

Governor believes another fed gov't shut-down very possible...

Page 2

Molia ni tama'ita'i sa galulue i le Western Union i le gaoi

Lali B-9

The top scorer in the 2018 OFC Champion League Qualifiers - Suivai Ataga of Lupe ole Soaga (in green) storming out to score a goal as he was chased down by Veitongo FC Ofa Kite during the opening half of their match last Friday. The Samoa team won, and with the undefeated team of the Qualifiers - Tupapa Maraerenga FC of the Cook Islands - officially more to Group Stage. For more details and photos see today's Sports.

[photo: TG]



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# samoa news

PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

\$1.00

## Territory-issued IDs are 'no-go' on Feb. 5 — issuance of CI on hold

LOLO ADMIN TO TRANSMIT ITS PLAN FOR FULL COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REAL ID ACT

by Fili Sagapolutele

Samoa News Correspondent

The Lolo Administration is prepared to transmit a letter later this week to the US Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) outlining American Samoa's implementation plan for full compliance with the federal REAL ID Act regarding locally issued driver's license and identification cards.

While driver's licenses are issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV), ASG ID cards are issued by the Office of Vital Statistics, a bureau of the local Department of Homeland Security. Samoa News understands that ASG is exploring having the ID cards also be issued by OMV.

As previously reported by Samoa News it was in October 2016 that American Samoa was given a one-year extension to comply with the REAL ID Act, which has been in place for several years. The extension expired last October.

In a Jan. 19th news release, the USDHS announced in what it calls a "notice... to American Samoa" that beginning Feb. 5th, residents of American Samoa will no longer be able to use territory-issued driver's licenses or identification cards to fly domestically or enter federal buildings and military installations.

USDHS recalled that American Samoa formerly had an extension that allowed federal agencies to continue to accept its driver's licenses and identification cards. But that extension expired Oct. 10th of last year, triggering a three-month grace period before enforcement would begin Feb. 5th this year.

"American Samoa has subsequently not been able to demonstrate a clear achievable plan for compliance as needed to receive a new extension," according USDHS, which added that the federal agency continues to work with American Samoa on what actions it can take to receive a new extension.

Responding to Samoa News questions, the governor's executive director, Iulogologo Joseph Pereira explained that Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga had send a letter to USDHS requesting an extension to the Feb. 5 deadline, but it was denied.

The governor called a meeting yesterday with Lt. Gov. Lemanu Sialega Palepoi Mauga, Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson, local Homeland Security Department director Samana Semo Ve'ave'a and "supporting staff to determine our course of action to comply with the Real ID provisions," he explained.

"The Governor received the notification from USDHS denying the extension request but left room for a new request detailing what we have done to move towards compliance," he said, adding that the request letter is being prepared for transmittal before the end of the week; and will contain the Real ID Compliance Implementation Plan for American Samoa.

Last week, local officials held a conference call with US Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives, who met with Lemanu in Oakland and Hawai'i to fashion a compliance strategy to the dictates of the Real ID requirements as prescribed by the Homeland Security Act.

Iulogologo said FEMA is eager to work with American

(Continued on page 7)



VINCENT TOEAVA



JANE VASA



LIREN ZHANG

## District Court denies motions for bail reduction requests by two of DHSS defendants

JUDGE SAYS THE BAILS ARE REASONABLE, CONSIDERING THE CHARGES

by Ausage Fausia

Samoa News Reporter

District Court Judge Fiti Sunia denied motions for bail reduction requests from two of the three defendants in the Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS) food stamp fraud case last week; and all of the defendants are scheduled to appear before the court next month for their preliminary examination hearing (PX).

Last Friday, Sunia denied a motion for Vincent Toeava and Jane Vasa, while defendant Liren Zhang, a.k.a Kevin through his private attorney, William R. Olson asked the court for a two-week continuance.

The judge has set bail at \$450,000 each for Toeava and Kevin, and \$10,000 for Vasa. All three are currently in custody at the Territorial Correctional Facility (TCF), unable to post bond.

PX hearings for the defendants are as follows: Toeava who is facing 19 criminal counts, is scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 10:30 a.m.

Kevin, who is facing 17 criminal counts, is scheduled to appear in court on Friday, Feb. 9, at 10:30 a.m.

Vasa, who is facing one count of criminal fraud, has been scheduled to appear in court on Friday, Feb. 2, at 10:00 a.m.

### JANE VASA

Assistant Public Defender Ryan Anderson asked the court for a continuance until this week, saying that more time is needed to deal with issues related to the case.

Anderson also asked for a bail reduction of \$5,000 from \$10,000 for his client, saying that the amount of money the government is alleging his client illegally received in the case is less than \$5,000. Anderson said his client is not a flight risk, she has lived in American Samoa since she was born, and she also has strong families ties in the community.

Prosecutor Robert Morris opposed the motion

saying Vasa's bond was fair based on the allegations against her; and said the government believes she is a flight risk.

Sunia echoed the government's argument and denied Vasa's request for bail reduction.

### VINCENT TOEAVA

Toeava's attorney, David Vargas filed a motion for a bail reduction of \$50,000 from \$450,000 for his client.

Vargas said the amount of bond the court has set for his client is much higher than what this type of case should be; adding his client is not being charged in a murder case.

Morris also opposed this motion, telling the court Toeava's bond was based on the amount of money that is allegedly involved in this case; and the defendant is a flight risk.

Responding, Vargas told the court that what the cade the government has filed in court is just allegations, and his client has never admitted wrongdoing to the police.

If the court denies his motion, he said, Toeava will continue to be incarcerated for up to two years awaiting his fair jury trial hearing. And if he is found not guilty, the government will never be able to pay back all the time he has spent in prison, and that's why he truly believes that \$50,000 is a reasonable bond for his client.

In his reply Sunia first pointed out that in terms of a bond hearing for a defendant, our local Constitution states that a defendant has no rights to a bond hearing; and said this is the first time the court has come across a motion like this — an evidentiary hearing to reduce a bond.

Sunia then told Vargas that his client is facing 19 class C felony charges, which can take the maximum imprisonment terms of up to 193 years in jail; and seemingly compared the terms to a first-degree murder sentence of an imprisonment term of up to life or the death penalty.

As to the amount of money that is allegedly

(Continued on page 7)

## Hawaii lieutenant governor to resign, join lobbying firm



File - In this Dec. 27, 2012 file photo, Hawaii Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui speaks at a news conference in Honolulu. Tsutsui is resigning this week to join a lobbying and public affairs firm. The lieutenant governor said in a news release on Monday, Jan. 29, 2018, he will return to Maui and work for Strategies 360. His resignation is effective Wednesday. (AP Photo/Audrey McAvoy, File)

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui said Monday he would resign this week to join a lobbying and public affairs firm. The move comes several years after Tsutsui publicly complained the governor hadn't given him enough responsibility, but he said his decision had nothing to do with that.

Tsutsui, a Democrat, had earlier said he did not plan to run for re-election. His resignation is effective Wednesday.

The Senate president is next in line for the job, which pays an annual salary of nearly \$152,000. But Senate President Ronald Kouchi said he's not interested.

The House speaker has the next spot in the line of succession. House Speaker Scott Saiki hasn't commented.

Tsutsui said there's never a perfect time to leave office, but he's been given a new job opportunity and a chance to spend more time on his home island of Maui.

(Continued on page 8)

## Governor believes another fed gov't shutdown very possible — next week

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga believes another federal government shutdown towards the end of next week is inevitable and has urged cabinet members, whose agencies are funded by grants, to keep in close contact with their federal grantor.

Current federal funding, which became effective Jan. 23, after a three-day partial shutdown of the US government on Jan. 20, expires before midnight of Feb. 8. Before that shutdown, the governor issued an advance order outlining procedures as well as exempted services in the event of a US government shut down.

The governor rescinded that order on the evening of Jan. 22 when the US President signed into law "stop-gap" funding approved by Congress. However, as of last week to yesterday, national news outlets are reporting that both sides in Congress are far from reaching a compromise for new funding before Feb. 8th.

Speaking at last Friday's cabinet meeting, Lolo said he believes another federal shutdown will occur after Feb. 8, based on information coming out of the nation's capital, if Congress doesn't come up with a budget solution.

Lolo said recommendations have already been put out — through the previous order — regarding local government operations in the event of another federal shutdown. Additionally, departments and offices that receive federal funding for their operations need to continue to improve their communications and keep in contact with their grantor.

He says the various issues in Congress are not easy to tackle and it's important that ASG be well aware of what's happening in Washington D.C.

According to the governor, his office has communicated with the US Department of Interior

regarding any new plan if there is another federal government shutdown, which impacts local government operations.

Lolo reiterated to directors to keep in continuous communication with federal grantors to be updated on what's happening at the federal level pertaining to local operations. For example with travel, there is no reason for a director to travel Washington on Feb. 9 — in the midst of a federal shutdown, he said.

Of the more than \$394 million in the ASG's approved fiscal 2018 budget, \$21.52 million comes from USDDOI for ASG basic operation; \$10.32 million in Capital Improvement Projects; and \$112.34 million in federal grants, according to FY 2018 budget documents.

And of the 6,555 individuals in the ASG workforce in the FY 2018 budget, over 2,260 positions are paid by federal monies. (Samoa News notes that there are several positions in which an employee's salary is split between local and federal money.)

USDOJ's Office of Insular Affairs has a contingency plan in place in the event there is a lapse in federal funding and the feds close down. For example, the Chief Justice and Associate Justice of the American Samoa judicial branch are "designated as essential" federal employees and are exempted from a shutdown.

According to the contingency plan, which is posted on the agency's website, the presiding judges — who are appointed by the US Interior Secretary — are paid as federal employees and that continued operation of the court is required to preserve law and order.

There are at least three ASG departments that are 100% funded with federal monies — ASEPA, DHSS and the TEO — which are not considered 'essential' in the federal shutdown.



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Please Visit the American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, & Humanities Office (Jean P. Haydon Museum Compound) in Fagatogo for Registration: **OPEN February 5 - 16, 2018.**



This project is supported in part by an award from the **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS**

# Appellate Court says High Court must reword bond in CCCAS case to be fair

**A SUPERSEDEAS BOND IS NOT A HIGH-PRICED TICKET TO APPEAL, IT SAYS**

by Ausage Fausia  
Samoa News Reporter

The Appellate Division of the High Court of American Samoa has denied the former Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa's General Secretary, Rev. Amaama Tofaeono and his wife their motion of stay of writ of restitution and bond. However, to avoid an unfair burden on the appellants' right to appeal, the matter is remanded to the trial court to reword the 'supersedeas' bond so it is not "an exorbitant admission ticket to the appeals process."

