

Cabinet told no leave,  
no travel stay on island  
for FY 2018 budget **Page 4**

Samala pea ta'ita'i o  
le malo i fa'atauli e  
fa'atatau i fualaau **Le Lali**

Summer  
basketball league  
closes **Sports**



Brian Benjamin Loma when he was interviewed by the media outside the High Court last Friday, after Chief Justice Michael Kruse granted the government's motion to dismiss the case against him. [photo: AF]



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## Loma case dismissed

CJ KRUSE: COURT DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE "FAGOGO" FROM AG'S OFFICE

by Ausage Fausia  
Samoa News Reporter

A Hawaiian Airlines passenger from Colorado who was arrested for possession of marijuana back in September 2015 is now a free man, after Chief Justice Michael Kruse granted the government's motion to dismiss the case against him last Friday. Assistant Attorney General Gerald Murphy asked for a dismissal of the case due to the government being unable to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. However, when Murphy went to explain the government's other reasons, the Chief Justice cut him off — saying the court is granting the government's request to dismiss the case against Loma without prejudice for lack of (Continued on page 6)

## How far does American Samoa have to go to get a bank?

### PART II: A CRISIS IN THE MAKING

By Rob Blackwell  
Washington Bureau Chief for American Banker  
(Reprinted with permission)

American Samoa is one of the United States' most far-flung — and forgotten — U.S. territories. Acquired by the U.S. in 1899 as part of a deal with Germany and Great Britain, it operates in a nebulous area somewhere between statehood and independence. It has its own democratically elected legislature and governor, but all laws must be approved by the U.S. president, who retains the power to dissolve the legislature. Its people are not American citizens, but American nationals, with the right to live and work in the states. It is one of only two U.S. properties in the southern hemisphere, with the other being the uninhabited Jarvis Island.

Despite this, American Samoa has the sixth-highest rate of enlistment in the U.S. armed forces per capita of any state or territory. That is at least partly because of a lack of economic opportunity on the island. American Samoa has only two main industries: tuna fishing and tourism. The island's modern banking history has been centered on two institutions: Bank of Hawaii and ANZ. But Bank of Hawaii, which had done business in the territory since 1969, shocked the island's government when it announced in late 2012 that it was pulling out of the island, citing American Samoa's "geographic isolation" from its other markets. "Bank of Hawaii was so dominant over here (Continued on page 7)



The 18-person NPS crew and leader who left to fight wildland fires in California. See story inside.

[courtesy photo]





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# High Court asked to suppress Yandall's statements made during police interviews

by Ausage Fausia  
Samoa News Reporter

The Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa has taken under advisement a motion to suppress statements made by 87-year old Joseph T. Yandall to police when they interviewed him twice — in November 2016 and on March 07, 2017.

The court has also taken under advisement a second motion, to reduce the bond amount from \$75,000 to \$45,000.

Yandall, who is out on \$75,000 surety bond, is facing charges in a case involving two minor females.

He made his initial appearance in District Court earlier this year in May.

According to court information, Yandall is charged with one count of child molestation, a class A felony punishable by imprisonment of not less than 10 years and not more than 30 years.

He is also charged with one count of attempted kidnapping and attempted sexual abuse in the first degree — both felonies.

During the hearing, the government called three Department of Public Safety police officers as their main witnesses, while the defense did not call any witness.

After the facts were presented to the court, the defense said it believes the way the police officers conducted their interviews with her client was not done properly, instead they were done in a way that made her client feel that he was under the custody of police officers, and he was not free to leave the rooms during any of his interviews.

## HEARING

It was revealed during the hearing that sometime in November 2016 two police officers went to Yandall's residence in Iliili, to ask him if he could come to the police station to discuss a complaint.

DPS Officer Mafina Seva'aetasi was the government's first witness — she was one of the two officers who visited Yandall at his home; and, according to Seva'aetasi's testimony, the defendant did not answer when they first knocked on his door, but during their third attempt, Yandall answered and opened the door.

The DPS officer said it was then that they asked the defendant to come to the Tafuna sub-station and he agreed to go.

When he arrived at the station, Yandall was told to wait in the Conference Room, where his interview was conducted by Seva'aetasi, who said it was then she informed Yandall about the purpose of the interview — that she was conducting an investigation into a complaint filed by a female victim against him.

DPS Officer Seva'aetasi said before the interview started, she first introduced herself to the defendant, and also informed him that he was not under arrest nor in custody of the police, and he was free to leave the room whenever he wanted to.

The court then heard that Yandall gave a verbal statement to the DPS officer about his side of the story, and it was at that time she made a decision to refer the case to the DPS Criminal Investigation Division (CID).

Detective Fiailoa Moafanua, who was the second witness for the government, was assigned

to the case.

During her cross-examination, defense attorney Gwen Tauiliili-Langkilde asked the witness about the type of training she has received during her 7 years as a police officer, and what type of questions she can ask during an interview with a suspect like her client. Seva'aetasi replied that she didn't receive any specific training about how to conduct interviews with suspects, but she had received training during the Police Academy on how to investigate certain matters and the type of questions she can ask a suspect.

When asked by the defense counsel about how she started her investigation into the matter, Seva'aetasi said that it was after the first female victim filed her complaint against the defendant, and she went to her supervisor, DPS Lt. Letuli to ask permission to go to the defendant's house and ask him to come to the police station to discuss the said matter — which he did voluntarily.

The leading investigating officer, DPS Det. Moafanua stated in her sworn testimony that it was on the morning of March 07, 2017 that she called the defendant for a chance to come to the police station in Fagatogo to discuss the matter against him. Yandall agreed and voluntarily came to the police station in Fagatogo for an interview.

When Yandall arrived, she said she asked Detective Poutoa I'amanu Jr. to assist her with the interview, which was carried out in the training room behind the Commissioner's Office.

