

DMWR still seeking funding to remove longliner grounded off Nuuuli reef

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Team of 5 takes first place at the Harbor Classic V6 outrigger race

In Sports

Fa'alauiloa aloaia le fa'aaoga masini Rapiscan su'e ai uta mai fafo

Le Lali



Spawnbreeze's concert, hosted by Bluesky Communication last Saturday, is the talk of the town, with its first laser light show and great performances by not only the star of the show, but by local musicians and a well-known DJ from Seattle, DeeJay LuceScrewz — all who brought the audience to their feet to dance and enjoy the night. See story inside, and more photos. [Ese Malala]



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MONDAY MARCH 27, 2017

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A PRAYER FOR A TOA O SAMOA

The people of American Samoa are being asked to come together and pray for a Toa o Samoa, US Army Private First Class (PFC) Aukuso Kiliona Atanoa Jr.

The 22-year-old soldier from Pago Pago is fighting for his life at the Walter Reed Medical Center, a military hospital facility on the East Coast.

Samoa News is yet to confirm why Atanoa Jr. has been hospitalized; but family members in the territory told Samoa News that his symptoms started after he returned home from deployment.

Atanoa Jr's parents' Kiliona and Hana have traveled off island to be by their son's side.

News of the soldier's condition has spread like wildfire on social media, with family members and friends — both near and far — calling for everyone to say a prayer for the young Toa o Samoa. Congresswoman Aumua Amata has visited the soldier and spent time with him. "We thank him for his awesome service to our Nation, and I am grateful to the excellent military doctors, nurses, and staff for all they are doing — they are the best," the Congresswoman wrote.

She continued, "Prayer is powerful, so please pray for him or pause for a moment of silence to think about Aukuso Kiliona Atanoa Jr., a son of Samoa, today."

Aukuso's friends have posted similar messages, encouraging him to stay strong and fight, with the Aeto spirit.

"Kamaiki ole Aeto, e le down," said one of the posts. "Wake up now, and come home," said another.

Dozens of messages with comforting words are pouring in everyday for the young soldier who remains hospitalized thousands of miles away from home.

[Courtesy photo]

Scanner fees to go in effect Apr. 3

STARKIST STILL WAITING FOR FINAL WORD ABOUT THE CONTAINER FEE

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The container scanner fee is set to go into effect early next week, after training of Customs agents, who are charged with manning the equipment, is completed, according to a statement released by the Treasury Department. However, it remains unclear whether the canneries will be exempt from paying the fee, which is \$200 per container of 20 feet and over.

Last Friday afternoon, Samoa News observed two trailer trucks with containers preparing to go through the container scan equipment. Samoa News also observed a Customs agent, placing on the ground of the dock, inches away from the entrance to the Port, a yellow sign that read "SCANNING IN PROGRESS".

In a statement released last Friday, ASG Treasurer Uelinitone Tonumaip'e'a announced the full implementation of local law, which includes the Customs Division x-ray (Rapiscan) launch, adding that the law came into effect Dec.14 last year, but was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

"While we have experienced some unfortunate delays due to unforeseen shipping issues and to ensure we completed all required equipment and safety training, Customs Division is happy to announce the official launch of the

MS60 container scanner on April 3, 2017," said Tonumape'a whose department includes the Customs Division.

The impact on the remaining cannery in American Samoa — StarKist Samoa, as well as on the locally based can manufacturing plant Talofa Systems Inc., both owned by South Korean based Donwong Industries — was noted during last week's three-day Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meeting in Honolulu.

A Council staff report was presented on fisheries and related matters on American Samoa Legislature, which included mention of the new container scanner, which it says will cost StarKist "millions of dollars in fees" and that StarKist has sought clarification from ASG as to whether the new port scanner fees should be applied to them with their current tax exemption certificates.

"With a new minimum wage increase to take effect in 2018, these new port scanner fees will have a major impact on the company's viability in American Samoa," the report claims.

Chief of Customs Moetulu'i Fuiava Sipili told lawmakers last year that the canneries are not exempt, as the law does not provide any exemption for anyone.

He reiterated this information last December in a Samoa News interview.

(Continued on page 2)

**In The High Court
of American Samoa
FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL
COURT DIVISIONS**

FDA/JR No. 07-17

IN RE: A CHILD.

NOTICE/FA’AALIGA

TO: Mr. Stephan (unknown last name)
Mapusaga Village
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-name respondent that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to terminate your parental rights in a female child born on June 18, 2016, at LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Fagaa-lu, American Samoa. A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice, in which the Court may enter an order that you have not acquired any parental rights to the minor child and place the child for adoption. If you have any objection, or wish to claim or assert your parental rights, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA’AALIGA E TUUINA ATU ia te oe, le ua ta’ua i luga, ua iai se talosaga ua failaina i le Fa’amasinoga Maua-luga o Amerika Samoa e iloilo ai ou aia fa’a-matta i se teineititi sa fanau o ia ile aso 18 o Iuni, 2016 i le Falemai i Fagaa-lu, Amerika Samoa. O lenei iloilo-ga e faia pe a tuana’i le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le aso o le ulula’i faasala-lauga o lenei faaaliga, ma e ono tuuina atu ai se poloa’iga a le Fa’amasinoga e faailoa ai ua leai ni ou aia fa’a-matua i lenei tamaititi. Afai ete tete’e, pe e te finagalo e faamaonia ou aia fa’a-matua, ia e failaina se talosaga tete’e i le Fa’amasinoga i totonu o le lua masina ma aso e sefulu mai le ulula’i faasalalauga o lenei fa’aaliga.

DATE/ASO: March 07, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 3/20 & 3/27/17



At 2:30p.m last Friday a container truck [top of photo] went through the container scanner equipment, while another container truck [bottom of photo] waited at the entrance to the Port of Pago Pago for its turn to go through the scanner located at the main dock. [photo: FS]

Continued...

Continued from page 1

Last December, StarKist Co., sought clarification from the Governor’s Office about their tax exemption certificate and whether it includes the new container scanner fee; and last month, ASG officials said discussions were still ongoing with the canneries — meaning StarKist Samoa and Talofa Systems Inc.

Samoa Tuna Processors, owned by Tri Marine, suspended its canning operations indefinitely last December, citing unsustainable economic costs, leaving only the Donwong Industries owned cannery companies in the territory.