The decision was issued on Friday, Jan 19, 2018, by Chief Justice Michael Kruse.

A supersedeas bond, also known as a defendant's appeal bond, is a type of surety bond that a court requires from an appellant who wants to delay payment of a judgment until the appeal is over, as defined by Wikipedia.

The case appellees are Rev. Elder Eveni Mamoe, Leatulagi Faalevao and Fiti Aofia are also listed with CCCAS; and the appellants are Rev. Tofaeono and his wife Joan Aleluia Tofaeono.

Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde represents the plaintiffs, while Charles V. Alailima and Toetasi Tuiteleapaga represent the Tofaeonos.

## BACKGROUND

The appellant Rev. Tofaeono was removed from his employment as the General Secretary of the CCCAS in March 2017. At that time, the appellants were also informed that they had until March 31, 2017 to vacate the CCCAS house designated for the General Secretary and his family.

The appellants nonetheless chose to remain in the house and the appellees filed a complaint for summary eviction and repossession.

The trial court did not order relocation of the appellants. Instead, it ordered that a bond in the amount of \$35,000 be posted by the appellants in order to stay the writ of restitution.

This amount was to be deposited with the Clerk of Courts, but CCCAS would be allowed to request the release of the bond to purchase a vehicle for use by the interim General Secretary so that he could fulfill his duties to CCCAS.

The trial court decision further stated that should the appellants prevail on appeal, then CCCAS was to redeposit the full \$35,000 amount with the Clerk of Courts.

The order also seemed to suggest that the appellants could not recover any portion of the bond amount if they are unsuccessful on appeal.

## APPELLATE COURT'S RULING

On December 11, 2017 the appellants filed their motion for stay of writ of restitution

and bond. The appellees filed a memorandum in opposition and a hearing on the matter was held on January 12th, 2018.

The Appellate Division of the High Court has found that based on law the only question for it to decide was whether the \$35,000 bond was satisfactory in light of the facts of this case.

According to the Court, a supersedeas bond should be sufficient to secure an appellee from a loss resulting from the stay of execution of the trial court's order.

Given both the unique nature of this case and the different interests involved, the trial court cannot be said to have abused its discretion in requiring the \$35,000 bond, the Appellate Court said.

However, it says, "Though the trial court's determination of the bond amount was not an abuse of discretion, there is one

potential problem to be seen with its order." Mainly it says the order is seen to say, "the appellants will only recover the bond if they are successful on appeal."

It points out that "though a supersedeas bond should protect the prevailing plaintiff from losses incurred while a matter is on appeal, it should not function as in effect an exorbitant admission ticket to the appeals process."

The Appellate Court continued, "the trial court's current order not only protects the appellees from future losses, but also awards the appellees a free car if they happen to prevail on appeal; this would work an unjust hardship on the appellants and give an unnecessary windfall to the appellees."

In its ruling, the Court concludes that "the trial court

(Continued on page 9)



## Chamber of Commerce ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Agenda:**  
**Election of Board Membership Drive**

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Rep. Sam Meleisea,**  
Chairman, House Commerce Committee

**Report to Members**  
**ASTCA, Bluesky, ASPA**  
**Progress, Plans, Prospects, 2018**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018 • 5:00pm**  
**Sadies by the Sea**

Membership forms available at the door

John Wasko, Director  
Info: 733-0833



# FA'AFETAI, FA'AFETAI TELELAVA



AMEN would like to thank the Governor of American Samoa, Legislative Assembly, the following government agencies, organizations, private businesses, individual donors, new found families and friends of AMEN in American Samoa for the tremendous support afforded to us during our medical trip to your beautiful islands, in which over 1000 patients were screened and treated. May our good Lord continue to shower his abundant blessings upon you all. We leave with hearts full of joy because of your genuine hospitality and generosity. We look forward to the same support whenever the Lord guides us back to American Samoa.

- AMEN Organization - Staff, Medical Providers, and Off Island General Volunteers
- Hawaiian Airlines Corporate, Airline Staff, and Mr. Tuli Fruean
- Lions Club of Pago Pago
- Governor's Office
- House of Representatives
- Department of Health
- LBJ Dental & Eye Clinic
- LBJ Joe Langkilde
- Special Olympics Amerika Samoa
- TRADEWINDS Management & Staff
- VCX Technologies & GX2
- Department of Women and Youth Affairs
- H & H
- O & O Enterprises Inc
- Paramount Builders
- Mee Won Inc
- Tutuila Store
- Pinoy Samoa
- ALL LOCAL VOLUNTEERS
- Mike Sala - \$2 Beach
- Blue Sky
- McConnell Dowell
- Heaven's Touch SPA (Roberto Dalmacio)
- A&E Restaurant (Isabel Hudson)
- Skyview
- Mr Eliota Siaumau & Pisisami Transport
- Mr. Pany & Mrs. Rosita Ng Lam
- Mr & Mrs. Litani Ahoia
- Mr Pa'u Roy & Mrs Gloria Ausage & Family
- Tunai Family
- Pelenato Family
- American Samoa Adventist Media
- Living Ministry Media
- Angel Suani & Team
- Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Ahoia (Ahoia Designs)
- KVZK
- 93KHJ
- V103.1
- 92.1 KBS
- American Samoa SDA District & Churches



# House passes bill prompted by sports doctor scandal



*FILE - In this Jan. 24, 2018, file photo, Larry Nassar sits during his sentencing hearing in Lansing, Mich. The House has followed up on the sex abuse scandal involving Nassar with the passage of legislation that requires governing bodies for amateur athletics to promptly report abuse claims to law enforcement.*

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House followed up on the sex abuse scandal involving sports doctor Larry Nassar by passing legislation Monday that requires governing bodies for amateur athletics to promptly report abuse claims to law enforcement.

Nassar was sentenced last week to up to 175 years in prison for sexually abusing more than 150 women and girls over 25 years.

The sentencing sparked new calls from lawmakers to complete action on legislation that had already received widespread support in both chambers of Congress. The House agreed to take up the Senate version of the bill to speed up its passage. The bill passed the House by a vote of 406-3.

The House made a change in the bill, which sent it back to the Senate for approval before it can go to President Donald Trump for his signature.

Supporters of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said a patchwork of

state laws on reporting suspected sex abuse made it necessary to enact a uniform national standard that would apply to amateur sports groups such as USA Gymnastics as well as to other sports organizations that participate in interstate and international travel. The failure to report a sexual abuse allegation could lead to up to one year in prison.

Lawmakers who spoke in favor of the bill said that Nassar's victims were failed by the people who were supposed to protect them.

"How a serial predator like Dr. Nassar could have preyed on so many young girls for a long time in such a flagrant fashion is appalling," said Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas.

During House debate on the bill, Poe read from the testimony that some of the gymnasts delivered at last week's sentencing hearing and entered the statements for publication in the Congressional Record. High-profile Olympians who delivered statements included six-time medalist Aly Raisman, 2011 world champion and 2012 Olympic gold medalist Jordyn Wieber and two-time Olympic medalist McKayla Maroney.

"All they wanted to do was to make us proud. All they wanted to do was show the strength of women and the resolve of women," said Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas.

The legislation also extends the statute of limitations for victims to sue alleged perpetrators, recognizing that children sometimes don't realize they were abused until years later. The statute of limitations was extended to age 28 or up to 10 years after the reasonable discovery of the violation, whichever is later.

The legislation also requires the governing bodies for amateur athletes to put in place "reasonable procedures" to limit one-on-one interactions

*(Continued on page 11)*



*(L - R) Fealofani Bruun and Schannel van Dijken, crew members of The Samoan Voyaging Society.* [Photo/ Michael Craig]

## compiled by Samoa News staff RIDING THE CREST OF WAVES

Surrounded by the launches, ocean-going yachts and catamarans moored at Orakei Marina, one of the Pacific's most valuable boats is almost camouflaged from view.

She is Va'a Gaulofa, Samoa's traditionally-inspired 22-metre, twin-hulled voyaging canoe (waka hourua in te reo), which sails across oceans crewed by 16 sailors and powered almost exclusively by wind and sun. Since 2009, when she was gifted by the Okeanos Foundation for the Sea to the Aiga Folau o Samoa — the Samoan Voyaging Society (SVS), Gaulofa has sailed more than 40,000 nautical miles.

Her value lies in the knowledge and purpose of her crew of eco and cultural activists who weave together environmental, cultural and historical traditions and advocacy. Many of Gaulofa's miles have been clocked up inspiring new generations to learn about voyaging and the risks that human activity and climate change pose to the oceans.

Last year they used Disney's hit film Moana to help in their education message. SVS president Schannel van Dijken says Moana's themes of ocean

conservation and the importance of Pacific culture resonate with both children and adults.

"There's a lot they didn't know that Moana exposed to them and now they're asking questions and they're singing the songs. We want to showcase Moana in a way that will reach some of the people that may have not seen it. We see it as a wonderful tool."

Even more apt, Gaulofa is captained by Fealofani Bruun, a young woman who, in 2015, became the first Samoan to receive a yacht-master Captain qualification. Is she a modern-day Moana?

She started sailing at the Pago Pago Yacht Club when her parents were living in American Samoa.

Bruun smiles, obviously adept at answering that question: "I don't see myself as a modern-day Moana because it's too much of a square box to fit into. She was very young, able to go out and voyage and be a bit of a rebel. With our voyages, we are much more focused on the safety aspects and the work."

Bruun and the crew have spent around a month at Orakei Marina ensuring Gaulofa is in the best possible shape to take part in this weekend's Tamaki Herenga Waka Festival in Auckland. They'll then sail to

Waitangi and, weather permitting, around Cape Reinga down the west coast to Wellington to for the capital's largest ever waka event, A Waka Odyssey.

[Source: New Zealand Herald]

## THREE DIED, OVER THIRTY INJURED IN BUS CRASH AT FALEULA

A tragic accident at Faleula Saturday afternoon, where a speeding bus flipped several times landing on its roof, claimed three lives.

This was confirmed by Police Superintendent and Media Spokesperson, Auapa'au Logoitino Filipino, in response to questions from the Sunday Samoan.

"A total of 46 passengers were on the bus including the three people who died," said Auapa'au.

"The bus driver and two elderly women unfortunately died as a result of the tragic incident. Preliminary reports from the National Health Services accounted 46 passengers, from men, women and children, who were at the hospital for medical treatment."

Auapa'au declined to further comment noting Police investigation continues.

