

Senate to hold hearing on illegal drug use on public high school

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Is 'Obamacare' repeal dead -- or a legislative zombie?

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To'alua ali'i fusu mai Amserika Samoa tausinio ta'amilosaga lalolagi i Ausetalia

Le Lali



Nurse Marvin prepares the dialysis machine for a patient at the Dialysis clinic. Obesity & diabetes is the most prevalent of non-communicable diseases in the Territory and LBJ is asking patients to be pro-active — keep your appointments and live healthy. See story below. [photo: Ese Malala]



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FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017

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Chief of Customs steps down

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Chief of Customs, Moetulu'i Sipili Fuiava has taken up another position within Treasury Department and no longer heads the Customs Division, according to a Mar. 28 memo from ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaip'e'a.

As of late yesterday afternoon, the search continues for a new Chief of Customs and no decision has been made on who will fill the post.

According to Tonumaip'e'a's memo to Customs Division personnel, after three years of service, Moetulu'i "has stepped down" effective Mar. 28 — the same date as the memo — and has accepted another position within Treasury. Tonumaip'e'a didn't provide additional information on Moetulu'i's new position.

On behalf of Treasury, "We wish to thank... Moetulu'i for his service and leadership and we wish him great success on his new role to support the work and efforts" of Treasury, said Tonumaip'e'a, who added that a permanent replacement for Chief of Customs will be assigned shortly.

In the interim, said Tonumaip'e'a, any questions should be directed to Deputy Treasurer Keith Gebauer until a final assignment is made.

ASG officials told Samoa News that as of yesterday afternoon the recruitment process for a Chief of Customs is still ongoing and no final selection has been made. They also say that Tonumaip'e'a is expected to issue a statement, when a permanent replacement is finalized.

(Continued on page 7)

LBJ urges patients — Take your health very seriously!

By Leiloa Ese Malala
Samoa News Staff Writer

Families of 20 deceased obese/ diabetic patients were advised last year to build their own coffins because there were no 'standard' coffins that would fit the deceased as he/ she weighed more than 300 pounds, a mortician at the LBJ Hospital told Samoa News this week. Such is the final indignity faced by a person dying of non-communicable diseases, prevalent in American Samoa — obesity and diabetes.

This year there are already two deceased patients whose families had to have customized coffins built for

their loved ones, according to one of LBJ's morticians, Fagaalu Siaki, who said the biggest coffin sizes found on island range from 38 inches to 44 inches wide.

"My heart breaks every time I see an obese deceased person especially at a young age," Siaki told Samoa News. He is one of the three morticians who work in the hospital's morgue.

Samoa News was at LBJ Hospital to follow up on a lead that a person suffering from diabetes and obesity, now pregnant, had suffered through limb amputations and was of interest to the World Health Organization.

(Continued on page 2)



GHC Reid & Company, Ltd. — Oloa o Leala — "Your Family of Fine Beverages and home of Vaimalu Puried Water" is the sponsor of this year's Samoa News 2017 Flag Day Fautasi Fiva coverage.

To date, while practice is ongoing for the various fautasi, there has been no official word from the Office of Samoan Affairs about the 2017 Flag Day Fautasi Regatta rules & regulations; who is participating; the race format — is there only one race for No. 1; and most importantly — what day the regatta will take place. [Photo: TG]





LPN Nurse Mafa stopped to pose for the Samoa News camera as she is preparing a patient to have their vision checked at the LBJ Hospital in Fagaalu. LBJ is asking patients of non-communicable diseases to be pro-active — keep your appointments and live healthy.

[Photo: Ese Malala]

Take your health very...

Continued from page 1

However, Samoa News was unable to confirm if the WHO has interest in such a patient.

While at LBJ Medical Center, Samoa News decided to speak to several of the hospital's medical staff about non-communicable diseases in the territory and what can be done.

According to the World Health Organization, studies done in American Samoa have shown that causes for deaths due to non-communicable diseases, in the territory, are mainly obesity and diabetes. These two are serious conditions that are a risk factor, which also causes renal failure, blindness, stroke and ischemic heart disease.

In the current 2014 survey, it was found that the prevalence of diabetes in American Samoa was 52.3% for males and 42.4% for females, and most of them are between the ages of 25 to 64 years old.

As with obesity, these rates for diabetes are among the highest in the world. Together with the high prevalence of risk factors for diabetes, such as obesity and physical inactivity in American Samoa, this data suggests that a large portion of the population is at risk for serious diabetes-related illnesses.

Chief Executive Office of LBJ Hospital, Taufetee John Faumuina said in a Samoa News interview, "The lifestyle of how our people are living is getting out of control. This is too early in life for them and they wait too long to come in and see us."

LBJ Hospital's aim is to prevent patients from getting to this stage but unfortunately

not all patients are taking their health seriously.

For example, a 26-year-old local female, who does not wish to be identified, told Samoa News she was diagnosed with diabetes when she was 21-years old. Within 5 years, her obesity and diabetes have affected her vision, where she cannot see in her right eye and has caused two of her limbs to be amputated. "It is so hard for me to change my lifestyle because I have grown to love drinking sodas and eat out a lot."

A General Surgeon of LBJ Hospital, Dr. Kamlesh Kumar told Samoa News that every week he is amputating a patient's limb. "This makes me so sad to see this beautiful island with people who do not worry about their bodies. This is very serious. This happens because they do not care, they start caring once they start feeling the pain getting worse, and by the time they get to the hospital it's too late. And I want to prevent this, because I don't want them to come see me to cut off their toes."

Chief of Medical Officer Dr. Iotama Saleapaga advises the public, "Please take the time out to come see the doctors. We have all the services you need here. Be compliant with your follow-ups on appointments and medications."

We really do want to help you but we cannot do our part if you are not doing yours," the CMO told Samoa News. She advised even if it's just a headache, come and see the doctors as soon as possible.

Many of LBJ's medical personnel told Samoa News there are a large number of people who do not follow up with their appointments and medications, which causes them to lose the opportunity to find out what condition their health is in.

Dr. Amata Taifane of the Dialysis department said, "Once we tell our patients you need dialysis they quickly assume they are going to die when what they need to understand is that dialysis keeps your body balanced by removing waste, salt and extra water to prevent it from building up in the body so pretty much giving you life."

According to the dialysis department the longest patient on dialysis was more than 20 years and it's only because she followed up with her appointments and prescribed medications and lived a healthy lifestyle.

"We don't want our patients to wait too long then come see us and it's already too late. It shows now that people with diabetes and obesity, they are getting younger and I do not want to see my own people go," the LBJ CEO said.

Chamber board sets goals for 2017

INCLUDES INCREASING ASG CONSULTATIONS

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Chamber of Commerce's new chairman Taotasi Archie Soliai has outlined three goals and objectives of the new board during Wednesday night's meeting of the private sector organization. The board was elected in late January this year.

The meeting, sponsored by Bluesky Communications, was held at DDW Restaurant, and was the first time that Taotasi addressed the Chamber after he was elected Feb. 8 by the board to be the chairman.

CONSULTATION WITH ASG

With the new Chamber board of directors in place, Taotasi outlined three goals and objectives — such as increasing consultations between govern-

ment and the private sector. He says it's "no secret that the private sector has not always seen eye-to-eye with government policies for many years."

"It's like that for many other jurisdictions, and we're no different," said Taotasi in his prepared speech for the meeting. "However, our resolve and commitment to make our community a business-friendly environment must be continued."

He said the board has asked government leaders for more opportunities to be consulted and he believes the request is "being given serious consideration" by Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga and his cabinet.

"Once that door opens and the opportunity arises, let's be prepared to sit down and provide meaningful discussion that

can be beneficial for our community," said Taotasi, who is a senior official with StarKist Samoa and a former faipule.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The second goal and objective of the board is "skills development," with Taotasi saying that Chamber members remain concerned about the skills and preparation of young people when they enter the workforce.

He says some Chamber members have "literally started up their own training programs locally in order to make a difference." Additionally some members have even worked on innovative ways to develop their workforce.

"We'd like to help our private sector develop the essential skills that are needed to make

(Continued on page 5)



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TAOA seniors have a store at the TAOA Center in Pago Pago where they sell handicraft they make themselves. According to TAOA officials, it's all part of keeping seniors engaged in the community and themselves. A Hula class is also offered early mornings at the center from Monday to Thursday, and all are invited to participate. [Photo: LF]

Senate to hold hearing on illegal drug use on public high school campuses

by Samoa News staff

Senate Education Committee chairman Sen. Fai'ivae Iuli A. Godinet has scheduled for next week Monday, a hearing to look at the alleged use of illegal drugs in public high schools, with several witnesses being called to provide testimony.

The witness list, which was announced Wednesday during the Senate session, includes Education director Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, principals of the public high schools as well as officials from Department of Public Safety and the Office of Samoan Affairs.

Sen. Tuaolo Manaia Fruean suggested inclusion of Samoan Affairs to ascertain their role in helping to stomp out the illegal drug problem since public schools are located in villages.

Tuaolo claims that the illegal drug problem on high school campuses has spread like "cancer" to elementary schools and everyone, including the Fono and traditional leaders, play a role in seeking to solidify preventive measures.

The scheduled Senate hearing followed recent allegations of illegal drug use at Fagaitua High School campus and Fai'ivae moved to include all high school principals in the hearing so that senators will learn more on the prevalence of illegal drugs on high school campuses and how the Fono can assist in addressing this serious problem, which is probably affecting all public secondary schools.

Sen. Muagututu'a Tauoa said he spoke Wednesday with the Fagaitua principal, who confirmed the report of illegal drug

use and that the matter has been referred to local authorities, while communication about this serious matter has already been carried out with police and ASDOE.

Muagututia said he was also informed by the principal that the matter is now in the hands of the attorney handling juvenile cases and requested the attorney to attend the hearing. Muagututia wasn't specific to which attorney he was referencing.

The Senate session took a brief recess and Senate President Pro-Temp Nuanuaolefeagaiga Saoluaga T. Nua called into the Chamber the Senate legal counsel Mitzie Jessop-Ta'ase, who explained that the Attorney General's Office has an attorney handling juvenile cases.

However, she noted one concern, and that is under the law, juvenile cases and issues are not public and the law protects juveniles, who are under 18 years old. While the attorney handling juvenile issues can attend the hearing, the attorney however cannot testify on specific questions pertaining to juveniles, said Jessop-Ta'ase, who added that the attorney can answer "general questions" — on issues such as laws, procedures to follow for agencies involved in juvenile matters, etc.