DPS Det. Moafanua revealed in her testimony that before the

(Continued on page 6)



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Some residents of Hope House, pictured Tuesday along with Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago Vicar General, Monsignor Viane Etuale (middle); senior members of the Hope House board, and two officers from the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago's Mafutaga Tina group, which made a \$5,000 donation in support of the Hope House 30th Anniversary celebration this year. Hope House board member and 30th Anniversary Committee chair, Larry Sanitoa said during the brief presentation ceremony that the Mafutaga Tina is one of the many organizations and societies within the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago, and it is composed of a group of strong, faithful and committed women from every parish. "Aside from prayer meetings, they do a variety of charitable work and religious social events for each parish and the Diocese," he said. "This is not the first time the Mafutaga Tina has donated to Hope House. In fact, they have generously donated not just monetarily, but also helped meet other needs of the Nazareth/Hope House for many years." Both Sanitoa and Hope House board chairman Ta'afano Joe Tavale thanked the Mafutaga Tina for their continued support and work within the Diocese. Making the presentation was Monsignor Viane Etuale, who was accompanied by Mafutaga Tina secretary Luana Tavale and treasurer Dr. Annie Fuavai. More local businesses and organizations are expected to make monetary contributions to Hope House, which is the only facility of its kind in American Samoa providing 24-7 care for elderly patients, the terminally ill, and children with severe physical and mental disabilities.

[photo: Hope House]



# Dr. Mikaele Etuale resigns from ASCC

by Samoa News staff

American Samoa Community College’s Vice President of Administration and Finance, Dr. Mikaele Etuale has tendered his resignation but no additional information is available on the reason for him leaving and when exactly he tendered his resignation. Dr. Etuale has worked at ASCC for several years, and was recently recognized, along with his colleagues, for their work in guiding the College’s overall efforts to fulfill its mission.

An Aug. 1st memo to staff from ASCC president Dr. Rosevonne M. Pato revealed the resignation.

The memo states that effective Aug. 1st, with the resignation of the Vice President of Administration and Finance, the divisions of Finance, Procurement, Human Resources and the Bookstore will be placed under the direct supervision of the ASCC President.

The memo didn’t identify Dr. Etuale by name but his role at ASCC has been common knowledge in the community and in the news media.

The letter also states that the divisions of MIS and PFM and Printing Service will be under the direct supervision of Vice President Dr. Lina Galea’i-Scanlan who oversees Academics and Student Affairs.

According to the memo, all matters pertaining to the divisions of Agriculture, Community, and Natural Resources (ACNR), Samoan Studies Insti-

tute (SSI), University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), Adult Education Literacy & Extended Learning (AELEL) and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will be under the shared supervision of the President and Vice President.

Furthermore, all matters regarding ASCC’s new Multi-Purpose Center will continue to be under the direct supervision of the President.

The memo revealed that the ASCC director of Physical Facilities Management (PFM) Loligi Seumanutafa, resigned last month and the PFM division is now under the supervision of acting director Lokeni Lokeni.

“Please afford your cooperation to the individuals who will be implementing these changes in supervision until further notice,” the memo concluded.



Samoan woven baskets full of handicrafts produced by the participants of the Children’s Cultural Maintenance Summer Program which concluded last week. After performing skits and dance numbers, the kids were presented with baskets full of everything they made, including woven bracelets, hats, and drawings.

[photo: Mark Espiritu]

## 1980s rapper Kidd Creole arrested in fatal stabbing

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the founding members of the 1980s hip hop group Grandmaster Flash and The Furious Five was arrested in New York in connection with the fatal stabbing of a homeless man, police said. Nathaniel Glover, 57, also known as The Kidd Creole, was arrested Wednesday night on murder charges. Information on his lawyer wasn’t immediately available. The stabbing happened in midtown Manhattan shortly before midnight on Monday. Police said the 55-year-old victim was found with multiple stab wounds to his torso. It’s not clear what sparked the stabbing.

Police described the victim, who lived in a shelter, as a level 2 sex offender. His identity has not yet been released. Video shows a handcuffed Glover, his gray hair pulled back into a tightly-wound pony tail, being escorted out of a police precinct Wednesday night.



# SAMOA NEWS

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# Cabinet told no leave, no travel

STAY ON ISLAND FOR FY 2018 BUDGET HEARINGS!

by Fili Sagapolutele  
Samoa News Correspondent

Cabinet members have been informed that there is no more travel and/or leave from now until the end of the upcoming fiscal year 2018 budget hearings, according to a memo from the Governor's Chief of Staff, Fiu J. Saelua to all cabinet directors.

The Aug. 1st memo first mentions a cabinet meeting take place on Aug. 10th at the Department of Agriculture Conference room. "Only directors and acting directors including presidents and executive directors" of ASG authorities and entities "are to attend," the memo says.

It further states: "This memo also serves as notification that there shall be no more travel and/or leave taken by cabinet members from now until the end of the upcoming budget hearings." Fiu thanked cabinet members for their usual support and cooperation.

The Fono is currently on their mid-session four-week recess and will reconvene on Aug. 21st. Their priority at the time will be the review, debate, and approval of the FY 2018 budget, which goes into effect Oct. 1, 2017

Lawmakers took the mid-session recess to await the Administration's submission of the annual fiscal budget, in which the ceiling is set at 90% of the approved FY 2017 budget — for local revenues.

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga has stressed in the past the need for cabinet directors to remain on island during budget hearings, as the Fono will not accept anyone, even a deputy director, to testify. Only the agency director, head of an ASG entity, or the executive director is acceptable.

But there have been times when the Fono had to reschedule a department or office's budget hearing because the director was off island, and this has made lawmakers very unhappy.

Upon receiving the budget, the Fono will start scheduling budget hearings with the official letter and schedule of hearing dates then sent to the Governor's Office. The letter always states that the Fono budget committees will only accept testimony from the director of the agency and no one else.

The Fono would also request profit and loss statements from authorities but in the past years, some of those reports are not submitted, and that has angered committee members who want to know specific revenue details from the previous fiscal year.

What's unconfirmed for this year, is whether the Fono will hold a joint committee budget hearing and if it's jointly, where is it going to be held, because the Senate sessions and hearings are at the Samoan Guest Fale at the Fono compound, while the House is currently utilizing the north wing of the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium (fale laumei).



by Samoa News Staff  
**ADOPT-A-SCHOOL**

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga's Adopt-a-School initiative is still in full effect, with government departments and agencies visiting their designated 'adopted schools' to start major clean-up efforts in preparation for the new school year which starts later this month.

The Governor's Office took the lead, heading to the eastside last month to carry out clean-up at Faga'itua High School.

Earlier this week, the Fono's Senate staff was seen mowing grass, painting, installing new screen wires for the windows, and power washing basketball courts at Afonotele and Mt. Alava Elementary School in Vatia.