At the hospital, there was a heavy presence of police, families and friends of the passengers.

One of the survivors is a 17-year-old college student at A'ana Apolima. Tausaga Solifono spoke to the Sunday Samoan on what had occurred.

"The bus was packed, and I was sitting on a woman at the back of the bus," Tausaga said.

"My grandmother was sitting with another old lady right behind the bus driver, when we got on the bus she insisted to sit behind the driver," said the emotional Tausaga.

Tausaga's grandmother was one of the deceased.

[Source: Samoa Observer]

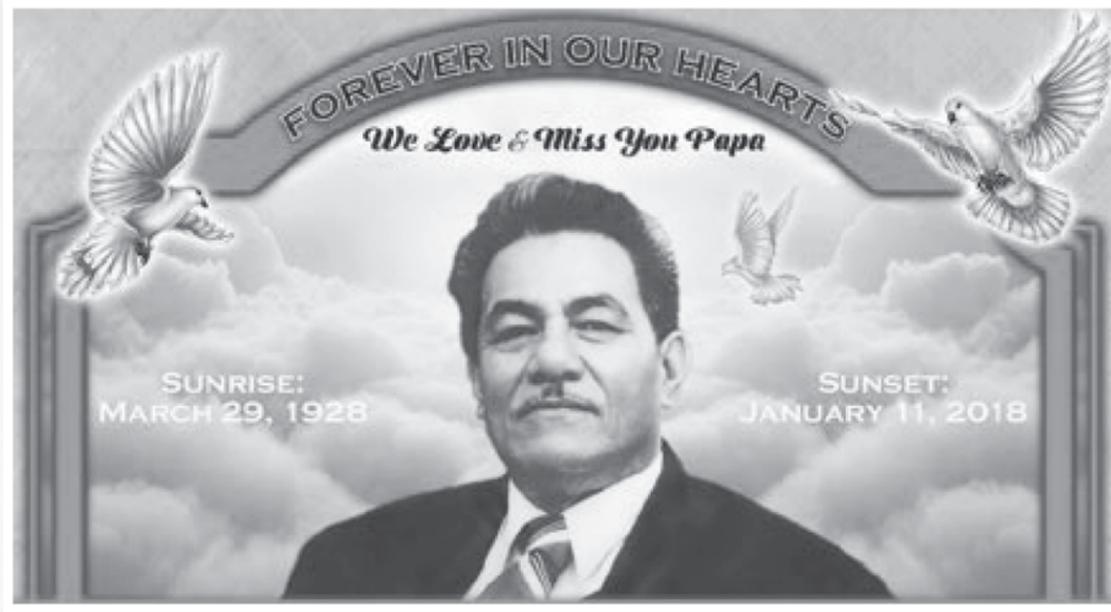
*(Continued on page 10)*



*Members of the "Ave o le Fetu Ao" Methodist Church youth at Fagaima performed a religious skit during Sunday's Church Service on Jan. 25. During the last Sunday of every month, the youth performs a special skit as part of the church service.*

[photo: FS]

*"Aua o lo'u ola  
ua Keriso lea,  
a'o lo'u oti o lo'u  
manuia lea."  
Filipi 1:21*



*"Ua ou tau le taua  
lelei, ua i'u ia te a'u  
le tausinioga, ua ou  
taofi i le faatuatua."  
2Timoteo 4:7*

# FAITOTO'ATASIOANIUTEA PULEISILI TUIOLOSEGA E GASE TOA, AE OLA PULE AUE! UA MALILIU TOA, UA MAUMAU AI AU'UPEGA O LE TAUA

## FUNERAL PROGRAM

**Ianuari 31, 2018**

5:00pm-8:00pm: Funeral Service, LBJ Chapel

**Fepuari 2, 2018**

7:00am Ave'ese mai lona tino maliu mai le Maota Gasegase, ona momoli lea o lona sa i le  
Laoa o le aiga Sa Talia, O le Faitoto'a-Tasi-O-Aniutea i Malaeloa, e taoto ai.  
A'o se laolao lelei lea e fesilafa'i ai Aiga ma Paolo fa'apea le Ekalesia

11:30 am Sauniga Faapitoa i le Malumalu EFKAS "Satauro o le Ola" i Malaeloa

A mae'a ona momoli lea o lona sa i Fa'ilagi aua ona toe sauniga i lona Oliolisaga Tumau.



*O lou alofa, o se lamepa e susulu pea e le matineia  
O ou foliga ma ou uiga tausafia e asoa i aso uma o lo'u ola  
A'o au a'oa'oga ma lau ta'ita'iga ou te teu mau i lo'u fatu.*



# IA MANUIA LAU MALAGA, TAMA PELEINA

# EU to remove Panama, Korea, UAE, 5 others from tax haven blacklist

by Francesco Guarascio

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - European Union officials have proposed removing eight jurisdictions from the blacklist of tax havens the bloc adopted in December, in what critics may see as a blow to its campaign against tax avoidance.

EU states decided last month to draw up the list in a bid to discourage the most aggressive tax dodging practices.

But eight of the 17 jurisdictions currently listed are set to be quickly removed from the list after they offered to change their tax rules, according to EU documents seen by Reuters.

Panama, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Barbados, Grenada, Macao, Mongolia and Tunisia are the jurisdictions that EU officials have recommended be delisted.

The removal of Bahrain was also initially considered, but its delisting was eventually not

recommended, the documents show.

The proposal will be discussed at a meeting of EU ambassadors on Wednesday and is expected to be adopted by EU finance ministers when they meet next week in Brussels for monthly talks.

Jurisdictions set to remain on the blacklist are American Samoa, Bahrain, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Namibia, Palau, Saint Lucia, Samoa, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The proposal for the delisting was made by the so-called Code of Conduct Group, which gathers tax experts from the 28 EU member states. It monitors countries' commitments to abide by EU standards on tax matters.

If the recommendation were confirmed by EU ministers, the eight jurisdictions will be moved to a so-called gray list which includes those who have

committed to change their rules on tax transparency and cooperation. The gray list currently includes 47 jurisdictions.

The shrinking of the blacklist is likely to be criticized by tax transparency groups. In December some activists denounced the listing process as a whitewash and had called for the inclusion in the blacklist of some EU countries accused of facilitating tax avoidance, like Luxembourg, Malta, Ireland and the Netherlands.

The recommended removal of Panama may cause particular outcry, as it has been at the center of one of the largest disclosures of offshore schemes, the so-called Panama Papers.

EU officials have said the purpose of the blacklist is to convince jurisdictions to become more transparent. Having fewer on the list means more countries have committed to changes, they say.



FILE - This Sept. 6, 2016 file photo provided by the Greene County Sheriff's Office shows former Stanford University swimmer Brock Turner at the sheriff's office in Xenia, Ohio, as he registered as a sex offender following his conviction on sexual assault charges in California. A woman sexually assaulted by Turner outside a campus fraternity party will no longer participate in the creation of a plaque after the university rejected her suggestions for a quote marking the place where she was attacked. (Greene County Sheriff's Office via AP, File)

## Stanford swimmer's victim withdraws from campus plaque plan

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A woman sexually assaulted by a former Stanford University swimmer said Monday she will no longer participate in the school's plan to place a plaque near the on-campus fraternity house where the assault occurred.

Michele Dauber, a Stanford professor who publicly represents the victim who wishes to remain anonymous, said that the university rejected quotes for the plaque from the statement the victim read during the January 2016 sentencing of Brock Turner. Turner served three months in jail after a jury convicted him of sexually assaulting the young woman behind a trash bin during an on-campus fraternity party. Turner must also register as a sex offender.

Stanford spokesman Ernest Miranda said one of the victim's proposed quotes was inappropriate and the other may upset other sexual assault victims.

Miranda said the university agreed to suggestions made by the victim and Dauber to turn the on-campus site of the assault into a garden and "contemplative space."

Dauber said the university's suggested quotes from the victim statement are out of context and mischaracterized her position.

Miranda said the victim rejected three of the university's proposed quotes and talks over what to inscribe on the plaque ended without a resolution.

### American Samoa Government Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program

## ADA Accessible Homes Initiative



**Do you or someone you know have a disability?  
&  
Do you need assistance in making your home  
to become or more accessible?**

**For more information please call  
DOC for Tanielu at 633-5155 Ext. 248**



## ▶ District...

Continued from page 1

involved in this case, the District Court judge pointed out that the fine for all the criminal counts against his client could be up to \$386,000.

“Bear in mind that every single charge against your client is an allegation, and all of these things go together to a determination that the defendant is a flight risk,” Sunia said, before he denied a reduction of bail, saying the current amount is reasonable.

### LIREN ZHANG, A.K.A KEVIN

For Zhang’s (Kevin) case, his private attorney asked the court for a two-week continuance, because he needs more time to deal with issues related to the case. Sunia acknowledged that the defendant has agreed to waive his right for a speedy PX and granted the continuance.

### THREAT TO THIS REPORTER

Last week, outside of the court house before the hearing started, a woman in her early 50s, who might be related to

one of the three defendants, confronted this Samoa News reporter, and asked why Samoa News had printed the story about the DHSS fraud case on its front page.

She yelled at this reporter, in Samoan, saying, “Hey you — dog face — before you print anything in your paper, make sure get your facts straight! All the information that was printed on your front page about my relative was wrong.

“Why don’t you go and do something good to earn money to feed your children, instead of coming here and collecting the wrong information to mislead the public.

“If I see a picture of my relative in your newspaper next week (this week), then you know what is going to happen to you!”

Responding to the demands of the public to Samoa News, we have published the photos of the defendants to go with this story.

# New Russia sanctions kick in, but US opts to punish nobody

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has decided not to punish anybody for now under new sanctions retaliating for Russia’s election-meddling, the State Department said Monday, in a surprising move that fueled further questions about whether President Donald Trump is too soft on Moscow. The government had until Monday to take two steps under a law passed by Congress last year in the wake of the 2016 presidential campaign. The first required the U.S. to slap sanctions on anyone doing “significant” business with people linked to Russia’s defense and intelligence agencies, using a blacklist the U.S. released in October. The second required the administration to publish a list of Russian “political figures and oligarchs” who have grown rich under President Vladimir Putin. On the first item, the administration decided it didn’t

need to penalize anyone, even though several countries have had multibillion-dollar arms deals with Russia in the works. State Department officials said the threat of sanctions had been deterrent enough, and that “sanctions on specific entities or individuals will not need to be imposed.” “We estimate that foreign governments have abandoned planned or announced purchases of several billion dollars in Russian defense acquisitions,” said State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert. She did not provide evidence or cite any examples. On the second item — the “Putin list” — the day came and went with no sign of if or when it would be released. The Treasury Department did not respond to several inquiries. In the past, the administration has breezed past several such deadlines, including the October deadline to produce a blacklist, only to

follow through later after pressure from Congress mounted.

