



Kids 5-7 years old who were part of the 'Make A Better World' summer reading program in Nu'uuli, hosted by the Aaelua/ Fanene sisters, pledging allegiance to the US Flag last Thursday during a farewell ceremony for them, held at the AS Community Cancer Coalition conference room.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9, 2017

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

\$1.00

“Matching Funds” part of the local Medicaid program hiccup

IT'S A REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM — YOU HAVE TO PAY FIRST WITH LOCAL FUNDS

by Blue Chen-Fruean

Samoa News Correspondent

Director of the American Samoa Medicaid Office, Tofoitaufa Sandra King-Young says that since American Samoa's Medicaid State Plan had never been changed in over 30 years to add more Medicaid providers, “our territory had to overcome several obstacles like lack of financial and utilization data to properly conduct financial impact analysis on our local budget and to the federal Medicaid budget for American Samoa.”

She added, “There is so much we would like to do to improve patient care using the Medicaid program, but it is all dependent on the availability of local match and increased federal funding.”

Tofoitaufa was responding to Samoa News inquiries regarding the Medicaid Program, which was one of the issues discussed during a Congressional hearing last month in Washington DC, where she, along with LBJ Medical Center CEO Taufete'e John Faumuina provided testimony on issues relating to conditions at the territory's only hospital.

According to her, the financial and program analysis is a requirement of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which she said “won't move any changes to our program until we fully address any financial impact on the Medicaid budget.” She continued, “Our policy has always been to first ensure that the funding stream to the hospital remains stable; so adding to our Medicaid provider network requires our office to determine the availability of local funds, and the sustainability of our federal Medicaid funding.” Tofoitaufa told Samoa News that after working hard on bringing about changes to better implement the Medicaid program, starting this past February, “some of the changes we started working on and negotiating with CMS from 2014- 2015 started getting approved.”

First, she pointed out, “we successfully negotiated a new payment method to make the FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Centers) and its five community health centers an official Medicaid provider.” Tofoitaufa said there is a need for local match to pay the FQHC community health centers.

Secondly, payment methods have been created for off-island providers both in the US and in New Zealand, where it is more affordable for excellent healthcare services.

“We now need the local match from the local government to implement the OIMR. Without a local match, we cannot reinstate the OIMR,” Tofoitaufa explained. “We are now working on developing fair and equitable policies and procedures to implement the OIMR. These policies and procedures must be transparent, have clear checks and balances, and must have appeals rights for patients.”

She explained that these are the minimum standards required by CMS, and added that their office will be conducting community outreach through the media “to explain all these changes (Continued on page 7)

Talosaga le Ekalesia Aoa e fa'aleaoga le tagi a Rev. Amaama

tusia Ausage Fausia

O le mae'a ai ona faila e le loia a Rev. Amaama Tofaeono o le latou talosaga i le Vaega Iloilo o le Fa'amasinoga Mauauga a le atunu'u, mo se poloaina a le fa'amasinoga e fa'ataunu'u ai se iloiloga autu o le mataupu e pei ona tu'uia ai i laua ma lona faletua e le Ekalesia Aoa, na faila ai loa e le loia a le Ekalesia Aoa la latou talosaga i le fa'amasinoga mo sana poloaiga e solofua ma fa'aleaogaina ai le talosaga a le itu tete'e.

O le ali'i loia ia Toetasi Tuiteleapaga o lo o fai ma sui o Charles Alailima e tulai mo Rev. Amaama, ae o Gwen Tauilili-Langkilde o lo o tula'i mo le Komiti a le Au Toeaiina fa'apea ai ma le Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano i Amerika Samoa (EFKAS).

Na taua e le itu a le Ekalesia i le latou talosaga e faapea, e le tatau i le Fa'amasinoga ona latou iloilo le talosaga a le itu tete'e, mo se avanoa e iloilo ai le mataupu e fa'atatau i le mafua'aga

na aveese ai lona tofi o le Faifeau Fa'au'u, atoa ai ma le tagi lea ua fa'aulu ina ia totogi atu ai e sui o le Ekalesia se vaega tupe e tusa ma le \$4 miliona.

E talosaga a le itu tete'e ina ia fa'ataunu'u se iloiloga e fesiligia ai le fa'amaoni o molimau a le Ekalesia ua faia fa'asaga ia te i laua ma lona faletua, o le iloiloga lea sa tatau ona fai muamua e iloilo ai pe fa'amaonia fa'amatalaga ua mafua ai ona fa'amalolo lona tofi faifeau fa'au'u atoa ai ma le tofi o le Failautusi Aoa, peita'i o lea ua muamua fai le iloiloga e fa'atula'i ese ai i laua ma le maota o le Ekalesia.

O le mataupu lenei na tofua atu i le fa'amasinoga, ina ua faila e le Komiti a le Au Toeaiina ma le Ekalesia Aoa la latou tagi fa'asaga ia Rev. Amaama, mo sana poloaiga e fa'atula'i ese ai o ia mai le maota o le Ekalesia, ona e talitonu le Ekalesia, talu ai ua le toe avea o ia ma Failautusi Aoa o le Ekalesia, e le tatau fo'i la ona toe nofo o ia i le maota o

(Faauau itulau 10)



Three of the local teens who took part in this year's AHEC summer program have been taught the basics of first response CPR. The students first watched a video of a real life situation of someone in need of CPR, before they engaged in hands-on activities to practice what they had just learned.

Thanks to the program, the students now have a basic understanding of CPR and how to perform it, in case they are ever faced with a life-threatening emergency that requires them to carry out CPR.

[photo: Mark Espiritu]



Products “Made in the US by Dream Builders Inc. of American Samoa” are: gluten free breadfruit pancake mix (with a recipe on the back), gluten free breadfruit flour and the newest product gluten free green banana flour.
In front are freshly baked muffins made from gluten free green banana flour.

[photo: FS]



Commerce Department official Michael McDonald (left) and Rep. Su'a Alexander Eli Jennings, last Friday with gluten free products manufactured locally by Su'a's company, Dream Builders of American Samoa: gluten free breadfruit pancake mix (with a recipe on the back), gluten free breadfruit flour and the newest product: gluten free green banana flour.

[photo: FS]

“Fa’i paka” gluten free flour now being manufactured locally



Employment Opportunity

Delivery Driver

The Company
Origin Energy American Samoa, Inc is a supplier and distributor of LPGas in American Samoa and has been doing business in the territory for over 30 years. Origin is also an equal opportunity employer.

The Position
We are seeking a highly motivated and professional individual for the role of **Delivery Driver**. The position is based out of our Aua Terminal location.

Job purpose
To perform delivery duties for the distribution of our products to our customers across the island and to perform other general duties.

Duties

- Drive delivery trucks (delivering small exchange cylinders)
- Assist with delivery operations
- Assist with servicing & maintenance of delivery vehicles
- Assist in general terminal operational duties
- Follow all HSE policies & procedures

Qualifications

- Must have successfully completed High School
- Must have excellent communication skills (bilingual Samoan & English)
- Must have at least 2 years previous work experience in the position/role
- Must possess basic computer skills (basic knowledge in Microsoft Word & Excel)
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- Must be in good health & capable of lifting 70lbs
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Compensation Package

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All interested persons qualified for the above position can apply in person at our Tafuna Office between the hours of 08:00am to 4:00pm. Deadline for applicants is 4:00pm on 09th of August 2017.

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

The locally based company, which uses solar energy to dry breadfruit and process it into gluten free breadfruit flour has manufactured a new product, which is made from locally grown bananas — the “fa’i paka” that’s in abundance on island, and available year round.

The gluten free breadfruit flour, along with the gluten free breadfruit pancake mix, and now the gluten free green banana flour are manufactured locally by Dream Builders Inc. of American Samoa, which is owned and operated by Rep. Su’a Alexander Eli Jennings, with the help of family members at his home in Pavaiai.

“Right now we’re testing coconut flour,” Su’a said last Friday, as a hint of what’s coming next but declines at this time to give details.

As reported by Samoa News last November, Su’a retrofitted a freight container dehydrator that he developed locally, and was not only moving “more and more to solar power” but it could also be deployed to “remote islands.”

Su’a said last Friday, “we started out with the breadfruit initiative” through the University of Hawaii and processing very well. “But as you know breadfruit is seasonal, so we had to look at what we’re going to do during the off-season,” he explained. “We looked at all the products, all gluten free, and one of them was bananas.”

“I figured bananas were going to be very easy; and bananas are year round. Sure enough we came out with the bananas and did a little more research and found out that bananas are very comparable with wheat flour,” he explained.