Everything that was used to get the job done was paid for, and bought by the Fono.

Even the staff of the House of Representatives, have been busy, cleaning up the campus and classroom facilities at Alataua II Elementary School in the far west.

This week and next week, employees of other government departments and agencies will be out and about, conducting clean-up of schools that are assigned to their watch.

**LEONE ROAD PROJECT**

"It's about time." This is the comment from a Leone resident who uses the access road behind the Leone Catholic Church, which is currently undergoing a major repair job, being carried out by the crew from the Department of Public Works.

Senator Faiivae Iuli Alex Godinet, in collaboration with Fofu faipule Rep. Dorian Salave'a are the forces behind the work, which has garnered a lot of support from the village residents who frequent the area.

Samoa News has been informed that an estimated 200 people use this piece of road on a daily basis and "for many years" they have had to endure poor driving conditions including huge potholes and bumps.

The village has been informed, by Faiivae and council members to lend their support of the project and it is the Leone community members who are banning together to provide food and drinks for the road workers.

A special faafetai goes to DPW Assistant Director Luki Tuitasi whom is being credited for getting the ball rolling on what has been called a 'very

important, and much needed' project.

**MAASDAM'S FIRST CALL AT AMERICAN SAMOA**

David Vaeafe, executive director of the American Samoa Visitors Bureau, has announced that Holland America Line's Maasdam will make her maiden call to Pago Pago on October 10 during a 24-night cruise from San Diego to Sydney.

Vaeafe said the cruise ship will be in port again on December 10 on a 22-night return cruise from Auckland.

The ASVB executive also announced that HAL's Amsterdam will call into port on December 7 on a 26-night voyage from Sydney to San Diego.

According to him, there are now a total of seven ships scheduled to arrive in the territory throughout the rest of the year.

They are:  
Maasdam (October 10),  
Noordam (October 11),  
Emerald Princess (October 21),  
Norwegian Jewel (also making a maiden visit on October 30),  
Regatta (November 25),  
Amsterdam (December 7) and  
Maasdam (December 10).

(Source: Seatrade.com)



FILE - In this March 12, 2007, file photo, The Furious Five, from left, Scorpio, Melle Mel, Kidd Creole and Rahiem appear in the press room at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony in New York. The Furious Five is being inducted into the Hall of Fame with Grandmaster Flash. One of the founding members of the 1980s hip hop group Grandmaster Flash and The Furious Five has been arrested in New York in connection with the fatal stabbing of a homeless man. Police say 57-year-old Nathaniel Glover, also known as The Kidd Creole, was arrested Wednesday night, Aug. 2, 2017, on murder charges. (AP Photo/Stuart Ramson, File)

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# National Park of American Samoa crew heads to Northern California to fight wildlands fires

Pago Pago, American Samoa — An 18-person National Park of American Samoa crew and crew leader will be departing on Wednesday, August 2, from American Samoa to Northern California to fight wildland fires for 30 days. Once in California, the national park’s fire crew will receive their field assignment and work side-by-side with fire crews from across the nation.

“Our wildland firefighters represent a talented mix of employees from the national park, the American Samoa Government, and local businesses from both Tutuila and the Manu’a islands,” said Acting Superintendent Daniel George. “We are proud to send our crew to help protect natural resources and keep communities safe during this severe fire season on the mainland. The skill and dedication of our Samoan crew is well known and very much respected on the mainland and

fire crews there are eager for our crew to come join them in their work.”

The National Park of American Samoa has been sending fire crews to the mainland US for the past 17 years. In partnership with Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, the National Park of American Samoa trains staff and local government employees as well as local villagers in the skills required to fight fires at home and within other areas of the United States.

To become wildland firefighters, this crew had to complete rigorous training and pass a demanding written test. They also had to pass a fitness test that required the firefighters to walk three miles wearing a 45-pound pack in less than 45-minutes.



FILE - In this Oct. 3, 2015 photo, South Korean director Kim Ki-duk speaks during an interview at the Busan International Film Festival in Busan, South Korea. South Korean prosecutors are investigating award-winning film director Kim Ki-duk after an actress accused him of hitting her and trying to force her into shooting off-script sexual scenes while making a 2013 movie.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon, File)

# Prosecutors: S. Korean director investigated in abuse case

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean prosecutors are investigating award-winning film director Kim Ki-duk after an actress accused him of hitting her and trying to force her into shooting off-script sexual scenes while making a 2013 movie.

An official from the Seoul Central District Prosecutors’ Office on Thursday said the director will be questioned but it hasn’t been determined when.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because of office rules.

Ahn Byung-ho of the Federation of Korea Movie Workers’ Union said the actress dropped out from the filming of because of Kim’s alleged abuse and recently reported the case to the union after suffering from “psychological pain” for years.

The movie, “Moebius,” a dark and violent story about an estranged family, was released in 2013 after Kim finished filming with a different actress.

Kim and his production company did not answer repeated calls for comment. The Dong-A Ilbo newspaper reported that Kim told a reporter he had slapped the actress while instructing her acting, but he denied trying to force her into filming off-script scenes. Kim won the top prize in the Venice Film Festival with his 2012 film “Pieta,” a brutal mother-and-son tale of revenge and redemption.

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1. INVITATION

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DR. ORETA MAPU CRICHTON  
Chief Procurement Officer

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President Donald Trump, followed by Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., arrives in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, to unveil legislation that would place new limits on legal immigration.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

# Trump denies he called White House a ‘dump’

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump denied Wednesday that he called the White House a “dump.” Trump reportedly told the members he visits the property so frequently because “That White House is a real dump.” Trump has spent nearly every weekend of his presidency visiting various properties he owns and leases, including Bedminster. He is expected to leave Friday on his first extended vacation from Washington since the inauguration — a 17-day getaway to the Bedminster club.

Trump responded on Twitter to an article posted Tuesday on the website golf.com. The story recounts a scene in which Trump was chatting with some club members at his golf course in Bedminster, New Jersey. Trump took to Twitter Wednesday night to deny he made the remark. “I love the White House, one of the most beautiful buildings (homes) I have ever seen,” he tweeted. “But Fake News said I called it a

## ► Loma case dismissed...

Continued from page 1

prosecution.

“The court does not want to hear any more “fagogo” from your office”, Kruse said.

When asked by Kruse if he had any objections to the government’s motion, Loma, who represented himself in court for the second time, said he didn’t.

