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Semi-Annual Triathlon event a success... **B1**

Tulafono e fa'asala ai tagata e solia lotoa o aoga i le po **B10**



Texan aviator and pilot Brian Lloyd (middle) on the tarmac at the Pago Pago International Airport, with people who serviced his plane last Saturday night, upon arrival for a stopover in American Samoa, around 9 p.m. Lloyd is on an around-the-world solo flight to commemorate American female aviator, Amelia Earhart's famous flight 80-years ago. The four people pictured with Lloyd are: (L-R) Jason Pritchard of Pritchard's Airport Service — a local airport ground handling company — an airport police officer, and the PAS crew. See story below. [photo: FS]



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Texas pilot flying solo around the world stops over in Pago

ACKNOWLEDGING A PIONEER OF FLIGHT — AMELIA EARHART COMMEMORATED

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

American Samoa was the stopover point, for rest and refueling, for Texas pilot Brian Lloyd who is flying solo on his single engine plane around the world, to commemorate American female aviator Amelia Earhart's famous flight 80-years ago.

"My plan is to take with me some flowers or flower leis to drop over Howland Island, which is where Amelia Earhart disappeared," Lloyd said during an interview with Samoa News at Pago Pago International Airport last Saturday, not long after landing around 8:45p.m. on a flight from Hamilton, New Zealand.

The Associated Press reported last week that the disappearance of Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan on July 2, 1937, in the Western Pacific Ocean has been the subject of continuing searches, research, and debate.

A longstanding theory is that the famed pilot ran out of gas and crashed into deep ocean waters northwest of Howland Island, a tiny speck in the South Pacific that she and Noonan missed, according to the AP.

American Samoa is not known to have been a stopover or planned stop for Earhart.

The 62-year-old Lloyd explained that the stopover in American Samoa — instead of other Pacific Islands — was

(Continued on page 7)

Despite field condition, Summer Baseball League concludes on high note

MAY RESULT IN CLOSURE OF BASEBALL FIELD FOR ASHSAA GAMES

by Samoa News Staff

The summer baseball clinics hosted by the American Samoa Softball Association (ASSA) in collaboration with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) ended a week ago Saturday, with no injuries, despite complaints from several parents about the "horrible conditions" at the baseball field.

(In previous years, the summer baseball program was run by the American Samoa Baseball Association but this year, according to Victor Langkilde, the program was led by the AS Softball Association instead, per the Department of Parks and Rec, which oversees both the summer program and the baseball field).

ASSA president Louis Sola'ita told Samoa News last week that an estimated 300 kids between 4 and 18 years old participated in the two-month program that included clinics and tournaments for both softball and baseball.

Earlier this month, Samoa News received emails from concerned parents who called the baseball field "filthy" with one of them saying, "It is a disgrace that we are actually letting our children play in an area that is really just dangerous."

Photographs of shattered glass, boarded up windows, rusty railings, and a ripped off fence accompanied the email, with one parent also complaining about the stench. "There is something dead somewhere because the smell is

(Continued on page 9)



South Pacific Watersports (SPW) is currently hosting a summer F.I.T. camp for kids between 10 and 17 years old. The program aims to teach kids how to lead healthy lifestyles through exercise and good eating habits. F.I.T. stands for "Functional, Interactive, Training." According to program organizers, youngsters will do more than just burn calories. During the 3-week program, participants will learn how to work as a team, build self-confidence, eat healthy, care for our coast, be the best version of themselves, and learn about the history of Samoan people, as well as the territory's future. Kids will visit unique places around the island and experience the culture through discussions on topics like the tatau (traditional Samoan tattoo) and siapo (tapa). They will also be exposed to activities most of them are not familiar with, like hiking, swimming, biking and also riding a canoe. This is the second year that SPW is hosting the F.I.T. summer camp and the membership has grown.

Last year, only 20 kids came out, but the number has increased to 35 this year. Other organizations like the National Park Service and the Department of Commerce are supporting this year's camp activities. South Pacific Watersports and its vision of trying to help and keep the people of American Samoa healthy and fit has grown since it was established in 2013 under the leadership of owners, Michael and Paula McDonald. SPW has gained popularity amongst locals looking for ways to stay healthy and live long, as well as fighting against diseases like diabetes and obesity.

[photo: Mark Espiritu]





Some of the territory's children currently taking part in the summer reading program being held at the Feleti Barstow Public Library in Utulei.

[photo: Sabrina Sinapati]

Lolo seeks Fono approval of Alternative Minimum Business Tax

BLAMES 'CREATIVE ACCOUNTING' AND 'LOOPHOLES' FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Establishing a new one-percent Alternative Minimum Business Tax (AMBT) will ensure that businesses pay their share of taxes and not avoid them through creative accounting and loopholes, said Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, who asked the Fono for approval of the proposed AMBT bill, "requiring businesses to pay a minimum tax."

In his cover letter, which includes language of the bill, Lolo claims that many businesses in American Samoa have successfully avoided paying their fair share of taxes despite posting substantial revenues year after year.

"Sometimes, this is done through creative accounting," said Lolo, adding that the bill is meant to even the playing field so that all businesses are paying a fair amount of taxes.

Additionally, the establishment of this tax is in the interest of the people of American Samoa "as they pay their share of taxes and are not avoiding them through creative accounting or loopholes."

"This will ensure that businesses who are making money pay a minimum amount," he said. In the bill's preamble, the Lolo Administration claims that an "alarming number" of local businesses have successfully avoided paying their fair share of corporate taxes despite posting substantial annual gross revenues annually.

"This practice robs the people of American Samoa and the American Samoa Government of much needed revenues to provide the services and infrastructure that allow these businesses to operate safely and profitably in the territory," it says. According to the bill, the 1% minimum tax applies to the business' gross revenues for the tax year, commencing with tax year 2018.

Additionally, the taxpayer shall pay the AMBT if an amount equal to 1% of the gross revenue exceeds the regular tax for the taxable year.

"Regular tax" — means the tax imposed on the taxpayer by the Samoan Income Tax Act for the taxable year reduced by the credits allowable thereunder, according to the bill's language.

It also states that businesses that start up during a given taxable year will be exempt from

the AMBT for the initial taxable year and the following taxable year only.

The AMBT does not apply to a non-profit corporation.

However, businesses that undergo reorganization will be subject to the AMBT regardless of the year of inception.

During the ASG Revenue Task Force presentation to the Fono early this month, the government said it estimates to collect about \$2.3 million annually from the AMBT and the figure is based on historical data over a 3-year period.

Over the 3-year period, on average, only 13% of corporate tax filers paid over 1% income tax of gross revenue, leaving 87% paying less than 1% on the adjusted gross income, said Task Force chairman, Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo V. Ale, who added that this means there are many businesses, a lot of them have been operating in American Samoa for many years, but when they file taxes, they end up paying less than 1% or nothing at all in taxes.

With the Fono now in a four-week recess, the bill will be taken up in committees when lawmakers reconvene Aug. 21st. In the Senate the bill is assigned to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, chaired by Sen. Magalei Lolovi'i. During last Friday's Senate session, Magalei, through the Senate President's Office, announced that he is seeking a financial report from the ASG Office of Financial Institution (OFI) on the amount of money that has been sent outside of the territory, through money transfer services such as Western Union.

Magalei is seeking to have the report available to the committee when the Fono reconvenes. OFI, established by law more than a year ago, regulates all financial institutions in the territory, including but not limited to commercial banks, holding companies, credit unions, trust companies and retirement funds, consumer money lenders, money brokers, mortgage loan originators, collection agencies, money transfer services, debt settlement service providers and any ASG-owned financial and depository institution.

OFI is overseen by Commissioner, Robert Ho Chee, who was confirmed last year by the Fono.



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One of the 20 people, so far, who has agreed to get inked and take part in an ongoing study that could possibly prove a link between tattoos and a robust immune system. Pictured is an arm sleeve by Off Da Rock owner Joseph Ioane. See story for full details. [photo: courtesy]

Tattoo research progressing steadily

SLOTS STILL OPEN UP TO THIS FRIDAY

by Blue Chen-Fruean
Samoa News Correspondent

So far, 20 people have decided to get tattooed — a first for some of them — as part of an ongoing research that aims to show the link between ink work and a robust immune system.

“It’s been going well,” said Dr. Michaela Howells, an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, who, along with Dr. Christopher D. Lynn, Associate Professor and Director of Evolutionary Studies at the University of Alabama’s College of Arts and Sciences (Department of Anthropology) are in the territory spearheading a study that could prove the common Samoan belief that tattooing a certain area of the body helps alleviate things like gout and arthritis.