Tuaolo, a retired High Court judge and former police commissioner echoed Jessop-Ta'ase's explanation.

After the brief recess, the Senate session resumed and it was decided that no attorney or attorneys for juveniles would be called to testify.

According to the 2015 Amer-

ican Samoa Statistical Yearbook released in January this year, there were about 30 drug cases involving juveniles between 2005 and 2015. Data shows that in 2015 there were four drug cases. The highest number of juvenile drugs cases, during the same period, was six each for 2008, 2006 and 2005.

At the House Education Committee hearing two weeks ago, Rep. Vesi Talalelei Fautanu Jr. claimed that drugs have made their way into schools and "this is not a joke, this is not a rumor." Others — e.g. lawmakers, traditional leaders — in the past have echoed Vesi's claim.

The results of a local survey conducted in 2013 on the prevalence of cigarette smoking, alcohol and illicit drug use by students was shared by American Samoa with Samoa during a health summit last November hosted by American Samoa.

Results of the survey were released in 2014 on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The survey was carried out in collaboration with the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention along with the local Education Department, Health Department and others.

Among the highlights presented at the summit: students taking illicit drugs for the past 12 months — 30% of them were offered, sold or given by someone on school property — compared to 22% at the US level.

Samoa News was unable to obtain information on a more recent survey.



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The Pharmacy team works hard everyday, getting prescriptions and medications ready for the patients of American Samoa. They still managed to smile for the Samoa News camera at the LBJ Medical Center in Fagaalu. LBJ is asking patients of non-communicative diseases to be pro-active — keep your appointments, take your medicine, and live healthy. See story elsewhere in today's issue.

[Photo: Ese Malala]

Repeat sex offender sentenced to 11 years for rape of 6 year old

by Joyetter Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu
Samoa News Reporter

Apia, SAMOA — A repeat sex offender has been sentenced to 11 years in jail after being convicted of having sexual intercourse with a six year old girl. Fifty-year-old Ueni Semeatu of Afega faced one count of sexual connection which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Supreme Court Justice Mata Tuatagaloa handed down sentencing this week and according to the Police Summary of Facts (police report), the victim was six years old at the time of the offending, which occurred on November 10, 2013. (Samoa News notes that it's unclear why the matter is just now coming

before the court for sentencing.)

Justice Tuatagaloa stated that on the night of the incident the victim was home with the defendant's younger children. The police report says the defendant kissed the victim and then performed oral sex and then asked the young girl to suck his penis, however she refused.

The police report further says the defendant then proceeded to have sexual intercourse with the six year old and asked the victim if she was enjoying what he was doing. "The victim responded 'no' and cried because she was in pain but the defendant ignored her and continued until he was satisfied; afterwards the defendant told the victim to go shower."

Tuatagaloa pointed out that the pre-sentence report was prepared by probation services without the availability of the summary of facts. The PSR provides the educational and family background of the defendant. It also notes if there has been any reconciliation with the victim or the victim's family and any previous convictions that the defendant may have.

According to the PSR the defendant and his family are now living in Vaiusu. The Justice noted the defendant has previous convictions of similar offending in 2003 and 2008 where he had sexual intercourse with minors.

Fife Ioane, who was prosecuting, recommended a 20-year sentence noting the vulner-

ability of the victim; impact of the offending on the victim; age disparity; premeditation and breach of trust as the victim and her mother were living with the defendant and his family.

Defense Counsel, Pa'u Mulitalo submitted that although he's mindful of the defendant's previous similar convictions stressed the need for rehabilitation for this defendant, because despite the defendant having been incarcerated twice for committing the same offenses it has not deterred the defendant from again committing the same offense the third time.

Mulitalo during sentencing stated that rehabilitation could still be done while the defendant is incarcerated and asks for a shorter incarceration of two years and a longer supervision term of three years to facilitate full rehabilitation.

Tuatagaloa agreed with Mulitalo that the defendant needs specialized treatment and therapy by trained professionals and that rehabilitation plays such a vital role to lessen reoffending thereby reducing the crime rate for the safety of people and society in general.

However the question arises whether these services are available for the defendant. "Is society especially, young girls, safe if the defendant is placed on supervision to undergo rehabilitation as submitted by his counsel? I am not aware of any specialized treatment programs and therapy by trained professionals to provide such services here in Samoa or any facilities

(not prison) to keep or house these people while undergoing rehabilitation."

Given the lack of specialized treatment and trained professionals, counsel for the defendant in his supplementary submissions then strongly advocated for a longer custodial sentence with a starting point between 14 years and 20 years imprisonment.

According to Tuatagaloa the victim was subjected to violence and fear and there was premeditation. Also the age gap of 45 years shows the level of subjugation and powerlessness the victim was placed under and the offending on the very young victim was intolerable and an act of cowardice. "Offending of this nature on very young victim will always have an impact upon young victims' lives in years to come."

Justice Tuatagaloa said with the lack of specialized treatment, given the circumstances of this offending and the previous convictions of the defendant for similar offending, "it is my view that a longer custodial sentence is most appropriate."

"The defendant is very dangerous to society especially around young girls. He is said to have ten children and if any are girls, his own daughters are very much at risk," the Justice said.

The defendant was sentenced to 11 years and 6 months; his name should also be entered on the Sex Offenders Register when established.

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▶ Chamber...

Continued from page 2

your businesses work both productively and efficiently," he said and requested feedback from members on the necessary training and skill sets critical to their businesses so that the Chamber can coordinate, facilitate and work together for that common goal.

"Skills are the currency of the 21st century economy and it is the extent to which our territory is able to offer a more highly skilled workforce than our neighboring countries," he said. "Let's work together to start that process and make it happen."

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The third goal and objective, said Taotasi, is "growing the role of Chamber in driving economic growth." He said Chamber members need to work together "to grow our role as the... Chamber, to drive economic growth."

"We are all interconnected, all businesses large or small, are connected to each other," he pointed out. "Because we are interconnected, we all have a responsibility to make things better, to improve our businesses and our people."

To achieve three goals and objectives, Taotasi said the board has created — within the Chamber — four committees: Economic Development & Tourism; Education & Leadership/Professional Develop-

ment; Government Affairs/ Tax Policy; and Membership, Benefits & Social.

He said each board member is on at least one committee to help facilitate the work they will do. "These goals are attainable if we all stand together. This is a new year, and you have a zqnew Board," he said, and urged Chamber members to help the board take the Chamber to the next level.

CHAMBER'S ROLE

According to the chair, the Chamber's role is supporting business, and being a truly influential voice for business, it is at the heart of what the Chamber movement is about. He cited two primary purposes for which the Chamber was created and one purpose is to "preserve the system of free enterprise and to promote a better understanding with the government, of the beneficial role of private enterprise in the community."

The second one is to serve as a forum where the business community can discuss its common aims and problems; future plans and, as necessary, formulate submissions to the government on matters of concern to the business community and act as its spokesman when required.

Other Chamber board members are vice chairman — Paul Young of the American Samoa Power Authority; treasurer — Joanne Rasmussen with ANZ Amerika Samoa Bank; and secretary — Filifotu Vaai Tinitali of the Bluesky Group.

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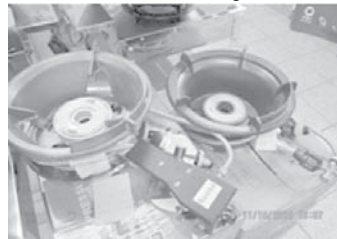


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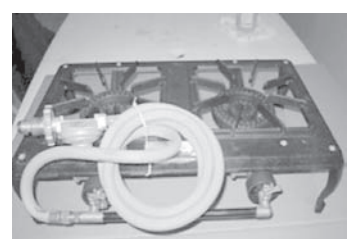
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SAMOA BRIEFS

by Joyetter
Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu
Samoa News Reporter

APIA WHARF NOT CLOSING

Apia, SAMOA — The Samoa Government has confirmed the Apia Wharf will not close down and Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Afamasaga Rico Tupai has confirmed this. His official statement comes after reports by media outlets in Samoa claiming that the Apia Wharf is likely to close to allow the installation of the Tui Samoa Cable.

According to Afamasaga, "the Tui Samoa Cable is coming directly from Fiji and will go directly to Moataa, so the information in media reports blaming the Tui Samoa Cable for any temporary closures is false."

According to the statement, the Samoa Government confirms that there may be temporary, short-term closures scheduled for later this year, to facilitate potential developments by another company, which may choose Samoa as its base for cable maintenance work for the region.

Government recognizes that the Apia Wharf is currently struggling to keep up with the increasing demand of the public and private sectors, especially with existing and expected growth in many different sectors, it says.

The Samoa Government has already identified that long-term infrastructure development remains a key part of its Strategy for the Development of Samoa.

ANZ AND JAWS SHARE INSIGHTS ON FINANCE WRITING

Apia, SAMOA — ANZ and the Journalists Association of Samoa (JAWS) last week collaborated to share insights

on understanding finance and writing corporate news at a workshop facilitated by veteran Australian journalist Mark Skulley.

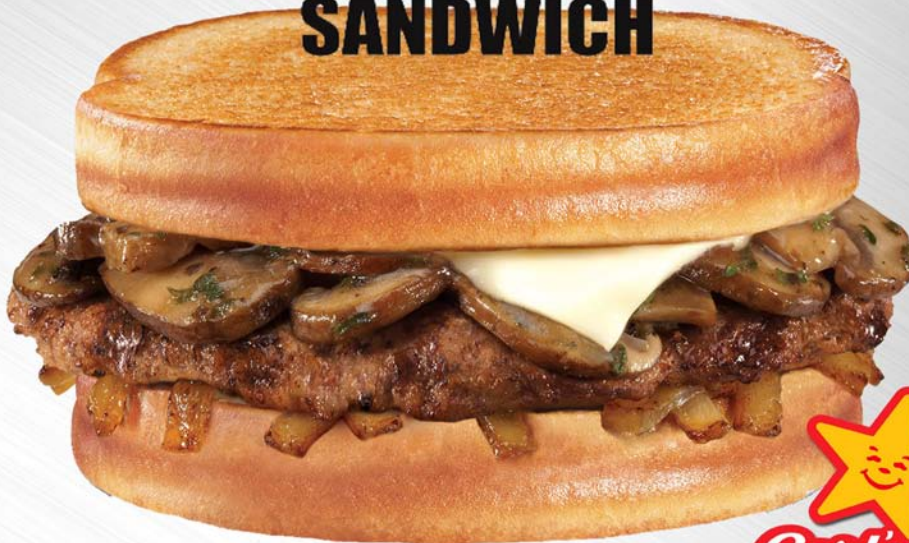
Over a dozen Samoan journalists attended the workshop that covered the critical and evolving role of corporate journalism, when understanding and reporting on basic financials.