He then made his way outside of the court room with a smile on his face.

Samoa News asked the Ass’t AG to elaborate on the reasons why the government moved to dismiss Loma’s case. Murphy replied that the government received letters from two psychiatrists at the LBJ Hospital, confirming that Loma is a recovering crack cocaine addict, who suffers from chronic carpal tunnel and arthritis-like pain in his wrists due to injuries he sustained in a 2014 bicycling accident.

“After reviewing these letters from the two doctors at the LBJ Hospital, we believed that it would be a good decision to dismiss our case against the defendant,” said Murphy.

As a condition of the verbal agreement between the government and Loma, Murphy told Samoa News that Loma will depart the territory and remain outside for the rest of his life — he will not re-enter the territory again; and if he does, the government will immediately re-file this case against him.

When Samoa News asked for a copy of the agreement with Loma, Murphy said, “it was just a verbal agreement with the defendant.”

Murphy’s appearance in High Court last Friday was his last, as he did not renew his contract with the AG’s Office. He left island Monday night.

### LOMA’S REACTION

When asked how he felt about the case being dismissed, Loma said that he was really happy about the decision and he has faith in God that one day the truth will be revealed.

Speaking to the media outside the court house, Loma explained that he is a registered medical marijuana patient in his home state, and he traveled with his lawfully-prescribed, legally obtained medications from Denver, Colorado to American Samoa.

He also noted the lack of

warning signs inside the Honolulu Airport, to warn foreigners and travelers who are coming to American Samoa about how serious its laws are on drugs and illegal substances.

Kruse took over the case earlier this year in June. Prior to that, Associate Justice Lyle L. Richmond handled Loma’s case, and the last hearing was July 2016 when the High Court took under advisement a motion by the defendant to suppress evidence that the government collected when he was taken into custody.

Marijuana was found in Loma’s luggage after a Customs dog alerted to him as he was going through Customs clearance. The two Customs agents who discovered the prohibited substance on the night of September 11, 2015 were witnesses for the government.

Loma said his whole purpose for coming to the territory was to work on problems of plastic pollution and beach mitigation on the island.

He said that plastic pollution in the Pacific Ocean region exceeds 78 tons of waste, and there are dozens of local and international entities throughout the South Pacific seeking to develop remedies to this global catastrophe.

### BACKGROUND

Three months after Loma was arrested and charged by the government, Kruse called on the American Samoa Government to consider warning foreigners and the traveling public who enter the territory on how serious local law enforcement takes certain crimes — namely sexual assault and the unlawful possession of the controlled substance: marijuana.

His comments were made during the sentencing of the Don Bosco adult volunteer who was charged together with two Don Bosco students, who came to the territory as part of the contingent from Samoa to participate in the 2015 Flag Day festivities.

Kruse noted that bringing marijuana into the territory is punishable by five years in jail. He suggested that the Tourism Office disseminate this information so foreigners would know how serious the territory takes these crimes.

## ► High court...

Continued from page 2

interview started, they introduced themselves to the defendant, and notified him about the purpose of the interview, before reading him his constitutional rights.

The defendant said he understood his rights and he waived them before making a statement, and it was after he made a verbal and a written statement to police, that the defendant said he wanted to

talk to his lawyer.

Tauiliili-Langkilde asked Det. Moafanua how she got her client’s cell phone number, and she responded that another police officer, Maria Penitusi, who worked together with the defendant on another case, gave it to her.

The government’s third witness Det. I’amanu confirmed what Det. Moafanua said in her sworn testimony.



# ► How far does AS...

Continued from page 7

and such a good bank,” said Chee, who formerly worked for Bank of Hawaii both on and off American Samoa.

American Samoa pressured Bank of Hawaii to remain on the island for a few years until it could find a successor institution, though the bank wouldn’t stay indefinitely.

Finding another bank to take its place has been difficult. The government sought out other institutions that might want to have branches on the island, but any takers face logistical problems that are hard to overcome.

The chain of islands that make up the territory have roughly the same geographic footprint as Washington, D.C., but only a tenth of that city’s population. The island is thousands of miles away from the nearest other U.S. territory, with only two flights a week in or out. Just getting cash to fill up the ATMs is challenging. Internet service has been billed “the most expensive in America.”

“We went to all the banks in Hawaii — and also tried some banks in the states — but none were interested,” said Lulogologo J. Pereira, executive assistant to American Samoa Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga.

Eager to solve the problem, private investors in American Samoa tried to create a de novo of their own. Though they raised capital and applied to regulators for approval, that effort ultimately failed. It’s been nearly impossible since the financial crisis to charter a de novo institution. Many industry observers say the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.’s standards are too high, though federal regulators attribute the drought to a lack of demand.

That left just the Australian bank ANZ willing to remain in the territory. It serves American Samoa from its “local” headquarters in Guam, more than 3,500 miles away, and it was unwilling to significantly step up its presence on the island, though it recently expanded to 10 ATMs.

“All the lending and everything else goes out of Guam,” Pereira said. “It doesn’t give us a relationship to help develop the economy.”

With no bank willing to take over for the departing Bank of Hawaii, and the regulatory demands too high to form a privately owned institution, officials in American Samoa were struggling for an answer.

They found one in an unlikely place: the rural, landlocked state of North Dakota.

## A PUBLIC BANK

The Bank of North Dakota is unique in American history. Formed in 1919 in response to an agricultural crisis, it is not backed by the FDIC, but instead is run and supported by the state itself. Though other states formed public banks in the distant past, the Bank of North Dakota is the only one still operating.

By law, the state of North

Dakota deposits its tax revenues in the bank, and those funds are used to offer cheap agricultural, energy, and student loans to local businesses and consumers.

The bank is widely regarded as a success, straddling the line between offering banking services while not seeking to compete directly with private institutions. The \$7 billion-asset Bank of North Dakota works with 100 bank partners, provides only limited checking accounts to customers and has no branches.

“We’re not really competing with the private sector, but complementing them,” said Eric Hardmeyer, president of the Bank of North Dakota.

Though any resident of North Dakota can open a checking account at the bank, doing so is a no-frills experience. The bank doesn’t even offer debit cards.

“We’re not trying to be everything to everybody,” Hardmeyer said. “We’re the financiers of economic development for the state of North Dakota. We are really here to make North Dakota better.”