By itself, being on the Putin list doesn’t trigger U.S. sanctions. Yet the list, being developed by the Treasury Department, has induced fear among rich Russians who are concerned that it could lead later to U.S. sanctions or to being informally blacklisted in the global financial system. It has triggered a fierce lobbying campaign, with Russia hawks in Congress pushing the administration to include certain names and lobbyists hired by Russian businessmen urging the administration to keep their clients off.

Companies or foreign governments that had been doing business with blacklisted Russian entities had been given a three-month grace period to extricate themselves from transactions, starting in October when the blacklist was published and ending Monday.

## ▶ Territory...

Continued from page 1

Samoa to move towards compliance with the federal law and that Lemanu had expressed Lolo’s concern over possible entry problems into Hawai’i for US Nationals residents, who use Certificate of Identification (CI) for travel.

The Act prohibits the use of the CI as an ID to enter federal buildings and other sensitive facilities come Feb. 5th.

However, on the issue of Immigration, this matter is being taken up with the federal Immigration people in Hawai’i, he said.

Two individuals, who were planning to travel to the US — via Hawai’i — later next month — told Samoa News of being informed by the CI office, which is part of the Attorney General’s Office, that issuance of CIs have temporarily been put on hold and they won’t know any update on CI issuance until around Feb. 5th. The two individuals have since expedited the processing of their US Passports.

Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale didn’t immediately respond to Samoa News inquiries for confirmation on this matter.

In its Jan. 19th news release, USDHS said it has provided grants and offered technical assistance to support compliance with the REAL ID security requirements for American Samoa.

During a House committee hearing in August 2016, then Police Commissioner Save Liuato Tuitele told lawmakers at the time that the cost involved to be in compliance with the Real ID Act “is humongous” for American Samoa.

He said the original USDHS funding to American Samoa was \$300,000 but between 2008 and 2013 there were five change orders for the project increasing the total award to \$1.9 million.

Furthermore, the last payment from USDHS to American Samoa went to purchase items like computers and cameras for the system upgrade, and the full \$1.9 million has been used.

(See Samoa News Aug. 16, 2016 edition for details. Samoa News notes that the Lolo Administration took office in January 2013.) He also said that DPS was working with the ASDHS to meet REAL ID compliance.

Meanwhile, USDHS provided an online link of the type of identify documents for passengers to bring to the airport for flying domestically: [www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification](http://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification).

Among them is a US passport, which currently takes about 6-8 weeks for routine processing and 2-3 weeks for expedited service, says USDHS. (More information on <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>)



AMERICAN SAMOA POWER AUTHORITY

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### PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	Health, Safety & Environmental Officer I	Posting Date	January 30, 2018
Department	Support Services	Deadline	February 9, 2018, 4:00 pm
Division	Support Services	Pay Rate	\$17.83/h4 - \$18.56/hr
Position Type	Career Service (12 months probation)	Job Grade/Status	K/2/A-K/3/A, Non-Exempt
Reports To	Managing Director		

#### Major Duties & Responsibilities

Responsible to provide vision, leadership and expertise for the success and sustainability of ASPA’s health and safety programs and services that proactively protect employees and the public. This position provides overall leadership and direction to plan, integrate and evaluate ASPA’s occupational health, safety, workers’ compensation, disability management, injury and accident prevention and wellness programs. The purpose of this role is to provide strategic and managerial oversight, direction, and accountability for ASPA-wide safety services that include, providing corporate guidance and recommendations for development of best in class safety program improvements, metrics, public and contractor safety communication programs, and incident investigation programs/results.

#### Minimum Requirements

Education	BS/BA degree or equivalent experience from an accredited college or university majoring in safety, occupational health, environmental science, industrial hygiene, risk management engineering, physical/biological sciences, psychology, behavioral sciences, or related field.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least seven (7) years of progressively responsible relevant experience in the strategic development and implementation of a comprehensive workforce health and safety program and culture; with at least 5 years in managerial role leading a team of health and safety professionals.</li> <li>Proven knowledge &amp; experience required of:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. Coast Guard &amp; EPA requirements, regulations, utility safety policies &amp; procedures, and management functions</li> <li>Occupational Safety and Health Rules (29 CFR 1910)</li> <li>Electric Power Generation</li> <li>Transmission/Distribution 1910.269</li> </ul> </li> <li>Proven, effective overseer in the execution of safety training, reporting policies, procedures, regulations and discipline.</li> </ul>
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of theory, leadership principles and best practices in the design and development of occupational health, safety, injury and accident prevention programs, strategy development and implementation</li> <li>Knowledge of principles and practices applicable to systemic organizational change interventions and improvement; OSHA and CalOSHA compliance, audits and record keeping, federal, state and local laws, regulations and court decisions applicable to the assigned areas of responsibility; research methods and analysis techniques; safety systems and programs (e.g., VPP, ISO18001, ANSI Z10) team management principles and techniques exercising leadership in a diverse, changing, and collaborative environment; project management</li> <li>Skills to design, plan and coordinate the implementation of comprehensive, effective systemic, strategic occupational health, safety, workers’ compensation, prevention management, disability management and wellness programs;</li> <li>Ability to lead through influence; demonstrate honesty, integrity and respect for others; analyze and make sound recommendations on difficult and sensitive organizational issues; facilitate solutions to situations that involve conflicting and competing needs.</li> <li>Ability to understand, interpret, explain and apply, state and federal policy, law, regulations and court decisions applicable to health and safety programs</li> <li>Ability to present proposals and recommendations clearly, logically and persuasively;</li> <li>Ability to prepare clear, concise and comprehensive correspondence, reports, studies, and other written materials</li> <li>Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with all levels of management, employees, representatives of other governmental agencies, consultants, community and special interest groups, the public, and others encountered in the course of the work</li> <li>Ability to utilize computer systems and software relevant to the job; communicate effectively with enthusiasm and clarity verbally and in writing; a willingness to be flexible and open to change; and exhibit personal responsibility for safety.</li> <li>Confront, advise, &amp; diplomatically handle violators within ASPA and public.</li> </ul>

Qualified applicants: Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA (address listed above) by the deadline. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on employment drug test. ASPA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Samoa News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. Please send them to our email [news.newsroom@samoatelco.com](mailto:news.newsroom@samoatelco.com)

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# Meet A Spelling Champ!

The student at the right will represent Samoa Baptist School in the American Samoa Spelling Bee to be held March 07, 2018. The winner of that Bee will represent American Samoa in the 90th annual Scripps Howard Spelling Bee to be held in Washington, D.C.



## BIOGRAPHY OF A 2018 SPELLING BEE FINALIST

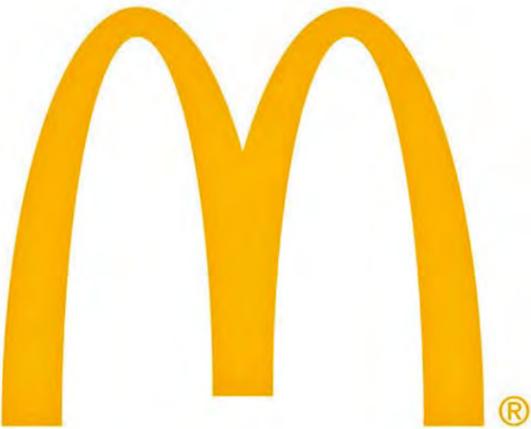
What is your name?  
**Danielle Magalasin**  
What is your school name?  
**Samoa Baptist Academy**  
What grade are you in?  
**Grade 7**  
Who is your English Teacher?  
**Oloa Lilo**  
Who are your parents?  
**Rosita & Antonio Magalasin**  
What village are you from?  
**Iliili**  
What was your winning word?  
**SPIKENARD**

Spelling Bee Winners, if you've not filled out your biography and had your picture taken, please come in to Samoa News.



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## Hawaii...

Continued from page 2

Plus, he said the governor has sent his budget and legislative package to lawmakers.

Tsutsui's own two initiatives — on after school programs and bringing Hawaii-grown food to public school cafeterias — are also in the Legislature's hands, he said.

He said he realized when taking his oldest daughter to college in September how much he was missing from his children's childhoods by being in elected office and by spending so much time on Oahu instead of Maui. He has two other daughters, age 14 and 10.

"The challenges of living on one island and working on another one kind of takes its toll on the family a little. I have an opportunity now to kind of fix some of that," he said in an interview.

Tsutsui became lieutenant governor in 2012, when then-Gov. Neil Abercrombie appointed his own lieutenant governor, Brian Schatz, to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated when U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye died.

Tsutsui was Senate president at the time. He represented central Maui in the state Senate.

Under Abercrombie, Tsutsui lead a sports development initiative and had a seat at top strategy meetings.

Tsutsui was re-elected in 2014 to a four-year term when

Ige, a Democrat, was elected governor.

However, Tsutsui told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser in 2015 that he wasn't nearly as involved in Ige's administration as he was when he served under Abercrombie, also a Democrat.

"I was involved in more strategic meetings; I was always involved in those things under the previous administration," said Tsutsui said. "Under this administration, probably not so much."

Hawaii lieutenant governors have little power unless afforded it by the governor. The main role is to take over if the governor becomes incapable of doing the job.

Ige praised Tsutsui's work as lieutenant governor and said the news left him with a "mixture of sadness and gratitude."

"He has dedicated the last 15 years to serving the people of Hawaii," the governor said in a statement.

Tsutsui said the missile alert mistakenly sent to cellphones and broadcast stations earlier this month by a Hawaii Emergency Management Agency employee was unrelated to his decision.

Tsutsui will serve as senior vice president at Strategies 360, a firm that has offices in Hawaii, 11 other western states and Washington, D.C.



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# COOL Stuff

## Jesse James — Samoan Connections

by Barry Markowitz

Jesse James is a revolutionary designer, TV celebrity, who has had a major influence in the world of custom motorcycles, knives and firearms (his .308 AR featured in the above photo). But maybe it was his friendly local Samoans that had an influence on him first.

Jesse was an Outside Linebacker football star who hurt his recruitment by the mild indiscretion of getting tossed into jail around recruitment time.

So: Jesse grew up knowing heaps of Samoans at Long Beach, California's Millikan High School and played for Riverside Community College where he hung with a few Tuiasosopo's.