The study kicked off earlier this month and ends this Friday.

More local artists have joined the cause, making it that much more exciting, said Dr. Howells.

Joseph Ioane of Off Da Rock Tattoos, Duffy Hudson of Tatau Manaia, and master tufuga Wilson Fitiao have come together to help out with the study, offering discounted rates for those wanting to get tattooed as part of the project.

“I couldn’t be happier with the way things are going right now,” Dr. Howells told Samoa News yesterday afternoon, adding that data collecting is ongoing until this Friday, when she departs the territory with the saliva samples that will be

tested.

Her counterpart, Dr. Christopher D. Lynn, had to rush off island last Friday due to a family emergency, leaving Dr. Howells to wrap up the final week on her own.

“We just need about ten more people to come in and get tattooed as part of the study,” she said. According to her, those who have already been inked as part of the research include an equal amount of Samoans and Caucasians, an equal amount of males and females, with the oldest client being in his mid-50s and the youngest being 18 years old.

“It’s just been really positive and we look forward to hopefully returning later this year,” said Dr. Howells, who indicated that connections will be made with Samoan students studying abroad, who are interested in being part of the study, whether as a researcher or a test subject — or both. “This whole project has been a collaborative work with the great team of local artists who deserve a lot of props for this,” she added.

The goal of the study is to find out if tattoos help prime a person’s immune system against the threat of infectious disease.

A small study conducted earlier by Dr. Lynn did prove that the immune system for those who get tattooed is stronger than those without any ink work.

The goal now is to conduct the same study in American Samoa. The results of Dr. Lynn’s initial study was shared by over 300 news networks across the

country “so this is something that we take very seriously,” Dr. Howells said during an initial interview.

The initial study looked at over two dozen test subjects who had to provide saliva samples before and after getting tattooed. Dr. Howells explained that after being tattooed, the immune system of the test subjects - based on the analysis of their saliva samples — was stronger and more ‘robust’ compared to before they were tattooed.

Those who agree to be part of the local study have to answer a few questions about their tattoo experience, and a spit sample is collected from them before and after they get tattooed, to measure changes in stress and immune hormones.

The study has been approved by the LBJ Institutional Review Board. According to Dr. Lynn, “With only a few exceptions, the only biological studies of tattooing that have been conducted has focused on negative things like dermatological issues associated with tattooing or associations between tattooing and drug/alcohol use or teen pregnancy. There are so many things we don’t know about the biological impacts and possible benefits of tattooing.”

Being part of the study is strictly voluntary.

More information on the study, and how to become a part of it, can be obtained by calling Dr. Michaela Howells directly at 733-9592.

(See original story in the July 10th edition of Samoa News).

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Letter to the Editor

“TUATO’O REUNION”

Kia Ora / Talofa,
From New Zealand:

We recently attended the Tuato’o reunion in American Samoa, and sadly I did not get the chance to express my thoughts about the event whilst there and hope to do it this way.

Our daughter Sofia had been to AS before and her mum Josephine Tuato’o was raised by Alofa, this was however, my first time visiting AS.

As a palagi leaving home for this event I was intrigued about what I was to experience, looking forward to seeing the places and people Josephine had told me stories about for a number of years.

Instead of leaving home I found that I had come home in many ways. I don’t mean that as a cliché of a palagi experiencing 5 minutes of a culture and saying he is now Samoan.

I mean it from the sense of what makes a home, a place where caring, sharing, respect, aroha and laughter are the norm, having found all of these very quickly and in particular the laughter — Bucketsful of Laughter!

A great deal of work had obviously gone into the organisation of the numerous events that took place and I can say without reservation those behind the scenes did an amazing job, we thoroughly enjoyed every aspect and event we attended.

I feel privileged to have been a small part of what makes this family what it is. This family is a credit to the culture, community and clans — the Tuato’o Clan.

Part of the programme had us booked into Sadie’s and our stay there was wonderful, along with the food, service and snorkeling! A boyhood dream of swimming with a turtle was fulfilled along with many others that week.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to Ryan and Malix, Maria and Sima and families, your generosity knows no bounds.

There are many people I should mention and to those I haven’t I apologize, but to Lisa and Jay I was hugely impressed with your enthusiasm and sense of humour. I understood little of the language but could not help but laugh along with everyone else when the ‘punch line’ arrived! Jay possesses what NZ Maori call ‘mana’, a rare quality.

Will we return? Without a doubt, until then faafetai ma faamanuia Atua

Graham Bulman
Dunedin
New Zealand

(RECEIVED THROUGH WEBSITE)



Pacific Island News in Brief

Compiled by Samoa News staff

POLICE & MARITIME OFFICERS COMPLETE U.S. COAST GUARD BOARDING OFFICER COURSE

(Apia, Samoa The United States Embassy) — A graduation ceremony was held on Friday, July 21, at the Police Headquarters for 17 Police and Maritime Officers to recognize their completion of the United States Coast Guard’s Boarding Officer Course. The course consisted of two weeks of intensive training on how to properly board and conduct searches on vessels out at sea. The training covered a wide range of topics pertaining to ship boardings from human rights to personal defense. The type of knowledge acquired from these trainings is essential for law enforcement personnel to properly conduct inspections of any type, from routine fishing boat inspections to vessels suspected of criminal activity, and is a perfect complement to the United States Government’s Ship-rider program where Samoan officers patrol the country’s own EEZ with the assistance of U.S. Coast Guard or Navy ships. This program is one of several Mobile Training Team (MTT) training opportunities that have been provided by the U.S. Coast Guard to Samoa. The 4-member USCG training team is deployed from the USCG Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia and is part of the USCG International Division, Mobile Training Branch there. Police Commissioner Fuiavailili Egon Keil delivered remarks for this event.

[Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary]

SAMOA’S NEW HEAD OF STATE SWORN INTO OFFICE

Samoa’s 4th Head of State since it became Independent le afioga Tui Aana Tuimalealiifano Vaaletoa Sualauvi II was sworn into office last Friday, July 21, 2017.

Witnessed by government leaders from the Prime Minister his Cabinet, Parliament, Members of the Judiciary Branch, the Diplomatic Corp, prominent members of the public families and relatives, Tuimalealiifano has sworn that he will serve the nation with humbleness and love.

Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi, His Highness’ predecessor was also present to welcome his successor to the prestigious Office he held over the last 10 years. Chief Justice Patu Falefatu Sapolu was tasked with the swearing in duties.

[Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary]

WEATHER REPORTS ON MOBILE PHONES

The Samoa Metrological Office is increasing its output capability to better inform the country of changing weather conditions 24-7.

This time, the Weather Office is taking advantage of mobile phones.

Chief Weather Officer Mulipola Ausitalia Titimaea said, “Look forward to receiving the latest weather update on your mobile phones.

“The two main service providers will text the reports regularly using the same technology which they have been utilizing to advertise their promotions via text messages from time to time.

“We are slowly transiting to the new mobile app to reach more people effectively and efficiently.

“Based on the daily inquiries on weather reports, we are confident that we have found the right solution through the mobile app.

“It has the capacity to issue early warnings for a possible tsunami and earthquake.

“It’s still on trial but available on Samsung phones as a start.”

This new service is free of charge.

[Source: M.P.M.C. Press Secretary]



Parents of Children with Special Needs Network (PCSNN) are hosting a special summer camp which kicked off last week.

Sandy Scanlan who is directing the two-week camp, has a plethora of exciting activities planned for the kids — and their parents.

Samoa News caught up with the group last Friday at the Suigaula ole Atuvasa Beach Park in Utulei. According to Scanlan, she normally gets only 3-4 participants for the program but last Friday, she got a total of eight. The goal of the program is to bring together children with special needs, along with their parents or caretakers, to participate in the program so both the child and the adult can experience different ways to have fun and seek out new things to try out. Last Friday was the fifth day of camp and the kids got a treat, with local swimming coach Zero Paulualo offering them the chance to get wet and learn the basics of swimming. Pictured are American Samoa’s special group of swimmers and summer campers, along with their parents, family members, and friends.

[photo: Sabrina Sinapati]

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Hunt, Francis
Iakopo, Saulione
Ieremia, Folole
Ierome, Loleni
Iese, Frederik B.
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Ili, Theresa
ILMALEOTA, MIKA
Imo, Puniloa
Io, Lisa
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Ioane, John
Ioane, Lemoa
Ioane, Paratisa
Ioane, Richard
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Jennings, Konelake
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LAM YUEN, SAMALAU | LANGFORD, EVELYN V.
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Vaaauluga, Tapuall'i
Va'i, Lepaga
Vaifanua, Foini
VAIFANUA, MAELI |
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DOC: Am Samoa can establish a law to protect certain industries from foreigners

HIGHLIGHTS CONCERN OVER ASIAN TAKEOVER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY

by Fiti Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

With the Fono being the lawmaking body of the territorial government, Commerce Department director Keniseli Lafaele told a Senate Committee that it's up to the Legislature if they want to establish a law that would protect certain industries, specifically for local American Samoans — only.