StarKist Co., didn’t immediately respond to a Samoa News email inquiry last Friday afternoon (which was already early evening at the company’s head-

quarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) on an update on the status of the company’s discussion with the government.

In his press release, Tonumaie’a, on behalf of the entire Treasury Department, thanked everyone involved with making this launch possible “and we look forward to working with the general public, shipping agents, stevedoring companies, Port Administration and any and all other related departments and agencies.”

Training of Customs agents to man the container scanner as well as testing of the scanner has been ongoing since early this month, working with officials, who are part of the off island contract for the Rapi-Scan project that costs \$5.9 million.



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This Customs Division “SCANNING IN PROGRESS” sign was seen placed by a Customs agent just off the entrance to the Port of Pago Pago, before two container hauling trucks entered the main dock and went through the container scanner equipment around 2:30 p.m last Friday. [photo: FS]



Congratulations to our six local female soldiers who graduated basic training and completed AIT training last week in Virginia. Whiskey Company 244th QM Battalion 92Y. All six of them will be going active duty.
May God bless you women of American Samoa!
From Left to Right: PVT. 2 Ah-Futu Dora, PFC Sooaemalelagi Charlene, PFC Brown Precious, PVT.2 Peleti Jennifer, PVT.2 Kelemete Fairlyn, PFC Carruthers Anastasia. [courtesy photo]

LVPA rule “was not a dictatorial thing” says local Longline Service official

IT WAS A COUNCIL RESPONSE TO A “DESPERATE PLEA” FOR RELIEF

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Reduction of the Large Vessel Protection Area (LVPA) in territorial waters “was not a dictatorial thing” but a response by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council to a “desperate plea” from the U.S longliner fleet based in American Samoa already faced with many challenges, says Christinna Lutu-Sanchez of Longline Service Inc., and an American Samoa member on the Council.

Lutu-Sanchez’s comment was made during last Thursday morning’s Council meeting. Other American Samoa members on the Council are StarKist Samoa official Taotasi Soliai and Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources director, Va’amua Henry Sesepasara, who is the territorial representative on the Council.

Last week Monday, U.S District Court Judge Leslie Kobayashi issued a decision invalidating the U.S National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) rule last year that reduces the LVPA from 50 to 12 miles. The NMFS action followed an approved Council recommendation two years ago giving the U.S flagged longliner fleet based in American Samoa additional fishing grounds in territorial waters.

Lutu-Sanchez told the Council session Thursday morning that the court’s decision “is a win for, and, it’s a reminder on the rights of the native people, the indigenous rights.”

However, she reminded Council members that the 2016 LVPA rule “was actually in response to the outcry and plea from the fishermen for some relief. It was not a dictatorial thing. It was actually a desperate plea from the U.S longliner [fleet] operating out of American Samoa.”

Lutu-Sanchez said that even though the LPVA was reduced in 2016, the status of the longline fleet has not improved as “they’ve decreased dra-

matically. (Data presented at the meeting, shows that the longline fleet is down to an active 17 vessels in 2016.)

“I would honestly say that the boats that are left [in American Samoa], is because of sheer hope and faith that something will happen and because the owners are American Samoans, [and] they don’t have anywhere to go, they live there,” she said.

The Council, during the second day of the its meeting last week Wednesday approved several recommendations, including one that directs Council staff to work with NMFS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) general counsel on reviewing the judge’s decision and to evaluate the next step, which could include requesting the court to stay the decision, pending reconsideration or appeal of the decision. Va’amua “abstained” during the vote. (See Samoa News edition Mar. 23 for details).

Before the three-day meeting officially ended last Thursday afternoon, the Council voted and approved another set of recommendations, including one that “reiterates” the direction provided to Council staff to work with NMFS and NOAA general counsel on reviewing the judge’s decision “and to evaluate next steps, which could include requesting the court to stay the decision pending reconsideration of appeal over the court’s decision and further notes the urgency to provide regulatory relief for the American Samoa longline fleet, because it continues to face dire economic conditions.”

Va’amua, during the discussion of this recommendation, told the meeting, that “once again, as the governor’s representative to the Council and since this is the governor’s motion to the court, I would vote ‘no’ for this recommendation.”

(Continued on page 4)

PUBLIC MEETINGS

NOAA Fisheries is hosting 3 public meetings regarding an environmental review of deep-set tuna longline fisheries in the Pacific Islands. All meetings will be held from 6-9pm.

Tuesday Mar. 28, 2017
Fale Tele of the American Samoa
Senate Building (Fono)
Pago Pago, AS 96799

Wednesday Mar. 29, 2017
Fale Tele of HTC Vaimaona, Laulii
Pago Pago, AS 96799

Thursday Mar. 30, 2017
NOAA GMD/PIFSC Compound
8043 Tasi St
Tafuna, AS 96799



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Continued...

Continued from page 3

Council member Dean Sensui of Hawai'i Goes Fishing company asked Lutu-Sanchez about the kind of gear conflicts with other fishery operations with the change in the LVPA.

Lutu-Sanchez says gear conflict had "been the worry" and that's why the LVPA was created in 2002. She noted in a presentation Wednesday on the American Samoa Longline report that "we saw in the report... that there aren't any gear conflicts and the potential for that to happen is most likely, none."

She said, "Just from personal experience, it's a very small fishing community," and recalled the last Council meeting in which the longliner association had "also taken the next step forward to work with our recreational fishermen, inviting them to please give us information, when they do have their events such as tournaments... so that the larger longliners are aware."

With such advance information, she said longliners will "stay way out" of the areas used for tournaments "so that we can work together."

For example, if there is a tournament in area B, longliners don't go near area B, and would be far away from there. "And [we] even go as far as giving them information," she said, for example, a longline was in a certain area and they'd didn't have much luck with catches, but did a little better in another fishing area. "So we've shared that information with our recreational fishermen as well."

Responding to follow up questions from the Council, Lutu-Sanchez said, "We are in support of all of our fisheries. We try to encourage everyone to fish, whether it's from the dockside, or on the boat, or on the reef. That's what we encourage and support. Hopefully, everyone will understand that is our feeling."