Skulley was the instructor and is a veteran journalist for the Australian Financial Review and the Sydney Morning Herald and more recently published articles about the Pacific on ANZ's news and insights portal, ANZ BlueNotes. He is widely recognized as one of Australia's finest industrial reporters, specializing in industrial relations and the auto industry.

Prior to the opening of the one-day training, ANZ Samoa Country Head, Bernie Poort said, the workshop "is about
(Continued on page 8)

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Chief...

Continued from page 1

Gebauer, former Criminal Justice Planning Agency director, oversees all revenue creating divisions of Treasury.

The former chief of customs was recently in the news concerning issues such as his letter this year to some local vendors that Customs would soon levy the 5% excise tax on incoming cargo, using CIF (cargo, insurance and freight) value, instead of FOB (cargo only) value. Moetulu'i in his letter said, it was "in line with the annotated code of American Samoa," while the private sector said it was not. The Treasurer, a couple of days after the story broke in the news, rescinded Moetulu'i's decision.

Moetulu'i has also made the news concerning the scanning fees, which are set to go in affect Apr. 3 — this Monday.



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Continued...

Continued from page 7

sharing insights and skills,” and further noted, “The media plays an important role in informing the public on topical matters related to the financial sector.”

Skulley said that a lot of journalists could feel daunted when it comes to reporting on business and economics, partly because of the jargon that’s used, and because the subject is ‘boring’. “But as the saying goes, ‘money makes the world go round’,” he pointed out.

Skulley told the journalists that improving your understanding of how business works can help you in every reporting ground, including sports, politics and culture. “Your skills will improve if you work at it and you learn where to look for information.”

Media representatives from the Samoa Observer, Samoa News (American Samoa), TV3, National Radio 2AP, Talamua Media, Savali Newspaper, WT Media and TV2 EFKS attended the workshop held at the Sheraton Hotel.

President of JAWS, Apulu Lance Polu, welcomed the initiative noting, “This is an excellent example of collaboration between ANZ and local media, and we hope to see more of these sorts of initiatives in the future.”

US EMBASSY WELCOMES RENOWNED HAWAIIAN MURAL ARTIST TO SAMOA

Apia, SAMOA — The U.S. Embassies in New Zealand and Apia worked together to bring to Samoa renowned Hawaiian Mural Artist and Executive Director of the Estria Foundation, Estria Miyashiro and his team. Samoa got to see first hand the work of Estria and his team, when they painted the Nelson Memorial Library, located in the heart of Samoa.

The US Embassies of NZ and Apia expanded the Embassy’s continuing efforts to actively engage with emerging generations to build understanding, cultivate support, stimulate interest, and reinforce the value of artistic expression, according to the US Embassy. It said Estria has been in the arts for more than 30 years, and is recognized around the world as an urban art living legend, a pioneer in the arts and is acknowledged as a valued historian and a community leader.

Participating in the project are the children from American Corner’s reading program ‘Turn a Life Around’ led by Quenjule Slaven and her group of volunteers.

JAPAN PROVIDES ASSISTANCE FOR TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN SAVAI’I

Apia SAMOA — The Government of Japan once again reaffirmed its commitment to assisting development of education in Samoa through grants for two local primary schools, Tuanai Primary School and Laumoliafi Primary School in Avao, Savaii.

The official signing ceremonies took place this week at the Embassy of Japan in Apia between Ambassador of Japan to Samoa, H.E. Tuimaugaolii Kazumasa Shibuta and representatives from the two schools.

Tuanai Primary School committee received a grant of USD \$111,646 while Laumoliafi Primary School committee received a grant of USD \$113,561 under Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

According to Tuimaugaolii, the grants will fund the reconstruction of rooms in current school buildings, 8 new classrooms per project, as well as libraries and staff rooms, ensuring safe and healthier conditions.

He reiterated Japan’s commitment to support projects that boost the standard of education aligned with the government of Samoa’s key development areas in its Strategy for Development.

This makes three projects recently approved and officially signed; including last week’s Samata-i-uta Primary School, also in Savai’i, received similar funding.



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Deadline for all applications: Friday, April 28, 2017 at 4pm.

For more information, please contact Silika Vai Tui at 699-8686 or Evelyn Gebauer at 699-8699.

Is 'Obamacare' repeal dead -- or a legislative zombie?

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's plan to kill Obamacare died last week. Or maybe it didn't.

The repeal effort seems to have assumed zombie status — somewhere between dead and alive.

This is never-say-die Washington, where big legislative proposals that are in the basket one day can show signs of a pulse and start climbing out the next.

It's a fairly common condition in the capital, where politicians who invest enormous political capital in a proposal are loath to let go.

"One of the keys to understanding Washington is to think a little bit like a coroner," says consultant Ari Fleischer, former press secretary to President George W. Bush. "You have to know when something's dead and when something's still kicking, and sometimes it's hard to tell the difference."

To say that Trump and Republican congressional leaders are sending mixed signals about the viability of the repeal effort is an understatement.

Last week, when it became clear that House Republicans didn't have enough votes to pass the health-care repeal bill, the White House said Trump had given it his all, left everything on the field, and was ready to move on.

Next up: taxes, the president said, without blinking.

His son Eric channeled Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler" in praising his father for knowing when to walk away.

"Guess what? We're moving on," the president's son told Fox News on Tuesday. "The best business people know ... when to hold their cards, know when to fold the cards."

That same night, though, the president told a bipartisan gathering of senators, "We're all going to make a deal on health care. That's such an easy one. So I have no doubt that that's going to happen very quickly."

Trump spokesman Sean Spicer said Wednesday the president had just been engaging in light-hearted banter.

But it was no laughing matter to plenty of Republicans on Capitol Hill, where conservatives elected on a promise to scrap the law continue to insist that reports of the repeal effort's death are premature.

"We don't quit," said freshman Rep. Brian Mast, a Florida Republican who lost both legs after being wounded in Afghanistan. "That's how we do things on the battlefield; that's how things should be done here."

On Thursday, House Speaker Paul Ryan added to the

cacophony of conflicting statements when he told CBS that it's time for Plan B, where "we keep talking to each other and figure out how we get to 'yes.'"

For all of that, there is little evidence that leaders are working on a concrete plan to revive the repeal effort.

Why not admit that?

It could be the emotional attachment to a long-held goal. Or a matter of self-interest.

"These are creatures that need public recognition and public validation," says Stephen Wayne, a Georgetown University professor of government. "When they get behind something and it doesn't go anywhere, or they're embarrassed by it, it's a political failure. It's an ego failure."

Framing the situation more charitably, Fleischer offers this: "People in both parties generally have a lot of heartfelt investments in the policies they're pursuing. Particularly for core promises, the formality of declaring it dead is gut-wrenching, so you cling to hope and you don't declare it dead 'til you have no choice."

There are historical examples that demonstrate both the wisdom and folly of refusing to admit defeat.

President Ronald Reagan's push for a sweeping tax overhaul package was pronounced dead on Capitol Hill more than once before a bipartisan package won approval in 1986.

President Bill Clinton's push to revamp welfare was declared a failure repeatedly before it came together. His years-long effort to remake the health care system was declared a goner more than once — and really did die.

President Barack Obama's attempts to enact gun control measures after the 2012 shooting of schoolchildren in Newtown, Connecticut, ended with the president acknowledging in 2014 that until there was a fundamental shift in public opinion, "it will not change."

Between the clear victories and defeats lies a netherworld of legislative limbo.

Obama's push for big immigration changes stalled after the Senate in 2013 passed a bill with dim prospects of clearing the House, but the idea lived on in people's hopes and dreams. All the discussion of whether immigration reform was dead or alive was a pretty good indication that it was the former.

Obama never explicitly acknowledged the political reality that the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal was dead after Trump was elected. The White House just stopped actively lobbying Congress to pass it.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



by Samoa News staff
ASG MEDICAID DIRECTOR ASKS FOR CAP LIFT & BETTER MATCHING %

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, through his Medicaid Director, Sandra King-Young, this week in Washington delivered a briefing to Brian Neale, Medicaid Advisor to U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Thomas Price.

Neale is expected to be appointed the new top Medicaid official for the Trump Administration.

In the briefing, King-Young said she expressed to Neale the governor's health care priority was to ensure that when the additional Affordable Care Act funding expires in 2019, that there be in place increased Medicaid funding to fully serve

the people of American Samoa including the off-island program once reinstated.

According to a statement yesterday, King said she asked on behalf of the governor that the Trump Administration support the territories' request to the US Congress to lift the Medicaid cap and improve the territories' FMAP (federal medicaid assistance percentage) matching percentage.

She said the Governors' of the territories during the previous administration were successful for the first time through territorial government effort, in getting these two provision's in the previous Administration's budget, unfortunately it did not pass in Congress.

Matt Salo, executive director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD), accompanied King-Young to the briefing. "NAMD has included in its Congressional legislative agenda the request made by American Samoa to lift the cap and the FMAP matching percentage on behalf of the territories," King-Young said via email before heading back to the territory.

In a prepared speech presented to last month's federal Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) in Washington D.C., the governor called on the Trump Administration and Congress to be mindful that small economies such as those of American Samoa and other U.S. territories "cannot afford any reduction in Medicaid" funding.

The governor explained Medicaid is the primary health insurance coverage for the people of American Samoa - other than Tricare and Medicare. He also suggested lifting the Medicaid cap and the FMAP matching percentage. (See Samoa News edition Mar. 2 for details.)

HAWAIIAN AIR ADDING A DOZEN EXTRA FLIGHTS FOR THE SUMMER

Hawaiian Airlines is adding a dozen extra flights between Honolulu and Pago Pago for the busy traveled summer months, as is their norm.

In addition, to the current two flights a week on Mondays and Fridays, Hawaiian has added extra Wednesday flights beginning Jun. 7 to Aug. 23, airline spokesperson Ann Botticelli confirmed to Samoa News yesterday morning.

Wednesday's flight for the summer will arrive and depart Pago Pago the same time as the two current weekly flights.

Besides church conferences, the summer is also the time for family reunions and other events for Samoan families both in the territory and in the US, keeping the Pago Pago-Honolulu route very busy.