Lafaele made the comment in response to a question from Sen. Magalei Logovi'i during a Senate Communications/Fisheries/Marine and Wildlife Committee hearing late last week on the roadside selling of fresh fish.

With more Asians getting into agriculture, especially vegetable farming, and heading into the local fishery, Magalei inquired if a law can be created to protect certain industries — for local American Samoans only.

Lafaele responded that this was a "very important question", and noted

for example, that Samoa has such a law, which protects certain types of businesses specifically for Samoa citizens — such as buses and taxi operations — where foreign investors cannot have a hand in them.

He said perhaps American Samoa can look at a similar type of law, especially in areas of agriculture and fisheries.

According to the US State Department's 2017 Samoa Investment Climate Report, released late last month, foreign investors are permitted 100% ownership in all different sectors of industry in Samoa. However, certain businesses are reserved for Samoa citizens only including: bus and taxi transport services for the general public; rental vehicles; retailing; saw milling; and traditional elei garment designing and printing.

Regarding "outward investment", the report said, there is minimal outward investment from Samoa beyond several stationery and apparel stores having

branches in New Zealand and American Samoa. Additionally, the Samoa government and economy is more focused on increasing exports of Samoan products, and the Samoa government does not appear to restrict investment abroad.

"Wages and salaries are comparatively low. Private sector minimum wage is roughly US \$0.92 cents an hour," it says. Besides Samoa, the US State Department, also released investment reports on other world countries. (www.state.gov)

During the Senate hearing, Lafaele said he has observed the spread "like cancer" of Asians taking over operations of stores from local Samoans. This has started to spread to agriculture and now it appears that fishery is next.

Lafaele explained that DOC, along with the ASCC Land Grant, and Agriculture have started working on a funding program, which involves bringing together smaller farmers in villages and

financial institutions like ANZ Amerika Samoa Bank, Development Bank of American Samoa, the Territorial Bank of American Samoa — once they get their routing number so they can do business loans — and the US Agriculture Department's Rural Development agency, which has a local office.

He said DOC is working with all these entities and partners on ways to provide financial support for local farmers and fishermen to further develop local businesses. Additionally, they are working with the Chamber of Commerce and Small Business Development Center at ASCC to help farmers and fishermen develop their operations just like a business, so their hard work is "profitable".

Magalei, a long time farmer, said he had supplied bananas for seven years to the hospital but after it was put out for re-bid again, a foreigner won the bid, undercutting him on the price cost, but the foreigner had no banana plantation. He said he is not sure where the foreigner came up with the banana cost.

The senator reminded Lafaele that when federal funding is involved in any project, there are regulations that American Samoa must follow.

BACKGROUND

It should be noted that there used to be a local law that said local businesses must be at least 51% US national owned in American Samoa. It was challenged, and the court found that you cannot discriminate against American citizens, and the law was deemed unconstitutional when applied.

Samoa News should then point out that any such statute, protecting certain industries from 'foreign' ownership, would probably be challenged in court as 'unconstitutional'.

Officer in Kentucky wounds suspect who refused to show hands

BARBOURSVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky State Police say a police officer shot and wounded a man who refused to show a hand that he had behind his back as he walked toward officers. In a news release, Trooper Shane Jacobs identified the suspect as 29-year-old Brandon Moses of Bledsoe, Kentucky. The statement says Moses was in serious condition Sunday at the University of Tennessee Medical Center.

Jacobs says police in Barboersville, 100 miles (160 kilometers) southeast of Lexington, on Saturday had pursued Moses' vehicle, which eventually pulled into a store parking lot. After leaving the vehicle.



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▶ Texas pilot flying...

Continued from page 1

based on “pretty much logistics”, adding that it’s a long distance to Howland Island, where he will do a flyover to drop the flowers and then on to Hawai’i, with a stopover at Lihue on the island of Kauai.

“There’s fuel here [Pago Pago], there’s services here, and it ended up being just the location for my trip,” he said, adding that he was looking at a possible stop in Fiji, but American Samoa is a “much better place for me” as a stopover.

Lloyd’s plan was to depart Pago Pago around 3a.m. or 4a.m. today (Monday) on the longest leg of his solo flight on board his plane “Spirit” — some 19 hours from American Samoa to Hawai’i, with a flyover of Howland Island during daylight.

According to the History Channel, it was on June 1, 1937 that Earhart, accompanied by Noonan, took off from Oakland, California, on an eastbound flight around the world. It was her second attempt to become the first pilot ever to circumnavigate the globe.

She flew a twin-engine Lockheed 10E Electra, which flew to Miami, Florida, then down to South America, across the Atlantic to Africa, then east to India and Southeast Asia. The flight plan was to return back to Oakland. (www.history.com)

For Lloyd, he flew from his home state of Texas to Miami, where he officially launched on June 1st, the two-month solo flight — following Earhart’s historic route to circumnavigate the world at the equator — starts in Miami, skirts South America, crosses the Atlantic, then Africa, and onward around the world, according to his website, Project Amelia Earhart 2018 (www.projectameliaearhart.org), that also provides a link to his flight plan with updates on Facebook.

From Hawai’i, he heads to Oakland, California before returning to Texas.

When asked why it was important for him to mark the 80th anniversary of Earhart’s global flight, Lloyd first pointed out that “I grew up in aviation” — his father, uncle and his sons are all pilots.

“It’s just something that runs in my family. My father and I in 1985 flew our airplane from Washington D.C. to Paris [France] for the Paris Air Show,” he said during an interview on a breezy Saturday night, at the airport.

“We always talked about flying around the world. So part of it is just, ‘it’s what we do,’” he explained. “The other part is, ‘we could do this.’”

“Without the pioneers who came before — people like Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Wyle Post and all of these pilots — back in the 1920s, 1930s, and 40s — paved the way for us to have aviation where we can get in an airplane and go anywhere in the world, anytime we want to, and it’s the

safest means of travel there is,” he said.

“So someone has to go back and say, ‘Remember these people, remember the people who made this possible?’ We forget that this wasn’t always this easy to do,” he said. “And so what I’m doing is to bring that back a little bit and say, ‘Look, it wasn’t easy to do and I’m doing it to help you understand’ aviation.”

“I literally took tens of thousands of people along with me on Facebook so that I can write about it. I post pictures, I post videos, to share the idea and share the information, so they can in some way experience it as well and understand how hard this was. What [Amelia Earhart] did was very very difficult,” he pointed out.

“And she did it in a time when women didn’t do things like this. Unfortunately she didn’t survive, she disappeared and no one really knows what happened to her. But it’s pretty safe to say that she and [navigator] Fred Noonan did not survive. But that doesn’t make her attempt any less,” he said.

“I can certainly say, after having flown this much of the trip, my respect for her and Fred Noonan has increased a thousand fold, because I now have walked 20,000 miles in her shoes. She was a solo pilot, I’m a solo pilot,” he said. “I have electronics to do the things that Fred Noonan was doing for her, but I still have a pretty good idea of what it was like for her to make her trip and I understand - at least a little bit better.”

Lloyd also shared that there’s “not a huge difference in either capacity or performance” of his single engine plane, than the plane flown by Earhart. He did acknowledge that there have been changes in



Brian Lloyd, next to his single engine plane “Spirit” around 9p.m. Saturday at Pago Pago International Airport. He spent the weekend in American Samoa before heading to Hawai’i and then on to the US mainland for the final leg of his around the world solo flight to commemorate American female aviator, Amelia Earhart’s famous flight 80-years ago.

[photo: FS]

technology over the years, such as electronics and navigation compared to 1937.

“But the airplane itself — the differences are not that great,” he said and noted that his plane is the same size, weight, and horsepower as Charles Lindbergh’s “Spirit of St. Louis” plane that flew 90 years ago from New York to Paris in 1927.

When asked if that is why his plane is named “Spirit”, Lloyd responded, “Yes, that’s part of it. I thought maybe calling it, Spirit of Aviation, but I thought that might be a little bit too pretentious. So I just used ‘Spirit’ to sort of get the spirit of aviation.”

With a full day on the ground yesterday, Lloyd looked forward to visiting the island. (See yesterday’s Samoa News online edition for other information.)