The bank has been profitable, earning record gains for the past 13 years, according to Hardmeyer. The profits go back to the state budget.

American Samoa officials saw an opportunity in the Bank of North Dakota’s model, a way to sidestep the need for an FDIC sign-off while still allowing for a full-fledged banking institution.

“We wanted to find a model that reflects our uniqueness. The only model that is out there is the Bank of North Dakota,” Chee said. “They are the epitome of what it’s like to be a community bank at the state level.”

Public banks are more common in the rest of the world, particularly developing countries.

“Quite often the public banks are the ones who are banking the poor, or bringing banking services outside of the major centers,” said Thomas Marois, senior lecturer of development studies at the University of London, who has studied public banks.

But state-run banks are anathema to the American character. Despite renewed efforts in states like New Jersey to form one, the model is vigorously opposed by the banking industry and conservatives, who view state-run enterprises as government intrusion in the market.

Even American Samoa officials are reluctant supporters of the idea.

“The government doesn’t like to get into the private-sector business,” Pereira said. “There was no other alternative.”

There are two potential pitfalls to public banks. The first is opposition from private institutions who fear competing with a government-backed institution, an issue that simply isn’t relevant for American Samoa.

The second is more of a concern: that a public bank may

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become too intertwined with the government that’s supporting it.

To head off that worry, American Samoa officials have built a Chinese wall between the territory and the bank. Though its board members are nominated by the governor and confirmed by the Fono, the territory’s legislature, the relationship stops there.

“Once that is done, the government has no say in the running of the bank,” Pereira said.

The bank cannot lend to its board members or to the government.

“We built as many buffers as we could to keep the government influence directly or indirectly out of the bank,” Ware said. “We’ve been very careful to design it like that.”

(Samoa News is running this story, How far does American Samoa have to go to get a bank? in three parts throughout the week. See Part III: “Waiting for the Fed” in tomorrow’s edition.)



## ACCURACY

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samoa news



Vincent Rodriguez III, left, and Rachel Bloom participate in the “Crazy Ex Girlfriend” panel during The CW portion of the 2017 Summer TCA’s at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

(Photo by Richard Shotwell/Invision/AP)





Origin Energy American Samoa Inc

The Company

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

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Deadline for applicants is 4:00pm on 09th of August 2017.

# Oxford employee sought in slaying

CHICAGO (AP) — Police are searching for a Northwestern University professor and a University of Oxford employee suspected in the stabbing death of a Chicago man and have alerted law enforcement agencies around the country that the pair should be considered armed and dangerous.

Anthony Guglielmi, a Chicago police spokesman, said Wednesday that a Cook County judge issued first-degree murder warrants for Wyndham Latham, 42, and Andrew Warren, 56, in the killing of Trenton Cornell-Duranleau. Cornell-Duranleau, 26, was stabbed to death last week in a 10th floor apartment believed to be Latham's in the River North neighborhood.

Police have not released a possible motive or said how they linked the suspects to the killing, but Guglielmi said security camera footage shows them leaving the building that night.

Guglielmi said Latham and Cornell-Duranleau knew each other, but he didn't know any details about the relationship.

He said investigators determined that Warren, who lives in England, came to the U.S. recently for the first time, but he didn't know if Warren knew the victim.

Officers went to the apartment last Thursday night after the person working at the building's front desk called to report that he'd received an anonymous call about a crime having been committed in that unit. Cornell-Duranleau, who lived in the Heart of Chicago neighborhood on the city's lower West Side, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The medical examiner's office said he died of multiple sharp force injuries.

A Northwestern University spokesman, Alan Cabbage, said in a news release that the school is cooperating with the investigation and that Latham has been placed on administrative leave and banned from entering school property. He said there is no indication that Latham, an associate professor of microbiology-immunology who has been on the faculty since 2007, is a danger to anyone at the school.

Warren is a senior treasury assistant at Somerville College in England, which is part of the Oxford University network, according to a university website.



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# Nebraska patrol accused of requiring vaginal exams for women

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska State Patrol has for years forced female recruits to submit to invasive, medically unnecessary pelvic exams performed by a male doctor before they can be hired, according to a new federal lawsuit that has prompted a criminal investigation.

State Trooper Brienne Splittgerber filed the lawsuit Tuesday against the patrol, the state of Nebraska, two former patrol heads and various other people, accusing them of creating a hostile work environment for women.

“Immediately upon learning of these allegations in June, the Governor instructed his Chief Human Resources Officer to review this matter, which has subsequently resulted in a criminal investigation by the State Patrol,” Taylor Gage, a spokesman for Gov. Pete Ricketts, said in a written statement Wednesday. State Patrol spokesman Cody Thomas said no NSP recruits have undergone the pelvic exams since December 2016. Thomas did not comment on who was under investigation.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages, saying women recruits for years have been required to undress from the waist down for a vaginal and rectal examination. The lawsuit says Splittgerber was told the exam was required to check for hernias, but male recruits were generally not required to undress or undergo such invasive exams. “Subjecting the plaintiff and other female trooper candidates to a medically unnecessary and sexually invasive procedure is outrageous conduct which goes beyond all possible bounds of decency and is utterly intolerable in a civilized community,” according to the lawsuit, filed by Omaha attorney Tom White.

Splittgerber submitted to the exam in 2014 before she was hired by the patrol in 2015, saying in her lawsuit that she was required by a Lincoln

doctor hired by the patrol to remove her pants and lie on her back, then her stomach, to be examined.

Splittgerber complained to her superiors after being told by her family doctor that there was no legitimate medical purpose for the exam. She was told an investigation was underway, the lawsuit says, but was disturbed that female patrol candidates from subsequent recruitment classes continued to be sent to the same doctor to submit to the exams.

Dr. Karen Carlson, an OB-GYN with Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, said it would be highly unusual to conduct a pelvic exam for a possible hernia. Pressing the abdomen with a hand would be standard for such a check, she said.

“There would be no reason to look in the genital or anal area,” Carlson said. “We might have them loosen their pants, but I wouldn’t think there would be any need to disrobe.”

An attorney for the State Patrol declined to comment Wednesday, citing the pending litigation, and referred questions to the Nebraska Attorney General’s office, which will defend the patrol and state against the lawsuit. A spokeswoman for the Attorney General’s office would say only that her office is currently reviewing the lawsuit.