(Continued on page 11)

[l-r] Matt Salo, executive director of National Association of Medicaid Directors, Brian Neale, Medicaid advisor to US Secretary of Health and Human Services, Thomas E. Price, and Sandra King Young, Medicaid Director for American Samoa, after a meeting this week in Washington to discuss Medicaid issues for American Samoa and the territories. [photo: ASG]

세계인과 함께 하는 **KBS WORLD** bluesky **m@na** CHANNEL 47 * (E) English Subtitles * (L)-Live Programming/News * (R)-Rerun

"Channel 47" KBS WORLD Program of American Samoa

* The programs listed below may change without notice due to copyright issues. (Apr 02 ~ 08, 2017) *

Time of American Samoa	Sunday (4/2)	Monday (4/3)	Tuesday (4/4)	Wednesday (4/5)	Thursday (4/6)	min	Friday (4/7)	Saturday (4/8)	min
10 : am	00' Please Find Her	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	Guesthouse Daughters (E,R)	Singing Battle (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	00'	Sister's Slam Dunk (E,R)	Encore Drama Don't Look Back The Legend of Orpheus (E,R)	00'
11 : am	30' Battle Trip (E,R)	Encore Drama "Don't Look Back The Legend of Orpheus"(E,R)			50'	"The Return of Superman-Sprcial	The Legend of Orpheus (E,R)		
12 NOON	50' Music Bank (E,R)	Daily Drama "Fist Love Again" (E,R)							
1 : pm	50' The Return of Superman (E,R)	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Ms. Perfect Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)	Queen of Mystery Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)			K-RUSH (E,R)	30'	
2 : pm	30' Two Days and One Night (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	Guesthouse Daughters (E,R)	Singing Battle (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	30'	Sister's Slam Dunk (E,R)	Music Bank	30'
3 : pm	50' Encore Drama	Mon-Tue Drama Ms. Perfect (E,R)	My Father is Strange (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Good Manager (E,R)	Guerilla Date (E,R)	50'	My Father is Strange Weekend Drama (E,R)		50'
4 : pm	50' Don't Look Back The Legend of Orpheus (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Ms. Perfect (E,R)	My Father is Strange (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Good Manager (E,R)	The Return of Superman (E,R)	00'	Mon-Tue Drama	Wed-Thu Drama	00'
5 : pm	6 : pm	50' # 14, 15, 16.	Mon-Tue Drama Ms. Perfect (E,R) # 8, 9, 10.	My Father is Strange (E,R) # 6, 7, 8.	Wed-Thu Drama Good Manager (E,R) # 18, 19, 20.		Ms. Perfect (E,R)	Queen of Mystery (E,R)	
7 : pm	20' One K Global Peace Concert in Manila	Daily Drama "Fist Love Again" (E,R)					One K Global Peace Concert in Manila	20'	
8 : pm	40' UHD UNESCO World Heritage Special (E,R)	KBS World News Today (Live)			40'			40'	
9 : pm	00' Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Ms. Perfect Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)	Queen of Mystery Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)	Music Bank (Live)			Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E)	
10 : pm	00' Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	Guesthouse Daughters (E,R)	Singing Battle (E,R)	KBS World E-Today Please Find Her Guerilla Date (E,R)	00'	Gag Concert (E)	"The Return of Superman" (E)	00'
11 : pm	40' Daily Drama "Fist Love Again" (E)	Daily Drama "Still Loving You" (E)					Immortal Songs 2 (E)	Two Days and One Night (E)	40'
12 : 00	20' Next Day	KBS 9 News (Live)					KBS 9 News (Live)		00'
1 : am	00' Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Ms. Perfect Mon-Tue Drama (E)	Queen of Mystery Wed-Thu Drama (E)				My Father is Strange (E)		20'
2 : am	50' Hollo Counselor (E)	Guesthouse Daughters (E)	Singing Battle (E)	Happy Together (E)	Sister's Slam Dunk (E)	30'	Mon-Tue Drama Ms. Perfect (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Queen of Mystery (E,R)	30'
3 : am	00' Encore Drama "Don't Look Back The Legend of Orpheus"(E)	"The Return of Superman" Sprcial (E)							
4 : am	20' KBS World E-Today	2016 Drama Special (E,R)	KBS World E-Today K-RUSH (E,R)	Music Bank (E,R)			Gag Concert (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)	50'
5 : am	30' UNESCO World Heritage Spwcial	One K Global Peace Concert in Manila (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles (E)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	00'	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	30'
6 : am	40' Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Gag Concert (E,R)	Guerilla Date (E)	K-RUSH (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles (E,R)				
7 : am	20' Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	Ms. Perfect Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)	Queen of Mystery Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)				My Father is Strange Weekend Drama (E,R)		50'
8 : am	30' Hollo Counselor	GuesthouseDaught'	Singing Battle	Happy Together	Sister's Slam Dunk	00'	"Don't Look Back The Legend of "	My Neighbor Charles (E,R)	00'

*Note: If you need this Schedule, e-mail <hyunhwilee@gmail.com>. and I will send it to you every week!

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McDonald's American Samoa's family and friends bid goodbye to Evelyn Gebauer – during her retirement dinner, hosted at the A&E Cafe on Friday evening, March 10, 2017. [Photo: TG]

Community Briefs...

Continued from page 10

FOREIGN LONGLINER CAUGHT WITH 'SOME SHARK PARTS'

The case of a foreign longline fishing vessel caught with "some shark parts" on board the vessel has been turned over to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration law enforcement unit, says Va'amua Henry Seseapasara, director of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources.

The case was revealed by Va'amua at last week's three day meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in Honolulu during American Samoa's presentation on fisheries dealing with the area of enforcement in which DMWR's enforcement unit works with its federal fisheries law enforcement partners.

Va'amua told the meeting that recently, a longliner came in port and "our enforcement officers boarded the vessel and discovered some shark parts on the vessel." He said the matter was then referred to the Attorney General's Office.

And, the advice from the AG's Office is that since the vessel fished outside of territorial waters, "we should refer the matter back to NOAA enforcement unit. So they're handling that now," said Va'amua, who noted that, "we have a joint enforcement agreement with... the National Marine Fisheries enforcement unit."

American Samoa's presentation also included an update on the territory's revised shark legislation. The Council's representative based in the territory, Nate Ilaoa, explained that "American Samoa has a total ban on any shark possession and it doesn't match the federal law which allows landing the whole shark."

The revised shark legislation, seeks to mirror federal law and the draft review of the

measure has been approved, but it "needs to be publicly noticed and depending on how many comments are received from the public, there may need to be a public meeting held," he said.

By local law, if five or more comments are received from the public, the DMWR is required to post a notice and hold a public meeting on the revision of the code.

As previously reported by Samoa News, federal law bans shark finning but federal legislation — Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act — introduced three weeks ago in the US House makes the possession, sale, and purchase of shark fins illegal acts in the United States.

AMATA PUSHES MORE LOCAL CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Washington, D.C. — At a hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, Mar. 28, Congresswoman Aumua Amata called for more local input into federal environmental decision-making.

"American Samoa is the jewel of the U.S. in the Pacific," began Amata. "We have many exciting species that are only found in the archipelago. However, just because they are only found in American Samoa does not mean that they are endangered. The local communities in both the territories and the Native American tribes should be consulted, and given a voice before the Fish and Wildlife Service adds or removes an animal from the endangered species list, so that it does not adversely affect the economic or infrastructure development of the United States' poorest areas."

Amata asked the panel of witnesses whether the United States had an obligation to

consult with either territorial leaders, or tribal leaders when their people would be affected. The hippie said they'd always support animals over people. The panel generally agreed that the Endangered Species Act is sometimes at odds with the duties and responsibilities of the United States over the territories and Native American tribes.

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To'alua ali'i fusu mai Amserika Samoa tausinio ta'amilosaga lalolagi i Ausetalia

tusia Ausage Fausia

Eto'alua ali'i fusu mai le Asosi o Fusuaga a Amerika Samoa (American Samoa Amateur Boxing Federation) ua sauni e fai ma sui o le atunu'u, i le ta'amilosaga a le lalolagi lea ua fa'amoemoe e faia i Ausetalia i le vaiaso lona lua o le masina o Aperila o loo lumana'i nei.

O ali'i fusu e to'alua o le a fai ma sui o Amerika Samoa, o i laua ia sa manumalo mai i pine auro mai le ta'amilosaga a le Pasefika sa talimalo ai Samoa i le masina o Fepuari na te'a nei, lea sa aofia ai atunu'u o loo sili ona malosi ma olaola lelei ai lenei falagamae'a e pei o Ausetalia, Niu Sila, Fiti, Tonga ma Samoa.

O i laua o le a malaga e aofia ai le susuga ia Jeffrey Tago ma Ioane Kaisa, lea o le a malaga fa'atasi ma le la faiaoga, o ia fo'i lea o le Ta'ita'i malaga, susuga Okesene Malala, o le sui peresetene fo'i lea o le Asosi Fusu a Amerika Samoa.

E pei ona fa'aalia e sui o le Asosi Fusu i le Samoa News e fa'apea, o le tulaga maualuga ma lelei sa i ai taumafaiga a Tago ma Kaisa i le ta'amilosaga sa faia i Samoa i le masina na tea nei, lea ua mafua ai ona manuia le la taumafaiga mo Ausetalia.

"O le ta'amilosaga lea ua fa'amoemoe e faia i Ausetalia, o le a sili atu ona faigata mo alo ia e to'alua a le atunu'u, ae o le a avea fo'i o se lu'itau mo i laua, e le gata e siitia ai le tulaga iloa i le ta'alogia, ae fa'auau ai pea le avanoa e fusu ma feiloa'i atu i isi fo'i tama fusu ua iloga i lenei ta'alogia i le Pasefika", o le saunoaga lea a Sala Sanele Etuale, o le isi lea faiaoga o loo lagolagosua ia Malala i le tapenaina o le au mo Ausetalia.

Pau le lu'itau o loo fetai'i ma le aufusu a le atunu'u i le taimi nei i soo se taimi e malaga atu ai i ta'amilosaga fa'avaomalo, o le tau sailiina lea o se tupe e fa'atupe ai le malaga, ona o le tele o taimi e tagi ai lava le Asosi o Fusuaga i lima mo le tau fa'atupeina o malaga e auina atu i ai alo o le atunu'u e tausinio ai.

O loo talosagaina e le Asosi o Fusuaga a le atunu'u le fes-

oasoani a uo ma aiga fa'apea ai le atunu'u atoa, i le itu tau tupe e mafai ai ona fesoasoani i le tau fa'atupeina o le malaga lea ua toe 2 nei vaiaso ona fa'ataunu'uina loa lea.