Huge irony is that Jesse's cousin, Debbie... is Debbie Tautolo married to former collegiate star and NFL player, Terry Tautolo. Yup, a favorite son of Aunu'u, Terry was the ultimate Cool Stuff buTuesday, January 30, 2018, pal, and sometimes

UCLA football road trip roommate in the 1974 season.

It's nice when you meet such a superb down to earth genius that has had a positive experience with Samoans... and could possibly help talented Samoan youth.

Cool Stuff has seen incredible artwork by Samoans who have never had more than basic primary school art classes.

Terry Tautolo is a natural born artistic genius who I would love to see mentored by Jesse. Talent without guidance to earn a living is an unfulfilled promise. Such a waste.

Maybe Terry, Jesse, and Cool Stuff can do a road trip to both Samoas, meet you Coolios ... and look to help some of your talented Coolio kids.



Legendary motorcycle designer Jesse James, shared his Samoan connections story exclusively with Cool Stuff at the 2018 SHOT Show, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Photo by Barry Markowitz, 1/25/18]



## Mark Ruffalo leads counter-event to Trump State of the Union

NEW YORK (AP) — Celebrities and activists have taken part in an evening of speeches and music in Manhattan billed as "The People's State of the Union." Monday's event was planned in response to President Donald Trump's first State of the Union address on Tuesday. It was held at The Town Hall, a historic venue founded as a meeting spot for suffragists more than 90 years ago. Speakers included Mark Ruffalo, Kathy Najimy, John Leguizamo and Democratic New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (dih BLAH'-zee-oh). Andra Day and Common sang their Grammy- and Oscar-nominated song "Stand Up for Something" from the film "Marshall."



## Appellate...

Continued from page 3

should thus reword its order to make it clear that the bond amount will only be used to provide transportation for the interim General Secretary during the appeals process; if the appellants are unsuccessful on appeal, then they will be removed from the General Secretary's house and the car or any money not spent on a rental vehicle for that time period should be returned to the appellants."

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# Florida police: 7-year-old restrained for punching teacher

MIAMI (AP) — School district officials in Florida said they followed standard protocol last week when a 7-year-old boy was placed in handcuffs and removed from his school — and they say it is the second time since the school year began that the first-grader had to be restrained after displaying aggressive behavior.

The latest episode happened Thursday, when a teacher at the Coral Way K-8 Center in Miami told the boy to stop playing with his food in the cafeteria. When the child refused to stop, he was taken from the cafeteria, according to an incident report from Miami-Dade County Public Schools police officer Munick Soriano.

The report said the boy hit the teacher repeatedly in the back when they were in a hallway outside the cafeteria. The child continued punching and kicking the teacher until

they both fell on the ground, according to the report, which also said he grabbed her hair.

The boy was hospitalized briefly at Miami Children's Hospital under the Florida Mental Health Act, based on behavioral criteria that indicated he could pose a threat to himself or others, school district officials said. Authorities later said it was the second time officers had resorted to handcuffing the student under the same law.

The child's mother, Mercy Alvarez, said her son doesn't have a mental disorder. Instead, she called her son's treatment "police abuse."

"If my child wasn't aggressive anymore when we got there, like they were saying he was before, why take such extreme measures?" she said.

Alvarez said her child didn't show aggressive behavior at home until the school year started; she said in past years

he had gotten good grades, participated in other activities and behaved well.

"This is too much for a boy that age to go through. It can't be a normal procedure," she said.

She recorded the incident of her son last week with her cellphone and shared it on Facebook, where it has been viewed nearly 3 million times.

In his report, Soriano wrote that another teacher and several students witnessed the incident, which was also captured on the school's surveillance camera. The boy's parents were notified and came to the school, the report said.

The child's father agreed with school officials that the child should be taken to a mental health facility, the report said. But the mother disagreed, telling officials nothing was wrong with her son. Alvarez

(Continued on page 12)

## ► Pacific...

Continued from page 4

### HIGH-TECH TOOLS FIGHT DENGUE

Some Pacific nations have been briefed on innovative tools they could use to try to combat mosquito-borne illnesses.

A recent TechCamp conference in Auckland brought together a variety of stakeholders to discuss new technology, from a NASA-developed GLOBE APP that can see minute details of any mosquito, to a drone that can assist with mapping.

One new app that's been successfully piloted in other countries has huge potential for small island states.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Dr Rebecca Levine said the app just needs a mobile device and users are given a unique barcode to log what is found in mozzie traps.

The free Epi Info Vector Surveillance app can be downloaded easily and is designed to be user-friendly.

"We are really hopeful that the success we saw in the Caribbean and Latin America could really be translated back here to be used in the Pacific."

One of these mosquito-borne diseases, dengue, is being closely monitored in Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna.

The CEO of the Zika Foundation, Michael Callaghan, said dengue was by far the most terrifying one compared to other illnesses like malaria, chikungunya and zika.

Dr Callaghan has worldwide expertise with mosquito borne diseases having visited many infectious zones around the world.

He said as well as a huge public health concern, economies take a hit too.

"It's a terrible disease that really hits communities at several levels more than just any terrible painful disease. I have had it. It's no fun. It keeps you out of work for a long time and it is also a big GDP killer affecting communities quite significantly."

Dr Callaghan said this disease carrying mosquito is the one to avoid being bitten by but climate change has impacted on its lifecycle, with larvae and eggs that would die in colder temperatures now surviving.

"So Aedes Aegypti mosquito is the posterchild as a primary beneficiary of climate change as it adapts and goes where people go, especially as cities are getting warmer."

The Cook Islands Ministry of Health's Valentino Wichman did not realise the disease carrying mosquito is drawn to certain island outfits, as well as odours.

"Like the colouring of the clothes you wear, the soaps you use, where you clean and where this type of Aedes mosquito flies and where on the body it is more attracted too."

"When you look at such behavioural factors of this mosquito, you can target better interventions."

Communicating key messages to communities is also important according to Mina Vilayleck, who heads up France's e-pop network that's also being piloted in New Zealand, New Caledonia Fiji and Vanuatu.

She said the network targets youth to seek answers to questions communities are asking, linking science, society and the media.

"So they produce little videos with their smart phones because every young person and student can have access to such tools now and they can use their phone to shoot little videos, 2 minutes max, to collect the feelings of any population facing an issue."

The TechCamp event was organised by the US Consulate in Auckland, with input from the University of Otago and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Participating countries included Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Niue, Cook Islands, Tonga, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

[Source: RNZI]

### WHO LOOKS AT EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The World Health Organization is launching a program to address the health effects of climate change in Small Island Developing States, including Fiji.

Fiji was represented by Philip Davies, Permanent Secretary for Health & Medical Services, in negotiating the agreement during a meeting of the Board in Geneva, Switzerland.

The programme will seek to ensure that health systems in these states are resilient to extreme weather and climate-sensitive disease by 2030.

It aims to support advocacy, providing evidence to justify investment, facilitate access to climate finance, and help to establish climate-resilient health facilities.

[Source: RNZI]



## LBJ TROPICAL MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Job Title:** CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)  
**Department:** Finance  
**Reports to:** CEO  
**Salary Range:** \$ 70,000.00 - \$ 85,000.00  
**Employment Status:** Contract Specialist

### Summary:

The American Samoa Medical Center Authority ASMA is currently seeking a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to join our management team responsible for the implementation of the American Samoa Medical Center Authority's healthcare improvement plans. The chosen candidate will be responsible for taking on a leadership role in financial decision-making that affects our healthcare institution, and will provide strategic financial input to senior management. While keenly overseeing the overall accounting process, the successful CFO will play a key role in developing and implementing financial procedures to improve and maintain the financial health of the LBJ Tropical Medical Center.

### Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Execute the financial strategy of the American Samoa Medical Center Authority aim to advance and improve the quality of its healthcare delivery system
- Manage financial controls and accounting procedures to ensure that all financial transactions are fully captured and properly reflected in all of American Samoa Medical Center's financials
- Ensure full transparency over the financial performance of the American Samoa Medical Center Authority (LBJ Tropical Medical Center).
- Provide advice on how to increase revenue and reduce costs to the CEO and subsequently to the Board of Directors
- Propose action plans to ensure that annual financial objectives are attained
- Support the CEO with the preparation of monthly, annual financial plans, and the annual budget plan.
- Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual financial reports for the review of the CEO and the Board of Directors
- Maintain speed and accuracy of billings and client payments
- Maintain the level of Accounts Payable complaint with industry standards to maintain the financial integrity of the American Samoa Medical Center Authority
- Ensure prompt and full collection of all Accounts Receivable setting the AR accumulation threshold to less than 30 days
- Prepare and submit Medicare Cost Annually in a timely manner

### Minimum Qualifications/Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or related field (MBA preferred)
- Professional accounting designation (CA, CMA, or CPA)
- 10+ years' experience in a senior financial managerial position with at least five (5) years in hospital or healthcare financial management
- Advanced computer skills, including proficiency in MS Office and Microsoft Dynamics CL financial reporting software
- Exceptional communication skills
- Results-oriented, strategic thinker and planner

### Compensation Range:

- The assigned range for the Chief Financial Officer Position is \$ 70,000.00 - \$85,000.00 and the final salary will be determined based on qualifications and years of practical experience.

### Duration for Application Solicitation:

The Deadline for filing applications will be **January 31, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.** All applications are to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer to undergo the standard vetting process with applications meeting the standard requirements transmitted to the Board for Directors for its review and decision.

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dba Samoa News is published Monday through Friday, except for some local and federal holidays.

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Please visit [samoanews.com](http://samoanews.com) for weekend updates.

## New editor named in latest Los Angeles Times shake-up

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In another newsroom shake-up at the Los Angeles Times, veteran Chicago journalist Jim Kirk was named editor in chief Monday to replace Lewis D’Vorkin, whose short tenure was marked by clashes with staff.

Kirk, 52, became the third top editor at the Times in less than six months. He had briefly served in the job on an interim basis during a management overhaul from August until November, when D’Vorkin joined the paper.

Kirk previously worked at the Chicago Tribune, Bloomberg News and Adweek.

He became publisher and editor of the Chicago Sun-Times after it was purchased in 2012 by Michael Ferro, who is now chairman of Tronc, Inc., the Los Angeles Times’ parent company. Kirk took the job at the Los Angeles Times just two weeks after being named interim editor of the New York Daily News. That job has now gone to Jim Rich, who will return to the paper after a stint with the Huffington Post.

Reporters at the Times have become alarmed by recent hiring of several news execu-

tives who reported to business executives — not to editors in the newsroom.