The lawsuit is the latest of several controversies that have hounded the patrol in recent years. Earlier this year, Ricketts fired Col. Brad Rice, who was the head of the Nebraska State Patrol during most of Splittgerber’s tenure with the patrol. His firing came amid an internal review launched after officers were accused of changing their story about a crash that killed a South Dakota driver who was fleeing from a trooper.

Rice’s firing followed a union survey of state troopers that found widespread dissatisfaction among rank-and-file employees with the agency’s management.

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Happy Birthday from your children and grandchildren here and abroad, your great-granddaughter Peaoe, your families all over the world but especially from your Eternal Companion Peaoe To’o Aiava.



## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

# JULY



### Siainiu Taalolo

#### FOOD PREP and CASHIER



A vehicle with the Nebraska State Patrol logo is parked in a state patrol facility in Omaha, Neb., Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017. A federal lawsuit accuses the Nebraska State Patrol that it has for years forced female recruits to submit to invasive, medically unnecessary pelvic exams performed by a male doctor before they can be hired.

(AP Photo/Nat





French Navy vessel — Le Vendémiaire

[photo: AFP via RNZI]

## DEVELOPMENT BANK OF AMERICAN SAMOA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Grant Writer (re-advertised)

### Responsibilities:

- Research and explore US Federal grants and funding sources available to the bank either directly or through the American Samoa Government.
- Develop and prepare proposals and grant applications and perform professional and administrative work in researching, identifying, developing and comply with all follow up grants reporting as required by the funding agencies.
- Develop and monitor procedures for complying with grant requirements, guidelines, and regulations of funding programs.
- Work closely with the staff in developing and transforming ideas into grant proposals
- Assist with the management of grant programs and submit required monthly, quarterly or annual financial reports as mandated by the funding agencies.
- Maintain a calendar to ensure timely submission of letters of inquiry, proposal deadlines and reports.
- Prioritize projects to keep multiple proposals moving in a timely manner, meet deadlines and manage material required for proposals
- Establish and maintain relationships with the funding agencies and program officers.
- Function as a point of contact for DBAS with the funding agencies and establish working relationship with their designated officials.
- Develop and monitor budget for grants and funded programs.
- Prepare quarterly and annual reports and submit to the President and Board of Directors summarizing the evaluation of all grants and funded programs.
- Organize training programs for DBAS staff prior to implementation of new grant or funded programs.
- Liaison with agencies or departments of ASG to implement and administer "pass through" funding programs.
- Maintain a database of various funding agencies and grant programs for the bank.
- Assume any other duties as assigned by the President.

### Qualifications:

#### Education/Experience/Qualification:

Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Finance, Management or related field with a minimum of 2 years grant writing experience.

#### Skills/Abilities:

Professional appearance and attitude.

Excellent writing, analytical and research skills are essential.

Highly level computer literacy required with excellent Microsoft office application use.

Must be self motivated, detail oriented, highly organized, and have experience using online Database.

Be proficient in research, interpreting and analyzing diverse data and posses the ability to work collaboratively and independently to achieve stated goals.

Must have solid knowledge of creating budgets as they relate to the proposals and grants.

Ability to maintain confidentiality.

Please submit your Resume & Application to the Development Bank of American Samoa located in Pago Pago - 2nd floor. This job posting will expire Thursday – August 3, 2017.



### compiled by Samoa News staff FRENCH NAVY INTER- CEPTS HUGE COCAINE HAUL OFF TONGA

A yacht with 1.4 tons of cocaine has been intercepted by the French Navy off Tonga.

New Caledonia’s newspaper said the operation was launched a week ago when a Navy vessel was sent out in a joint mission with police and customs officials.

The report of Les Nouvelles Caledoniennes gave no details of where the yacht was caught but it said it happened several days ago and four people were detained.

The Navy vessel, Le Vendémiaire, returned to its Noumea base on Tuesday, with dozens of masked military men guarding the off loading of the drugs which have been moved to an undisclosed destination for destruction.

The four detained people are to be presented to a prosecutor shortly.

(Source: RNZI)

### ANOTHER ATM SCAMMER FACES 40 CRIMINAL CHARGES

The Samoa Observer reports that another foreigner has been accused of stealing from a local A.T.M. and has pleaded not guilty to 40 criminal charges.

Romanian businessman Catalin Razvan Veverita’s plea was entered through his lawyer, Lei’ataualesa Komisi Korua, during criminal mention in the District Court yesterday.

Prosecuting the case is Vaisala Afoa of the Attorney General’s Office.

District Court Judge Talasa Lumepa Atoa Sa’aga is presiding.

Information pertaining to the charges was not discussed in Court.

But the defendant, who is out on bail, sought for the Court’s approval to leave the country.

“He has a business in Vanuatu that he needs to attend to and that is the ground,” Leiataualesa said.

Judge Atoa-Saaga asked the lawyer to file an application.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

### PACIFIC ELECTRICITY COSTS UNDER SCRUTINY

Members of the Pacific Power Association opened their annual conference in Apia on Tuesday to discuss ways to drive down the cost of electricity in the region.

Pacific island countries have some of the highest electricity costs in the world, making power beyond the reach of many.

This is mainly due to high electricity tariffs, the high cost of service connections and the cost of wiring premises.

The conference will explore

regulatory reforms, technology and innovative financing to make electricity more affordable.

Dame Meg Taylor who leads the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, stressed the vulnerability of the region’s countries to global oil price fluctuations.

“Even with the recent advances in the adoption of renewable energy, the region still relies on imported oil to provide 76 percent of the region’s generated electricity. Hence plans to increase the use and penetration of renewables whether it is through large scale solar projects or small community-based micro and mini hydro schemes, all work to move away from carbon-based economies.”

Close to 250 delegates representing electricity utilities, Pacific island governments, development partners and the private sector are attending the conference being hosted for the second time by the Samoa Electric Power Corporation.

(Source: RNZI)

### JUNE JONES TAKES ASSISTANT COACHING JOB IN CANADA

Hawaii News Now is reporting that former University of Hawaii football coach June Jones is taking an assistant coaching job with the Canadian Football League’s Hamilton Tiger-Cats, according to the team’s official Twitter page.

Jones will be reunited with his former assistants, Jeff Reinebold and Dennis McKnight, in Hamilton.

Although he will be coaching for the Tiger-Cats, he will also remain at his current job at St. Louis School in Honolulu where he accepted an administrative job last year.