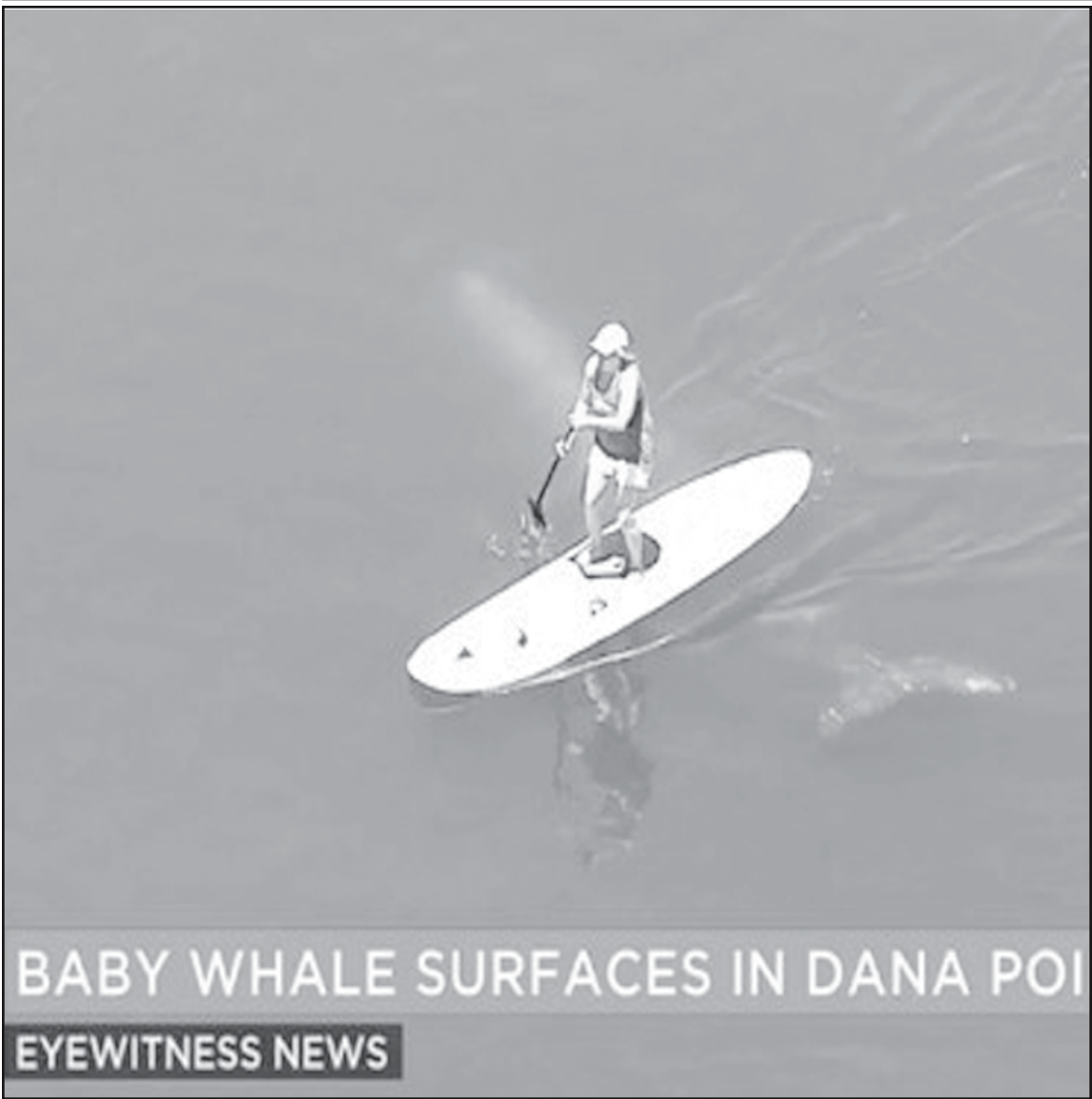
“In fact what we did was take out the wheat flour from the recipe and we placed it (fa’I flour) in the equivalency of two-thirds. So if it calls for one cup of flour, take away the wheat flour and put in two-third cups of banana flour. Everything else is still the same but now you have a non-gluten product,” he said. “So it’s gluten free, and I see a lot of excitement with it. Although the priority to this whole program is breadfruit, and breadfruit in fact is very powerful flour when you make it, you have to do some work with it.”

Because of the breadfruit being seasonal, Su’a said this gave him an opportunity to adjust the dehydration processing machine. “Now we’ve gotten to the point, where the next phase of this operation is to automate it. Right now we’re moving towards automation,” he said, adding that this then will allow the operation to look at green bananas.

“So I took the fa’i paka bananas, because I figure that’s a pretty good size and it’s pretty common,” he said and shared last Friday morning fresh muffins, just out of the oven, made with gluten free green banana flour — which tasted great.

One of the big issues for Su’a

(Continued on page 6)



BABY WHALE SURFACES IN DANA POINT
EYEWITNESS NEWS

This aerial image from video provided by KABC-TV shows a baby gray whale passing under a paddle boarder in Dana Point Harbor in Dana Point, Calif., Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2017. The whale, about 15 to 18 feet long, cruised into the harbor, swam into a shallow children's area called Baby Beach and circled a pier. Kayakers were able to get within a few feet of the animal, which at one point swam under paddle boarders.

(KABC-TV via AP)

Veto override measure once again on the Fono's agenda

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Another attempt is being made by the Fono to give itself the authority to override the governor's veto of legislation that's been approved by the Fono.

Because the measure seeks to amend the local Constitution, it will require approval by voters as well as the U.S. Congress. Introduced last month through a Senate Joint Resolution, the measure is sponsored by Sens. Tuaolo Manaia Fruean and Nuanuaolefeagaiga Saoluaga T. Nua.

With the Fono currently in a mid session recess, the Senate is not expected to take up the measure until lawmakers reconvene on Aug. 21st.

At present, the Constitution provides that no later than 14 days after the governor has vetoed a bill, it can be passed over by a two-thirds majority of the entire membership of each Fono chamber. A bill so re-passed is re-presented to the governor for his approval. If the governor does not approve it within 15 days, he must send it — together with his comments — to the Secretary of Interior.

The Senate Joint Resolution seeks to amend the constitution where a bill so re-passed shall "become law 90 days after the adjournment of the session in which it was passed". The Senate resolution would delete the rest of the current provision

requiring the Interior Secretary's approval.

If approved by the Senate and the House (via a vote of three-fifths in each chamber) the measure states that the governor is requested to submit the amendments to the voters during the next general election which is November.

Samoa News notes that among the many issues covered by the ASG Office on Political Status, Constitutional Review and Federal Regulations, through their educational and public awareness programs at schools and elsewhere, about the relationship between American Samoa and the United States, is the governor's vote override and the Secretary of Interior having the final say.

BACKGROUND

The last attempt by the Senate to give the Fono authority to override the governor's veto was made in 2014. The measure was placed on a referendum during the November 2014 general election, where an overwhelming number of electors voted against the measure. Of the 10,196 ballots counted in the 2014 general election, 7,526 (or 73.8%) voted "no" while 2,670 (or 26.2%) voted "yes".

Less than a month before the November 2014 general election, a group of about 20 people including children brought their message to electors of American Samoa, holding up signs along the roadway, in Fagatogo,

which sent the clear message — "Vote No" on the veto override.

The first time a veto override referendum was rejected was in 2008, but only by a narrow margin of 22 votes — with 6,137 voting yes and 6,159 voting no.

Politicians and some government leaders at the time believed the referendum was defeated due to the lack of public awareness and understanding of the issue. The leaders held the same belief in 2014 with Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga publicly supporting the referendum and appointing a government committee to explain to the community this proposed change to the constitution.

There was opposition due to the fact that members of the Senate are not elected by popular vote but selected by traditional leaders of their respective county councils.

Samoa News should point out that in the 2010 general election, this issue was also on the ballot, along with more than a dozen proposed amendments to the constitution approved during the 2010 Constitutional Convention.

Voters rejected all the proposed changes to the constitution, which were put under one question for a vote of "yes" or "no". Many said at the time that each amendment should have been presented individually, instead of under one umbrella question.



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Participants of the American Samoa Area Health Education Center (ASAHEC) summer program had the opportunity to observe the procedures involved during animal surgery. The group also visited the Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic or VA Medical Center in Tafuna, where they were given a tour of the facility and introduced to the staff. The participants were split into four groups that rotated throughout the clinic. Their program end, included gifts and a meal provided by the VA staff.

[photo: Mark Espiritu]



GOP insurgents claim Trump mantle, spell trouble for party

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans face a problem as they try to defend a slim majority in the Senate and win races elsewhere:

Insurgent primary candidates are trying to lay claim to President Donald Trump’s mantle, and knock out the establishment’s choices.

The latest case is in Nevada, where endangered GOP incumbent Sen. Dean Heller drew a challenge Tuesday from businessman and repeat failed candidate Danny Tarkanian, who announced his bid in an early morning Fox News Channel appearance seemingly aimed at an audience of one: the president himself.

“We’re never going to make America great again unless we have senators in office that fully support President Trump and his America-first agenda,” Tarkanian said, criticizing Heller as “one of the first never-Trumpers in Nevada” and arguing he had

obstructed Trump’s agenda in Congress.

Heller opposed early versions of Trump-backed health care legislation in the Senate before voting for a final version that failed anyway.

His campaign spokesman, Tommy Ferraro, dismissed Tarkanian as a “perennial candidate.”

The National Republican Senatorial Committee, which is the official Senate GOP campaign arm, quickly announced its support for Heller, and a super PAC backed by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., committed to spending what it takes to support him and other GOP incumbents.

The dynamic mirrors long-standing clashes between the GOP’s establishment and activist wings, which played out disastrously in 2010 and 2012 when hard-core conservatives won Senate primaries but went on to lose to Democrats.

ASCC’s new Multipurpose Community Center set for completion next month

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

The new ‘green’ building at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) campus is about 90% complete and once it is ready for occupancy, the structure will serve as a Multipurpose Community Center that will cater not only to students, but also the local community.