A peek inside the cockpit of Texan aviator Brian Lloyd’s single engine plane “Spirit” at Pago Pago International Airport last Saturday night. Lloyd’s stop-over in Pago Pago over the weekend was for rest and refueling. On the body of the plane (top area) are signatures of some of the people at airports around the world who helped Lloyd when the plane was on the ground at those airports. Local airport ground and personnel crew were also to add their signatures on the plane’s wings or body.

[photo: FS]

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Compiled by Samoa News Staff

AMATA AND HVAC MARK-UP LANDMARK G.I. BILL

Washington, D.C. — Friday, July 21, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata, and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs passed a series of bills out of mark-up yesterday including H.R. 3218, The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. H.R. 3218 will make several improvements for veteran and service member education covered under the G.I. Bill.

"I am very proud of this fact, and repeat it every chance I get...that my home district of American Samoa has the highest rate of recruitment in the nation," stated Amata. "One of the main influences that draws our young people to the recruiting station in Pago Pago is the G.I. Bill incentive. For many years now, the young people of American Samoa have utilized the G.I. Bill to gain access to a higher education upon completion of their service to the nation. Many have gone on to do great things with those degrees, and I am excited to see this historic program expanded and improved," she continued.

Major Provisions of the Bill would:

Remove time restrictions to use the GI Bill for future eligible recipients. This would allow them able to use their GI bill benefits for their entire life as opposed to the current 15-year timeline. Eligible recipients would be service members, veterans and surviving spouses and children;

Provide significant increases in GI Bill funding for Reservists and Guardsmen, dependents, surviving spouses, and surviving dependents;

Provide 100% GI Bill eligibility to Post 9/11 Purple

Heart recipients;

Provide GI Bill eligibility to Reservists and Guardsmen who are currently being put on active duty and convalescent medical leave orders that do not currently accrue GI Bill eligibility;

Provide an extra academic year's worth of Post 9/11 benefits for over 3,300 veterans (per year) to help them finish a STEM degree;

Create a pilot program that would pay for veterans to take certain high technology courses (coding boot camps, IT certifications etc.) and would also provide living stipends to veterans;

Make it easier and cheaper for veterans to use their GI bill to take national tests or tests that lead to a license or credential;

Restore eligibility for service members whose school closes in the middle of a semester (ex. ITT Tech and Corinthian); and

Authorize funding for IT improvements to ensure that GI Bill claims are processed quickly and accurately.

"I want to thank Committee Chairman Phil Roe and Ranking Member Tim Walz for their work on H.R. 3218, and I also want to applaud all the members whose provisions have been included in this landmark legislation. This legislation is the result of a lot of hard work on both sides of the aisle, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bipartisan bill," concluded Amata.

(Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata Office, Washington DC)

DOI PROVIDES GRANT FOR RESOURCE PROTECTION IN AM SAMOA

(BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE) — WASHINGTON, D.C. — Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula made available \$94,906

for natural and cultural resource protection in American Samoa.

"We are pleased to support Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga and the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources team in their efforts to preserve natural ecosystems vital to American Samoa's environment and the people's livelihood," said Pula. "American Samoa's natural resources are highly vulnerable to the impacts of land-based pollution, illegal near-shore fishing and changes in climate for which this funding is greatly needed."

The American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources will use the funds to:

1) Coordinate efforts in the Faga'alu, Vatia, and Nu'uuli Watersheds, each prioritized by either the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force or the territory. Overfishing, climate change, land-based pollution, and population pressure have been identified as the four primary threats to natural resources in these areas.

2) Continue development of rain gardens and other best practices to manage storm water runoff in the territory by collaborating heavily with federal, territorial, and academics as well as village councils.

3) Provide GIS mapping training and certification to better inform management of priorities across watersheds, raingardens, and marine-protected areas, as well as other managed and unmanaged areas on the island.

4) Set up integrated radar systems to monitor and deter poaching in the Tutuila Marine Protected Areas.

All funding for cultural and natural resources protection and management was provided for under what was formerly called the Coral Reef Initiative and is available under CFDA# 15.875 at <https://www.grants.gov/>.

(Continued on page 10)



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► Despite field condition...

Continued from page 1

unbearable when the air moves a certain way.”

Furthermore, “the heavy metal railings are so rusty that if a child leans on them, they will fall at any time.”

When asked for comments, Sola'ita said everything went well, with no injuries to any of the players — or spectators. He said the field itself is ‘playable’ but added that he has addressed the situation with DPR. “Some of these parents just don’t understand,” Sola'ita commented. “The playing area is good enough to play on and before the start of each day, I always go out there and inspect the field’s conditions.”

Sola'ita said those parents who are complaining should have approached him face to face and should have come out to help with the program, instead of taking their concerns to the media.

According to the ASSA president, his main focus during the summer program was looking out for the safety of the children. That is why he always made sure the bathroom facilities, the dugout, and the surrounding area were always clean. “We picked up trash and made sure the kids never played when it was raining,” he reported, adding that vandalism is an issue at the big field and that’s why the little kids don’t play there. He said he approached DPR about the conditions of the baseball field but it’s hard trying to find other places where the kids can play. Sola'ita explained that clinics were held at Onesosopo Park and in the Tafuna area but these are not baseball fields.

“I did what I could, using my own personal tools to fix whatever needed to be fixed,” Sola'ita shared, adding that he also paid out of pocket to provide all the t-shirts and trophies for this year’s participants.

He said this year’s program was a success, thanks to the parents who coached and helped out, including Ken Gardner, (a special umpire from Texas), local umpire Peter Misilagi, the east side coaches, and also the volunteer group of Chris King, Nick King, Nat Savali, and Mataese Mataese Jr.

One local resident said, “The field is certainly in need of a major overhaul with maintenance, meaning that programs that take place must be more vigilant with the facility and field conditions that may impact the safety of the participants. This is why it is very important that the program organizers and its partners are responsible with safety, cleaning, and security of the participants and the facilities.” Earlier this year, vandals broke into the field and shat-

tered the windows which are now covered up with boards. The police were contacted and a report was filed.

DPR DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Vandalism is an ongoing problem at the baseball field. Earlier this year the police were notified when the field was vandalized. The glass windows that surround the area for commentators were all smashed, the lower office area was trashed, and part of the fencing was cut out. Despite the main gate being locked, the field continues to be broken in to. DPR officials can do nothing about the vandalism because it usually happens at night and there is no security guard monitoring the perimeter. DPR just doesn’t have the money to hire and pay a security guard. With the current freeze on over-time, staff cannot be assigned to work as security or be available when games are held at the field as employees get off at 4p.m. and most times the games don’t start until 3 p.m. or later. When asked who is responsible for the safety of the kids at the field, DPR Director Maeatanoa Pili Gaoteote said, “When the different associations ask for permission to use the field, they are made aware of the conditions of the fields. (There are two baseball/softball fields situated across from each other). Waivers are signed between Parks & Rec and the different associations stating that the associations are responsible for the safety of the kids and clean-up of the fields when they are used for games.”

Maeatanoa explained that DPR has a crew that carries out maintenance rounds on all the parks daily. (Ken Tupua is in charge of this). He said he put in a request to have the Department of Public Safety include the parks in their nightly rounds as they are a favorite hangout place for teenagers.

When asked if the fields will be closed off if the conditions are not improved before the ASHSAA sports season kicks in, the DPR director said that based on the current conditions of the fields, it looks like they will have to close them off until repairs can be made. The only alternative would be the Onesosopo field, but even that field has problems, he said, adding that the schools could use their own fields as an option.

“We are highly concerned with the complaints by the parents of the conditions of the fields,” Maeatanoa said. “We are trying our best with the limited resources available to us but if the ongoing vandalism of government property is not stopped, we are fighting a losing battle.”

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Parks & Rec director Maeatanoa Pili Gaoteote and a staff member checking out the loose metal railing at the baseball field that parents were complaining about being a hazard to kids who utilize the field for sporting events, most recently, the summer baseball clinics. See story for full details.

[photo: THA]



The wooden seating area at the baseball field is in such a rotted state, thanks in part to vandalism that has also left the seats with burn marks, and broken/splintered wood pieces.