After the brief discussion period, the Council voted to approve the recommendation with Va'amua the only "no" vote. The Council meeting was streamed live online.



By Samoa News Staff

NO CLEAR ANSWER ON THE ISSUE OF CIGARETTE SHORTAGE

The supply of popular cigarette brands is almost non-existent, and smokers are having a hard time satisfying the urge for a 'nicotine fix'.

Since last month, popular brands like Benson and Hedges (Lights and Regular) as well as Kool (long and short) have been absent from store shelves, leaving smokers to buy other brands like Marlboro (Red and Lights) just to get a puff.

There is no clear answer why there is a shortage of cigarettes, although smokers don't seem to mind paying around \$10 for a pack. That's right. Less than two years ago, the average price for a pack of smokes was under \$5. Last year, the price skyrocketed, with the average cost being somewhere between \$7.50 and \$8.

Now, with the demand so high and the supply so low, storeowners have hiked the price-per-pack yet again. This time, up to \$9- \$10. Smokers who spoke to Samoa News say their only other option is to contact family members and friends flying in from off island, to bring them some cigarettes.

Travelers are allowed to bring in one carton of cigarettes without taxation when flying into the territory.

As of yesterday, some stores were completely out of cigarettes, while others were trying to sell off the last of their unpopular brands to those who 'need' to satisfy

their cravings.

Samoa News should point out that it asked some if perhaps it was time to quit — which was met with silence. Just a suggestion...

DYWA TO HOST MULUMULUGA VEVE TOMORROW

The Department of Youth & Women's Affairs (DYWA) will be hosting a special program tomorrow from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Pago Pago Youth Community Center.

Entitled: "Mulumuluga Veva" the program aims to provide services to residents of the Fagaloa area.

According to a statement from DYWA, "The Mulumuluga Veva is a one-stop service location that will host service providers from both the American Samoa Government and Non-Profit Organizations for two hours, so the community around the Fagaloa Area (Fagaalu to Aua), and towards the east-side of Tutuila can acquire the services they need. These services are usually for regular business hours, but come by and take advantage of this great event."

Partner agencies and NGOs that will be represented at tomorrow's event include: Argosy University, the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS), Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), AS Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA), ASCC-Land Grant, Admissions, and Financial Aid Office; Department of Education School Lunch Program, GHC Reid and Co., Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Protection and Advocacy for the Disabled (OPAD), Department of Human Resources (DHR), Tradewinds Hotel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), recruiters from the United States Army, the Alliance, and the USDA's Soil and Water Conservation Program.

The event is free of charge and everyone is invited. There will also be raffle prizes.

More information can be obtained by calling DYWA

directly at 644-2835/2836 or email <liapelenato@gmail.com>

PUBLIC VOICES CONCERN OVER DOH CLINIC HOURS

Local residents who stopped by the Department of Health's (DOH) Tafuna Health Clinic last week were not happy when they were unable to receive service.

Apparently, according to a note posted on the door of the clinic, closures without notice will occur because there is a critical staffing shortage and therefore, they would not be able to open for after-hour appointments as usual.

The notice also directs people to the LBJ Medical Center in Fagaalu and states that unannounced closures will occur, until the staffing shortage issue is resolved.

Samoa News received numerous complaints from people who use the Tafuna Health Clinic for after-hour purposes.

Currently, there is a serious staffing issue at the LBJ Medical Center, not only with nurses, but also physicians for the Pediatric Clinic.

Samoa News understands that some of the medical staff from DOH have been called in to work some hours at the LBJ Hospital to help alleviate the staffing problem.

"So it now seems to be a circular problem, in that clinics are referring folks to LBJ, who is also suffering the same problem," said one local resident. "Since it is tax season, I think we are all wondering — where is that 2% wage tax going that was meant to go to LBJ?" the resident continued.

The problem apparently goes deeper than just an unannounced closure. Samoa News understands that the prenatal clinic will remain closed until further notice — or until Governor Lolo Moliga gives the green light — as the employees have not received a paycheck in over a month.

Efforts to contact DOH Director Motusa Tuileama Nua were unsuccessful as of press time.

PRIMARY CARE IN FAGAALU IS NOW A "WALK-IN" SERVICE

When the Primary Care Clinic was at the LBJ Medical Center, it was God-send for many, especially the elderly, looking for a quick doctor's check-up, renewal of prescription medication, and just a health 'report card'.

The Primary Care Clinic has since moved under the umbrella of the Department of Health and was operating with the same routine which was: schedule an appointment, pick up an order for lab work, and wait for your scheduled visit date.

Things have changed though. Earlier this month, Samoa News visited the Primary Care Clinic at DOH and saw a notice that said appointments will no longer be taken, "walk-ins only".

It then gets confusing when you see the other notice, which states that lab work must be done at least two days prior to your appointment.

According to the doctors and nurses there, the notice is per DOH Director Motusa Tuileama Nua's orders. They didn't delve into details.

"Primary Care is where you go to STAY healthy," said one irate elderly woman who spoke to Samoa News. "Yes, there are times when we do a walk-in when we are not feeling up to par, but not bad enough to go the Emergency Room."

"We go to make sure we won't get worse. We set up our appointments every 6 months to see the doctor to make sure we stay healthy and have our lab work done. People have jobs. They do not like to just do a walk-in and sit for four or so hours, because too many people have the same idea on the same day," she continued.

Samoa News spoke to a DOH official who said that the "walk-in" concept is really not a big change, as people with appointments generally have to wait — sometimes for over an hour — just to be seen. "If you look at it that way, the wait time will be the same as 'walking in'," she said.

Samoa News attempts to contact DOH Director Motusa Tuileama Nua for comments were unsuccessful as of press time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our

email news.newsroom@samoatelco.com

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[l-r] Congresswoman Aumua Amata, District of Columbia Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Northern Mariana Islands Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan and Mrs. Hinanui Hunkin, widow of the late former Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin on Saturday, Mar. 25, during “A Celebration of Life” Memorial Service for Faleomavaega, who passed away Feb. 22 at his home in Provo, Utah and was laid to rest Mar. 11 in the Provo. According to a mourner at the burial service, over 2,000 people attended.

[photo: Aoelua]

DMWR still seeking funding to remove longliner grounded off Nuuuli reef

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources director Va’amua Henry Sesepasara continues to seek federal funding to help remove a foreign longline fishing vessel grounded off Coconut Point in Nu’uuli almost two years ago.