This is according to J.R. Mirasol, the chief engineer of Paramount Builders, the local company carrying out the work.

The project - with an estimated price tag of \$5,149,000.00 - broke ground in January 2014 and under the original contract, the duration was set at 14 months. However, there have been “Adds and Credits” (change orders) which have contributed to the delay in completion.

“There are items deleted from the contract and items added to the contract as well,” said Mirasol in response to Samoa News inquiries yesterday morning.

“Currently, the credits and adds are in balance and there are no major increases in the project cost resulting from change orders,” Mirasol explained, adding that although the target project completion date had not been met, “we will make sure that at the end of this, we will stay on budget and we can provide a state of the art building for ASCC and the community as a whole.”

According to Mirasol, a change order is just a normal process in every construction project to accommodate the owner and architect’s requests, and for the building to serve its purpose.

The Multipurpose Community Center is a two-wing project — The “Admin/Student Center” side and the “Auditorium” side. The Student Center part of the building will basically house the offices, conference rooms, and a student lounge, while the Auditorium will serve mostly as the function room to host events like graduations and other cultural activities. Because the building is environmentally friendly (‘green’), features include PVC panels, low flush toilets, hand air dryers, and turf block in the parking area to improve site drainage.

Natural daylight will be used for all the spaces except for three offices, and windows are operable for natural ventilation. Energy saving LED light fixtures will be used whenever possible. Large ceiling fans in the auditorium will facilitate cooling and ventilating and after all is said and done, the building will be LEED certified.

For now, says Mirasol, the target substantial completion date is September 30, 2017.

At that time, the building can be occupied by the end users. Permanent power will be in place, plumbing, air conditioning, and final touches like

furniture pieces will all be set and ready to go.

In the next few days, the elevator will be installed.

Passersby have wondered about the delay in completion. Mirasol said some of the delays were caused by unpredicted wet weather conditions, which hampered the installation of the roof, as well as the waterproofing and finish materials on the walls.

Change orders are not to blame, as they were made to facilitate the construction and in many cases, enhance the project, he added.

“The project is very unique in design,” Mirasol explained.

The building’s configuration is a soft “S” curve, which is consistent with the ASCC Master Plan. “The shape of the building and the structural system created some challenges during construction,” Mirasol said. “Some of the delays were also a result of the lengthy time it took to ship materials from the mainland,” he added.

Several things were added to the original scope of work, including the erection of a new emergency generator building in order to remove the equipment that was originally located adjacent to the multi-purpose auditorium. Other additions to the scope of work included much needed Improvements to the ASCC’s Samoan Fale, which got a new roof and extensive site work to provide ADA access.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

by Samoa News Staff STATS SHOW INCREASE IN BASIC FOOD INDEX

The Department of Commerce released on August 3rd, statistics for the Basic Food Index for July 2017, which registered at 104.5 points, a substantial increase of 2.2% from the 102.24 points recorded for the month before.

For the monthly survey, six major food outlets were selected.

Food items that saw increases in average prices were:

chicken legs, taro, pork spareribs, and butter.

Data shows that the cost of a 22-pound box of chicken legs — a food item that is always in high demand locally — has been on the rise since February 2017 and continued to increase for the month of June by 6.9%

Consumers are feeling the heat, having to pay a few extra dollars at the check-out counters.

Chicken is a favorite amongst local kids, and parents generally buy it by the case and ration it out throughout the week.

The price of another local favorite, taro has also increased and according to DOC, this is due to the stop currently being placed on taro imports from neighboring Samoa.

“Pork spareribs and butter altogether contribute to a higher index,” said the report, which also revealed that only three commodities decreased last month: eggs, rice, and mayonnaise.

The rest of the food items remained constant in the month of June.

LOCAL STUDENT SELECTED TO SPEAK DURING JSA GRADUATION

Karlinna Sanchez, a student at Samoana High School, was given the honor of delivering a speech on behalf of the JSA Class of 2017 at Princeton University.

This is the third time Sanchez has participated in the JSA program and her most recent trip was funded through a scholarship from the DOI Office of Insular Affairs.

Her first summer in the Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) was spent at Stanford University and her second year took her to Georgetown.

In addition to speaking during graduation, Sanchez was also awarded a ‘gavel’ after being elected to serve as debate house moderator.

She will be serving as National Honor Society (NHS) president for the Sharks when she enters her senior year later this month.

Sanchez has participated in various high school competitions and earlier this year, she won first place — for the

third year in a row — in the Impromptu Speech Category of the Speech Festival.

SUMMER OF BUBBLES PROMOTION ENDS

The Summer of Bubbles promotional program came to an end last Saturday, August 6th.

The Summer of Bubbles offered the public an opportunity to win \$500 by purchasing a 12-pack of selected beverages and entering raffle tickets into a cash cube.

Last Saturday’s bash was hosted by the Pago Pago Trading Company in partnership with Tropical Fried Chicken.

The turnout was great, with lots of fun games, delicious food, and great company.

The little ones enjoyed various activities like face painting and jumper castles.



An elderly resident of Hope House seen last Thursday morning with the \$2,500 donation from Matson Shipping Line to help celebrate Hope House’s 30th Anniversary this year. Making the monetary contribution was Matson’s sales manager Lanu Pen, and John Pereira, the general manager of Molida Shipping Agency in America Samoa. Also present were Hope House board chairman Ta’afano Joe Tavale and Hope House board member, Larry Sanitoa, who is also the chairman of the 30th Anniversary Committee.

[photo: Hope House]

Back to School

2017-2018

SALE HEADQUARTERS

- iPhone • iPad
- Samsung Charger & Cover

- Lunch Boxes & 2 Liter Jugs & Coolers
- Binders • Trapper keeper
- Exercise Books 1B4 & 1B5, 2B5, 1E5
- Crayons 8, 12, 16, 24, 64 & Jumbo Size
- Coloring Books & Construction Papers
- Rulers & Scissors
- New Concise Dictionary
- Glue • Pencil Sharpeners
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Mormon church leader excommunicated for 1st time in decades

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Mormon church leader was removed from his post and kicked out of the religion Tuesday for the first time in nearly three decades.

James J. Hamula was released from a mid-level leadership council based on disciplinary action by the religion's highest leaders, said Eric Hawkins, a spokesman for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Hawkins didn't say why Hamula was ousted, but the Utah-based church said it was not for apostasy, which refers to teaching inaccurate doctrine or publicly defying guidance from church leaders.

Efforts to reach Hamula at listed phone numbers were not successful. The last leader to be excommunicated was the late George P. Lee in 1989 after Lee, an American Indian, called Mormon leaders racist.

The church said then that Lee was removed for "apostasy and other conduct unbecoming a member of the church."

The last church leader removed before Lee was Richard R. Lyman, who was excommunicated in 1943 for

adultery but baptized again 11 years later.

Hamula became a member of a group called the "General Authority Seventy" in 2008. It is a group of nearly 90 leaders that sit below the church president, his two counselors and two other levels of leaders.

They help run church operations by serving as a bridge between local lay leaders in Mormon congregations around the world and the top leaders working at church headquarters in Salt Lake City.

Hamula's removal is surprising because he was well-regarded and was even considered by some outside Mormon scholars as a possible candidate to join the high-level Quorum of the Twelve Apostles when the church was filling three vacancies in 2015, said Matthew Bowman, a Mormon scholar and history professor at Henderson State University.

Hamula was not chosen, but he was still considered an up-and-comer destined for more important assignments, Bowman said.

In recent years, Hamula served in important roles as assistant executive director of

church history and executive director of a department that reviews all documents published by the church.

"He had a promising future," Bowman said.

His removal will likely be talked about among some of the nearly 16 million worldwide members of the Mormon religion, but it may not cause a huge stir because it may be the first time many have heard of Hamula, Bowman said.

Hamula was born in Long Beach, California, and is married with six children, according to his church biography.

He was a lawyer until joining the leadership council in 2008. That year, he gave a speech at a Mormon conference watched by millions about choosing good over evil.

"Satan is marshaling every resource at his disposal to entice you into transgression," Hamula said.

"He knows that if he can draw you into transgression, he may prevent you from serving a full-time mission, marrying in the temple, and securing your future children in the faith, all of which weakens not only you but the church."



In this 2014 file photo Elder James J. Hamula, Assistant Executive Director, Church History Department, speaks during a preview of a new exhibit featuring some early documents of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014. Hamula was released as a General Authority Seventy.

(Ravell Call/The Deseret News via AP)

► Fa'i paka gluten...

Continued from page 2

is healthy eating as well as exercising — which is something he says many local residents are getting in to. "I've never seen so many people walking every morning. That's more towards our health," he said. "We have serious health concerns we have to address. This whole project was initiated because of our health situation. We can simply do a change in our diet, utilizing our own crops and get this gluten free product."

While attending a Commerce Department sponsored seminar — that included local small businesses and entrepreneurs as well as local financial institutions — two weeks ago, Su'a met up with DOC official Michael McDonald, who, with his wife, owns and operates South Pacific Water Sports and Fitness Center in Utulei.

McDonald said that what Su'a is doing with breadfruit and now banana flour, "is great for us to get behind from the DOC side" as well as from SPW Water Sports "for a number of different reasons - the health benefits are obvious but there's also tremendous financial opportunities for our entrepreneurs and our farmers."