[photo: THA]



Broken glass at baseball field

Photo: Courtesy



LAPATA'IGA MO MATAFAGA



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
ASEPA

Lagolagoina le fa'amamaina o matafaga

Aso o le Fa'asalalauaga: July 19, 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 **July 18, 2017**, ma fa'amaonia ai le i ai o siana (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

Utulei Beach

Avau Beach

Nuuuli Pala Spring

Nuuuli Pala Lagoon

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 maualuga 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-tata, o fofoga fa'apea fa'i ma manu'a o le tino pe a sao i ai le siana. Mo lou saogalemu: 'aua le inuina le suasami, ia fa'alanu lelei, ma fa'amalu pe a mae'a ta'elega. O le fautuaga mai le Ofisa o le AS-EPA, fa'afeso'ota'i muamua se foma'i, a'o le'i fa'aogaina ia ogasami, auā le puipuiga o lou soifua maloloina.

Fa'amolemole, fa'autagia mai nei fautuaga. O le a toe maua atu se isi ripoti, pe a mae'a nisi o su'esu'ega mai le Potu Su'esu'e a le AS-EPA i le vaiaso fou. O lo'o i lalo o le va'ava'aiga a le AS-EPA matafaga mo tafaoga e 44 i le motu o Tutuila, e 5 i Manua ma le uafu i Aunu'u. O fa'asalalauaga mo fautuaga mo le motu o Tutuila o lo'o auina atu i vaiaso ta'itasi, ae o Manua ma Aunu'u e fa'asalalau atu i masina ta'itasi. Mo ni fesili pe fia malamalama atili, fa'amolemole, vala'au mai i le telefoni (684) 633-2304.



SUMMER PROGRAMS AT FELETI BARSTOW PUBLIC LIBRARY

Every year, the Feleti Barstow Public Library hosts summer programs with themes that reflect what they will be teaching and/or collaborating on.

This year's theme is "Build a Better World" and it is based on literacy.

In past years, the FBPL used to get a little over 100 participants due to limited space to carry out activities. This year however, and estimated 300 people are involved, half of them taking part through the Malaeimi Center. For this activity, BYU Alumnus Lusua Kuaea is in the territory to collaborate with the public library on ways to help the students during the summer.

The Feleti Barstow Public Library conducts four sessions — 25 students per session — held three times a week for two weeks. Reading and crafting is offered for youngsters up to 11 years old while 12-year-olds and teenagers are submerged into the world of technology.

Library assistant Sulita Roe works with the kids during the different sessions, teaching them the importance of the theme and making them understand what it's all about.

Territorial Librarian Justin Maga said that once every year, he, along with other librarians from around the globe, attend a conference to work on themes for the children with the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). The summer programs at the FBPL are free of charge, thanks to federal grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for libraries like Feleti Barstow. The Feleti Barstow Public Library welcomes groups of all ages to stop by and learn more about the many resources the library has to offer.

[photo: Sabrina Sinapati]

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Access to Capital Business Workshop

The Department of Commerce and Development Bank of American Samoa are co-hosting the "Access to Capital Business Workshop." The purpose of the workshop is to promote awareness of the various business financing programs available in the Territory. It will be held at the

Governor Rex E. Lee Auditorium

from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on

Thursday, July 27, 2017.

Interested entrepreneurs and existing businesses in the following sectors are encouraged to attend:

Healthcare, Manufacturing, Fisheries, Agriculture, Renewable Energy, Technology, and Tourism.

Those who do not fall within these sectors are still encouraged to attend the workshop as this will be a great opportunity to meet other like-minded entrepreneurs and business people, learn more about resources, and meet with organizations currently operating in the finance industry in the territory.

Community brief...

Continued from page 8

All four U.S. territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as the three freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau are eligible to apply.

[Source: DOI-OIA media release]

AUMUA ANNOUNCES DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS FOR CANCER

Friday, July 21, 2017 — Congresswoman Aumua Amata is pleased to announce that the Department of Health and Human Services has awarded American Samoa a

grant of \$633,967 for cancer prevention and control.

"This grant is vital for the health of American Samoa. Being able to detect cancer early is vitally important in order to fight it," stated Amata.

"I would like to thank Motusa Tuileama Nua for his leadership of the Department of Health, and for Fara Utu for their hard work in securing these funds. I would also like to thank Secretary Price for his leadership of Health and Human Services, and the staff of the HHS for recognizing the needs of American Samoa with this funding," concluded Amata.

[Source: Congresswoman Aumua Amata Office, Washington D.C.]

Brazilians funneled as "slaves" by US church, ex-members say

SPINDALE, N.C. (AP) — When Andre Oliveira answered the call to leave his Word of Faith Fellowship congregation in Brazil to move to the mother church in North Carolina at the age of 18, his passport and money were confiscated by church leaders — for safe-keeping, he said he was told.

Trapped in a foreign land, he said he was forced to work 15 hours a day, usually for no pay, first cleaning warehouses for the evangelical church and later working at businesses owned by the sect's senior ministers. Any violation of the rules risked the wrath of church leaders, he said, ranging from beatings to shaming from the pulpit.

An Associated Press investigation has found that Word of Faith Fellowship used its two church branches in Brazil to siphon a steady flow of young laborers who came on tourist and student visas to its 35-acre compound in rural Spindale. The Brazilians often spoke little English when they arrived and many had their passports seized.

"They kept us as slaves," Oliveira told the AP. "How can you do that to people — claim you love them and then beat them in the name of God?"

Under U.S. law, visitors on tourist visas are prohibited from performing work for which people normally would be compensated. Those on student visas are allowed some work, under circumstances that were not met at Word of Faith Fellowship, the AP found.

In 2014, three former congregants told an assistant U.S. attorney that the Brazilians were being forced to work without pay, according to a recording of the meeting obtained by the AP.

Jill Rose, now the U.S. attorney in Charlotte, promised she would "take a fresh look at it," according to the recording. But the former members said she never responded when they repeatedly tried to contact her in the months after the meeting.

Rose declined to comment to the AP, citing an ongoing investigation. Oliveira, who fled the church last year, is one of 16 Brazilian former members who told the AP they were made to work while being subjected to physical or verbal assaults.

Former congregant Jay Plummer, an American, supervised remodeling projects for a church's leader business and confirmed the Brazilians' assertions that the U.S. workers who labored alongside them were paid while they were not. The revelations of forced labor are the latest in an ongoing AP investigation exposing decades of abuse at Word of Faith Fellowship. Based on exclusive interviews with 43 former members, documents and secretly made recordings,

the AP reported in February that congregants were regularly punched and choked in an effort to "purify" sinners by beating out devils. The church has rarely been sanctioned since it was founded in 1979 by Jane Whaley, a former math teacher, and her husband, Sam. Another previous AP report outlined how congregants were ordered by church leaders to lie to authorities investigating reports of abuse. The AP made repeated attempts to obtain comments for this story from church leaders in both countries, but they did not respond. Under Jane Whaley's leadership, the church grew from a handful of followers to about 750 congregants in North Carolina and nearly 2,000 members in its churches in Brazil and Ghana and affiliations in Sweden and Scotland.



In this Wednesday, March 29, 2017 photo, Ana Albuquerque explains how she was spanked during an interview in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Bent over a desk, Albuquerque says church founder Jane Whaley and another member repeatedly spanked her with a flat piece of wood while screaming that she was "unclean" and possessed by the devil when she was 16. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

세계인과 함께 하는 **bluesky** **KBS WORLD** **m@na** **CHANNEL 47**

* (E) English Subtitles
* (L)-Live Programming/News
* (R)-Reran

"Channel 47" KBS WORLD Program of American Samoa

* The programs listed below may change without notice due to copyright issues. (Jul 23-29, 2017) *