Ali'i fusu sa manumalo i pine auro i le ta'amilosaga a le Pasefika sa faia i Samoa i le amataga o le tausaga nei, susuga Jeffrey Tago ma Kaisa Ioane, lea ua sauni atu mo le ta'amilosaga e faia i Ausetalia i le masina fou o Aperila. [ata AF]

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Tusia: Akenese Ilalio Zec

VAEGA: 74

Alo mai o le a fa'auau le tatou tala. Na muta mai la tatou tala, ina ua fa'atiga nei le to'alua o Lilo, le tama'ita'i o Loleta. O lea fo'i ua taunu'u ane le ta'avale a Lefefe ma Lilo, lea na alu Lefefe e a'ami mai. Fai mai, e le i tele se talanoaga a Lefefe ma Lilo, i le taimi na sau ai le la ta'avale, pau le mea na fa'ailoa e Lefefe ia Lilo, ua tiga le manava o lona to'alua, pau lea, a'o se isi tala, e le o iloa e Lefefe le mea atoa o lo'o tupu i lea aso.

Ina ua tu le ta'avale i luma o le fale, na savali ane loa Lilo ma tilotilo solo i totonu o lo latou fale, na iloa atu ai e Lilo le pupuni ma ia mautinoa ai loa, o lo'o i ai i totonu Loleta. Fai mai, e fa'alogo atu Lilo, o fa'ataitaio mai lona to'alua, ua lagona le alofa o le tama i lea taimi, aua ua fa'alogo mai nei i le tagi aue, a Loleta.

Na fa'ate'ia le lo'omatua o Lonisi, ina ua susu'e atu le pupuni ma ulufale atu loa Lilo. "Lilo, afio maia, i lou nofoaga lea, sau se i e va'ai po'o le a le mea ua umi ai ona fa'atali Loleta, se i e afio mai." Ua saofa'i ifo nei i lalo Lilo, ua a'apa atu nei ma u'u mai le lima o lona to'alua. Ua lagona le alofa ina ua va'ai atu i meamasei o mea ua tupu mai. "Leta, o a mai oe, o le a le mea ua e tigaina ai fa'apena, e i ai se mea o tupu, ua uma ona ou fa'amagalo ia te oe, o la'u avega mamafa le na sa amo, ae ua ou fa'amagalo ia toe oe."

Fai mai, e le i uma atu tala a Lilo, ae toe fa'ataitaio Loleta, "Lilo, alofa mai ia te a'u, ia e alofa ma fa'amagalo mai a'u Lilo o a lava mea leaga uma sa e amoina, ia e alofa fa'amagalo mai a'u, ua ou lagona lava ua ou tigaina, alofa mai Lilo, ua ou le lava, ua umi ona ou fa'atiga."

Fai mai le tala, na tu a'e i luga le lo'omatua o Malia ma tau u'u lona ie ua pau ifo i lalo. Ua tilotilo ane nei i a Lefefe i lea taimi, ua toe tilotilo atu i a Mose, ae ua na o le punou ifo o le toeaina ma ona loimata ua le utufia.

"Mose, o le a le mea lea

ua ou fa'alogo atu i ai, o le a le mea lea e tupu, oi ta fe fe, o le a le mea lea e tupu, oi le Ali'i e, alofa mai." Na savali atu nei i ai lana tama teine o Filipina ma fusi mai lona tina, "Mama, 'aua e te popole tatou tapua'i i le ma'i o si fafine, aua e te fa'apena."

Ua toe nofo ifo i lalo le lo'omatua, a'o le taimi lea, o lo'o i ai pea Lonisi ma Luisa i totonu o le pupuni lea o lo'o fa'ataitaio ai nei Loleta. Fai mai, ua pei o timuga e maligi mai e lagi loimata o le tuafafine o Lilo i lea taimi, le teine o Luisa. Ua o'o fo'i i le lo'omatua o Lonisi, ua tau le iloa e Lonisi le isi itu, ua maligi ifo ona loimata ma tilotilo ane i a Loleta.

E fa'ataitaio lava Loleta, ma tau nofo a'e i luga, e mana'o ia fusi atu Lilo, a'o le tama i lea taimi, ua le mafai ona taofiofi ona loimata. Na i'u lava ina fao ifo le tama ma fusi atu si ona to'alua i lea taimi. E moni lava, o a lava faigata ma tiga e o'o mai, ae a o tatou va'ai atu i tiga ua o'o i se tasi e pele ia i tatou, e le mafai ona tatou 'alo ai, o le tulaga tonu lea ua o'o ia Lilomaiava i lea taimi.

O a lava tiga ma mafatiaga na tauave i masina e fia o lona olaga, sa le i toe manatu i ai le tama, ua va'ai tino ona mata i le tigaina ua o'o i ai si ona to'alua. Fai mai le tala, o le taimi lava na fusi ai e Lilo lona to'alua, o le taimi lea na va'aia ai e le fa'atosaga le liua o tiga o Loleta i lea taimi.

Na fa'apea ane le lo'omatua o Lonisi, "Lilo, ua lava, tu'umuli 'ese, o lea ua mapu Loleta." O le taimi lea, ua va'ai atu Lonisi ua aliali mai le ulu o le pepe, ma ua lagona ai lona alofa ma lona loto fa'afetai ua ma'ea lana galuega i lea taimi. Na tula'i 'ese loa Lilo ma savali mai loa ua fusi atu lona tina. Ua iloa le misitelio lilo sa tauave e Lilo mo aso e tele, o lea ua aliali mai nei, e moni ai le upu, o a lava mea tatou te taumafai e natia, e faia e le Atua auala e fa'ailoa ai.

E faia pea...



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AST 800	Introduction to Automotive Technology and Services (Auto Technician)	5.0	T/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	P. NgLam
WLD 820	Basic Shielded Metal Arc Welding (Welder/Fabricator)	5.0	M/W	5:00PM-7:30PM	O. Futi
CON 800	Plans, Building Codes, and Specifications (Construction)	5.0	T/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	D. Faumui
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Le fa'atonusili o le Ofisa o Fa'atoaga ia Filifa'atali Michael Fuiava ma le Faatonusili o le Ofisa e Pulea Oloa a le malo ia Dr. Oreta Mapu-Crichton. [ata AF]

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Aisea ua tele ai fa'asea aufai fa'atoaga atunu'u polokalame School Lunch

tusia Ausage Fausia

O le fesili pe aisea ua tele ai fa'asea a le aufai fa'atoaga a le atunu'u i auala o loo fa'agasolo ai gaioiga o le polokalame a le School Lunch, o se fesili lea sa taumafai i ai afioga i Faipule fa'apea ai Fa'atonusili o Ofisa a le malo o loo galulue i le polokalame a le School Lunch e tau tali i le taeao ananafi, i le taimi o le iloiloiga sa valaauina e tau fa'amanino ai lenei fa'aftauli.

O le autu o le iloiloiga lea sa fa'atautaia e le afioga Su'a Alexander Eli Jennings o le taitaifono o le Komiti o Fa'atoaga a le maota o sui, o le taumafai lea e fa'amanino le mafua'aga ua tele ai fa'asea a le aufai fa'atoaga i le auala o loo fa'agasolo ai tauofoga mo le polokalame a le School Lunch.

Ina ua fesiligia e le afioga i le tama'ita'i faipule ia Vui Florence Saulo le mafua'aga ua tele ai fa'asea a le aufai fa'atoaga, na saunoa ai le Faatonusili o le Ofisa e Pulea Oloa a le malo ia Dr. Oreta Mapu-Crichton e fa'apea, o le fesili fo'i lena o loo tu'u fesili ai lona Ofisa, pe aisea ua tele ai fa'asea a le aufai fa'atoaga.

“Ua tele tausaga o tu'i pea la matou ofisa i fa'asea mai ni isi o le aufai fa'atoaga, ae le o taofia ai lava lo matou taumafai e fesoasoani ia te i latou”, o le saunoaga lea a Dr. Crichton.

Na toe fesiligia e Vui le tulaga ua i ai fa'atoaga sa taofia ina ua masalomia e le o saogalemu mo le fofoga taumafai, ae na fa'aalia e le Faatonusili o le Ofisa o Fa'atoaga ia Filifa'atali Michael Fuiava e fa'apea, o loo galulue pea lona Ofisa e fa'aleleia tulaga e pei ona fa'aletonu, ina ia mafai ai ona saogalemu le fofoga taumafai a le atunu'u.

Na taua e le afioga i le alii faipule ia Gafatasi Afalava e fa'apea, atonu o le isi mafua'aga ua ala ai ona tele le fa'asea mai ni isi o le aufai fa'atoaga, ona ua ese le auala lea ua faatau-taia ai polokalame a le School Lunch, ae na faamanino e Dr.

Crichton e faapea, o ta'iala o loo tuuina mai e le Ofisa a le feterale o loo faatupeina polokalame a le School Lunch, lea ua mafua ai ona faia tauofoga mo le aufai fa'atoaga.

O Asosi a le aufai fa'atoaga ua i ai i le taimi nei, o le isi lea mataupu sa saunoa Afalava atonu ua mafua ai le vevesi, ona ua fao uma e Asosi nei le avanoa sa tatau ai ona fua fa'aeleeleaga a le aufai fa'atoaga, peita'i na fa'amanino e Dr. Crichton e fa'apea, tusa lava pe tele Asosi a le aufai fa'atoaga o loo i ai, o loo maua lava le avanoa o le tagata fai fa'atoaga ta'ito'atasi e fa'aulu ai lona suafa mo le tauofoga, peita'i o le fa'aftauli o loo maitauina, ua ave le augatata o ni isi o le aufai fa'atoaga e faatumu pepa e manaomia mo tauofoga ma isi lava galuega laiti, ma auala ua latou filifili ai ave le Asosi a le aufai fa'atoaga ma o latou sui, mulimuli ane ona toe muimui lea ma fa'asea ae o le filifiliga lava sa latou faia.

I le tulaga o le lisi a le aufai faatoaga e agava'a mo le tauofoga, e muamua ona faamaonia e le Ofisa o Fa'atoaga ona faatoa mafai lea ona talia e le Ofisa o le Procurement, e pei ona faamaonia e Dr. Crichton, ae o suafa uma e le o i totonu o le lisi a le aufai faatoaga, e fesiligia ma susesueina.

Na faamanino e le Faatonusili o Aoga ia Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga i luma o le komiti le faaitiitia o le tupe ua tuuina atu mo le aufai faatoaga i lalo o le polokalame a le School Lunch, mai le aofaiga e \$2 miliona i le tausaga tupe na te'a nei i le \$1 miliona mo le tausaga tupe lenei.