The DOC official said it was shared during the seminar as well as last week during another meeting that "import substitution presents a tremendous opportunity for entrepreneurs. We bring in over 90% of what we consume here from the mainland and elsewhere and that's a lot of money going out."

"If we start looking internally, at opportunities that exist here... we can grow just about anything — bananas grow all year round. Everything grows well here. If we get much more creative and more efficient in how we approach agriculture here, we can certainly make

a dent in that 90% number," McDonald said.

For example, for the federally funded school lunch program, \$3 million a year is set aside to purchase local produce, McDonald said.

"Again, another tremendous opportunity. So the opportunities are there not only for the raw material — like the banana or the breadfruit — and Rep. Su'a has taken the raw material and created three excellent products — gluten free breadfruit flour, pancake mix and gluten free green bananas," he said. "It takes hard work, creativity, but the possibilities are there." According to McDonald, DOC is excited about what Su'a is doing and "very supportive of whatever we can do to help him and other entrepreneurs, and business people to get their ideas up and running — we stand ready to help."

McDonald suggested that local entrepreneurs looking at agriculture should contact DOA and ASCC Land Grant, as a source of information, as they are the experts. "Outside of that, it's a matter of networking professionals," he said and noted for example, that if anyone has traveled to Samoa recently, they will notice value-added products on the shelves.

"One of my favorite products over there is the Samoa hot sauce. They have a lot of different products. Networking with our counterparts in Samoa is a great resource as well," he said. Su'a said he is planning to hold another food demonstration on the third Friday of the month and "I wanted to spend a lot of time with the farmers so they can see" what's being done so far and what's needed from them. Last Saturday, Su'a was at the Oasis Restaurant for a gluten free flour demonstration.



American Samoa Government
AMERICAN SAMOA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has developed the AS-EPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan that addresses the need to monitor for nonpoint source pollution in American Samoa. A main group of pollutants that cause water quality impairments in American Samoa are pathogen indicators, specifically enterococcus in coastal recreation waters. Two objectives of the AS-EPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan are to determine whether nearshore marine water quality meets the American Samoa Water Quality Standards (ASWQS) for enterococcus, and to inform the public when coastal recreation waters do not meet ASWQS for enterococcus, as well as the potential risks associated with the polluted waters.

The AS-EPA has created a file that contains the AS-EPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan, a summary of historical bacteriological data of coastal recreation waters, the American Samoa Water Quality standards, and the advisory format used to give notice to the public that the coastal recreation waters are not meeting or are not expected to meet applicable water quality standards for enterococci. These documents are available to the public at the AS-EPA office in Utulei. AS-EPA invites public comments concerning the monitoring and public notification program regarding: (1). The beach evaluation and classification process, including a list of waters to be monitored and beach ranking; (2) the sampling design and monitoring plan, including sampling location and sampling frequency; and (3) the public notification and risk communication plan, including methods to notify the public of a beach advisory. Comments must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the published date of this notice. Submit comments to the AS-EPA office or by mail to AS-EPA Water Program, P.O. Box PPA, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. For more information, please contact Christianera Title at 633-2304 or christianera.tuitele@epa.as.gov.

AMEKO PATO
AS-EPA Director
July 25, 2017

Utah seeking \$1.9 billion from EPA over mine-waste spill

Utah is asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for \$1.9 billion in damages after the EPA inadvertently triggered a multi-state spill from an old gold mine in Colorado, the Utah Attorney General’s Office confirmed Tuesday.

The state filed the claim in February but never publicly announced it, said Dan Burton, a spokesman for the attorney general. Word of the claim first surfaced Friday when the EPA made a passing reference to it in a news release. It is by far the largest known claim stemming from the August 2015 spill from the inactive Gold King Mine in southwestern Colorado, and it brings the total to at least \$2.3 billion.

The Navajo Nation filed a claim for \$162 million and the state of New Mexico sought \$130 million. Burton initially declined to say what Utah’s claim included or how state officials arrived at the \$1.9 billion figure but said details would be released later.

“It’s a function of looking at the damages, and the cost of cleanup and the long-term maintenance in the area,” he said.

Asked why the state had not made the claim public earlier, he said, “I think our general policy has been to solve the problem and take care of it” rather than create a media stir.

An EPA-led contractor crew was doing exploratory excavation at the mine in preparation

for a possible cleanup when workers accidentally breached a pile of debris that was holding back water inside the mine.

About 3 million gallons of wastewater spewed from the mine, sending a mustard-color plume of pollution into waterways in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

Indian lands were also affected.

Farmers and utilities suspended water diversions, and rivers were temporarily closed to rafters during the busy tourist season.

The EPA said water quality quickly returned to pre-spill levels. Compensation for damages has been a contentious issue. At least 144 government agencies, businesses and individuals filed claims for lost wages and income, crop damage and other losses. The EPA accepted responsibility for the spill but said in January that federal law prevented it from paying any damage claims.

That brought down vehement criticism from members of Congress and local officials. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who took over the agency after the election of President Donald Trump, promised to reconsider the decision.

On Friday, Pruitt said the EPA would review at least some of the claims. But the EPA said the law prevented it from reconsidering claims from anyone who had filed a lawsuit against the federal government.



FILE - In this Aug. 14, 2015, file photo, water flows through a series of sediment retention ponds built to reduce heavy metal and chemical contaminants from the Gold King Mine wastewater accident in the spillway about a quarter mile downstream from the mine outside Silverton, Colo. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt said Aug. 4, 2017 that he will consider paying for economic damages from the spill, something the EPA previously said it could not do because of laws protecting the government from lawsuits. His comments came during a tour of the mine on the eve of the second anniversary of the spill.

(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley, File)

▶ Matching funds...

Continued from page 1

as soon as we finalize the implementation procedures with the Governor’s Office and with CMS.”

Unfortunately, some people still do not fully understand the program, especially with regards to ‘matching’ funds.

Tofoitaufa explained that the Medicaid program is a reimbursement program and it has a fundamental requirement mandated by federal law.

“Every state and territory, in order to draw federal Medicaid funds, must first provide a local match from local funds — through expenditures or a cash match, depending on the payment method for providers,” Tofoitaufa pointed out and added that she does not want to go in depth about payment methods because this is the technical work they do behind the scenes to allow anyone to receive Medicaid reimbursement.

“In most states and territories, local matching funds come from taxes imposed on the public and providers,” she said.

In other words, in order for American Samoa to draw Medicaid funds, the territory must first pay for all our medical care services. Then — and only then — can the local Medicaid

Office submit approval to draw Medicaid federal funds to reimburse the eligible portion of what the territory already paid, back to the territory.

“Medicaid funds cannot be advanced, cannot be used for unallowable costs like buying vehicles, medical equipment, administration costs, hospital renovations or construction,” Tofoitaufa pointed out, adding that eligible costs are generally medical visits costs incurred by patients for medical treatment services.

“The key for any provider to properly cover its allowable costs is to adequately capture the costs of delivering medical care services in their charge masters or fee schedules,” she concluded.

For now, Tofoitaufa says there is a need for American Samoa to get help to extend the timeline for the territory to expend its share of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid funds, estimated to be \$150 million.

The under-spending has to do with a plethora of issues, which according to Tofoitaufa, include ASG being limited by facilities, demand, and matching requirements in what it can spend, with regards to Medicaid.



Polynesian
AIRLINE OF SAMOA

SAMOA AIRWAYS - CABIN CREW

Polynesian Airlines trading as Samoa Airways is looking for dynamic, motivated and professional Flight Attendants to join our Cabin Crew team in September 2017. We are dedicated to providing a safe and efficient service and our Cabin Crew will be expected to meet the highest professional standards. Consider this an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to Samoa through the service you will provide to people from all backgrounds who will choose to fly Samoa Airways.

Samoa Airways invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the above position based in Apia, Samoa.

The Ideal candidate must have the following:

- Previous experience in the airline and/or tourism industry
- Strong customer service focus with at least a minimum of 12 months experience working in a customer driven environment
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in both Samoan and English and must be able to communicate effectively with a diverse range of people
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain relationships and work effectively within a team environment
- Willing to work flexible shift hours
- Be competent and confident in aircraft and airline safety compliances
- Display professional and well groomed appearance

Minimum Qualifications or willing to obtain

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Have attained a pass in Pacific Senior School Certificate (PSSC), or equivalent
- Hold a current machine-readable passport with at least 18 months validity
- Have an excellent level of health and fitness

Job Offer

- Start early-mid September 2017
- Training Opportunities

If you think you are the right person to join our team please submit a cover letter, CV, and a recent passport photo via email to hadmin@polynesianairlines.ws by no later than **4.00pm (local time) Friday 18 August 2017**

Please note the following:

- Our Cabin Crew opportunities are full time only.
- Visa conditions and accommodation for non-residents apply at own cost.
- Successful candidates will be required to submit a Clean Police Report and Full medical
- Polynesian Airlines thanks all applicants. However, please note only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.



A group photo at Hope House last Thursday morning following a \$2,500 donation presentation from Matson Shipping Line towards Hope House's 30th anniversary celebration this year. Pictured are Hope House residents, and staff as well as officials of the Hope House board and Matson.