Those hires sparked fears that the business side would wield undue influence in editorial matters. Traditionally, the editorial and business sides of a paper work separately to maintain journalistic credibility.

Earlier this month, journalists at the Times voted to unionize for the first time in the paper’s 136-year history.

D’Vorkin, 65, will move into a new job as chief content officer for Tronc, developing content for digital and mobile consumers, according to company spokeswoman Marisa Kollias. He was chief product officer at Forbes until October.

“We are continuing to invest in high-quality journalism, which will always be the company’s top priority,” Justin Dearborn, Tronc’s chief executive, said in a statement,

Kirk will report to Tronc President Tim Knight.

The Times has seen years of staff cutbacks and management changes. D’Vorkin’s nearly three-month tenure as editor was marked by two combative newsroom-wide staff meetings.

## Agents stop semitrailer with 76 immigrants inside in Texas



This Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018, photo, provided by the U.S. Border Patrol shows a makeshift tunnel discovered during construction of a roadway near downtown El Paso, Texas, just north of the border with Mexico. Authorities are working to determine the origin and purpose of the tunnel. (U.S. Border Patrol via AP)

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — driver is in custody after he Authorities say a semitrailer was found to be transporting 76

immigrants in Texas.

The U.S. Border Patrol said in a statement Monday that the immigrants were discovered Friday at a checkpoint on U.S. 83, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of Laredo in South Texas. The semitrailer stopped in the checkpoint’s primary lane where the driver, a U.S. citizen, was questioned about his immigration status.

His rig was kept for further inspection, and agents found the immigrants inside the trailer.

The immigrants are from Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Thirteen were unaccompanied minors. The Border Patrol says all of them are in good health.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Nina Pruneda says the driver’s identity and other details about the case are being withheld at this time.



Mateo Barrera, 4 originally from El Salvador, whose family members benefit from Temporary Protected Status attend a news conference in Los Angeles, Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. The Trump administration said Monday it is ending special protections for Salvadoran immigrants, an action that could force nearly 200,000 to leave the U.S. by September 2019 or face deportation. El Salvador is the fourth country whose citizens have lost Temporary Protected Status under President Donald Trump. Salvadorans have been, by far, the largest beneficiaries of the program, which provides humanitarian relief for foreigners whose countries are hit with natural disasters or other strife. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

## House...

Continued from page 4

between minors and adults, except in emergencies.

The U.S. Center for Safe Sport was created by the U.S. Olympic Committee in March 2017 as a wholly independent body to investigate allegations of sexual misconduct in 47 various Olympic governing bodies. The legislation builds on that effort by requiring the organization to maintain an office that would develop training and oversight practices to prevent the abuse of athletes. Each of the

governing bodies for Olympic athletes such as USA Gymnastics and USA Swimming will work with the center to develop procedures for accepting complaints and reporting them to law enforcement. Feinstein met last year with some of the gymnasts alleging sexual abuse.

“Today is their day, and they should be proud that their decision to speak out has resulted in changes that will prevent the abuse of future generations of athletes,” Feinstein said.



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### PUBLIC JOB POSTING

Position Title	Procurement Specialist	Posting Date	January 30, 2018
Department	Procurement	Deadline	February 9, 2018, 4:00 pm
Division	Support Services	Pay Rate	\$14.06/hr - \$15.38/h4
Position Type	Career Service (12 months probation)	Job Grade/Status	H/5/B-H/7/B, Non-Exempt
Reports To	Procurement Supervisor		

Major Duties & Responsibilities

The Procurement Specialist is responsible for managing, administering, and maintaining contracts for ASPA. This position is responsible for assuring compliance with ASPA Contract Policy, drafting initial agreements as needed, reviewing and processing contracts from draft to final agreement, and maintaining a centralized contract database. The Procurement Specialist is also responsible for resolving any existing contract conflicts, serving as a liaison between internal and external parties during contract development and negotiation stages, performing legal research, and reviewing and making recommendations on outside contracts proposed to be entered into by ASPA. This position is also responsible for:

- Managing vendor relationships and overseeing order placement (including raw materials).
- Tracking overall spending and improving bidding processes.
- Performing price negotiations, purchase order creations, order tracking and management, and price dispute resolutions.
- Finding quality goods or services at an acceptable price that meets ASPA’s needs.
- Soliciting bids to procure a variety of required goods and services.
- Assisting with contract termination procedures.
- Performing basic analyses for firm fixed-price or similar contracts.
- Participating as a team member on an acquisition management review team or on an equivalent assignment.
- Conducting basic procurement procedures and techniques; performing commonly used contract methods and types related to pre-award, post-award and/or price/cost analysis functions to perform well-defined and precedent contract actions.
- Analyzing business practices and market conditions to evaluate bid responsiveness, contractor responsibility, and contractor performance.
- Presenting factual information; composing memoranda, minutes, and reports; drafting contract provisions and supporting documents.
- Soliciting sources of supply and analyzing prices, discount rates, delivery dates, transportation charges, previous performance, commitments and indications of financial responsibility, and recommending the most advantageous offer.
- Assigning work in terms of objectives, priorities and deadlines and providing additional assistance with new or unusual assignments.
- Planning and carrying out recurring work using established procedures, conferring with the supervisor or higher-level specialists as necessary on technical problems.
- Reviewing purchase orders, contracts, change orders, addendums etc. for accuracy and for compliance with the ASPA procurement rules.
- Renewing, preparing, authorizing, and/or recommending contract extensions, approving and verifying invoices and contract pay applications to be paid.
- Analyzing and maintaining up-to-date knowledge of market trends, pricing availability, capacity, technology and supplier capability relative to products and parts.

	Minimum Requirements
Education	Bachelor’s degree preferred and/or paralegal certification by diploma from accredited institution.
Experience	Three to five years experience in contract draft, review and/or administration is preferred. Additional experience including legal research with a focus on corporate and contract work is a plus.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be proficient in Windows and MS Office Programs, including Word, Excel and Access.</li> <li>Must be detail oriented, organized, have an ability to work independently and to multi-task</li> <li>Must possess knowledge of organizational documents and have ability to perform legal research.</li> <li>Must be personable, responsive, able to interact with attorneys and work with various other people in the Network including Senior Leaders, Department Directors and Administrators, as well as third parties.</li> </ul>

Qualified applicants: Please submit a completed ASPA Employment Application with a copy of your resume to ASPA (address listed above) by the deadline. Please attach copies of credentials and transcripts. Candidates selected for hire must pass examinations (when applicable), pre-employment clearances & test negative on employment drug test. ASPA reserves the right to waive education and experience requirements as necessary.

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**ASEPA**

**Aso o le Fa'asalalauaga: Ianuari 24, 2018**  
**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 Ianuari 23, 2018, ma fa'amaonia ai le i ai o siama (Enterococci) i gataifale o alalafaga nei:

Vatia  
Afono  
Fagasa-Fagale'a  
Utulei  
Utulei-DDW  
Fagaalu  
Nuuuli Pala Lagoon

Asili Stream Mouth  
Aua Stream Mouth  
Aua-Pouesi  
Laulii Stream Mouth  
Fagaitua  
Aoa

E fautuaina le mamalu o le atunu'u o lo'o fa'aaogaina 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 siama (Enterococci) mai numera ua fa'atapula'aina i le tulafono i ia vaega o ogasami. O nei siama e afua mai otaota po'o suava lafoa'i o tagata ma meaola. Afai ae o'o atu le faitau aofa'i o siama 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 fo'i ma manu'a o le tino pe a sao i ai le siama. Mo lou saogalemu: 'aua le inuina le suasami, ia fa'alana 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'aaogaina 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.

# US, Qatar reach agreement on subsidy spat with airlines



FILE- In this Jan. 15, 2015, file photo, a new Qatar Airways Airbus A350 approaches the gate at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany. The United States and Qatar have reached a deal to resolve a years-old quarrel over alleged airline subsidies, seven individuals familiar with the deal said Monday, as Qatar, Aōs government works to defuse tensions with the Trump administration.

(AP Photo/Michael Probst, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Qatar have reached a deal to resolve a years-old quarrel over alleged airline subsidies, seven individuals familiar with the deal said Monday, as Qatar's government works to defuse tensions with the Trump administration.

The agreement will see state-owned Qatar Airways agree voluntarily to open up its accounting books, the individuals said. U.S. airlines say the company receives billions of dollars in government payments that leave them at a competitive

disadvantage. Qatar will also make a loose commitment that the flag carrier won't launch flights to the United States from Europe or other non-Qatari cities, creating yet more competition for the U.S. airlines.

The individuals briefed on the agreement demanded anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss it ahead of a formal announcement, expected Tuesday when Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis meet with the visiting Qatari foreign and defense ministers.

Both sides of the dispute can claim the agreement as a victory — for very different reasons.

The U.S. airline industry can claim the increased transparency will create a powerful disincentive to unfair subsidies, as Qatar will no longer be able to mask such payments through creative accounting. The three major U.S. carriers — Delta Airlines, American Airlines and United Airlines — have spent huge sums over the last three years pressing the Obama

administration and Trump administration for tough action. They're eager to show a win.

Yet for Qatar, the agreement averts the more serious step U.S. airlines wanted: re-opening the so-called open-skies treaties that could lead to less favorable conditions for Persian Gulf airlines.

Qatar, denounced by President Donald Trump last year for allegedly funding terrorism, can also show it's cooperating closely and productively with U.S. regulators. That could help the tiny gas-rich kingdom draw a contrast with the United Arab Emirates, whose two airlines are also accused of improper subsidies but have yet to reach an agreement with Washington.

"Everybody gets to claim victory in this," said Helene Becker, an airline analyst for Cowen and Co.

Indeed, even before any announcement, American, the world's biggest airline by passenger traffic, praised the deal as a way to "thoughtfully address" Qatari subsidies. And United CEO Oscar Munoz applauded the agreement while thanking Trump's administration for "effectively representing the interests of the American aviation industry."

Though on the same side of the airline dispute, Qatar and the UAE oppose each other in a bitter, unrelated standoff. Last year, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations blockaded Qatar after accusing it of supporting extremism and fomenting dissent throughout the region. Qatar hopes to change that narrative by enhancing counterterrorism cooperation and allowing greater U.S. visibility into its finances and banking practices.