Va’amua made the revelation at last week’s, three-day, 169th Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu. Va’amua is the territorial government’s representative on the Council.

As previously reported by Samoa News, the Taiwan-based fishing vessel SeaHawk #68 ran aground in May 2015. According to a federal investigation report released in February last year, some crew members suffered minor injuries and a total loss of the vessel and cargo was valued at more than \$500,000, but no pollution was reported. The report cited several reasons for the vessel running aground.

During the American Samoa fisheries presentation at the Council meeting last week, Va’amua said the US Coast Guard helped with removal of oil, “but the vessel is still on the reef, causing a lot of damage to our reefs.”

Last December during high winds and high surf in the territory, Va’amua said the vessel moved 40-feet closer to the shore. “And as it moves closer to shore, the vessel is dragged along the reef, and did a lot more damage to the reef,” he said.

While attending the annual US Coral Reef Task Force meeting more than two weeks ago in Washington D.C., Va’amua said he requested some resources or funding from federal agencies to help remove this vessel.

A request was made to the Coast Guard in Washington D.C and Va’amua said he was informed that the agency’s Honolulu office would be contacted; and last week Wednesday, he met with US Coast Guard commander Rula Deisher, who sits on the Council.

Deisher told the meeting that the oil has been removed and the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Coast Guard have determined that it’s not an oil pollution problem, “so we don’t have additional funding at this time, to do anything else with the vessel.”

Va’amua sought any suggestion from the Coast Guard or any other agency to get some funding assistance. He recalled several years ago, when 11 longliners were grounded in the Bay area and the Coast Guard helped remove these vessels with funding at \$38 million.

Va’amua said the vessel grounded off Nu’uuli is a problem and “as long as this vessel is on the reef, every time we have high winds and high surf, this vessel continues to move closer to the shore, dragging on our reef, doing much more damage ... [it] is a major problem with this.”

Responding to a question from the Council, Va’amua says the vessel’s hull is fiberglass “and that makes it more worst” because every time there’s high winds and high surf, the vessel is pushed towards the shoreline, with the vessel breaking up in pieces and this debris ends up on the shore.

Another American Samoa member on the Council, Taotasi Archie Soliai of StarKist Samoa echoed Va’amua’s concern with the grounded vessel saying, “From what I understand, a company did an assessment on removal, and its going to cost about \$3 million to remove that

vessel because it’s fiberglass, it’s not something, that you can sink in the ocean.”

He also said the vessel is grounded off the shore of his village of Nu’uuli, a “beautiful village.” That statement prompted laughter from those in attendance at the meeting.

LAPATA’IGA MO MATAFAGA



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

ASEPA

Lagolagoina le fa’amamaina o matafaga

Aso o le Fa’asalalauga: Mati 22, 2017
Fa’afeso’ota’i: AS-EPA Polokalama a le Vai – 633-2304

Fa’asilasilaga mai le Ofisa o le Puipuiga o le Si’osi’omaga mo le mamalu o le atunu’u: sa faia su’esu’ega o gataifale ia Mati 21, 2017, ma fa’amaonia ai le i ai o siana (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

Nuuuli Pala Spring
Afono Stream Mouth
Alega Stream Mouth

E fautuaina le mamalu o le atunu’u o lo’o fa’aogaina ia ogasami mo ta’elega ma fagotaga: talu ai ona o su’esu’ega o ia vaega o ogasami sa faia i le vaiaso ua mavae, sa molimauina ai le mauuluga o le faitau aofa’i o siana (Enterococci) mai numera ua fa’atapula’aina i le tulafono i ia vaega o ogasami. O nei siana e afua mai otaota po’o suavai lafoa’i o tagata ma meaola. Afai ae o’o atu le faitau aofa’i o siana mai numera ua fa’atapula’aina, o lona uiga, e i ai le avanoa e ono afaina ai lou soifua maloloina ini fa’ama’i e pei o le manava-tatā, o fofoga fa’apea fa’i ma manu’a o le tino pe a sao i ai le siana. Mo lou saogalemu: ‘ava le invina le suasami, ia fa’alanu lelei, ma fa’amālū pe a mae’a ta’elega. O le fautuaga mai le Ofisa o le AS-EPA, fa’afeso’ota’i muamua se foma’i, u’o le’i fa’aogaina ia ogasami, auā le puipuiga o lou soifua maloloina.

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Massive eradication effort kills thousands of Alamea in Territory

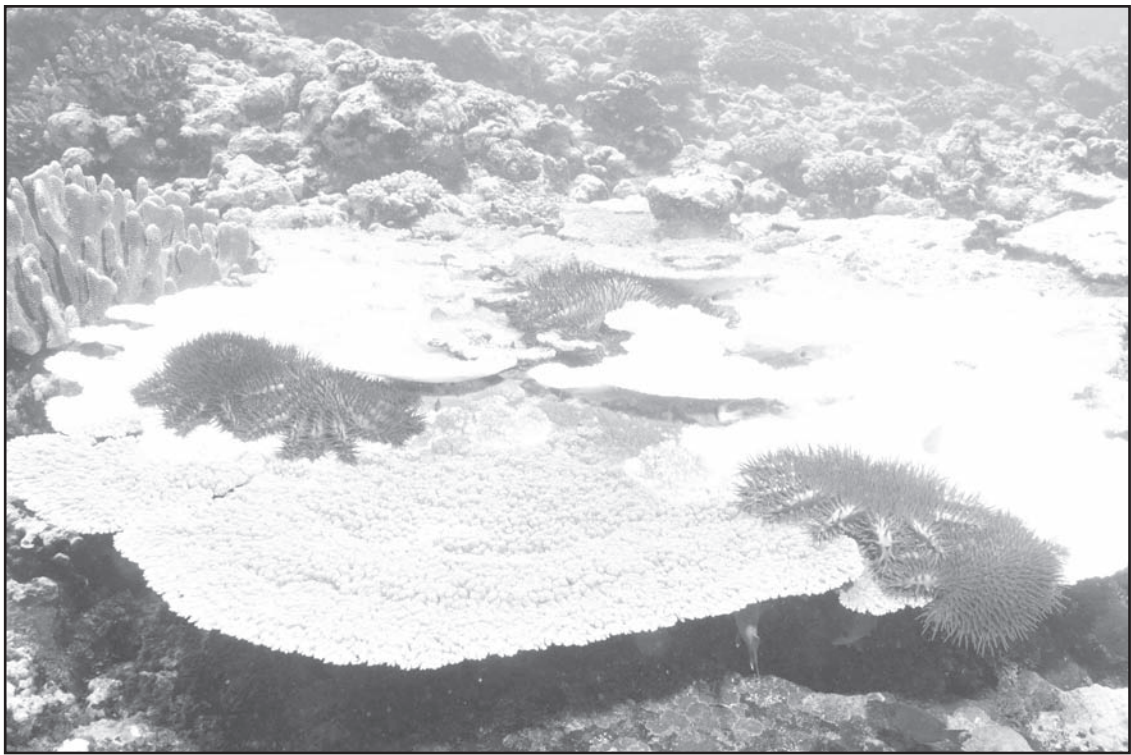
(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — PAGO PAGO, American Samoa — Alamea (crown of thorns starfish) is native to American Samoa reefs, but in the last few years have been seen in alarmingly high numbers.