[photo: Hope House]

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Former Australian leader campaigns against gay marriage

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — A former prime minister on Wednesday began campaigning against gay marriage in Australia ahead of a promised public vote on the divisive issue that could begin next month.

"I say to you: If you don't like same-sex marriage, vote 'no.' If you worry about freedom of speech and freedom of religion, vote 'no'; and if you don't like political correctness, vote 'no' because this is the best way to stop it in its tracks," Tony Abbott told reporters outside Parliament House.

The conservative government has proposed two options to give Australians their say on same-sex marriage, both of which face hurdles and condemnation by gay-rights advocates.

The government's preferred option is a compulsory, non-binding and rare vote known as a plebiscite to be held on Nov. 25 at a cost of 170 million Australian dollars (\$135 million).

The Senate is likely to reject the plebiscite, as it did in November.

The second option is a voluntary plebiscite in which voters would mail their ballots from Sept. 12 until Nov. 7 at a cost of AU\$122 million. Opponents disagree with the government's legal opinion that the postal plebiscite doesn't need Senate approval and plan to stop it with a court injunction.

Parliament would vote on legislation before the last two-week session of the year ends on Dec. 7, but only if a plebiscite shows most Australians want gay marriage.

Officials in Guam say it's safe from North Korea

Elected officials in Guam are reassuring constituents that the U.S. territory is safe following North Korea's claim that it is examining its plan for "making an enveloping fire" around the strategically important Pacific island.

Governor Eddie Baza Calvo said Wednesday there is no threat to Guam or to the Mariana Islands to the north.

He adds that he will continue discussions with Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield to discuss military and first-responder readiness, to ensure that Guam is "prepared for any eventuality."

Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued a statement saying Pentagon officials have assured her that the territory is protected.

Bordallo was critical of President Donald Trump's vow Tuesday to answer North Korea "with fire and fury like the world has never seen" if Pyongyang continues to threaten the U.S. She urged Trump to work with the international community to de-escalate tensions.

A nuclear expert who has repeatedly visited North Korea's nuclear facilities says he doubts the country is yet capable of attacking the U.S. territory of Guam with medium- to long-range missiles. He says escalating rhetoric from both the North and the U.S. is the real danger.

The North said Wednesday it is examining its plan for "making an enveloping fire" around Guam, a Pacific island that is home to major U.S. military bases.

Siegfried Hecker, a professor at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation, said Tuesday night in the U.S. that although the North tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles last month, developing a nuclear warhead for such a missile is "extremely challenging and still beyond North Korea's reach."

Hecker says the real threat is "stumbling into an inadvertent nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula by misunderstanding or miscalculation."

He adds, "Inflammatory rhetoric on both sides will make that more likely."

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull says North Korea is reckless, provocative, dangerous and a threat to peace.

Turnbull's comments on Wednesday come after North Korea said it is examining its operational plans for attacking Guam to contain U.S. bases there.

The prime minister said of North Korea's regime:

"Its conduct is illegal, it's reckless, it's provocative, it's dangerous. And it threatens the peace of the region, the peace of the world."

Turnbull says a conflict with North Korea would be shattering and have "catastrophic consequences."

The prime minister says the global community is united in seeking to impose the maximum economic pressure on North Korea "to bring them to their senses without conflict."



A man walks by a TV screen showing a local news program with a file image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at Seoul Train Station in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2017. North Korea and the United States traded escalating threats, with President Donald Trump threatening Pyongyang "with fire and fury like the world has never seen" and the North's military claiming Wednesday it was examining its plans for attacking Guam. The letters read "North Korea, Denouncing the U.N. Security Council's sanctions."

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

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A house on Montana’s Crow Indian reservation where three people were shot and killed last week has burned to the ground, officials said Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2017.

The fire destroyed the one-story house in the town of Lodge Grass where tribal officials have said a dispute linked to methamphetamine last Friday prompted the killing of three people who entered the home.

(Larry Mayer /The Billings Gazette via AP)

Fire engulfs house where 3 killed on Crow Indian reservation

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A house on Montana’s Crow Indian reservation where three people were shot and killed last week has burned to the ground, officials said Tuesday.

The fire destroyed the one-story house in the town of Lodge Grass where tribal officials have said a dispute linked to methamphetamines last Friday prompted the killing of three people who entered the home.

The fire, which started late Monday night or early Tuesday, was reported to the Big Horn County rural fire department about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

It happened during a 9 p.m.-to-5 a.m. curfew imposed by tribal authorities following the shooting that remains in effect.

FBI Senior Supervisory Agent Travis Burrows said the investigation the agency is

conducting into the shootings was ongoing, with no suspects publicly identified or arrested, but that the FBI was not investigating the fire. He did not know the cause of the fire.

The Big Horn County Sheriff’s Office said any investigation into the fire would be led by the county fire department. The county’s fire chief, Matt Redden, was responding to a wildfire on Tuesday and was unavailable to comment.

Leslie Frank Nomee Jr., 27, his wife Denise Steward Nomee, 25, and 30-year-old Nehemiah Brokenrope were killed after they entered the house Friday afternoon and got into a confrontation that led to gunfire. Two people who were wounded in the shooting were already in the house when the victims entered. One remains hospitalized, Burrows said.

► Talosaga o le Ekalesia...

Continued from page 1

le Ekalesia.

O sui o le Ekalesia Aoao sa latou fa’auluina le tagi fa’asaga ia Rev. Amaama ma lona faletua ia Joan Aleluia e aofia ai le Ta’ita’ifono o le Ekalesia Aoao ia Rev. Elder Eveni Mamoe, sui ta’ita’ifono ia Rev. Elder Fiti Aofia, Failautusi o le Komiti a le Au Toeaiina ia Leatulagi Fa’alevao, faapea ai ma le Lau-lauafono a le Ekalesia Aoao.

O lo o taua i le talosaga a le Ekalesia le leai o se malosi o le fa’amasinoga latou te iloiloaina ai le talosaga a Rev. Amaama.

Na siitia e le Ekalesia i lana talosaga vaega fa’avae o lo o fa’aaogaina e le malo tele, e puipuia ai aia saoloto o tapuaiga mai le oo atu i ai o le malosi a le malo ma le fa’amasinoga, ae tu’u atu ai lava tapuaiga latou te faia fa’aiuga ma ana filifiliga.

E talitonu le Ekalesia Aoao, o faiga fa’avae ia e tatau ona apalai i le mataupu o lo o finauina i le va o le Ekalesia ma Rev. Amaama, ona e i ai mataupu ma fa’amaumauga ma’ale’ale e fitoitonu lava i le Ekalesia e le tatau i le fa’amasinoga ona oo i ai lona malosi pe iloiloaina fo’i.

O isi fo’i tulaga na si’itia e le Ekalesia Aoao i lana fa’afinauga e lagolagoina ai lana talosaga, o le aia o lo o i ai i le Ekalesia e filifili ai ana faifeau e aunoa ma le aiaina e le malo.

O ni isi o mataupu ua mae’a ona faia i ai faaiuga a le fa’amasinoga i totonu o le malo tele, na si’itia e le Ekalesia Aoao e lagolago atili ai lana talosaga e aofia ai le mataupu i le va o “Rayburn vs Gen. Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists”, ma le mataupu i le va o le “Pere-setene Ekalesia LDS vs Amos”.

Finau atili le Ekalesia e faapea, o le talosaga a le itu tete’e mo se poloaiga e faia ai se iloiloga faapitoa i le mataupu

ua mafua ai ona fa’amalolo o ia mai le tofi o le Failautusi Aoao, o se tulaga o le a le o gatasi ma ta’iala atoa ai ma faiga fa’avae a le Ekalesia, ma oo i le tulaga e ono fa’alauiloa atu ai fa’amatalaga uma e na o le Ekalesia lava e patino ai.

I le fa’afinauga a le itu tete’e ina ia fa’amanino e le itu tagi mafua’aga fa’avae na ala ai ona aveese lona tofi Failautusi Aoao, e talitonu le itu tagi ua mae’a ona latou fa’ailoa i le ulua’i iloiloga tulaga uma na fa’avae ai le faaiuga fa’asaga ia Rev. Amaama.

I le faafinauga e fa’atatau ia Rev. Amaama, o ia o le tagata faigaluega a le Ekalesia Aoao, e talitonu le itu tagi, e leai se vaega o le latou fa’afinauga e lagolagoina ai lea tulaga, se’i vagana ai le filifilia o ia e ave ma Failautusi Aoao e le Ekalesia Aoao, e aunoa ma le fa’ailoaina mai o tuutuuga poo le umi o lana konekarate.

O le finauga a le itu tete’e e fa’asaga i le ta’uvalea atoa ai ma le maasiasi ua a’afia ai o ia ma lona aiga ona o fa’amatalaga le sa’o ua fa’asalalau e le Ekalesia, e talitonu le itu tagi e le lava ia fa’afinauga e tatau ai ona talia e le fa’amasinoga lana talosaga.

Ona o tulaga uma e pei ona taua i le talosaga a le itu tagi, ua talosagaina ai loa le fa’amasinoga ina ia fa’aleaoga le talosaga a le itu tete’e mo le faia o se iloiloga autu e uiga i lenei mataupu, atoa ai ma le tagi ua faia fa’asaga i Ta’ita’i o le Ekalesia. E talitonu le itu tagi sa talafeagai le fa’aiuga e fa’amalolo ai Rev. Amaama mai le tofiga o le Failautusi Aoao, o lo o i ai fo’i i le Komiti a le Au Toeaiina le malosi e fa’amalolo ai lona tofi faifeau fa’au’u, lea ua mafua ai ona malolo o ia mai lona tofiga o le Failautusi Aoao.



DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE Project Notification & Review System

Legal Notice PNRS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING August 16, 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Commerce/American Samoa Coastal Management Program has received a Land Use Permit Application from the following individuals.

1. **Loloaso Easter Wightman**..... 17-4829-LVB
Proposal to repair commercial structure include walls and fences - Nu'uuli
2. **O&O Enterprise c/o Osuk Ko**..... 17-4840-LVB
Proposal for Container Storage - Nu'uuli
3. **Joseph Ioane** 17-4834-LVB
Proposal to repair and convert to commercial structure with utilities include parking - Avau
4. **TOA c/o Emanuele Ulberg** 17-4846-LVB
Proposal to repair and convert to commercial structure (Taxi Stand) - Tafuna

Persons interested in or affected by a proposed project, are invited to review the project file and provide comments based on environmental issues, by contacting **Aokusotino Mao** at 633-5155, at the Department of Commerce in Utulei during regular ASG working hours. Public comments must be received **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2017**. Interested individuals are also invited to attend a **Public Hearing at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at DOC Conference Room, on the 2nd Floor of the Executive Office Building in Utulei**.

O lo'o iai i le Ofisa o Fa'afetauaina ni talosaga mo Pemita e Fa'atagaina ai le Fa'aaogaina o Fanua ma Laualeele e tusa ma ala o le Tulafono, A iai se tasi e fa'asea pe fia tusia se molimau i ni afaina o le si'osi'omaga pe a galueaina nei galuega, telefoni mai ia **Aokusotino Mao** i le **633-5155**. E mafai fo'i ona e auai i le fonu a le Komiti Fa'afaoe ia **Aukuso 16, 2017, ile itula e 9 ile taeao**.

Democrats launch new group aimed at Republican strongholds

ATLANTA (AP) — Dissatisfied with Democratic fortunes in the era of President Donald Trump, a group of prominent Democrats is forming an organization outside the formal party structure with the goal of winning again in Republican-dominated middle America.

Calling itself “New Democracy,” the group includes sitting and former governors, former Cabinet members, mayors and lawmakers from Congress to statehouses. Among the affiliated politicians: Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, considered a possible future presidential candidate; former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, also a former Iowa governor; and Mayor Mitch Landrieu of New Orleans, current head of the nonpartisan U.S. Conference of Mayors.

“We have to expand this party, and make it a bigger tent,” said Will Marshall, the Democratic policy veteran who is running the group.

Another one of the organizers, former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, told The Associated Press in a recent interview that Democrats “cannot be a successful national policy by winning races only on our two coasts.” The party, Beshear said, “has to get back to the basics and appeal to folks all over our country.”

The group plans to form affiliated political action committees to endorse and raise money for candidates. It has met twice in recent months and plans another gathering this fall

in Iowa.

Marshall, who helped run a similar effort for moderate Democrats like Bill Clinton in the 1980s, said New Democracy isn’t trying to run a shadow party or foment “sectarian battles” between moderates and liberals. But he said the official party leadership “reflects the places Democrats have already won,” adding that “you have got to have credible messengers.”

Democrats’ highest ranking elected leaders are House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

It’s not unintentional that the new effort echoes the Democratic Leadership Council, the group that then-Arkansas Gov. Clinton used to popularize his “third way” political philosophy. Calling himself a “New Democrat,” Clinton tilted the Democratic Party away from its more liberal coastal anchors and helped his party reclaim the White House in 1992 after several landslide defeats.

In 2017, Democrats face an even starker power deficit, despite Hillary Clinton, Bill’s wife, having won the presidential popular vote last November. Trump sits in the White House, while Republicans control both the House and Senate and two-thirds of U.S. statehouses. In 25 states, Republicans control the entire legislature and the governors. Democrats have that dominance in just six states, none between the West Coast and the Northeast.



FILE - In this Jan. 12, 2017, file photo, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper applauds members of the audience as he delivers his annual State of the State address inside the state legislature, in Denver. Dissatisfied with Democratic fortunes in the era of President Donald Trump, a group of prominent Democrats is forming an organization outside the formal party structure with the goal of winning again in Republican-dominated middle America. Calling itself, “New Democracy,” the group includes sitting and former governors, former Cabinet members, mayors and lawmakers from Congress to statehouses. Among the affiliated politicians: Hickenlooper, considered a possible future presidential candidate; former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, also a former Iowa governor; and Mayor Mitch Landrieu of New Orleans, current head of the nonpartisan U.S. Conference of Mayors. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley, File)



FILE - In this Dec. 14, 2013 file photo, passengers walk near the departure gates at Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, near Caracas, Venezuela. Venezuelan authorities said a man was killed on Aug. 8, 2017 at the ticket counter of Caracas, “international airport in the latest tragedy to befall the country,” the main connection to the world. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano, File)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Financial Manager

We are a local company involved in manufacturing, distributing, and retailing goods in the Territory. We require a new finance role based on our growth. The role will encompass financial control, business analysis, forecasting, as well as day to day financial and supervisory operations.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Ensure accuracy of the General Ledger to the previous day.
- Control and safeguard of all assets.
- Full responsibility of delivering reliable and accurate monthly financials on timely basis.
- Supervision of daily cycle counting, identifying and remedying weaknesses.
- Supervision of Accounts Payables and Accounts Receivables departments.
- Supervision of all Human Resource activities and Payroll.
- Supervise human and environmental safety compliance with applicable Federal and Territorial regulations.
- Controlling costs, ensuring costs within budget and monthly reconciliations of various balance sheet items.
- Year-End financial statements preparation for accountant's review.
- Assist management in data information and ad-hoc projects as may be required.

Requirements:

- Masters in Business Administration, or undergraduate degree in Accountancy / Finance or equivalent.
- 5 to 10 years related experience.
- Strong analytical skills and technical knowledge.
- Attention to detail and the ability to meet timelines, strict adherence to processes.
- Experience on large ERP Systems and normal office software tools.
- Proficiency with MS-Server 2012r2, MSSQL 2014, and Crystal Reports 2012 a plus.
- Ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment on a schedule.
- Team player, as well as ability to work autonomously, and be proactive with strong problem solving and organizational skills.
- Good analytical, written and verbal communication skills in English, with additional fluency in Samoan preferred.
- If needed, able to work all seven days of the week and all hours as required by the job at hand.

Pay and benefits package commensurate with meeting minimum position requirements.
Reply with resume/CV to financepage@gmail.com

IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Maelyn)



FILE - In this Thursday, June 16, 2016, file photo, Mickey Mouse entertains visitors on the opening day of the Disney Resort in Shanghai, China. The Walt Disney Co. reports earnings, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2017. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File)

Disney to launch streaming services for movies, live sports

NEW YORK (AP) — With new streaming services in the works, Disney is trying to set itself up for a future that’s largely been framed by Netflix: Providing the stuff you want to watch, when you want to watch it.

The Magic Kingdom is launching its own streaming service for its central Disney and Pixar brands and another for live sports. That would allow it to bypass the cable companies it relies on — and Netflix — to charge consumers directly for access to its popular movies and sporting events.

“They’re bringing the future forward. What they talked about were things that looked inevitable, at some point,” said Pivotal Research Group analyst Brian Weiser. What’s less clear is if Disney will be able to make big bucks from it, he said.

This is important as the decline in cable households and the shift to smaller, cheaper bundles pressures the profitability of Disney’s cable networks. Fewer subscribers and fewer viewers mean less money. In the nine months through July 1, cable networks’ operating income fell 13 percent from the year before, to \$4.12 billion.

KID STUFF

Starting in 2019, the only subscription streaming service with new animated and live-action Disney and Pixar movies will be the Magic Kingdom’s own app. That will include “Toy Story 4” and the sequel to the huge hit “Frozen.” Older movies will be there too, as well as shows from the TV channels Disney Channel, Disney Junior and Disney XD, and original TV and films. That could be hugely attractive for families with young children in the U.S.

Disney is ending an exclusive earlier movie deal with Netflix, and the streaming giant’s shares tumbled in after-hours trading. Netflix today has grown into an entertainment juggernaut in its own right, however, as it focuses more on its own exclusive programming.

Netflix already seemed to be bracing for the potential loss of the Disney movie rights earlier this week when it announced its first-ever acquisition — the purchase of Millarworld, a comic book publishing company that will develop films and kids shows based on its portfolio of character.

Disney might bring more of its properties — particularly its Marvel superheroes and the Star Wars franchise — under its wing, and could even offer them as separate streaming services. CEO Robert Iger said Disney is considering whether it should continue licensing Marvel and Star Wars movies to outside services like Netflix, move them into the Disney app or develop individual services for them.

The Disney service will be available in “multiple markets” outside the U.S. as well, taking

advantage of Disney’s global name recognition.

SPORTS

Disney had already said it would be launching a streaming ESPN service. It’s not meant to compete with the company’s TV channels.