O le tupe atoa o loo maua e le School Lunch mai le Ofisa o Faatoaga a le malo tele (USDA) e \$12.4 miliona, lea ua fa'amatu'u le \$1 miliona mo le fua o fa'atoaga a le aufai fa'atoaga a le atunu'u, ae o le isi \$11.4 miliona o loo alu i isi taumafa i totonu lava o le polokalame.

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FAASALALAUGA O le Suafa "LEMAFA"

E muamua lava ona ou faatulou atu i le paia o Tutuila ma Manu'a, o le paia lava lea ia Sua ma le Vaifanua, Fofo ma Aitulagi, Ituau ma Alataua, Saole ma le Launiu Saelua ma Afioga i Ma'opu. O paia foi i Afioga i Faatui ma le Auv'a o Tootoo o le Faleula, ma le mamalu o le Manu'atele. O paia foi ia Tumua ma Pule i le malo tuto'atasi o Samoa, e faatulou atu. O paia foi o auaua a le Atua, i fatafaitaulaga e fia, o lo o latou galulue i le ao ma le po, aua le laugaina ma faia'ogaina o le upu o le ola, aua se manuia mo Samoa ma le lalolagi atoa. Tulou, Tulou, Tulouna Lava.

O lenei fa'asalalauga e faapitoa augafa i sulii ma faletama uma o le suafa o sa **LEMAFA** i le afoaga i Aunu'u. Afio ai i laua Lupega, Susu le Sa'o, Susu le Ma'opu, Susu le Tamaaiga, mamalu oulua fetalaiga Fuiava ma Taufi, ma le fofoga o le Launatausala, Saole ma Saleaumua.

O le a faia le talanoaga a le tatou aiga se'i o tatou soalaupule ai le mataupu o le sailia o se tasi e tausia lo tatou aiga o **Sa LEMAFa** i Aunu'u lava, i le **Aso To'ona'i, Aperila 1, 2017, i le itula e 9 i le taeao, i le maota o Saiaulama i Aunu'u.**

Ua faia lenei fa'aaliga ma le ava tele, ia talosia ia tatou faatasi i lea aso faamoemoeina. O lou le auai o le a le taofia ai talanoaga o lenei mataupu taua ma faaiuga autasi a le tatou aiga.

Faia i le ava ma le fa'aaloalo e tatau ai,

Sainia: Seu ma Taisoua
Ma e o lo'o nonofo i le aiga i Aunu'u

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[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

tusia: Leua Aiono Frost

O le masina lenei o Mati sa osofa'ia fa'alima ai le Ofisa o le Vocational Rehabilitation i Tafuna ma e i ai mea ua ave'esea ai, ae le tele na'ua, o fa'amatalaga ia a nisi e galuluega i lea ofisa o le malo, ma ua mae'a fo'i ona tuuina atu a latou fa'amatalaga i le Ofisa o Leoleo.

I lea lava vaifale, lea e aofia ai ma i si ofisa o le malo, ua taua ai le fa'afitu lea ona osofia lenei vaega o Tafuna.

Sa amata mai i le aso 16 Mati lea na mua'i osofa'ia ai le Ofisa o le Voc Rehab ae aofia ai ma le ta'avale a lea lava Ofisa, ma ua ave'esea laisene o le taavale, e le'i toe maua.

O le aso na soso'o ai, sa toe osofa'ia fo'i ma ua taei ai fa'amalama pito i tua ina ia oso ona oso se tagata i totonu o le Ofisa. Ua le gata i le sagole solo mea i luga o laulau, ae ua matauina, ua latou tuufa'atasia uma ki o ta'avale a lea Ofisa sa eseese mea sa tu'u ai.

O ki nei o sipea ki o ta'avale, peita'i, ua foliga mai sa latou tau su'ea fo'i ki ma le ta'avale e fetau i ai.

O se tasi o osofa'iga e lima i le Ofisa lea, o le osofa'iga lea o le ta'avale, ona ave fa'aga ai lea ma le masini "power wash" o se oka mo se tasi o sui o lo'o auai i le polokalama a le Voc

Rehab Independent Living.

I se fa'amatalaga mai a le sui i lea Ofisa, "Ua fa'alima ona osofa'ia le matou Ofisa, ua fa'apea fo'i le aofa'iga o taimi ua faia ai matou fa'amatalaga i leoleo ma o se mea fou lava lea tulaga."

Ua mae'a le la vaiaso, o fai ripoti a nai tagata faigaluega, ua fesuisuia'i mai fo'i ma ali'i ma tama'ita'i Leoleo e o'o mai e aoina atu fa'amatalaga ma ni mea e ave ma ni fa'amaoniga o le osofa'iga.

I le osofa'iga i le aso 20 Mati, ua ave ai le Laptop a le pule mai lona Ofisa ae toe maua mai i totonu o le ta'avale lea fo'i ua foliga mai, ua ave ma ta'avale e tafafao solo ai i latou o lo'o faia nei osofa'iga i le po ona toe o mai lea toe fa'atu le ta'avale i le mea sa i ai.

Ina ua fesiligia ni mea ua fa'aleagaina ma le tau o le a toe fa'aleleia ai, ae fa'ailoa mai le tau o le fa'amalama e tasi e \$150, ae e lua pea fa'amalama nei ua fa'aleagaina, o lona uiga e \$300.

O le ta'avale ua tia'i laisene, lea ua toe fai mai isi laisene e lua, o tupe lava fo'i sa toe talosagaina ai. O le masini ma ona fa'aga'au e fa'apipi'i lelei ai, atoa ai ma isi totoga sa i ai i totonu o le ta'avale, lea ua gaioia fa'atasi, e taugata lea masini, ma ua ave ae le'i faia se lipoti o le

tau aofa'i o nei mea uma. Peita'i o nisi o meatotino a tagata faigaluega sa i luga o latou kesi ma laulau, ae ua faaleagaina, ua leai se tau talafeagai ma nei mea totino.

Na toe osofa'ia fo'i lea lava Ofisa i le aso 27 ma le aso 30 o Mati, ma ua amata ona faitio nai tagata faigaluega, ona o le tuai ona maua atu o se tali mauaututu mai le Ofisa o Leoleo Suesue, i nisi o tau masalomia, pe maua patino fo'i se tasi po'o nisi ua latou faia nei osofa'iga.

Ua fa'ailoa mai e leoleo, ua i ai se tino ma foliga o se tasi sa iloa i meapu'eata a le Ofisa i le isi ituala, ae le'i matua maua'a foliga o lea sui i le mea pu'e ata, ae o se fesoasoani tele mo i latou e tausaili ai sui nei e fia maua mai.

I se tala mai le Ofisa auto o leoleo i Fagatogo, ua fa'ailoa mai, e to'atolu le isi vaega fou fa'ato'a saesai atu e leoleo suesue ananafi i le aoauli, mo a latou sailiiliga, ma o lo'o faia nei sailiga po'o i latou nei.

"Ua amata ona matou fiu e fai fa'amatalaga, ae le mailoa pe maua ai se sa'oga, ae tatau lava fo'i ona faia mea uma e sefe ai le ofisa, peita'i, o ta'avale ua fa'atutu nei i le Public Works, ia sefe mai ai, ae ua ave uma fo'i



O se va'aiga i fa'amalama e lua lea ua fa'aleagaina i osofa'iga, ua mae'a fa'aleleia le fa'amalama sa fa'aaogaina muamua, ae o le isi lea na fa'ato'a fa'aaoga lava i le vaveao o le aso Tofi Mati 30 i le Ofisa o le VocRehab i nofoaga a le malo i Tafuna.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

ki sippen o ta'avale i le fale e matou pule, ua le toe i ai la ni mea e ona manana'o ai le vaega talepe nei. O le uta uma fo'i o mea na talosaga mo tagata o le polokalama i Manu'a, fa'afetai ua mae'a tu'uva'a atu nei i le Motusa i le va'a o le aso Lulu na te'a nei, ae osofa'ia ai fo'i ma le Ofisa i le vaveao."

O se tasi lea o fa'amatalaga a nai sui o le Ofisa o le Voc Rehab mo le silafia o lea fa'aletonu ua te'i lava ua oso fa'afuase'i ia Mati o lenei tausaga, ae ua talafeagai lava fo'i ma le Masina e fa'ataua ai sui uma o lo'o latou galulue e fa'ataua lo latou ola fiafia ma le saogalemu fa'atasi ma i tatou uma.

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In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

PR NO. 09-17

In the Matter of the Estate of TAUOSE PITA FITI SUNIA BY: LIUPUA ANDREW SUNIA

NOTICE OF HEARING: PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 22nd day of May, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, this matter will be heard by the Honorable Presiding Justices and Judges of the High Court of American Samoa.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: /31, 4/7 & 4/14/17

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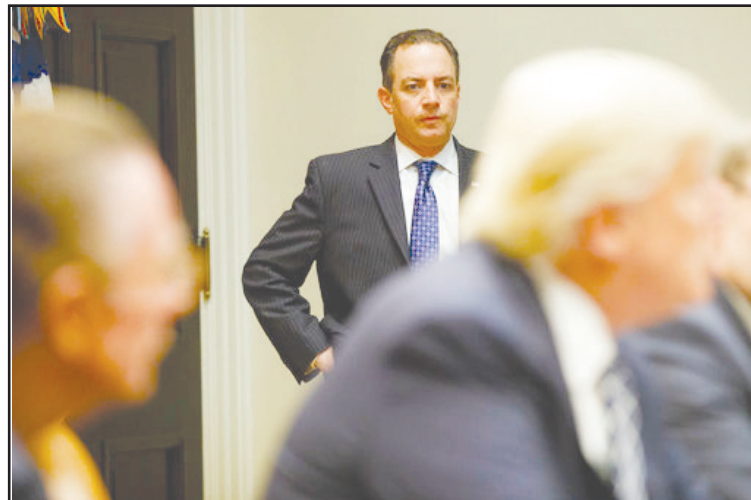
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Priebus a central figure in Trump's White House drama



White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus watches a meeting between President Donald Trump and the Fraternal Order of Police, Tuesday, March 28, 2017, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the behind-the-scenes drama of who's up and who's down in Donald Trump's White House, chief of staff Reince Priebus is playing a starring role.

Priebus, a genial Midwesterner with deep ties to the Republican establishment that Trump toppled, has faced questions about his future since the day he set foot in the West Wing. And the focus on him is intensifying following Trump's failure to get enough GOP lawmakers to support a White House-backed health care bill, an embarrassing blow for the new president.