Time of American Samoa	Sunday (7/23)	Monday (7/24)	Tuesday (7/25)	Wednesday (7/26)	Thursday (7/27)	Friday (7/28)	Saturday (7/29)
10:00 am	Jisook's Table for O' (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Hulyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	Encore Drama (E,R)
11:00 am	Battle Trip (E,R)	Encore Drama "The Innocent Man" (E,R)				The Return of Superman (E,R)	The Innocent Man (E,R)
12:00 NOON	Music Bank (E,R)	Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E,R)					
1:00 pm	The Return of Superman (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)			Queen for Seven Days Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		K-RUSH (E,R)
2:00 pm	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Hulyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	Music Bank (E,R)
3:00 pm	Encore Drama The Innocent Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama Fight for My Way (E,R) Final	My Father is Strange (E,R)	Queen for Seven Days (E,R)	Queen's Date (E,R)	My Father is Strange Weekend Drama (E,R)	
4:00 pm	Encore Drama The Innocent Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	My Father is Strange (E,R)	Queen for Seven Days (E,R)	The Return of Superman (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)
5:00 pm	Encore Drama The Innocent Man (E,R)	Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	My Father is Strange (E,R)	Queen for Seven Days (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	School 2017 (E,R)	Queen for Seven Days (E,R)
6:00 pm	Gag Concert	Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E,R)					
7:00 pm	KBS World News Today (Live)						Hollo Counselor (E,R)
8:00 pm	History of Korea (E)	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Music Bank (Live)	Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)
9:00 pm	2017 Asia Model Festival (E,R)	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Yu Hulyeol's Sketchbook (E,R)	K-RUSH (E,R)	Gag Concert (E)	"The Return of Superman" (E)
10:00 pm	Jisook's Table for O' (E,R)	Daily Drama "Woman With No Name (working title)" (E)					
11:00 pm	Daily Drama "Lovers in Bloom" (E)						Immortal Songs 2 (E)
12:00 Next Day	KBS 9 News (Live)						Two Days and One Night (E)
1:00 am	KBS 9 News (Live)						My Father is Strange (E)
2:00 am	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E)		Queen for Seven Days Wed-Thu Drama (E)		Mon-Tue Drama School 2017 (E,R)	Wed-Thu Drama Queen for Seven Days (E,R)
3:00 am	Hollo Counselor (E)	We Like Zines (E)	Yu Hulyeol's Sketchbook (E)	Happy Together (E)	Battle Trip (E)	Encore Drama "The Innocent Man" (E)	
4:00 am	Encore Drama "The Innocent Man" (E)						"The Return of Superman" Special (E)
5:00 am	KBS World E-Today	KBS World E-Today	2016 Drama Special (E,R)	KBS World E-Today	Music Bank (E,R)	Gag Concert (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)
6:00 am	History of Korea (E, R)	Battle Trip (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles (E)	My Neighbor Charles (E)	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	
7:00 am	Immortal Songs 2 (E,R)	Gag Concert (E,R)	"The Return of Superman" (E,R)	Two Days and One Night (E,R)	K-RUSH (E,R)	My Father is Strange Weekend Drama (E,R)	
8:00 am	Entertainment Weekly (E,R)	School 2017 Mon-Tue Drama (E,R)		Queen for Seven Days Wed-Thu Drama (E,R)		The Innocent Man (E,R)	My Neighbor Charles (E,R)
9:00 am	Hollo Counselor (E,R)	We Like Zines (E,R)	Sketchbook (E,R)	Happy Together (E,R)	Battle Trip (E,R)		

*Note: If you need this schedule, e-mail <channel47@npti.com> and I will send it to you every week!

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Chadwick Boseman, from left, Lupita Nyong'o, and Michael B. Jordan attend the "Marvel" panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International on Saturday, July 22, 2017, in San Diego.

(Photo by Richard Shotwell/Invision/AP)

Comic-Con hits: 'Black Panther,' Batman, 'Stranger Things'

SAN DIEGO (AP) — From "Black Panther" to Batman, "Stranger Things" to "Blade Runner 2049," and "Ready Player One" to Rep. John Lewis, Comic-Con had something for almost every pop-culture appetite.

As the annual fan convention in San Diego wraps Sunday after four days of panels, presentations, screenings and autograph signings, here's a look at some of the highlights.

BLACK PANTHER:

The film won't be out until 2019, but "Black Panther" swiped the most attention at Marvel's presentation. Director Ryan Coogler and cast members Chadwick Boseman, Lupita Nyong'o, Andy Serkis and Danai Gurira were on hand to debut a clip from the film.

Boseman, who introduced his Black Panther character in 2016's "Captain America: Civil War," said the new film finds him returning to his home of Wakanda after his father dies. Nyong'o described her character as a spy who goes undercover to report back to the fictional isolated nation about what is going on in the rest of the world. Marvel's presentation also included early looks at the November release "Thor: Ragnarok" and next year's "Avengers: Infinity War." And studio chief Kevin Feige announced that Michelle Pfeiffer was cast in the "Ant-Man" sequel "Ant-Man and the Wasp," also due in 2018.

BATMAN:

There was a lot of Batman at Comic-Con, from Ben Affleck's confirmation that he'll continue to play the character to a star-filled tribute to the original "Batman" actor, Adam West.

Affleck refuted rumors that he would no longer play the character after ceding direction of "The Batman" to "War for the Planet of the Apes" director Matt Reeves. The actor also appeared alongside some of his "Justice League" costars, including Gal Gadot (Wonder Woman), Jason Momoa (Aquaman), Ezra Miller (The Flash) and Ray Fisher (Cyborg) as they showed footage from the film due in November.

West was celebrated by his fans and collaborators at a heartfelt tribute that featured Kevin Smith, producer James Tucker, actor Ralph Garman and "Catwoman" actress Lee Meriwether. Smith said he learned morality from West's portrayal of Batman in the original TV series, and Meriwether said she was so dazzled by the actor during the making of "Batman: The Movie" that she nearly lost track of her performance — especially during a ballroom scene where they danced together.

"All I could think of was, 'I'm dancing with Adam West,'" she said. "I probably blew one

take and then I snapped out of it." **STRANGER THINGS:**

The popular Netflix show took over the San Diego Convention Center's largest exhibition hall to debut a new trailer for its anticipated second season. The show, set in the early 1980s, follows a group of kids trying to figure out how their friend mysteriously disappeared. Along the way, they meet an unusual girl named Eleven, who has telepathic powers.

Show creators the Duffer Bros. were joined by director Shawn Levy and star Millie Bobby Brown (Eleven) and the other young actors in the ensemble: Finn Wolfhard, Gaten Matarazzo, Caleb McLaughlin and Noah Schnapp.

"Stranger Things" also had a presence in downtown San Diego with an installation that resembled the show's set and a virtual-reality experience that brought guests into the home of the missing boy and face to face with the monster that haunts him.

BLADE RUNNER 2049:

Harrison Ford joked that he was out to reboot all of his iconic roles. The actor was on hand to present footage from "Blade Runner 2049," in which he reprises his role as Rick Deckard. Ford said he gained a deeper understanding of his character in the sequel, which hits theaters in October.

Ford appeared alongside costar Ryan Gosling as the film's panel.

"Blade Runner 2049" also hosted a massive installation away from the San Diego Convention Center where fans could experience the Los Angeles of the future through virtual reality and replication of key sets inhabited by actors wearing actual costumes from the film.

READY PLAYER ONE:

Steven Spielberg has spent more than two years adapting Ernest Cline's novel "Ready Player One" for the screen, and the filmmaker said he was proud to debut a new trailer inside Comic-Con's biggest exhibition hall.

Actor Tye Sheridan stars in the story about a dystopian future where humans take refuge in a virtual-reality world.

For Cline, having Spielberg make a movie based on his book is a full-circle moment. "I learned how to be a storyteller because of this man," the author said.

REP. JOHN LEWIS:

Civil rights icon U.S. Rep. John Lewis led about 1,000 people on a march through the crowded San Diego Convention Center following a discussion of his trilogy of graphic novels about his participation in non-violent protests during the civil rights movement in the 1950s and '60s.

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Division/Department	Support Services/Procurement	Posting Date	July 21, 2017
Position Title	PROCUREMENT SUPERVISOR	Deadline	4:00PM; July 28, 2017
Position Type	Career Service - 12 months probation	Compensation	\$45,512 - \$49,284 per year
Reports To	Procurement Manager	Position Status	M/1/A - M/3/A; Exempt
*Note: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications & experience			
Major Duties & Responsibilities			
Incumbent will support the Procurement manager in the delivery of a strategy to coordinate best purchasing practices and maximize benefits to the company. Incumbent will also be assisting Procurement Manager in the oversight of the contracts & leases, right-of-way functions as well as maintaining archives. Incumbent has supervisory responsibility for the Procurement team which is to manage the allocation of duties to team members to ensure that all deadlines are met in accordance with agreed service levels. Directly reports to Procurement Manager.			
Minimum Requirements			
Education	Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and/or related field. ASPA reserves the right to consider years of equivalent experience in lieu of the educational requirement.		
Experience	Three (3) years of relevant work experience in procurement. Minimum of three years of Supervisory experience required.		
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	Must have knowledge of procurement rules, concepts, principles and practices. Must be computer literate and competent in using standard office software; be highly organized with the ability to manage multiple demands and deliver results on time and within budget; have excellent verbal and written communication skills as well as accounting and budget control skills. Must be familiar with sourcing and vendor management. Must have an interest in market dynamics along with business sense. Must have a knack for negotiating and networking. Must have an ability to gather and analyze data and work with figures. Must have solid judgment with ability to make good decisions. Must have strong leadership abilities. Must be honest and follow clear procurement rules, policies and guidelines. To provide procurement support for all areas and specific allocated budget/commodity areas. This will include: undertaking mini competitions using existing frameworks conducting low value tenders and requests for quotation taking into account whole life costing, sustainability and ethical purchasing category management contract managing existing framework including account management promote good procurement practice supporting requesters in allocated budget areas identify and deliver efficiency savings and improved contractual arrangements To supervise the purchase order processing activity: check validity of requests to purchase, obtaining any additional necessary paperwork and manage any non-compliance requests liaise with requesters/departmental contacts to ensure timely resolution of queries liaise with Accounts Payable to resolve supplier payment issues handle complaints To provide support in all Archives, Right-of-Way (ROW) as well as Contracts & Leases functions provide status reports to Procurement Manager on an agreed basis Perform other related duties as assigned by the Procurement Manager		
Qualified applicants: PLEASE SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST & AN UPDATED RESUME TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE.			
An Equal Opportunity Employer * A Drug Free Workplace			