The National Park of American Samoa, along with other agencies including ASG Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources and NOAA/National Marine Sanctuaries have been working to control the alamea population outbreaks around the island of Tutuila.

“The National Park of American Samoa is honored to be part of the effort to protect and preserve our local reefs,” said Superintendent Scott Burch. “Controlling the latest alamea outbreak has been a particularly challenging yet successful project implemented by our staff and our partners.”

Since 2013, the park’s Marine Crew has killed more than 25,000 of the venomous starfish; and due to their efforts, alamea populations within the National Park have returned to normal levels.

Alamea feed on coral polyps, killing the coral and leaving behind only a white skeleton.



Alamea (crown of thorns starfish) on a coral reef in American Samoa.

[photo: National Park Service of Am. Samoa]

This skeleton is often quickly overgrown by algae, preventing the coral from growing back.

Even if conditions are ideal, it can take up to 50 years for a coral reef to recover from alamea outbreaks, with natural disturbances like cyclones making it even more difficult for the reef to recover.

The reason for the alamea outbreak is thought to be due to

high levels of land based nutrients in the nearshore waters.

These nutrients can come from excess fertilizer on crops, leaking septic systems, wet litter piggeries, and other sources that are transported by rainfall into the ocean. They allow phytoplankton, a microscopic marine plant, to flourish. When phytoplankton levels are high, alamea larvae have more food and can

grow quickly, resulting in more starfish surviving to adulthood and ultimately leading to an outbreak.

The most recent outbreak was first noticed by researchers in 2011 on the south side of Tutuila and quickly spread to the north side of the island by 2013. Heavy outbreaks were detected near the villages of Fagasa, Faga’malo, and Vatia.

Although outbreaks have occurred in the past, this was the first time that the outbreak had been monitored and systematic control efforts initiated.

In some areas the outbreaks were so dense that National Park divers encountered and were able to kill 952 alamea in a single day.

“Hats off to our marine crew for professionally and effectively managing such a huge outbreak. Their dedication to this effort has been tremendous and we will continue to monitor the reefs for future outbreaks,” said National Park Dive Officer Bert Fuiava.

Monitoring for alamea within and adjacent to the National Park indicates that the outbreak has been contained within these waters. However, more monitoring is needed throughout the reefs around Tutuila to understand the status of the current outbreak.

It is up to all of us to help protect our reefs from these threats. If you see large numbers of alamea on the reef, please report the location to the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) at 633-4456.

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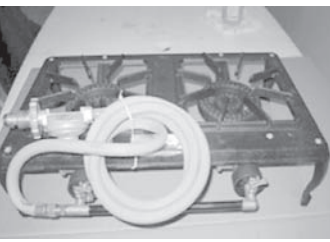








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Spawnbreezie’s “night” is the talk of the town

By Leiloa Ese Malala
Samoa News Staff Writer

The territory’s first laser light show was on display this past Saturday during the Spawnbreezie concert hosted by Bluesky Communications at the Fagatogo Pavilion — it was part of the celebration that launched their new 4G Superior Network in the Territory, this past week.

The laser light show was the work of Spy Glass, a company based in New Zealand that is renowned for using innovative and the latest technology to create their work.

It was Spawnbreezie’s first concert on island and was attended by hundreds of people who gathered to enjoy the music — local musicians also performed — as well as a well-known DJ from Seattle, DeeJay LuceScrewz, who played music which got the audience on their feet to dance and enjoy the night.

Spawnbreezie performed classic songs especially fan favorites that were a smash hit like “Oh My Goodness” and YouTube hit “Don’t Let Go” with over 1 million views each and also singing covers of old school songs like “I wanna be your man” originally by Zapp

(Continued on page 9)



Hundreds of people attended the Spawnbreezie concert held at the Fagatogo Pavilion this past Saturday, hosted by Bluesky Communications. [Courtesy photo]

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Last Saturday night, Spawnbreezie and local musicians joined together in a concert hosted by Bluesky Communications at the Fagatogo Pavilion. It was Spawnbreezie's first concert on island. The laser light show was also a first for the island. [Courtesy photo]

Spawnbreezie

Continued from page B9

& Roger.

With his new album, Rest Your Hands, released, our island concert kicked off his Spring Tour this year, and he heads back to the mainland next week to continue this tour.

With backup singers, who are local Fagaitua alumnus and two other local musicians LJ and Daniel Helsham — they played guitar for Spawnbreezie's concert, he sure made himself feel at home.

Daniel Helsham posted on Instagram saying, "Thank you God for the opportunity to be a part of Team Spawnbreezie. I'm truly blessed to have played with these talented people, especially our local talent."

Spawnbreezie said in an interview with Samoa News, "I have felt so much love from everyone on this island. It has been a great experience and I look forward to coming back home."

His unique sound echoed throughout Fagatogo and could be heard from miles away especially while the road was blocked — so everyone could enjoy the free concert.