In an eight-paragraph document...  
(Continued on page 14)



**American Samoa Government  
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT**

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) RFP-024-2018

Issuance Date: January 16, 2018

Date & Time Due: February 16, 2018  
No later than 2:00p.m (local time)

The American Samoa Government (ASG) issues a Request For Proposals (RFP) from qualified firms to provide:  
**"Development of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the American Samoa Government"**

**Submission**

Original and five copies of the Qualifications must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "RFP-024-2018: Development of CEDS for the ASG." Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), February 16, 2018:

Office of Procurement  
American Samoa Government  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
Attn: Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, CPO

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

**Document**

The RFP Scope of Work outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Office of Procurement, Tafuna, American Samoa, during normal working hours.

**Review**

Request for Proposal data will be thoroughly reviewed by an appointed Source Evaluation Board under the auspices of the Chief Procurement Officer, Office of Procurement, ASG.

**Right of Rejection**

The American Samoa Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities in the submitted proposals that are not in the best interests of the American Samoa Government or the public.

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**DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON**  
Chief Procurement Officer

## ► Florida...

Continued from page 10

said the officer was threatening to take the child to jail if they didn't agree to have him taken to a mental health facility for an evaluation.

The teacher told the officer her back was hurting after the incident but she didn't have any visible injuries. She told officials she intends to press charges, the report said.

School district spokeswoman Jaquelyn Calzadilla said in an email that the boy wasn't actually arrested but "restrained for transport."

Ian Moffett, the school district's police chief, said in a statement that it was "rare for students this young to be Baker Acted," referring to a Florida law that allows police and certain other officials to initiate an involuntary institutionalization for a psychological evaluation.

"However this action was warranted to prevent his erratic

and violent behavior from bringing further harm to others or himself," the statement said.

Moffett said the officer followed standard operating procedures in taking the child to the hospital. However, the district's Professional Compliance Unit is investigating the incident.

Later Monday, school district officials released a report showing this was the second time the boy had been restrained at school and taken to the same hospital for an examination. According to the report, the student punched students and staff members on Nov. 30 and acted aggressively toward Soriano when he responded.

The district says the boy was allowed to ride with a parent to the hospital that time. Alvarez said neither she nor the child's father was allowed to accompany him, either in November or last week.

# Trial starts for woman charged with killing her twin



**FILE -** In this Nov. 18, 2016 file photo, Alexandria Duval walks into Albany County Court in Albany, N.Y. A murder trial is underway for Duval, accused of deliberately driving off a cliff in Hawaii and killing her identical twin sister. Duval's defense attorney Birney Bervar says in his opening statement Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 in Wailuku, Hawaii, the crash was a tragic accident. Bervar says there's reasonable doubt of any criminal behavior. A judge instead of a jury is hearing testimony and is expected to reach a verdict this week. Authorities described the 2016 crash as a hair-pulling fight over the steering wheel. Anastasia Duval died, and her sister was arrested.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll, File)

# Significant ash falls near erupting Philippine volcano



Molten lava flows down the slopes of Mayon volcano during its mild eruption as seen from Legazpi city, Albay province, south-east of Manila, Philippines Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018. Mayon's lava fountaining has flowed up to 3 kilometers (1.86 miles) from the crater in a dazzling but increasingly dangerous eruption.

(AP Photo/Bogie Calupitan)

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP) — A significant amount of ash has fallen on towns near the

Philippines' most active volcano after energetic eruptions of lava from the crater.

Mount Mayon in north-eastern Albay province has been erupting more than two weeks, and 84,000 people who fled are staying in schools and other crowded shelters.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said one large lava eruption lasted more than an hour and a half late Monday. The ash plume reached 1.5 kilometers (.9 miles) above the crater and caused significant ashfall in the towns of Camalig and Guinobatan.

The government has raised the possibility of creating a permanent "no man's land" around Mayon, a complicated proposal that would affect thousands.

Provincial leaders say disaster funds are running low and supplies like facemasks will be depleted.

WAILUKU, Hawaii (AP) — A murder trial began Monday for a woman accused of deliberately driving off a cliff in Hawaii and killing her identical twin sister.

The 2016 crash was a tragic accident, Alexandria Duval's defense attorney, Birney Bervar said in his opening statement. There's reasonable doubt of any criminal behavior, he said.

Authorities described the 2016 crash as a hair-pulling fight over the steering wheel. The sisters, who were 38 at the time, were seen arguing on the narrow, winding Hana Highway on the island of Maui before their SUV plunged 200 feet over a cliff.

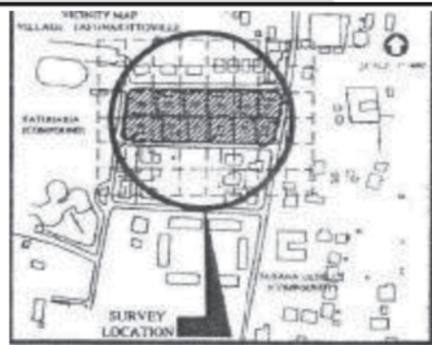
Anastasia Duval was in the passenger seat and was killed, and her sister Alexandria Duval was arrested. A judge later ordered Alexandria Duval released after finding no probable cause for a murder charge. She traveled to upstate New York and was arrested again months later in Albany after a grand jury indicted her.

Duval opted to have a judge instead of a jury decide the case. The judge is expected to reach a verdict this week.

Maui resident Chad Smith testified that while the women were passing him on the highway he could see them arguing. Smith, who was headed to a church, said he couldn't hear anything but the women looked angry. He had to swerve out of their way, he said.

The sisters, born Alison and Ann Dadow in the Utica, New York, area, operated popular yoga studios in Florida before they changed their names. They moved to Hawaii in 2015 from Utah.

Duval isn't expected to testify, Bervar said.



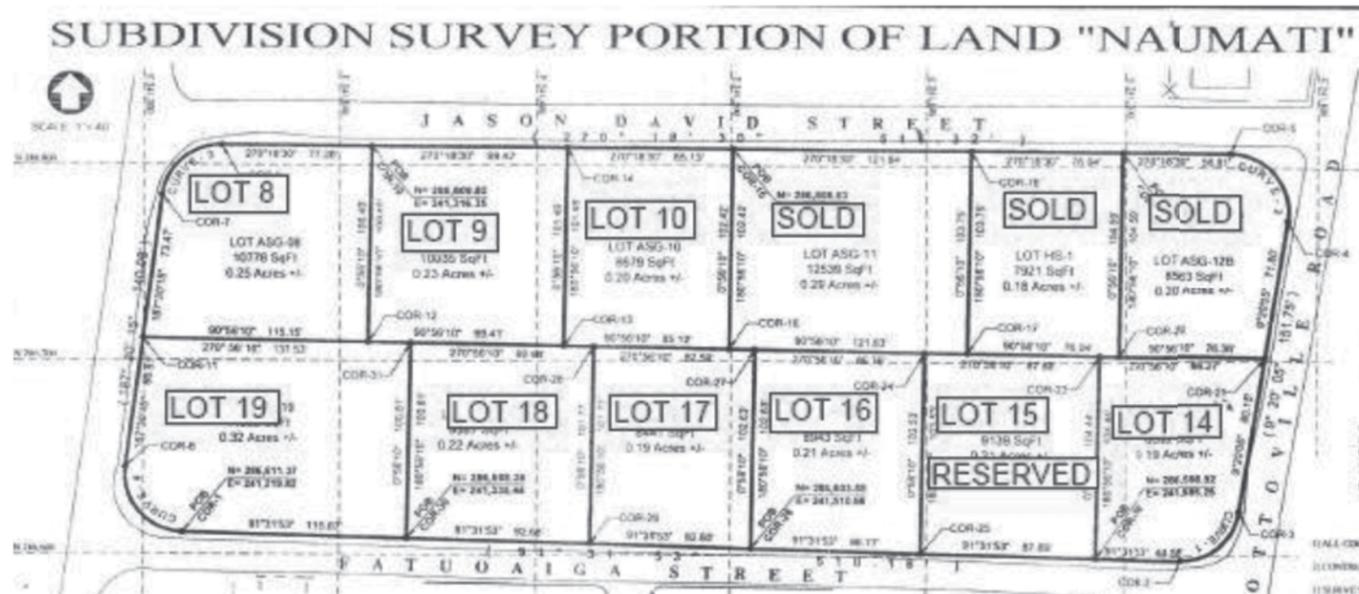
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# Ex-detectives testify about force's robberies, extortions



*FILE - This undated file photo provided by the Baltimore Police Department shows Wayne Jenkins. The former leader of a specialized unit of Baltimore's police force will plead guilty in a corruption case. The Baltimore Sun reported Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018, that Jenkins will enter a guilty plea Friday in federal court in Baltimore. The Sun says his lawyer confirmed the plea.*

(Baltimore Police Department via)

BALTIMORE (AP) — Two former Baltimore detectives testified Monday about a series of brazen robberies and other illegal activities by a rogue police unit as the second week of a high-profile racketeering trial got underway.

Indicted ex-detectives Jemell Rayam and Evodio Hendrix, who each face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, took the stand in U.S. District Court in Baltimore clad in jail jumpsuits. They are among six former policemen who have pleaded guilty and among four who are cooperating with the government during the trial of two detectives fighting corruption charges.

Rayam testified about a July 2016 robbery of a married couple who were handcuffed after leaving Home Depot and

taken to a police substation nicknamed "The Barn," even though there was no evidence they had committed any crime. The indictment alleges that Gun Trace Task Force supervisor Sgt. Wayne Jenkins posed as a federal official during their interrogation.

After Ronald Hamilton disclosed he had about \$40,000 in cash at the couple's house outside the city, Gun Trace Task Force detectives drove the handcuffed couple to their Carroll County property, called a relative to pick up their children, and then scoured the house looking for cash, according to Rayam. Before detaining the couple, Jenkins submitted an affidavit asking for authorization to search the home based on phony surveillance that never took place. They robbed \$20,000 before calling other law enforcement agencies to the couple's home, Rayam testified, saying he "took the cash and put it in the (police) vehicle we were driving." Maryland State Police was called to execute a search warrant because the Baltimore unit was outside the city and therefore this was an out-of-jurisdiction warrant for the detectives.

Prosecutors allege they just wanted to rob the couple based on suspicions they were drug dealers - not actual evidence.

Even after the search of their home, the couple was not charged with having committed any crime, according to indictment. Rayam testified the detectives divvied up the money and went celebrating that night at two casinos. Earlier in the day, Hendrix testified about a \$100,000 robbery from a safe following a home invasion that prosecutors say involved Detective Marcus Taylor. He said Taylor held the camera during the subsequent staging of police

body-camera video to make it seem like legitimate police business.

Hendrix testified that Taylor used part of his \$20,000 share from that illegal payday to build a deck at his town house.

