tennis Team

American Samoa's young and talented tennis team had the distinct honor of visiting Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga on July 25, 2023, to celebrate their exceptional achievements at the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship held in Nadi, Fiji.

The elated young athletes, accompanied by their coach and representatives from the American Samoa Tennis Association (ASTA), were warmly welcomed at the Governor's office. Governor Lemanu congratulated the team on their remarkable achievements.

"Having these talented young players join us for morning devotion is truly inspiring. Their outstanding performance at the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the support of their community. We are proud to witness such noteworthy achievements and remain committed to furthering the growth of tennis in our territory," said Governor Lemanu.

The Governor praised the team's resilience and expressed his admiration for their dedication to the sport. He also commended the efforts of the American Samoa Tennis Association in nurturing and supporting the development of young tennis talents. Coach Francine Amoa thanked Governor Lemanu on behalf of the ASTA: "We would like to send a big thank you to Governor Lemanu and the administration for resurfacing our tennis courts in Tafuna, and the nearby facilities so our young players can continue to practice, work hard and be competitive in the Pacific! We are grateful for your support."

Beginning in April 17-22, 2023 the East Regional Qualifying tournament took place in Apia, Samoa, where four talented players from American Samoa earned their spots to compete in Fiji. The Twelve-and-Under Girls team, comprising Joelei Ioane (11), Alexandria Amoa (11), and Aitulagi Godinet (10), showcased their extraordinary skills and remained unbeaten against ten other island countries.

Despite a tough finale against Fiji, the American Samoa team secured an impressive 2nd place overall, winning silver medals.

In the Boys Fourteen-and-Under category, Aifili Tamasoaali'i (12) demonstrated his prowess by winning his initial match against Vanuatu player Mathis Jacobe. While facing stiff competition from the top seed player from Northern Mariana Islands, Aifili managed to secure a commendable 8th place overall among 16 talented players.

The success of the American Samoa team was made possible by the contributions of numerous supporters and sponsors, including Bluesky American Samoa, Paramount Builders, and the many parents, individual donors, families, and friends of tennis enthusiasts who generously donated to their gofundme page earlier this year.

The American Samoa Tennis Association looks forward to nurturing and encouraging more promising talent in the future, continuing their journey towards excellence in the world of tennis.

SUBMIT YOUR DEPARTMENT'S UPDATES AND STORIES TO US TODAY!

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Upcoming Events

August 4 - US Coast Guard's Birthday
August 21- 25 - Adopt a School Initiative
August 25 - Island Wide Clean Up
August 29 - USMC Reserves' Birthday

Proclamations

August 1-7 - National WIC Breastfeeding Week