For more information on Spawnbreezie check his facebook page or his website www.spawnbreezie.com



Taoto ia fa'amaene o le tailoloto le paia o le Atua Silisili Ese, aua e paia lava o la e o'o i le fa'avavau. O le fetalaiga foi i le maluapapa o lea ua see i i'u o galu mamalu o le atunuu, ae see i ulugalu paia o le Atua. Mamalu o le atunuu ma ona sa ma faigā e amata mai i le taisamasama seia paia le si'upapa o le Alataua, o le a taoto i faleupolu o tofiga ma nu'unu'u atu ia faatini o tausala o se nunuavaga. Mamalu o le faigamalo, i ona tafa maoti o le a le sagolegole iai ua maea ona tapui. Ae ina ne'i mea ane ua fesiligia faaliu o vaa o tautai, o ai lea ua pisa? O le AYFS RAMS e i lalo o le taitaiga ia Mataese Mataese Jr., faiaoga lagolago ia Barry Patane ma Galo Tuiolosega, ma le mafutaga a matua ma fanau. E faailo ai le lupe lele malie ona o lau lagolagoina ma sapaasapaia o lenei Au ua faaigoaina o le AYFS RAMS, e le natia i fatualavai lou titifaitama e ala i lau foai ae le gata i lea o soo se auala sa e fesoasoani ai mo alo ma fanau o le atunuu. O le mea ia e manatua ua e faaeaea le Atua e ala i lou alofa tulai i Lana oloa taua. Matou te manatua pea lou agalelei, o la matou tatalo, ia tau ai ta'i selau faamanuiaga a le Atua ia te outou. Avea foi lenei avanoa matou te avatu ai se faafetai ia Peresitene Victor Avalos ma le AYFS faafetai, faafetai tele malo manatu i le lumanai o le atunuu, faamanuia le Atua ia te outou. Bears, Steelers, 49ers, Packers, Raiders malo taaalo faatausala o le tala ua masani ai le atunuu e taaalo lava tama a'o le uso. Tatou toe feiloai i le tausaga fou i le alofa o le Atua.

A Sincere THANK YOU to all the friends, families and supporters of the AYFS RAMS FOOTBALL TEAM. Thank you for your donations and contributions in making this a wonderful and memorable season for our young boys. We are extremely blessed to have such a great support system through families and community that recognize the importance of creating a positive experience for our youth. Your support has encouraged and inspired them to aim higher and to be persistent in the pursuit of their dreams.

May the Lord reward you for your kindness. Ruth 1:8

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Spec. Robert Toilolo (right) sends a shout out to friends and family who will be happy to know that even in Ft. Lee, Virginia, he has Samoan brothers and sisters — including SFC Leaupepe (center) and his new commanding officer, Capt. Valentino Pase (left).

“It was a surprise and I am very happy to see a Samoan uso being the commanding officer,” Toilolo said.

Capt. Pase is a Tafuna high school 2004 graduate. He would like to send his love to his parents HC Fiaseu Apineru Pase of Masausi and Latasi Savusa Pase of Nuuli.

Spec. Toilolo told Samoa News, “I would also like to send love to my parents Fetulima Fanolua and Alava Fanolua of Pavaiai. And also to friends and my ASG Homeland Security family.”

Toilolo is a prior service US Marine (5 years), worked at ASG Homeland Security and now is with the US Army. He received a Masters degree from Argosy University intends to become an officer in the near future, following in Capt. Pase’s footsteps.

[courtesy photo]

California slaying victims are mom, 2 kids and another woman

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The four people killed last week in a quiet Northern California neighborhood include a woman and her two children, authorities said Sunday.

The victims are Angelique Vasquez, 45; her daughter, Mia Vasquez, 14; her son, Alvin Vasquez, 11; and Ashley Coleman, 21, according to the Sacramento County coroner’s office.

Detectives did not immediately know what relationship Coleman had to the Vasquez family, Sacramento Officer Matthew McPhail said.

Sacramento City Unified School District officials said Sunday the two siblings were fifth and eighth-graders who loved sports.

Alvin Vasquez loved basketball and was a fifth-grader who had recently transferred from John Cabrillo Elementary School to Sutterville Elementary School. His sister Mia Vasquez was a goalie on her school’s soccer team. She was an eighth-grader at Sam

Brannan Middle School.

Grief counselors will be at the three schools on Monday to help children deal with the loss, officials said.

Police found the victims Thursday when they broke into a single-story home in Sacramento after a relative reported that something might be wrong. Investigators treated the entire house as evidence, McPhail said.

Authorities arrested Salvador Vasquez-Oliva, 56, on suspicion of homicide after finding him in San Francisco, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) away from the killings. They have not named a motive or said what relationship he has to the dead. Police have not said when or how the victims were killed.

A former co-worker described Angelique Vasquez as a devoted mother.

“I loved her free spirit and the way she spoke about her children. She loved them so much,” said Sheila Stewart, who met Vasquez seven years ago in the human resources department of California’s Employment

Development Department.

Vasquez had split with her husband “in the past,” Stewart said. “She didn’t really talk about him, at least not to me,” she said Friday. “I know they had problems like any relationship but never heard any stories of physical abuse.”

Vasquez-Oliva also worked for the Employment Development Department, which administers the state’s unemployment checks. Agency officials said Vasquez-Oliva had worked as an office technician since 2014.

The killings don’t appear to be random, Sgt. Bryce Heinlein said Thursday.

It was not immediately known if Vasquez-Oliva has an attorney. He was being held in the Sacramento County Jail, Heinlein said.

Police said Vasquez-Oliva is from Sacramento, but records show he also is associated with an apartment near the University of San Francisco, six blocks from where police found him.

There was no answer at the door Friday, though a light was on inside.

****Good News ** Good News****

Tala Fiafia

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Bulgarian ex-Premier Boiko Borisov, leader of the center-right GERB party, drives a vintage Mercedes as he leaves a voting station, in Sofia, Bulgaria, Sunday, March 26, 2017. Bulgarians are heading to the polls for the third time in four years in a snap vote that could tilt the European Union's poorest member country closer to Russia as surveys put the center-right GERB party neck-and-neck with the Socialist Party.

(AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)

Center-right party tops Bulgaria election; Socialists yield

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — The center-right GERB party of former Prime Minister Boiko Borisov took the lead in Bulgaria's parliamentary election on Sunday, a pair of exit polls showed, a result that if confirmed by official returns indicates support for the country keeping its European identity.