(Source: Hawaii News Now)

### REVIVAL OF CNMI LAN- GUAGE COMMISSION PLANNED

In the Northern Marianas, efforts are underway to preserve the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian languages by reviving a special commission focusing on the languages.

Last week, the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission met with representatives of the Indigenous Affairs Office, Carolinian Affairs Office, and the Public School System to discuss their nominees for the body.

It has been almost seven years since the commission had members.

A language survey done in the community last year illustrated the urgency of the commission’s work, as the languages are slowly dying.

Commission members must be able to translate English into written and spoken Chamorro or Carolinian.

(Continued on page 12)





The Iuventa Ship of the German NGO Jugend Rettet is docked at Lampedusa’ harbor, Italy, early Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017. The German NGO migrant rescue boat has been put under preventive seizure in a Sicilian island port as Italian authorities investigate what they suspected could be aiding ,Äúclandestine immigration.,Äú (Elio Desiderio/ANSA via AP)

# Italy seizes German group’s rescue boat in immigration probe

ROME (AP) — Italian authorities ordered a German group’s migrant rescue vessel seized Wednesday, alleging that its crew took on migrants directly from smugglers’ boats near Libya’s coast.

The vessel operated by Jugend Rettet was seized in the port of Lampedusa, a tiny fishing island off Sicily, where many of the hundreds of thousands of migrants rescued at sea in the last few years are taken.

While investigators suspect “the crime of clandestine immigration” was committed by some of the Jugend Rettet boat’s crew, prosecutor Ambrogio Cartosio told reporters that “my personal conviction was that the motive is humanitarian, exclusively humanitarian.”

The preventive seizure of the Dutch-flagged Iuventa was based on evidence that emerged from three episodes in which crew members had contact with human smugglers operating boats crowded with migrants, Cartosio said.

One happened in September 2016, two in June.

“There were contacts, meetings, understandings,” between the group’s boat and the smugglers, the prosecutor, who is based in the Sicilian port city of Trapani, said.

The passengers on the human traffickers’ boats “weren’t saved” by the Iuventa, he alleged. Instead, migrants “were handed over” to the German group’s 33-meter (about 110-foot) -long boat by smugglers who escorted the migrants toward the Iuventa, the prosecutor said.

Later the migrants were transferred to Italian military vessels or other nonprofit vessels to be taken to Italian ports, Cartosio said.

Police in Trapani said the Iuventa “is regularly devoted to the rescue of migrants near

the Libyan coast” and that an investigation opened in October has uncovered information to suggest the vessel was used “to aid and abet clandestine immigration.”

Jugend Rettet, a group based in Berlin, is mainly made up of young volunteers.

Its web site says its volunteers’ “motivation derives from the will to rescue lives and to improve the humanitarian situation on the Mediterranean.”

The group said on its Facebook page Wednesday that it went to Lampedusa on instructions from the Rome-based maritime rescue coordination center after being asked to help in a search-and-rescue mission on Tuesday.

“As it happened during other stops at this port, the crew was questioned by the local police, which also entered the ship,” Jugend Rettet said.

After a warrant-authorized search of the ship, authorities seized the Iuventa, which will eventually be taken to the main island of Sicily.

Cartosio stressed that no individual members of the crew had been charged and the investigation was ongoing to see which of them might have made contact with smugglers at sea.

“There is no indication (the crew) was paid,” by smugglers, “nor is there any element to make us think there is a stable tie between the ship and Libyan traffickers,” Cartosio said.

Any allegation that contacts between Jugend Rettet’s boat and the boats transporting migrants resulted from “coordinated planning” is tantamount to “science fiction,” Cartosio said.

A judge in Trapani ordered the preventive seizure upon prosecutors’ request.

A few months ago, prosecutors in Trapani and in Catania, another Sicilian city, said they

suspected some non-governmental organizations which rescue migrants, were also essentially aiding traffickers.

Jugend Rettet was one of several NGOs which declined this week to sign on to new rules promoted by Italy’s interior minister and aimed at ensuring rescue groups don’t end up effectively helping human traffickers.

The smugglers crowd flimsy rubber dinghies or aging fishing boats with migrants, essentially counting on European or Italian military patrol boats, NGO rescue vessels or passing cargo ships to pluck the passengers to safety and bring them to Italian shores.

Objections to the new rules included fears that armed Italian military or police personnel would come aboard the NGO vessels, compromising the groups’ humanitarian missions.

With elections due in 2018, Premier Paolo Gentiloni’s center-left government is becoming bolder in trying to hold back the tide of migrants entering Italy.

Many Italians have grown impatient with the number of newcomers awaiting decisions on asylum requests in their communities.

Italy’s Parliament on Wednesday approved having Italian military vessels help Libya’s coast guard stop smuggling boats from leaving Libya for Europe.

Italy’s defense minister has insisted the mission won’t be a naval blockade, although lawmakers from the anti-migrant Northern League, an opposition party, are demanding just that.

A spokesman for the Libyan navy, Ayoub Gassim, told The Associated Press the Italians will provide “technical assistance” at Libya’s request and that a patrol boat arrived in Tripoli Wednesday.







The 2017 Summer Health Academy participants striking a pose during a visit last week to the ASCC nursing division. The program is being spearheaded by the American Samoa Area Health Education Center (AHEC), with the goal of exposing students to various health professions available on island, and to provide training to gain leadership and clinical skills.

[photo: courtesy]

# Leon Black has a whole big book in him

NEW YORK (AP) — Leon Black has so much on his mind. Gallery Books told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it is devoting a book to the trash-talker from “Curb Your Enthusiasm.” The release is called “The Book of Leon,” and the writing credit goes to JB Smoove, the man who plays Black on the comedy series. According to the publisher, the book was inspired by a certain balding man with glasses, perhaps Larry David, who allegedly told Black that since he always has so much to say, maybe he should just put it all down in words.

“The Book of Leon” is scheduled for Oct. 24, around the time the ninth season of “Curb Your Enthusiasm” begins on HBO.



FILE - In this Wednesday, July 26, 2017, file photo, J.B. Smoove participates in the “Curb Your Enthusiasm” panel during the Book of Leon, and the writing credit goes to the man who plays Black on the comedy series, J.B. Smoove.

(Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)

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Cold Drinks

## Pacific brief...

Continued from page 10

The list of nominees will be finalized at the next meeting.