There's blame to spare for the health care debacle at both the White House and on Capitol Hill. But Priebus is a particularly rich target, given that his value to Trump is tied to his relationships with GOP lawmakers, many of whom were elected during his six years as chairman of the Republican National Committee.

"Reince doesn't have a magic wand," said Henry Barbour, a friend and Republican national committeeman. "He doesn't have an ability to make people do what they don't want to do — and he doesn't want to." Priebus' standing in the White House has broad implications for Trump's agenda. Beyond Vice President Mike Pence, he represents the president's most direct link to the traditional underpinnings of the Republican Party and is the buffer between the fiery nationalists and the more liberal New Yorkers who also occupy top White House jobs.

Trump has voiced confidence in Priebus in recent conversations with associates, including after House Speaker Paul Ryan pulled the health care bill off the floor Friday, and White House officials say the two men appear to have developed a comfortable relationship. During the Republican primary, Priebus, 45, often remarked to colleagues that he spoke with Trump more than any of the other 17 GOP

candidates. The president likes to make good-natured digs at Priebus in public remarks, joking about his "crazy name" and telling a meeting of auto industry executives that his chief of staff might end up running a car company someday.

For laughs, Trump will sometimes recount a tense exchange with Priebus at one of the campaign's lowest moments: the release of a video in which Trump is heard making predatory comments about women.

During an emergency campaign meeting, Priebus told Trump he should either drop out of the race or risk dragging down Republican candidates across the country.

Steve Bannon, Trump's senior adviser, said it's not Priebus' grim — and ultimately inaccurate — warning that stuck with the president. It's the fact that Priebus showed up at all, given the intense pressure at the time for Republican leaders to abandon the party's nominee. "Reince had the courage to get on a train in Washington, D.C., go to Penn Station, go to Trump Tower and come to the meeting," Bannon said. "That's courage."

Bannon, who was also considered for the chief of staff job, has grown unexpectedly close to Priebus and has distanced himself from the criticism by Breitbart News, the far-right website Bannon ran before joining Trump's campaign.

"They've got their heroes, they've got their villains, it's never going to change," Bannon said of Breitbart. He vouched for Priebus' populist credentials, saying, "When left to his own devices, he's not really that establishment."

Priebus inspires intense loyalty among those who worked with him at the RNC, several of whom followed him to the White House, including press secretary Sean Spicer. They describe him as a workhorse who is determined to unite the disparate factions of Trump advisers.

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Popole Komiti e Fa'amaonia Foma'i i aveese le malosi o loo latou uuina

tusia Ausage Fausia

Na taua e le Ta'ita'ifono o le Komiti e Fa'amaonia Foma'i e galulue i le falema'i i Fagaalu ma le Soifua Maloloina (Health Regulatory Board) ia Motusa T. Nua, o ia fo'i lea o le Fa'atonusili o le Matagaluga o le Soifua Maloloina, atoa ai ma le Foma'i Sili ia Dr. Iotamo Saleapaga, o ia fo'i o se totino o le Komiti i luma o le maota o sui i le taeo ananafi e fa'apea, la te lagolagoina le tulafono taufa'aofi lea ua taoto i luma o le maota o sui e fa'avae ai le Asosi a Tausima'i i Amerika Samoa, pau le popolega o loo i ai, ina ne'i avea le fa'avaeina o lea Asosi i lalo o le tulafono atoa ai ma le tofiaina o lana Komiti Fa'afaoe, ma auala e aveese mai ai le malosi o loo umia e le Komiti o loo latou galulue ai e fa'amaonia ai foma'i ma tausima'i i le atunu'u.

O le iloiloiga lea sa valaauina e le Komiti o le Soifua Maloloina ma le LBJ a le maota o sui ananafi, i lalo o le taitaiga a le afioga i le ta'ita'ifono ia Vesi Talalelei Fautanu Jr, na mafua mai ina ua talosagaina e ni isi o faipule le toe taofi o le tulafono mai lona pasiaina i le faitauga fa'alua i le aso Lulu na te'a nei, ae se'i fesiligia sui o le Komiti e Fa'amaonia Laisene o Foma'i e galulue i le atunu'u atoa ai ma se manatu mai le pulega a le LBJ, e tusa ai o le tulafono lea ua fa'afulale e fa'avae ai se Asosi o Tausima'i i Amerika Samoa.

Na fa'amanino e Tofiga Tufele, peresetene o le Asosi o Tausima'i i Amerika Samoa, i iloiloiga e lua ua mae'a ona fa'ataunuuna ma le maota o sui, na pau le galuega a le



Sui o le Soifua Maloloina ma le Falema'i i le taimi na molimau ai i luma o le maota o sui i le taeo ananafi. [ata AF]

Komiti Fa'afaoe a Tausima'i e pei ona taua i totonu o le tulafono, latou te fa'amaonia laisene o Tausima'i, ae le mafai e le Komiti ona fa'a faigaluega ni Foma'i. Sa ia taua atili fo'i e fa'apea, e le fa'aleaogaina e le Komiti Fa'afaoe a Tausima'i le malosi o loo umia e le Komiti e Fa'amaonia Foma'i ua tele tausaga o i ai.

Na fa'amalamalama e Dr. Saleapaga i luma o le maota o sui e fa'apea, e tatau i le komiti a le maota o sui ona silasila toto'a i le malosi o loo umia e le Komiti e Fa'amaonia Foma'i i le atunu'u, ina ne'i fete'ena'i ma le Komiti Fa'afaoe a Tausima'i pe afai ae pasia le tulafono.

"Afai o le tulaga lea e tatau ona i ai, e tatau ona fa'amuamua se gaioiga e fa'a'ulu ai se tula-

fono e fa'aleaoga ai le malosi o loo umia e le Komiti e Fa'amaonia Foma'i, ona fa'atoa mafai ai loa lea ona fa'aauu le tulafono leni, aua e foliga mai i le agaga o le tulafono leni, o le a aveese ai le malosi o loo i le Komiti tuai o loo matou galulue ai e fa'a faigaluega ai foma'i", o le saunoaga lea a Dr. Saleapaga.

Sa ia taua atili fo'i e fa'apea, afai o le a tu'u atu le malosi i le Komiti Fa'afaoe a Tausima'i latou te faatinoina ai galuega e pei ona taua, e tatau fo'i la ona tu'u atu le malosi i isi fo'i vaega o le falema'i ma le soifua maloloina e fa'atulaga ai a latou Komiti Fa'afaoe e fa'amaonia ai e latou laisene a latou foma'i.

"O le aano moni lava o le tulafono leni ua taoto i luma o le Fono, e aveese ai le

malosi o loo umia e le Komiti e Fa'amaonia Foma'i, e le toe i ai se malosi o latou e fa'amaonia ma fa'a faigaluega ai Tausima'i, ae tatau ona silafia e le maota, pau lea o le Komiti o loo fa'atulafono e mafai ona latou fa'a faigaluegaina Foma'i mai fafo", o le isi lea saunoaga a Dr. Saleapaga.

Na taua e Motusa lona lagolagoina o le agaga o le tulafono e pei ona taoto nei i luma o le maota o sui, pau lona popolega, o lea ua fa'aopoopo i ai

ma le manaoga ina ia fa'avae se Komiti Fa'afaoe a Tausima'i, peita'i i lona talitonuga o loo i ai, e i ai le mafua'aga na ala ai ona fa'avae e tuua i tausaga ua mavae le Komiti e Fa'amaonia ma Fa'afaigaluegaina Foma'i mai fafo.

"Afai o le agaga o le tulafono leni e aveese mai ai le malosi mai le Komiti o loo matou galulue ai, ona tuu mai lea o se taimi se'i matou toe fetufaa'i ma Tausima'i e uiga i leni tulafono e fa'amanino tulaga e pei ona atugalua i ai le Komiti, ona e i ai popolega afai e manuia le fa'amoemoe o Tausima'i, e ono tagi mai fo'i le vaega a Foma'i nifo ina ia fai fo'i sa latou Asosi ma se Komiti Fa'afaoe, ae mo a'u lava ia, ou te lagolagoina le agaga o le tulafono", o le saunoaga lea a Motusa.

Na toe fa'amanino e Tofiga e fa'apea, e to'atele naua i latou sa latou galulue ma fesooota'i e uiga i leni tulafono e aofia ai ma Sui o le Komiti e Fa'amaonia Foma'i, sa latou galulue fo'i ma ni isi o loa matutua i le atunu'u, ma ua tuuina mai la latou fa'amanuiga ina ia manuia la latou taumafaiga, aua o leni tulafono, e fesoasoani ai i le fa'aleleia atili o le tautua a Tausima'i i le atunu'u.

O le a taoto atu lava i le komiti a le maota o sui mo sa latou fa'aiuga e tusa ai o leni mataupu.



Le Peresetene o le Asosi o Tausima'i i Amerika Samoa ia Tofiga Tufele. [ata AF]

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Mexican man freed after arrest despite protected status

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — A Mexican man who spent more than six weeks in immigration detention despite his participation in a program designed to prevent the deportation of those brought to the U.S. illegally as children was released from custody Wednesday pending deportation proceedings.

A smiling Daniel Ramirez Medina hugged his brother in the lobby of a detention center as he was freed, then hugged him again for the news cameras outside. He spoke to reporters briefly in Spanish, thanking his supporters, and later issued a written statement in English through his lawyers.

“I’m so happy to be reunited with my family today and can’t wait to see my son,” it said. “This has been a long and hard 46 days, but I’m so thankful for the support that I’ve gotten from everyone who helped me and for the opportunity to live in such an amazing country. I know that this isn’t over, but I’m hopeful for the future, for me and for the hundreds of thousands of other Dreamers who love this country like I do.”

Judge John Odell in Tacoma approved freeing the 24-year-old Ramirez on \$15,000 bond until his next immigration court hearing. Immigration agents arrested him last month in suburban Seattle, saying he acknowledged affiliating with gangs. Officials then revoked his protected status.

Ramirez adamantly denies any gang ties or making any such admission.

He spent 40 minutes answering questions from prosecutors during a two-hour hearing Tuesday, repeatedly denying any gang connections, his attorney, Mark Rosenbaum, said. “He answered every question the government put to him,” Rosenbaum said. “He stayed true, and the government had no evidence whatsoever.”