The Alpha Research exit poll said GERB won 32.2 percent of the vote, with the Socialist Party coming in second with 28 percent, while a separate exit poll by Gallup International Balkan had GERB with 32.8 percent and the Socialists with 28.4 percent.

The leader of the Socialists Party later conceded defeat and said the party would not take part in a coalition government with GERB.

Official results are expected Monday. If they confirm the exit polls, Borisov, a political maverick who combines man-in-the-street rhetoric with a pro-European Union disposition, will be handed a mandate to form his third cabinet.

GERB did not win enough votes to govern alone, and will likely form a coalition government with the United Patriots, an alliance of three nationalist parties that the exit polls showed placing third.

Borisov, 57, resigned as prime minister after his party lost the November 2016 presidential election. Parliament was dissolved in January, and the president appointed a caretaker government that will stay until a new government is formed.

Borisov said GERB had the "duty to form a government because this is the will of the people and because we triggered these early elections." He declined to say what parties may be in a future coalition, pending final results.

Support for the nationalist alliance reflected widespread anger over an influx of migrants to this southeastern European nation that borders Greece, Turkey and Romania, and over Turkey's open support for a party representing Bulgaria's sizeable Muslim minority.

Along with immigration, the election campaign focused on the future of the European Union, which Bulgaria joined in 2007, and the influence of Russia and Turkey on domestic politics.

Socialist Party leader Kornelia Ninova, who campaigned on forging closer relations with Russia, conceded defeat Sunday evening. Ninova congratulated GERB as the election's winner, and ruled out any

option of serving in a coalition government with the center-right party.

The Socialists, a party made up mostly of ex-communists, want EU sanctions against Russia lifted and tried to woo voters with promises of higher salaries and pensions.

If "GERB fails to form a government, we will try to do so," Ninova said.

The GERB party's popularity faded during Borisov's previous term as prime minister because of the slow pace of reforms to eliminate graft and poverty and to overhaul the judicial system. Bulgaria is the EU's poorest member.

It is now pledging to fight corruption and to raise minimum wages, and supports EU sanctions on Russia over its role in the Ukraine crisis.

A populist party named Volya (Will) may end up entering Parliament. Exit polls showed it winning about 5 percent of the vote, exceeding the 4 percent minimum threshold.

The party is led by Veselin Mareshki, a wealthy businessman whose anti-establishment message combines patriotic rhetoric with promises of strict immigration controls and friendlier relations with Moscow.

The Central Election Commission said voter turnout for the election stood at nearly 43 percent at 5 p.m., a larger showing than in previous elections.

The election sparked protests at the Turkish border by Bulgarian nationalists who were determined to keep Bulgarian citizens living permanently in Turkey from coming in to vote. The protesters claimed Turkish officials were forcing expatriate voters to support DOST, a pro-Ankara party running for the first time.

Some 10 percent of Bulgarians are of Turkish origin or Muslim. More than 300,000 Bulgarians have settled permanently in Turkey, but still hold Bulgarian passports and are eligible to vote.

The border tensions prompted a spat between the two nations' leaders. While Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has criticized what he described as "pressure" on ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, Radev retorted that his country would not accept democracy lessons from Turkey.

"We will not allow any interference of foreign powers in Bulgaria's internal affairs," Borisov said Sunday.



Trades & Technology Division

Apprenticeship & Workforce Development Training Program
Related Technical In-Classroom Instruction
April 03 – June 08, 2017 (10 Week Fall Session)

Registration:

Date: March 13 – 31, 2017
Days: Monday - Friday
Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Registration Locations:

Apprenticeship: TTD Office (ASCC campus adjacent to Samoan fale Participant Sponsor (Employer))
Workforce Development: TTD Office (Non-Traditional Students)

Cost

Registration Fee: \$40.00 (Non-refundable)
Course (5 CEU): \$45.00 per CEU (\$225.00 per course)
Total: \$265.00

Enrollment Requirement:

Apprentice: Must be employed in the respective area
Workforce Development: Must be a high school graduate or equivalent

COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	DAYS	TIME	INSTRUCTOR
ADT 840	ADT 840: Intermediate AutoCAD (Construction)	5.0	T/TH	5:00PM-7:30PM	A. Esera
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
ETP 840	Residential House Wiring (Electrician)	5.0	M/W	5:00PM-7:30PM	T. Leiato

For more information please contact TTD Administrative Assistant, Juliet F. C. Pen at 699-9155 Ext. 472
Email: awd@amsamoa.edu

46 dogs, saved from slaughter, arrive in NY from South Korea

NEW YORK (AP) — Forty-six dogs were flown to New York from South Korea after being rescued at a farm where they were to be slaughtered for human consumption, animal advocates said Sunday.

The Humane Society International is responsible for saving the dogs that were fed barely enough to survive.

The animals arrived at Kennedy International Airport late Saturday and were headed to emergency shelters in New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania on Sunday.

The farm in Goyang, a city just north of Seoul, “was more like a dungeon, where there’s very little light, little to no ventilation, so the stench of ammonia would bring tears to your eyes when you walk through,” said Kelly O’Meara, who oversees the society’s companion animal-related international projects. “You’d see eyes peering at you, but it was hard to actually see the dogs themselves in the dark.”

An estimated 17,000 other such farms still operate in South Korea, said O’Meara. However, she said, it’s a diminishing industry in a society where demand for dog meat has been plummeting. Meat from about 2 million dogs still is eaten there each year.

In the United States, the rescued dogs will be available for adoption after the shelters evaluate their behavior and medical needs and make sure each one is ready for a new life in someone’s home. In South Korea, O’Meara said, the dogs receive no veterinary care of any kind.

“They either get through it or they die in their cage and they receive just enough food to get by,” she said.

At the seven farms from which the Humane Society rescued more than 800 dogs since 2015, those to be slaughtered included both mixed breed dogs and purebred ones — from a Chihuahua and a Maltese to various spaniels and a Saint Bernard.

A German shorthaired pointer and a miniature pinscher came from the latest farm. The Washington-based Humane Society International, which relies on private donations, deals directly with farmers to close down and demolish dog meat businesses and help owners financially to transition to other work.