The sports service is coming in early 2018, a little later than previously announced, and will air baseball, hockey and soccer games, tennis matches and college sports through ESPN’s popular mobile app. Notably, ESPN will not be streaming pro football or basketball, at least initially.

Customers will also be able to buy fuller streaming packages from the baseball, hockey and soccer leagues, and watch them on the ESPN app.

“Ultimately, we envision this will become a dynamic sports marketplace that will grow and be increasingly customizable, allowing sports fans to pick and choose content that reflects their personal interests,” Iger said on a conference call with analysts.

Disney will have to be careful that it doesn’t transfer too much sports programming from its TV channels to the app. Getting the balance wrong could upset cable companies and weigh on the price they pay Disney for ESPN, Weiser said.

THE BACK END

To roll out its streaming services, The Walt Disney Co. will take majority control of BAMTech, a streaming arm of Major League Baseball spun off last year from Baseball Advanced Media, for \$1.58 billion. When the deal closes, Disney will own 75 percent of BAM Tech, up from the 33 percent stake it acquired for \$1 billion as part of an agreement announced last year.

The acquisition and the new services will be “an entirely new growth strategy” for Disney, Iger said.

The new streaming services will likely “accelerate the erosion” of Disney’s TV networks, especially if other major cable networks make similar moves, said Moody’s analyst Neil Begley.

But Iger argues that BAMTech gives Disney “optionality” if the cable ecosystem changes further, Iger said on a conference call with analysts Tuesday. If there’s greater “erosion” — say, if more people drop cable bundles or choose cheaper bundles without key Disney channels — the company has more ways to get its entertainment directly to customers, Iger said.

He said there are no current plans to sell the Disney or ESPN TV channels directly to customers on the apps.

But having a direct relationship with customers tells Disney exactly what they’re watching, giving it powerful tools and information that could help feed decision-making and, on the sports side, sell advertising.



The supercomputer named Cheyenne, shown here Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2017, at the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center near Cheyenne, Wyo., was formally dedicated and is touted as an important tool for diversifying Wyoming's economy. Scientists are using the machine to better predict solar flares and the weather.

(AP Photo/Mead Gruver)

New supercomputer seen as big boost for science, Wyoming

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — One of the world's fastest supercomputers is helping scientists better understand the sun's behavior and predict weather months in advance but also got touted Tuesday as an important tool for diversifying Wyoming's economy, which has seen better days.

The new supercomputer named Cheyenne, located at a National Center for Atmospheric Research facility on the outskirts of Wyoming's capital city, is the world's 22nd fastest. Put to work earlier this year, Cheyenne is three times faster yet three times more efficient than its predecessor, a machine called Yellowstone.

The NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center housing both machines is an important tool for recruiting tech businesses and keeping students interested in computers from leaving Wyoming to seek their fortunes elsewhere, Gov. Matt Mead said at a dedication for the new machine Tuesday.

The facility also is an important tool for research into hydrology, ways to trap carbon dioxide emitted by coal-fired power plants and other science important to Wyoming, he said.

"What it shows in Wyoming is that we're not only trying to broaden and diversify the economy, we care about the results," Mead said.

Wyoming produces about 40 percent of the nation's coal. In 2016, the U.S. coal industry had its worst year in four decades

amid competition from cheaper and cleaner-burning natural gas as utilities' preferred fuel for generating electricity. Meanwhile, renewables such as wind and solar are increasingly competitive.

The coal downturn has hit Wyoming's economy hard. But the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center completed five years ago has helped attract other types of business including a Microsoft data center just across the street, Mead said.

"For me, when we think about the economic benefits, they're tremendous. When we think about the pride in Wyoming citizens, it's tremendous," Mead said.

Early work on the new supercomputer includes modeling of space weather — flares ejected by the sun that can affect satellites, communications and even the power grid. Scientists using the machine also are developing ways to better predict weather up to three months out, said University Corporation for Atmospheric Research President Antonio Busalacchi.

"This timescale is critical for businesses, agriculture and for our military, who need reliable forecasts of longer-term weather forecasts," Busalacchi said.

Cheyenne and Yellowstone will operate side-by-side until the National Center for Atmospheric Research retires Yellowstone later this year.



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE Student Services – Financial Aid Office

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position Title: FINANCIAL AID COUNSELOR I
Employment Status: Full Time 12 months (Career Service)

General Description:
The Financial Aid Counselor 1 ensures the application of current federal guidelines while assisting students in their search and application for Student Financial Assistance. This includes counseling, assistance with filing out of forms, as well as academic status counseling. Processes all applications for funding, ensuring that submitted and on-file documents are complete and accurate. Completes year reporting – FISAP, FWS & FSEOG reconciliations to student files. Handles student counseling, assists students with their applications and is able to work independently. Counselor must be able to handle various aspects of financial assistance programs and have a good basic knowledge of all regulatory guidelines including federal and internal policies.

- Responsibilities and Duties:**
- Complies with office policies and procedures to ensure quality and effective management of campus based student files.
 - Complies with developed procedures and assists in planning for the administration of the campus based programs.
 - Assists in the compilation and reconciliation of end of year reporting: FWS & FSEOG.
 - Reviews, evaluates and documents all eligible applicants, and calculates student academic progress
 - Records all campus based transactions, including those of transfer students, on counselor spreadsheets for transfer monitoring reports to NSLDS.
 - Makes sure ASCC complies with the "Refund" compliance requirements listed in Section II of the Student Federal Aid Guide.
 - Maintains current federal updates on all Title IV Programs as well as program-related policy compliance within the Financial Aid Office.
 - Assists in enforcing ASCC/FSA Financial Aid Policies and Procedures in the office and throughout campus.
 - Conducts student counseling throughout the school year and advises students on a course of action to take regarding FA matters in order to better support their academic endeavors.
 - Assists in Financial Aid presentations to high schools and at ASCC orientation for students and parents.
 - Communicates with the Financial Aid Administrator in resolving matters on student academic and financial situations and/or appeals submitted by students or parents concerning their Campus Based Award.
 - Assists in compiling NSLDS Enrollment Report, collecting IPEDS data for compilation by FA Officer, as well as providing assistance with other federal and institutionally required reports and surveys.
 - Performs other tasks and duties assigned by Financial Aid Officer.

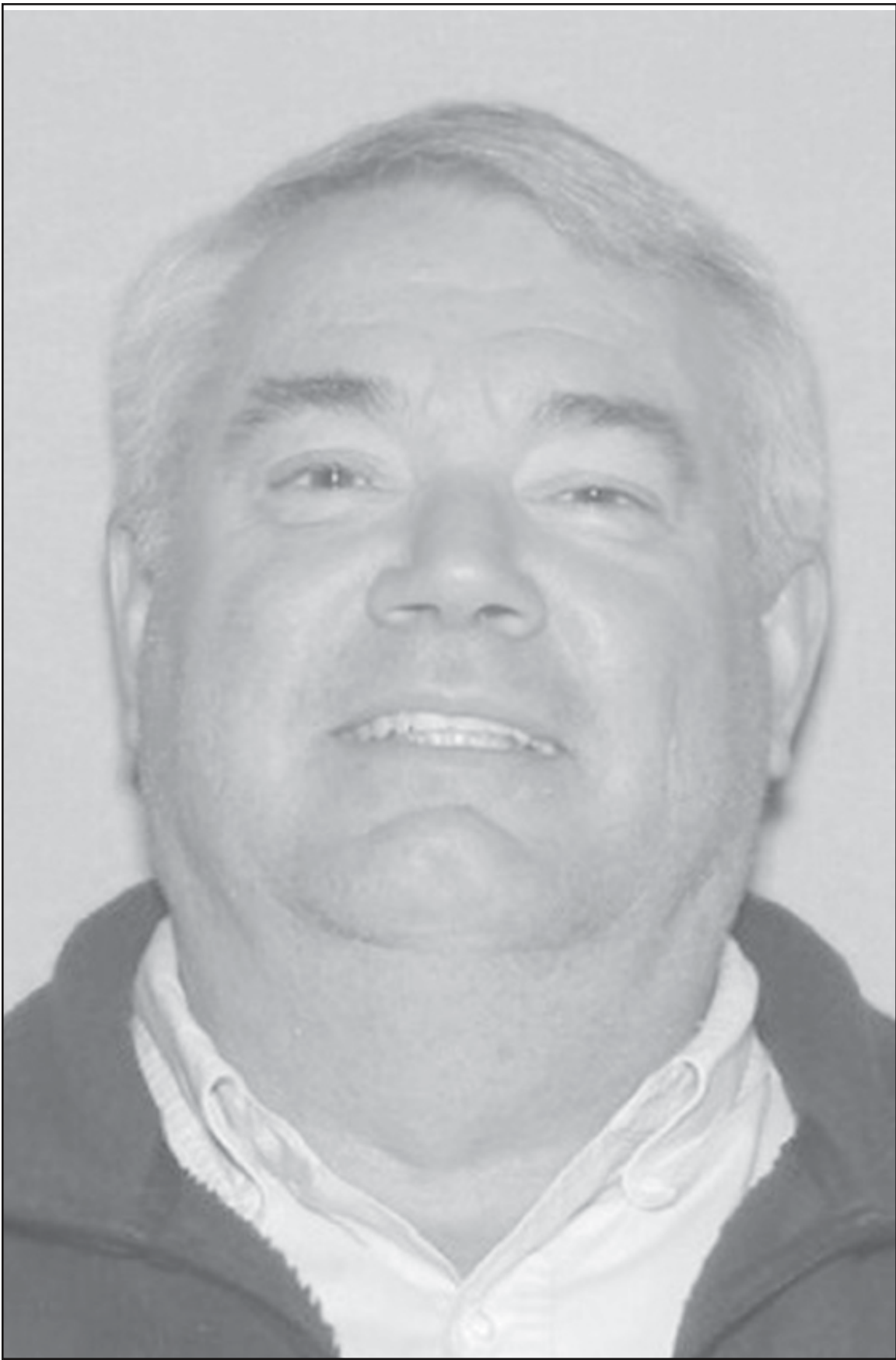
Minimum Qualifications:

- Some College, or Associate's Degree or at least (2) years of experience in financial aid.