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a



Daniel Ramirez Medina, center, walks out of the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash., with his attorney, Luis Cortes, right, and his brother, left, who has not been identified by name, after Ramirez was released from federal custody, Wednesday, March 29, 2017. Ramirez had spent more than six weeks in immigration detention despite his participation in a program designed to prevent the deportation of those brought to the U.S. illegally as children. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

statement Wednesday confirming his release and noting that Ramirez’s own attorneys had twice declined to have their client participate in bond hearings that could have resulted in his earlier release — something his lawyers said was designed to keep his case in federal court, rather than immigration court.

Immigration agents arrested Ramirez on Feb. 10 at an apartment complex where they had gone to arrest his father, a previously deported felon.

Ramirez, who came to the U.S. at 7, has no criminal record and twice passed background checks to participate in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which allows young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children to stay in the country and work.

Immigration officials have started deportation proceedings against him.

His legal team, which includes the Los Angeles based pro-bono firm Public Counsel as well as Harvard Law professor Laurence Tribe, have pressed claims in federal court that the arrest and detention violated Ramirez’s constitutional rights. They sought to keep the case out of immigration court, saying U.S. District Court was better suited to handle those claims.

A federal magistrate judge in Seattle agreed to hear the constitutional claims, but declined to release him in the meantime. U.S. District Judge Ricardo Martinez upheld the decision not to release him last week, saying he instead should chal-

lenge his detention in immigration court. Martinez nevertheless said “many questions remain regarding the appropriateness of the government’s conduct” in arresting him.

Among those questions, his lawyers have said, is whether U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents misinterpreted a tattoo on his forearm when they described it as a “gang tattoo” in an arrest report. The lawyers say the tattoo, which says “La Paz BCS,” pays homage to the city of La Paz in the Mexican state of Baja California Sur, where he was born.

Ramirez’s case is one of several recent arrests that have left immigration activists fearing an erosion of protections under the DACA program instituted by President Barack Obama in

2012. ICE agents in Portland, Oregon, on Sunday arrested Francisco J. Rodriguez Dominguez, a DACA participant who was brought to the U.S. from Morelia, in Mexico’s Michoacan state, at age 5. Last December, he entered a diversion program following a drunken driving arrest and had attended all his court dates and required meetings, the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon said in a statement.

The agency said Monday that it targeted Rodriguez Dominguez because of the DUI and that he would be released on bond pending deportation proceedings.

About 750,000 immigrants have enrolled in the DACA program since it began.

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Cap Taputapu	028	TBA	SAILED	03/30	04/10	---	04/15	04/15	Cap Taputapu	028	04/10	---	04/15	04/15
Polynesia	484	TBA	04/14	04/16	04/26	05/01	05/03	05/03	Polynesia	484	04/26	05/01	05/03	05/03
Cap Taputapu	029	TBA	04/29	05/02	05/12	---	05/17	05/17	Cap Taputapu	029	05/12	---	05/17	05/17
Polynesia	485	TBA	05/16	05/18	05/29	06/03	06/05	06/05	Polynesia	485	05/29	06/03	06/05	06/05

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President Donald Trump listens in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, March 29, 2017. Sixty-two percent of Americans turned thumbs down on Trump's handling of health care during the initial weeks of his presidency, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. It was his worst rating among seven issues the poll tested, which included the economy, foreign policy and immigration. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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Poll: Americans dislike GOP's, Trump's plan on health care

WASHINGTON (AP) — Note to President Donald Trump and House Republicans: People really don't like your approach to overhauling America's health care. If you're hoping to revive the effort, you may want to try something different.

Sixty-two percent of Americans turned thumbs down on Trump's handling of health care during the initial weeks of his presidency, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research released Wednesday. It was his worst rating among seven issues the poll tested, including the economy, foreign policy and immigration.

Of six changes the failed House GOP bill would have made to President Barack Obama's law, five drew more negative than positive reviews.

An overwhelming 8 in 10 opposed the Republican proposal to let insurers boost premiums on older people. Seven in 10 disapproved of premium surcharges for people whose coverage lapses.

By wide margins, people also disliked proposed cuts in Medicaid, which helps lower-earning people cover medical costs, a halt in federal payments to Planned Parenthood and a transformation of the Obama law's subsidies — based on income and premium costs — into aid linked to age.

"His campaign promise was great health care for everyone, for all Americans at great prices," said Raymond Brown, 64, a Republican and retired truck driver from Rio Grande, New Jersey. "He isn't fulfilling his campaign promise."

Overall, just over half in the poll said they worry many Americans would have lost coverage had the GOP bill become law. Would their own families and average Americans have been better or worse off? More said worse.

The results underscore that annulling Obama's statute is not an issue to be trifled with. More people support than oppose that law by 45 percent to 38 percent, a slightly narrower margin than in January. And a slender majority say covering all Americans is a federal responsibility — a view embraced by Democrats but not Republicans, who instead focus on access and lower premiums.

The survey was conducted over five days preceding and following last Friday's withdrawal of the GOP health care bill. Speaker Paul Ryan,

R-Wis., short-circuited a House vote that would have spelled defeat for the Republican legislation because of opposition from conservative and moderate Republicans. It was a mortifying setback for Trump and his party.

The poll suggests that health care is damaging Trump's image. Fifty-eight percent disapproved of his overall performance as president, not much different from his negative grade on health care. Even among those approving the job he's doing in office, about 1 in 5 was unhappy with his approach to health care.

The GOP bill scared off many Republican lawmakers after the Congressional Budget Office projected there would be 24 million more uninsured people over a decade and a boost in out-of-pocket costs for many, especially poorer people and Americans nearing retirement age.

The negative views in the poll make any new GOP effort embracing pieces of the crumbled legislation potentially perilous for the party.

Nearly all Democrats and most independents disapproved of Trump's performance on health care, but so did around 1 in 3 Republicans.

In addition, Republicans had mixed views on the collapsed House GOP bill. Clear majorities of them opposed boosting premiums for older people and those who've had gaps in coverage. They were more likely to oppose than support cutting Medicaid and were divided over linking subsidies to age more than income.

Republicans did mostly back the Republican bill's blocking of federal payments to Planned Parenthood. And they were likelier to say their own families and average Americans would have been better off, not worse, under the legislation.

Rosiland Russell, 71, a retired apartment complex manager from Clifton, Texas, said she was glad to see the attempt to unravel Obama's law.

"It's not cheap, it's not what it's cracked up to be," Russell, a Republican, said of Obama's statute. "We've got to have change, it's ridiculous."

Of the proposed Republican changes examined by the poll, only one received a positive reception. That was its elimination of the tax penalty on people who don't buy coverage, though by a modest 48 percent to 35 percent margin.

Strong majorities backed two Obama requirements the GOP would have left in place: Insurers can't deny policies to sick people and must cover children up to age 26 under their parents' plans.



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Former Army medic arrested in vandalism at Colorado mosque



(Photos:Leua)



This photo provided Tuesday, March 28, 2017, by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office shows mosque vandalism suspect Joseph Scott Giaquinto. Giaquinto was arrested on suspicion of several charges, including a crime motivated by bias, on March 27 just hours after police released portions of surveillance video and asked for the public's help identifying the hoodie-wearing man seen picking up a stone and kicking a door.

(Larimer County Sheriff's Office via AP)

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — Police arrested a former Army medic after a vandal broke windows and left a Bible at a Colorado mosque — an act that led to an outpouring of support for Muslims, authorities said

Joseph Scott Giaquinto, 35, was taken into custody Monday on suspicion of committing a crime motivated by bias and other allegations just hours after police released surveillance video and asked for the public's help identifying a hoodie-wearing man seen picking up a stone and kicking a door at the Islamic Center in Fort Collins.

The suspect's father, Michael Giaquinto, told the Coloradoan (<http://noconow.co/2mKWQEG>) that his son was an Army medic who served in Iraq and Korea and moved last year to Fort Collins — the home of Colorado State University about 60 miles (96 kilometers) north of Denver.

"No matter what we find out happened, my son is a good man," he told the newspaper. "He served his country well. Even if he was involved, and I'm not saying he was, it would just indicate that he was in a kind of a bad place.

"This whole affair has been exhausting. Here in Fort Collins, that sort of thing is not what we do," Michael Giaquinto said.

According to an arrest affidavit, the younger Giaquinto acknowledged damaging the mosque. Investigators said they also found items at the man's apartment that linked him to the vandalism.

He is being held on \$7,500 bail, and booking documents

do not indicate if he has hired an attorney.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights group, said there have been 35 attacks on mosques so far this year — ranging from arson to torn Qurans — compared with 19 between January and March last year.

The group believes people who may have hidden their anti-Muslim views in the past have been emboldened to act by the election of President Donald Trump, who called for a ban on Muslims entering the country during his campaign.

In response, more mosques have installed surveillance video and police have become aware of the trend, group spokesman Ibrahim Hooper said.

Police haven't said what led them to Joseph Giaquinto in the Colorado incident.

About 1,000 people gathered Sunday at the mosque for a rally organized by a rabbi and many supporters have made donations online to pay for repairs and improved security.

Police Chief John Hutto, who attended the rally, said he hoped the arrest sends a message that the community will not tolerate acts of hatred.

"While the building can be repaired, this incident caused deeper hurt that won't just go away," he said in a statement.

Last month, someone was seen on security video throwing a rock through a window at the Colorado Muslim Society mosque near Denver but no arrests have been made and investigators say they have exhausted their leads.



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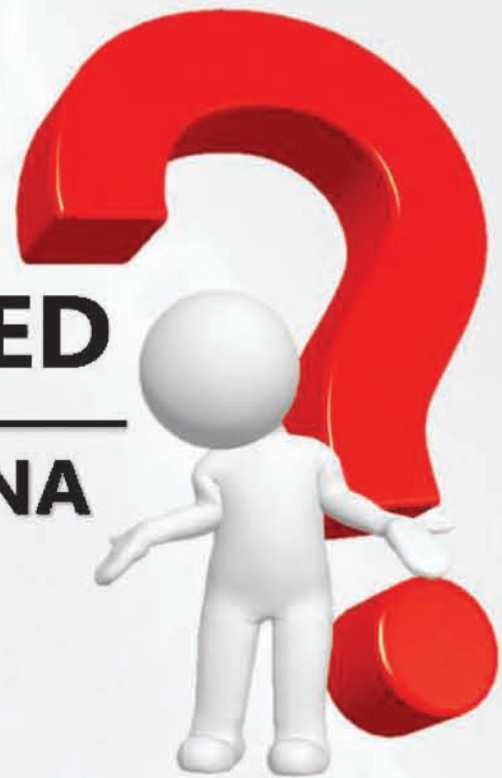
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