Pacsafe products are lightweight, covertly secure, and mine shown in Vancouver, Canada is even a roller duffel

[Photo by Allan Hamilton 3/16]



IN THE COMMUNITY

(Photos: Leua)



Cool Stuff: Pacsafe to the Rescue!

by Barry Markowitz

Not too long ago, you were comforted to know your airline allowed you two 70-pound check in bags and a meal. Of course both are long gone, but Pacsafe has come to the rescue to alleviate some of your check in bag drama.

The two important keys are that your check-in bag should weigh less these days so more of your real stuff can be accommodated.

My Pacsafe roller duffel has saved my journeys (and heaps of baggage fees) to New Zealand, Fiji, the Kingdom of Tonga, both Samoas, Australia, Guam, Vancouver, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, San Francisco, LA, Chicago, SLC, Sacramento, Seattle and more.

No buckle or roller has broken, no strap or side panel has ever worn thru.

Back in the 80's if you flew on South Pacific Island Airways to American Samoa you frequently had your packed sports shoes vanish between Honolulu and Pago... and you would wait in line behind the Fagatago Malae at the SPIA Office for your reimbursement.

Pacsafe has an integral screen protective mesh in your bags to stop slash and grabs, and an excellent setup for TSA locks.

My buddies all like Pacsafes tactical black color. My gentle peace/ love/ granola green offends no customs officers. Some officials think you are a scary dude with military looking black luggage. So I leave that look to the real military vets.

Knife designer extraordinaire, Ken Onion, loves his Pacsafe small shoulder bag, and commented, "Guys in my line of work that do trade shows, might have \$100,000 cash in our bags. I used to worry a lot til I bought my Pacsafe...t here are cables thru the straps and the buckles all have locking mechanisms. Pacsafe is the bomb!"

In addition to a women's specific product line and small passport and RFID scan protection wallets and small bags, Pacsafe has truly hit the mark for airlines carry on backpacks (with some designed for camera gear).

The Venturesafe EXP45 gives you the max capacity allowed as an airline carry on, with the security of:

- exomesh slashguards on all panels
- Puncture resistant Toughzip
- Roobar locking system
- 3mm stainless steel locking cable with storage pouch
- Interlocking zip pulls

Loyal customers have asked Pacsafe to also emphasize future production of weatherized bags. For now we Old School Coolios just buy an aftermarket rain cover for the price of a six-pack.

Two true Cool Stuff adventure stories.

Traveling to LAX in the 80's from Samoa, at the baggage claim on arrival, I felt my leather "man purse" begin to fall, looked behind and saw a guy with a razor blade retreat thru the crowd. He was a member of a gang of notorious Columbian luggage and bag thieves that did significant harm to we tourists visiting LA and Honolulu in those days. Wish I had a Pacsafe back then.

And, while covering a major football game at Aloha Stadium, a photographer from Houston, lost all of his images from a just completed two-day fashion shoot at the Turtle Bay Resort. Without the locking capabilities of Pacsafe to benches or rails, etc... the \$50,000 bag of gear and images just walked.

In air or on the ground, Pacsafe is a cure all for many modern day travel and walkabout dramas.

Prices average between \$69-\$350.

Find your Pacsafe at pacsafe.com





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How smugglers use trucks with some-times deadly results

CHICAGO (AP) — It could take months for investigators to determine what preceded the deaths of at least nine people found with dozens of ailing individuals in a tractor-trailer discovered outside a Walmart in San Antonio, Texas, in what authorities are calling an immigrant-smuggling attempt gone wrong.

But previous cases of smugglers using similar trucks to move human cargo shed light on the dangerous method of human trafficking — and how it can quickly turn fatal.

Here's a look at how smugglers deploy and use large trucks to move people:

HOW COMMON IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY TRUCK?

Border officials have reported an uptick in the number of people-smuggling incidents using tractor-trailers. That included one on July 7, when Border Patrol agents in Laredo, Texas, found 72 people from Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala and El Salvador locked inside a trailer. Weeks before, they'd rescued 44 people from Mexico and Guatemala discovered after police stopped an 18-wheeler near one of the city's international bridges.

Whether this recent increase is a trend and what might explain it is hard to know. A recent report from European-based global-risk group Verisk Maplecroft suggests that a harder line on border security by the Trump administration might be leading migrants to accept the risks of more dangerous smuggling methods.

By far the most notorious and best documented case occurred in 2003, when 19 of about 100 people being smuggled in a truck trailer in south Texas died of heat-related injuries; that included a 7-year-old boy. More than a dozen smugglers were convicted in that case, including the American commercial driver at the wheel, Tyrone Mapletoft Williams, and the purported head of the smuggling ring, Karla Patricia Chavez-Joya, a Honduran national.

WHERE ARE THE IMMIGRANTS FROM?

Transportation by truck is often one of the final steps in a process that can begin months before somewhere in Mexico or more than a thousand miles from the U.S.-Mexican border in Honduras or Guatemala. A review of court documents in other cases indicates the tractor-trailers are often brought in only after Mexicans and Central Americans arrive by train, bus or car to the Mexican-U.S. border region — and then slip into the U.S. by foot or by raft across the Rio Grande.

In the 2003 case, the pickup site for the immigrants was near Harlingen, Texas, about 20 miles (32.19 kilometers) from the U.S.-Mexican border. The plan was to drive the tractor-trailer through an immigration checkpoint 50 miles (80.46 kilometers) away on Highway 77 near Sarita, Texas; once through the crossing, the immigrants were to be transferred to separate vans bound for Houston.

WHY TRUCKS?

The objective of immigrants who make it undetected across the border typically isn't to remain in that border area. Most hope to make it to large U.S. cities, like Chicago or New York, where they may have jobs or family waiting for them. That's where the trucks come in. Smugglers know there are hundreds and thousands of immigrants desperate to get away from the border as fast as possible. And they see the money-making opportunity. The more people they can move at one time, the more the profit.

In the 2003 case, the smugglers actively sought non-Hispanic, American drivers who they believed would be less likely to raise suspicions and more likely to make it through the Sarita checkpoint. Tyrone Williams, a licensed truck driver from New York, fit that description. Just before picking up his human cargo, Williams had hauled milk products from New York in his refrigerated truck.

HOW DO THEY DIE?

Dehydration, hyperthermia, suffocation, and mechanical asphyxia have been among the causes of death in truck cases. In the 2003 case, Williams' trailer was equipped with a refrigeration unit that enabled him to haul milk earlier at 35 degrees Fahrenheit (1.67 Celsius) from New York to Texas. But when it came to his human cargo, he didn't turn it on. The immigrants remained silent as Williams was waived through the checkpoint, but they soon after began banging on the sides of the trailer as it became increasingly hot and increasingly hard to breathe. Finally, fearing detection, Williams unhooked the trailer at a truck stop in Victoria, Texas, and drove off. An appellate court later described the scene inside: "Bodies, both dead and living, were stacked in a pile in the trailer. Some of the aliens were standing behind the pile. The aliens were stripped down to their underwear and were sweating."

CHARGES

Because the crime involves the crossing of international and of state borders, it's often federal authorities who prosecute human traffickers.



AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) RE-BID

IFB No. Re-Bid ASCC# 005-2017

Due Date and Time: July 24, 2017

Date of Issuance: July 5, 2017

No Later than 2:00p.m. Local Time

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) issues an Invitation for Bids (IFB) from qualified firms to submit bids for the following:

"FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT (FF&E) FOR ASCC NEW MULTIPURPOSE CENTER BUILDING"

SUBMISSION:

An original and one (1) copy of the Invitation for Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "ASCC IFB#004-2017 Furniture, Furnishings & Equipment for new Multipurpose Building" Bids are to be sent or email to the following address and will be received no later than 2:00p.m. Local Time; **Monday, July 24, 2017:**

ASCC Procurement Office
 Mapusaga Campus,
 Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
 Attn: Jessie Su'esu'e, Procurement Officer
 Email: j.suesue@amsamoa.edu

Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Late submissions will not be opened and will be determined as being non-responsive.