The animals must be taken abroad, O’Meara said, because they’re generally not wanted in South Korea as pets or companion dogs. Some had been abandoned pets, and others were raised to be sold as pets but given to the meat industry if that failed.



Two dogs that were rescued from a South Korean dog meat farm nuzzle each other aboard an animal transport vehicle near Kennedy Airport Sunday, March 26, 2017, in the Queens borough of New York. The Humane Society International is responsible for saving 46 dogs that would otherwise have been slaughtered.

(Andrew Kelly/Humane Society International via AP)

In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

PR NO. 01-17

In the Matter of the Estate of KONEILIA TAGOILELAGI.

LISA JEON-MAGA
Petitioner

NOTICE FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Letters of Administration has been filed in the High Court of American Samoa, Trial Division, Territory of American Samoa by Lisa Jeon-Maga, for the Estate of KONEILIA TAGOILELAGI, deceased, who died on August 31, 2016, in American Samoa.

A hearing on the Petition will be held on April 13th, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa, at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa. All interested parties may appear before the Court on said date to respond on this Petition.

Dated: January 18, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 3/17, 3/20 & 3/27/2017



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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.



Mrs. Hinanui Hunkin, widow of the late former Congressman Faleomavaega Eni during her Samoan siva performance, at a reception at the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH) community center in Fort Myer, Virginia following — “A Celebration of Life’ Memorial Service” — for Faleomavaega at the JBM-HH Memorial Chapel on Saturday, Mar. 25.

Besides Mrs. Hunkin and her children along with family members and friends, others who attended the memorial service as well as the reception included Interior Department acting assistant secretary for Insular Areas, Nikolao Pula, Congresswoman Aumua Amata, District of Columbia Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Northern Mariana Islands Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan. Solomona Aoelua, who served in the Washington D.C. Office during Faleomavaega’s tenure in Congress, said the memorial service was sponsored by Samoan Congregation Church at the Fort Mayer Joint Base

Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH), at Fort Myer, Virginia.

The church service was held at the Memorial Chapel inside the JBM-HH Fort Myer post, followed by the reception at JBM-HH Community Center (still on Fort Mayer post), which included luncheon, personal testimonies, and entertainment.

Aoelua said the Fort Myer JBM-HH post and specifically the Memorial Chapel, is where the Samoan Congregation Church of Washington, D.C has held its church services every Sunday for the past more than 30 years.

He said Faleomavaega was very familiar with these places, as he was a member of the Samoan Congregation and attended church regularly when in town. This is the same church where the funeral services for the late U.S. Army Private Jonathan Falaniko, son of retired US Army Command Sergeant Major Ioakimo Falaniko and second Samoan casualty of the Iraq war, was held on November 7, 2003.

[photo: Aoelua]



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LUNCH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Grain Meat Fruit /Veggie Milk Extra Condiments	Brown & White Rice Chicken Nuggets Fruit Mixed Steamed Broccoli 1% Low Fat Milk Bbq Sauce	Brown & White Rice Chili w/ Hot Dog Ripe Banana Cucumber Salad 1% Low Fat Milk	+Dinner Roll Turkey Ham Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Papaya Steamed Pumpkin 1% Low Fat Milk	Brown & White Rice Beef Chop Suey w/ Mixed Veggies Ripe Banana Green Banana 1% Low Fat Milk	*Dinner Roll Macaroni & Cheese Papaya Cucumber Sticks 1% Low Fat Milk



Mrs. Hinanui Hunkin (far left), widow of the late former Congressman Faleomavaega Eni, accompanied by the couple's children and family members during the memorial service Saturday for Faleomavaega at the Memorial Chapel at Fort Myer Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH), at Fort Myer, Virginia. The Samoan Congregation Church of Washington D.C. organized the service. The JBM-HH chapel has held been used for SCCW Sunday services for the past 30-plus years. [photo: Aoelua]

Police: 'No apparent reason' for shooting on Vegas Strip bus

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A man sitting at the back of a public bus on the Las Vegas Strip opened fire “for no apparent reason” as passengers got off at a stop in the heart of the tourism corridor, police said Sunday.

Gary Breitling, 57, of Sidney, Montana, was shot and killed Saturday before the gunman barricaded himself in the vehicle, shutting down the Strip for hours, the Clark County coroner’s office said. He died at a hospital. Rolando Cardenas, 55, has been accused in the shooting, and he surrendered peacefully after a standoff inside the double-decker bus that lasted more than four hours, police said.

He was booked into jail on suspicion of murder, attempted murder, burglary and opening fire on the bus. An attorney for him could not immediately be found. Attempts to reach his family were unsuccessful.

The bus had stopped on the Strip near the Cosmopolitan hotel-casino and passengers were leaving when Cardenas stood up and fired several rounds from a handgun, police said. The man didn’t fire all of his bullets, but he did shoot

at police during the barricade. Police said they didn’t fire any shots. Assistant Sheriff Tom Roberts also said that authorities believe Cardenas may have had “mental issues.”

Another victim was shot in the stomach and was hospitalized but is expected to live. Both victims were seated in the back with Cardenas, police said. It was not known how many people were on the bus at the time of the shooting, but the bystanders and the victims had fled. Police have started a hotline seeking to hear what those passengers witnessed.

Because authorities did not know if more victims were inside, crisis negotiators, robots and armored vehicles surrounded the bus. Officers swept into casinos to warn tourists to hunker down until further notice, leaving the normally bustling pedestrian areas and a road notorious for taxi-to-taxi traffic completely empty.

Visitors also hid out inside some of the other prominent hotel-casino properties nearby, including the Bellagio, Paris, Planet Hollywood and Bally’s, which also hold restaurants, shops and attractions.



A suspect surrenders to SWAT officers after being barricaded for many hours on a bus after a fatal shooting in the vehicle earlier today which down the busy tourism corridor near the Cosmopolitan hotel-casino in Las Vegas, Saturday, March 25, 2017. Las Vegas Police officer Larry Hadfield said just before 3:30 p.m. that the man had a handgun and surrendered without incident. (L.E. Baskow/Las Vegas Sun via AP)

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All proposals must be addressed to Cherith Lober no later than 4.00pm, Friday 31st March 2017. GHC Reid reserves the right to refuse and/or deny any proposals as submitted.