Taylor and Detective Daniel Hersl have pleaded not guilty to charges of racketeering and robbery. Echoing the opening testimony of another indicted detective last week, Hendrix described squad supervisor Jenkins as a highly energetic dirty cop, always on the lookout for "monsters" — a term they used for drug dealers with a lot of loot to rob. Jenkins kept two duffel bags at the ready with gear including black ski masks, a grappling hook, a sledgehammer, and a machete, according to Hendrix.

"Jenkins said he had all that stuff in the car in case he ran into a monster, someone with a lot of money and drugs," he testified. Under cross-examination, Hendrix agreed that Jenkins was perceived as an untouchable "golden boy" within the department because the Gun Trace Task Force did manage to seize illegal guns. According to Hendrix, Jenkins told his squad members that then-Commissioner Kevin Davis knew that he was giving them overtime whenever an illegal gun was seized. The members are accused of defrauding their department for years with bogus overtime claims, including while they were on vacation in places such as South Carolina and the Dominican Republic.

Todd Edwards, an agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Baltimore, testified that during a 2016 stakeout Jenkins got out of a vehicle with tinted windows and knocked on Edwards' car window at a parking lot in southern Maryland.

## US, Qatar...

*Continued from page 12*

ment laying out "understandings" between Qatar and the U.S., the Gulf nation will commit within one year to releasing audited financial statements for Qatar Airlines "in accordance with internationally-recognized accounting standards," according to a text of the agreement obtained by The Associated Press. Within two years, Qatar Airways is to disclose any transactions with other state-owned entities, such as caterers or other companies that support airline operations, closing what the U.S. airlines have claimed is a backdoor used by Gulf nations to hide illicit subsidies.

A side-letter to the agreement will state that Qatar's civilian aviation authority is unaware of any plans by Qatar Airlines to start so-called "Fifth Freedoms"

flights — routes from third countries to the United States. Under the scenario U.S. airlines fear, Qatar Airways could offer flights from its Doha hub to, say, Paris or London, stop to pick up more passengers, then fly on to New York.

The side-letter only says there are no current plans to operate such service. That's short of a binding guarantee. There's also no commitment Qatar Airways won't expand its offering of Qatar-U.S. flights.

"This appears to be the administration essentially throwing a meatless bone to the three U.S. carriers to put an end to their rants against the Gulf carriers," said John Byerly, who was the chief open skies negotiator in the Obama administration and has also consulted for Emirates Airline and UPS.

The two UAE airlines — Dubai-based Emirates and Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways — aren't a party to the U.S.-Qatar agreement. Emirates Airline currently offers "Fifth Freedom" flights in which passengers can fly from New York-area airports to Milan, Italy or Athens without ever setting foot in the UAE. All three Gulf airlines have long denied receiving unfair government subsidies. A Qatari government spokesman declined to comment on the agreement. There was no immediate reaction from either Emirates or Etihad. A State Department official said the U.S. planned to pursue talks with the Emiratis and address subsidy concerns. An individual familiar with planning for those talks said they could begin within weeks.

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# Striking Amazon 'Spheres' landmark opens in downtown Seattle



Jeff Bezos, third from left, the CEO and founder of Amazon.com, takes a walking tour of the Amazon Spheres, three plant-filled geodesic domes that serve as a work- and gathering place for Amazon employees, following a grand opening ceremony, Monday, Jan. 29, 2018, in Seattle. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

SEATTLE (AP) — From the fourth floor of a striking rainforest-like conservatory built of glass and white steel in downtown Seattle, Amazon.com boss Jeff Bezos turned toward the top of his newest headquarters building to summon his favorite assistant.

In a proud little show on Monday for the media and dignitaries — which also doubled as product placement for Amazon's voice assistant — the world's richest man ordered out loud, symbolically: "Alexa, open The Spheres."

The domed structure is only steps away from the executive office tower where Bezos leads the online retail behemoth. It's part of the company's urban campus near downtown Seattle that is largely made up of unmarked office buildings where more than 40,000 people report to work.

The four-story Spheres structure from the outside looks like three connected glass orbs planted into the ground in a caterpillar shape. Lighting mimics

a position near the equator, with 12 hours of shade and sun. During the day, the interior is maintained at 72 degrees with 60 percent humidity, to emulate a cloud forest ecosystem.

Amazon's Amazonesque rainforest-like conservatory is now home to more than 40,000 plants from 50 countries on five continents. Its centerpiece is a 50-foot (15.2-meter) fig tree. Most plants will flower and some can yield fruit, though visitors must keep their hands off all plant life. About 90 percent of the plants were grown and tended to in a suburban greenhouse for years in anticipation for their permanent home in The Spheres.

Though masked by nature, the sleek and minimalist "alternative work space" is also designed to make you forget you're at work, in a startup environment that is rumored to be aggressively demanding.

"The idea is that we connect them with nature. We get them away from their normal desk environment so you don't see

any desks or cubicles around," said Ron Gagliardo, Amazon's leading horticulturist.

The corporate office space, however selfie-worthy, is already such a hit that the company had to create a reservation system to contain the flow of traffic for the time being. Employees will have to snag a reservation to get in but it's currently already booked out until April. The building has capacity for about 1,000 people but is more comfortable with about 800 at a time.

Once inside, workers can use nooks with tables and chairs that can serve as a casual meeting space. Coffee breaks can be taken in a cafe and "picnic" area offering an interior reprieve from Seattle's unrelenting rainy season.

Critics have called the Spheres a vanity project, illustrating Seattle's sometimes strained relationship with its largest employer. The company's presence has changed the local economy and raised its cost of living — but none of that was on show at the unveiling of the Spheres.

Instead, Bezos received glowing praise from the governor, mayor and county officials for his recent commitments to the city's homelessness crisis plus a personal donation of \$33 million to a scholarship foundation that helps immigrant youth in the country illegally.

Bezos was coy when asked by The Associated Press whether the company's much-anticipated second headquarters to be built in an undetermined U.S. city will have another statement building space like the Spheres, saying: "We'll see."

# House intel committee votes to release classified memo

WASHINGTON (AP) — Brushing aside opposition from the Justice Department, Republicans on the House intelligence committee voted Monday to release a classified memo that purports to show improper use of surveillance by the FBI and the Justice Department in the Russia investigation. The four-page memo has become a political flashpoint, with President Donald Trump and many Republicans pushing for its release and suggesting that some in the Justice Department and FBI have conspired against the president. The memo was written by Republicans on the committee, led by chairman Rep. Devin Nunes of California, a close Trump ally who has become a fierce critic of the FBI and the Justice Department. Special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign was involved. Republicans have said the memo reveals grave concerns about abuses of the government surveillance powers in the Russia investigation. Democrats have called it a selectively edited group of GOP talking points that attempt to distract from the committee's own investigation into Russian meddling. The vote to release the memo is an unprecedented move by the committee, which typically goes out of its way to protect classified information in the interest of protecting intelligence sources and methods. The memo was delivered by courier to the White House on Monday evening. Trump now has five days to object to its release by the committee. The White House said late Monday that the president will meet with his national security team and

White House counsel to discuss the memo in the coming days.

Republicans said they are confident that the release won't harm national security. They also said they would not release the underlying intelligence that informed the memo.

"You'll see for yourself that it's not necessary," said Texas Rep. Mike Conaway of Texas, who's leading the House's Russia investigation.

But Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said the panel had "crossed a deeply regrettable line."

"Today this committee voted to put the president's personal interests, perhaps their own political interest, above the national interest," he said, noting that the memo's release could compromise intelligence sources and methods. While Trump's White House signaled he would likely support the Republican memo's release, his Justice Department has voiced concerns. In a letter to Nunes last week, Justice officials said releasing the classified memo could be "extraordinarily reckless" and asked to review it. Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd suggested that releasing classified information could damage the United States' relationship with other countries with which it shares intelligence. After those complaints, FBI Director Christopher Wray reviewed the memo over the weekend. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., who was with Wray when he reviewed the memo, said the FBI director did not raise any national security concerns with him. Gowdy said the memo doesn't reveal any intelligence methods but it does reveal "one source."

# Blue moon, supermoon, total lunar eclipse rolled into one



FILE - In this Aug. 28, 2007, file photo, the moon takes on different orange tones during a lunar eclipse seen from Mexico City. During a lunar eclipse, the moon's disk can take on a colorful appearance from bright orange to blood red to dark brown and, rarely, very dark gray. On Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018, a super moon, blue moon and a lunar eclipse will coincide for first time since 1982 and will not occur again until 2037. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The moon is providing a rare triple treat this week.

On Wednesday, much of the world will get to see not only a blue moon and a supermoon, but also a total lunar eclipse, all rolled into one. There hasn't been a triple lineup like this since 1982 and the next won't occur until 2037. The eclipse will be visible best in the western half of the U.S. and Canada before the moon sets early Wednesday morning, and across the Pacific into Asia as the moon rises Wednesday night into Thursday.

The U.S. East Coast will be out of luck; the moon will be setting just as the eclipse gets started. Europe and most of Africa and South America also will pretty much miss the show. A blue moon is the second full moon in a month. A supermoon is a particularly close full or new moon.

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American Samoa native who is also Oakland Raiders Defensive Back #26, Shalom Luani (far right) pictured with his mother, Niukini Luani (second from right) along with his two siblings during a brief visit to the Samoa News office yesterday. He returned to Oakland last night after more than a week in the territory, visiting family and friends. [photo: Leua Aiono Frost]



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## Asian shares lower, tracking modest pullback on Wall Street

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were lower Tuesday following Wall Street's biggest loss in more than four months.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.6 percent to 23,477.26 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged 0.1 percent lower to 32,922.11. South Korea's Kospi was flat at 2,598.11. The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.3 percent to 3,510.85 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 gave up 0.3 percent to 6,054.30. Shares were lower in Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia.

WALL STREET: The sell-off was led by technology stocks, the biggest gainers in 2017, which accounted for much of the slide. Energy companies also fell as crude oil prices finished lower. Utilities and other rate-sensitive sectors declined as bond yields hit their highest level in almost four years. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.7 percent to 2,853.53 and the Dow Jones industrial average also dropped 0.7 percent, to 26,439.48. The Nasdaq composite lost 0.5 percent, to 7,466.51. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 0.6 percent to 1,598.11. Losers outnumbered gainers almost five-to-one on the New York Stock Exchange.

TRUMP: Also on investors' radar: Tuesday night's State of the Union address by President Donald Trump, and a two-day meeting of the Federal Reserve's policymaking committee that wraps up Wednesday. "This is one of the few prepared speeches that the president will give."