DOCUMENTS:

The IFB complete package detailing requirements is available at the ASCC Procurement Office, Mapusaga Campus during normal working hours and may also be obtained by emailing j.suesue@amsamoa.edu

RIGHT OF REJECTION:

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted bid proposals that are not in the best interest of the college or the public.

Approved for Issuance by;

Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi Pato

President, American Samoa Community College (ASCC)

Victory for 'Dunkirk' and 'Girls Trip' at the box office

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's victory for "Dunkirk" and "Girls Trip" at the box office this weekend. Both original and well-reviewed films smashed expectations and enticed diverse audiences to the theaters, even though cumulatively summer remains down from last year.

Christopher Nolan's World War II epic brought in an estimated \$50.5 million to easily top the charts, according to Warner Bros., while the raucous comedy "Girls Trip" broke the R-rated comedy slump of 2017 with \$30.4 million to take second place.

"Dunkirk" was far from an inevitable summer success. But stellar reviews, awards buzz and hype around the film's large-scale production helped drive people to the theater and large-format screens.

"We're beyond thrilled with this exceptional achievement for 'Dunkirk,'" said Jeff Goldstein, who heads distribution for Warner Bros.

"The critical reception worldwide has been consistently effusive.

It really propelled this movie that wasn't an obvious win."

Audiences were 60 percent male and 76 percent over the age of 25 for the PG-13 rated film, while IMAX audiences represented 23 percent of the market share (or \$11.7 million of the total grosses from only 402 screens).

"It became a must-see event," said Paul Dergarabedian, a senior media analyst for comScore.

Drawing quite a different audience was the buddy comedy "Girls Trip," starring Regina Hall, Tiffany Haddish, Jada Pinkett Smith and Queen Latifah as a group of girlfriends who head to New Orleans for a weekend of fun. The Universal film drew in an audience that was 79 percent female and 50 percent under the age of 30. Fifty-nine percent of attendees were estimated to be African-American.

Notably, audiences gave the film a stellar A+ CinemaScore, suggesting the film will have long-term playability.

"'Girls Trip' was a perfectly counter-programmed box office surprise," Dergarabedian said.

"It broke the R-rated comedy curse that has afflicted this summer with 'Baywatch,' 'Snatched,' 'Rough Night' and 'The House.'"

For Universal, the formula is more simple: "Girls Trip," unlike the aforementioned comedies, is resonating with audiences.

"When the taste for enter-

tainment and comedy has been somewhat underserved, it is not because people aren't interested in laughing, it's that they're waiting for something funny to come along," said Nick Carpou, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "One of the great things about this comedy is that it's really funny."

Not so successful was Luc Besson's nearly \$180 million sci-fi epic "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets," which earned \$17 million from North American theaters over the weekend for a fifth-place start. It came in behind "Spider-Man: Homecoming," in third in its third weekend with \$22 million and "War for the Planet of the Apes" in fourth place in its second weekend with \$20.4 million.

Besson's film, starring Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne and based on the French comic "Valerian and Laureline," was produced by EuropaCorp.

STX Entertainment distributed it in North America.

The film's financial exposure was limited, however. EuropaCorp says 90 percent of the budget was already covered by foreign pre-sales, equity financing and tax subsidies.

Dergarabedian said it's more about the international returns for "Valerian," but it's hard not to see Besson's return to sci-fi as a disappointment.

Not adjusted for inflation, "Valerian" earned basically the same as "The Fifth Element," which came out 20 years ago. For comparison, his film "Lucy," starring Scarlett Johansson, opened to \$43.8 million in 2014.

Overall, the year remains around flat from last year, and the summer season looks unlikely to make up for its deficit through the end of July and August.

Still, Dergarabedian thinks there is a silver lining in the quality of the films that have come out this summer.

"Despite the weekend being down close to 10 percent, the currency that was most valuable is the currency of goodwill," Dergarabedian said.

"Nobody can say that Hollywood threw the same old stuff at the wall this weekend."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore.

Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

Final domestic figures will be released Monday.



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Regina Hall, from left, Jada Pinkett Smith, Queen Latifah and Tiffany Haddish in a scene from the comedy "Girls Trip."

(Michele K. Short/Universal Pictures via AP)

Purple Heart found on NY road returned to veteran's family

NYACK, N.Y. (AP) — The family of a World War II veteran now has a big piece of his history back.

Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer on Sunday reunited the family of Bernard McNamara with his Purple Heart medal. It had been found along a Rockland County road several years ago with the inscription of "B.J. McNamara on December 9, 1943."

It was turned over to an

American Legion post, and those who initially searched for the owner discovered there were numerous men with that name who served in World War II. Schumer's office began looking into the situation earlier this month and was able to determine to whom the medal belonged.

McNamara, a Bronx native, died in 1975. He was wounded during the war, and also held as a prisoner of war for over a

year by the Nazis after being captured in Italy, according to records.

Schumer presented the medal to McNamara's son and daughter and grandchildren at a ceremony in Nyack, New York. His son said the medal may have been lost at some point when it was given to some children in the family to play with, and may have ended up where it was found because they had family in the area.



A Purple Heart medal that had been found along a Rockland County road several years ago is displayed Sunday, July 23, 2017, at a news conference in New York, where it was turned over to the family of the World War II veteran who earned it. Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer on Sunday reunited the family of Bernard McNamara with his Purple Heart medal after the senator's office helped to determine to whom the medal belonged. McNamara, a Bronx native, died in 1975. He was wounded during the war, and also held as a prisoner of war for over a year by the Nazis after being captured in Italy, according to records.

(AP Photo/Julie Walker)



FILE- In this June 30, 2017, file photo, White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders speaks during the daily press briefing at the White House in Washington. The White House indicated Sunday, July 23, that President Donald Trump would sign a sweeping Russia sanctions measure that requires him to get Congress' permission before lifting or easing the economic penalties against Moscow. Sanders, the newly appointed White House press secretary, said the administration is supportive of being tough on Russia and, "particularly putting these sanctions in place."

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

White House indicates Trump would sign new sanctions bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House indicated Sunday President Donald Trump would sign a sweeping Russia sanctions measure, which the House could take up this week, that requires him to get Congress' permission before lifting or easing the economic penalties against Moscow.

Lawmakers are scheduled to consider the sanctions package as early as Tuesday, and the bill could be sent to Trump before Congress breaks for the August recess.

The legislation is aimed at punishing Moscow for meddling in the presidential election and its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the newly appointed White House press secretary, said the administration is supportive of being tough on Russia and "par-

ticularly putting these sanctions in place."

"We support where the legislation is now, and will continue to work with the House and Senate to put those tough sanctions in place on Russia until the situation in Ukraine is fully resolved," Sanders said on ABC's "This Week."

Congressional Republicans and Democrats announced Saturday that they'd settled lingering issues with the bill, which also includes stiff economic penalties against Iran and North Korea. The sanctions targeting Russia, however, have drawn the most attention due to Trump's persistent push for warmer relations with President Vladimir Putin and ongoing investigations into Russia's interference in the 2016 campaign.

"North Korea, Iran and Russia have in different ways all threatened their neighbors and actively sought to undermine American interests," according to a joint statement by California Republicans Kevin McCarthy, the House majority leader, and Ed Royce of California, the Foreign Affairs Committee chairman. The bill the House will vote, they said, "will now exclusively focus on these nations and hold them accountable for their dangerous actions."

The White House had objected to a key section of the bill that would mandate a congressional review if Trump attempts to terminate the sanctions against Moscow. Top administration officials said the provisions infringed on the president's executive authority and tied his hands as he explores avenues of cooperation between the two former Cold War foes. But Sanders said the White House was able to work with the House and Senate to "make those changes that were necessary."

She didn't specify what those changes were, however. The congressional review section wasn't altered substantially and Democrats were satisfied with the results.

Lawmakers included the review because of wariness in both parties over Trump's affinity for Putin. Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, the top ranking Democrat on the Foreign Affairs Committee, said Trump has been unwilling to respond seriously to Russia's belligerence, "leaving Congress with the urgent responsibility to hold Vladimir Putin accountable."

McCarthy had pushed to add the North Korea sanctions to the package. The House had overwhelmingly passed legislation in May to hit Pyongyang with additional economic penalties, but the Senate had yet to take up the bill.



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