Salary Level I: GS GS 12/05-07: \$16,373.00 - \$17, 673.00
Level II: GS-13/05-10: \$19, 120.00 - \$23,020.00
Application Deadline: August 10, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College Human Resources Office 699-9155 Ext. 428/441/429, <http://www.amsamoa.edu/employmentopportunities.html> or by emailing ascchumanresources@amsamoa.edu.

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FILE - This undated file photo provided by the Canyon County Sheriff's office shows Gerald Bullinger. Prosecutors have charged the missing Utah man with three counts of first-degree murder after two additional bodies found near a rural Idaho farmhouse were identified.

(Canyon County Sheriff via AP, File)

Utah man charged with murder after 2 more bodies identified

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Prosecutors have charged a missing Utah man with three counts of first-degree murder after two additional bodies found in a shed near a rural Idaho farmhouse were identified as a woman and her 14-year-old daughter.

They and a third victim, the suspect's wife, were all from Ogden, Utah.

Authorities say 48-year-old Nadja Medley, her daughter Payton Medley, and 57-year-old Cheryl Baker had each been shot once and their bodies hidden in the shed outside a Caldwell, Idaho home that Baker had recently purchased with her husband, Gerald Michael Bullinger.

Bullinger, a 60-year-old pilot and outfitter, has been the subject of a nationwide manhunt since the bodies were found in mid-June.

The bodies were badly decomposed, but a coroner was able to identify Baker on June 30.

The other two identifications were made Tuesday morning, after test results from DNA and bone marrow were complete.

Authorities have released few details about the crime, but said Bullinger should be considered armed and dangerous.

"In our opinion, he has shown a propensity to commit violence," Canyon County Sheriff Kiernan Donahue said during a press conference Tuesday afternoon.

His car was found July 12 in a remote campground near the Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

Donahue said Tuesday that the department has been receiving tips nearly every day.

Still, he said, to his knowledge no one has actually seen Bullinger in recent weeks. Bullinger is a trained pilot but so far, investigators have received no indication that he flew someplace or left the country, the sheriff said.

"Three weeks in a case like this, that's a big jump on law enforcement," Donahue said during a press conference in Caldwell Tuesday afternoon. "We look at this case as any-

thing is possible, and our net is very broad."

Bullinger and Baker had just purchased the Idaho home in May, and the couple was in the process of moving to Idaho from Utah when one of Bullinger's relatives called police to ask for a welfare check, saying the family hadn't been heard from for a few days.

The sheriff's deputy responding to the home noticed signs that something was amiss and so began looking around the tiny farmhouse and wooded lot. That's when the deputy discovered a gruesome scene:

A shed on the property held three badly decomposed bodies, each laying side-by-side and hidden under some sort of covering.

Several dead birds and dogs — likely family pets — were also found on the property, and other living animals including a snake, rat and some rabbits were removed during the subsequent investigation.

Friends of the Medleys told the Idaho Statesman, a Boise newspaper, that the mother and daughter moved to Caldwell in May with Bullinger.

Nadja Medley's longtime friend Christine Roppel told the paper that Nadja likely didn't know Bullinger was married — Roppel had been told that Bullinger was divorced.

Though friends and family long suspected that the Medleys were among the bodies found at the home, hearing the official confirmation Tuesday was difficult, Roppel said.

"It isn't surprising at all, but there was hope against hope that it wouldn't be them," Roppel told the paper.

"Now I have to go through grieving again, because it's real."

Donahue declined to discuss any potential motive or the nature of the relationships between the three women and Bullinger.

"Certainly there's a relationship — the common denominator is Mr. Bullinger, and the other common denominator is that all three of these people were found in the same place," Donahue said.

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FILE - In this file Feb. 17, 2016, photo, plants grow at the home of Jeremy Nickle, owner of Hawaiian Holy Smokes, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Hawaii has approved its first laboratory to begin testing samples of medical marijuana. On Monday, July 31, 2017, the state Department of Health certified Honolulu-based lab Steep Hill Hawaii.

(AP Photo/Marina Riker, File)

First medical marijuana dispensary opening in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — Dispensary sales of medical marijuana in Hawaii are beginning after patients waited 17 years for a legal way to purchase the drug.

Maui Grown Therapies received approval from the Department of Health to begin selling medical cannabis Tuesday.

The dispensary sold medical marijuana to patients for two hours Tuesday, limiting their hours to help manage the new process, said Teri Freitas Gorman, director of community relations and patient affairs.

“Clearly this is a historic day not just for Maui but for the state of Hawaii,” Freitas Gorman said. “This is the first time in Hawaii that patients will be able to buy lab-tested, quality-assured medical cannabis from a state-licensed dispensary. We’re so excited.”

The Maui dispensary pre-registered patients and began selling medical cannabis to patients by appointment only. They made 22 transactions and there were some software glitches, but patients were very excited, Freitas Gorman said. Marijuana was sold for \$20 per gram and \$90 to \$125 for a quarter-ounce, depending on the strain. Walk-in sales will start in about a week.

“This is an important day for qualified patients and caregivers on Maui who now have assurance the medical cannabis they purchase at Maui Grown Therapies has been thoroughly tested and is safe for them to use,” said Virginia Pressler, director of the state Department of Health, in a statement. “Implementing a new health program is always challenging, and the dispensary program was no exception.”

Hawaii was among the first

states to legalize medical marijuana in 2000. But the state didn’t legalize dispensaries until 2015, so the state’s 18,000 patients had to grow or obtain the drug on their own.

Hawaii granted licenses to eight medical marijuana dispensaries throughout the Hawaiian islands last year. Several dispensaries began growing and harvesting the product, but they were unable to sell it because until recently the state had not certified a lab.

Honolulu-based dispensary Aloha Green was inspected Tuesday by the Department of Health and later announced it would open for sales Wednesday.

The dispensary says the price will include costs unique to Hawaii, including high electricity prices, lab testing, substantial taxes and a delay in sales for over a year.

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Kooline Pacific Office:Suva
Attention:Director, Malcolm Macaskill
Email:msmacaskill@kooline.com

Glen Campbell, superstar entertainer of 1960s and '70s, dies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Glen Campbell, the affable superstar singer of “Rhinstone Cowboy” and “Wichita Lineman” whose appeal spanned country, pop, television and movies, died Tuesday, his family said. He was 81.

Campbell’s family said the singer died Tuesday morning in Nashville and publicist Sandy Brokaw confirmed the news. No cause was immediately given. Campbell announced in June 2011 that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and that it was in its early stages at that time.

In the late 1960s and well into the ‘70s, the Arkansas native seemed to be everywhere, known by his boyish face, wavy hair and friendly tenor. He won five Grammys, sold more than 45 million records, had 12 gold albums and 75 chart hits, including No. 1 songs with “Rhinstone Cowboy” and “Southern Nights.”

His performance of the title song from “True Grit,” a 1969 release in which he played a Texas Ranger alongside Oscar winner John Wayne, received an Academy Award nomination. He twice won album of the year awards from the Academy of Country Music and was voted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2005. Seven years later, he received a Grammy for lifetime achievement.

His last record was “Adios,” which came out in June, and features songs that Campbell loved to sing, but never recorded, including tunes made famous by Bob Dylan, Linda Ronstadt and Johnny Cash.

Campbell was among a wave of country crossover stars that included Johnny Cash, Roy Clark and Kenny Rogers, and like many of his contemporaries, he enjoyed success on television. Campbell had a weekly audience of some 50 million people for the “Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour,” on CBS from 1969 to 1972. He gained new fans decades later when the show, featuring his cheerful greeting “Hi I’m Glen Campbell,” was rerun on cable channel CMT.

He released more than 70 of his own albums, and in the 1990s recorded a series of gospel CDs. His 2011 album “Ghost On the Canvas” included contributions from Jacob Dylan, Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick and Billy Corgan of Smashing Pumpkins.

The documentary “Glen Campbell ... I’ll Be Me” came out in 2014. The film about Campbell’s 2011-12 farewell tour offers a poignant look at his decline from Alzheimer’s while showcasing his virtuoso guitar chops that somehow continued to shine as his mind unraveled. The song “I’m Not Gonna Miss You” won a Grammy for best country song in 2015 and was nominated for an Oscar for best original song.

Campbell’s musical career dated back to the early years of rock ‘n roll. He was part of the house band for the ABC TV show “Shindig!” and a member of Phil Spector’s “Wrecking Crew” studio band that played on hits by the Ronettes, the Righteous Brothers and the Crystals.



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