(Source: RNZI)

### 6 ARRESTED IN PRO-TESTS ATOP HALEAKALA

Two women and four men were arrested early Wednesday during a protest over construction of a new telescope atop Haleakala. Hawaii News Now reports the six were among hundreds of activists blocking the road that leads to the summit, preventing a construction convoy from getting through.

Around 3 a.m., officers pushed people out of the way to allow the crews to pass and even carried out several people who were lying on the ground.

At least 200 people came out for the overnight protests over construction of the new Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope atop the mountain, which Native Hawaiians consider sacred. Some 60 officers responded, according to the state Department of Land and Natural Resources. The protest comes as tensions are also high over the controversial Thirty Meter Telescope proposed for Mauna Kea. Earlier this month, a former Circuit Court judge recommended the telescope project be allowed to move forward. The recommendation now goes to the state Land Board.

(Source: Hawaii News Now)





In this July 31, 2017 photo provided by Oregon Health & Science University, Shoukhrat Mitalipov, left, talks with research assistant Hayley Darby in the Mitalipov Lab at OHSU in Portland, Ore. Mitalipov led a research team that, for the first time, used gene editing to repair a disease-causing mutation in human embryos, laboratory experiments that might one day help prevent inherited diseases from being passed to future generations. (Kristyna Wentz-Graff/Oregon Health & Science University via AP)

# First embryo gene-repair holds promise for inherited disease

WASHINGTON (AP) — Altering human heredity? In a first, researchers safely repaired a disease-causing gene in human embryos, targeting a heart defect best known for killing young athletes — a big step toward one day preventing a list of inherited diseases.

In a surprising discovery, a research team led by Oregon Health and & Science University reported Wednesday that embryos can help fix themselves if scientists jump-start the process early enough.

It's laboratory research only, nowhere near ready to be tried in a pregnancy. But it suggests that scientists might alter DNA in a way that protects not just one baby from a disease that runs in the family, but his or her offspring as well. And that raises ethical questions.

"I for one believe, and this paper supports the view, that ultimately gene editing of human embryos can be made safe. Then the question truly becomes, if we can do it, should we do it?" said Dr. George Daley, a stem cell scientist and dean of Harvard Medical School. He wasn't involved in the new research and praised it as "quite remarkable."

"This is definitely a leap forward," agreed developmental geneticist Robin Lovell-Badge of Britain's Francis Crick Institute.

Today, couples seeking to avoid passing on a bad gene sometimes have embryos created in fertility clinics so they can discard those that inherit the disease and attempt pregnancy only with healthy ones, if there are any.

Gene editing in theory could rescue diseased embryos. But so-called "germline" changes — altering sperm, eggs or embryos — are controversial because they would be permanent, passed down to future generations. Critics worry about attempts at "designer babies" instead of just preventing disease, and a few previous

attempts at learning to edit embryos, in China, didn't work well and, more importantly, raised safety concerns.

In a series of laboratory experiments reported in the journal Nature, the Oregon researchers tried a different approach.

They targeted a gene mutation that causes a heart-weakening disease, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, that affects about 1 in 500 people. Inheriting just one copy of the bad gene can cause it.

The team programmed a gene-editing tool, named CRISPR-Cas9, that acts like a pair of molecular scissors to find that mutation — a missing piece of genetic material.

Then came the test. Researchers injected sperm from a patient with the heart condition along with those molecular scissors into healthy donated eggs at the same time. The scissors cut the defective DNA in the sperm.

Normally cells will repair a CRISPR-induced cut in DNA by essentially gluing the ends back together. Or scientists can try delivering the missing DNA in a repair package, like a computer's cut-and-paste program.

Instead, the newly forming embryos made their own perfect fix without that outside help, reported Oregon Health & Science University senior researcher Shoukhrat Mitalipov.

We all inherit two copies of each gene, one from dad and one from mom — and those embryos just copied the healthy one from the donated egg.

"The embryos are really looking for the blueprint," Mitalipov, who directs OHSU's Center for Embryonic Cell and Gene Therapy, said in an interview.

"We're finding embryos will repair themselves if you have another healthy copy."

It worked 72 percent of the time, in 42 out of 58 embryos. Normally a sick parent has a 50-50 chance of passing on the

mutation.

Previous embryo-editing attempts in China found not every cell was repaired, a safety concern called mosaicism. Beginning the process before fertilization avoided that problem: Until now, "everybody was injecting too late," Mitalipov said.

Nor did intense testing uncover any "off-target" errors, cuts to DNA in the wrong places, reported the team, which also included researchers from the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in California and South Korea's Institute for Basic Science. The embryos weren't allowed to develop beyond eight cells, a standard for laboratory research. The experiments were privately funded; U.S. tax dollars aren't allowed for embryo research.

Genetics and ethics experts not involved in the work say it's a critical first step — but just one step — toward eventually testing the process in pregnancy, something currently prohibited by U.S. policy.

"This is very elegant lab work," but it's moving so fast that society needs to catch up and debate how far it should go, said Johns Hopkins University bioethicist Jeffrey Kahn.

And lots more research is needed to tell if it's really safe, added Britain's Lovell-Badge. He and Kahn were part of a National Academy of Sciences report earlier this year that said if germline editing ever were allowed, it should be only for serious diseases with no good alternatives and done with strict oversight.

"What we do not want is for rogue clinicians to start offering treatments" that are unproven, as has happened with some other experimental technologies, he stressed.

Among key questions: Would the technique work if mom, not dad, harbored the mutation? Is repair even possible if both parents pass on a bad gene?



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## PUBLIC HEARING

This is to inform the public of American Samoa that the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) will exercise its powers under American Samoa Code, Sections 16.2002 (12) to implement the following new fees:

Course Administration Fee	\$25.00 per course
300/400 Level Courses	\$175 Tuition Per Credit
300/400 Level Courses	\$8 Technology Fee per credit
Lab Fees	(available at Public Hearing)

The proposed new Fees are scheduled to be implemented Fall 2017.

The proposed new Fees Public Hearing is to take place on Monday, August 7, 2017 – 4:00p.m. Local Time at the ASCC Lecture Hall.

If any organization or individual wishes to have an oral hearing in accordance to American Samoa Code 16.1005, please send your request to the American Samoa Community College President's Office by July 31, 2017:

PO Box 2609, Pago Pago AS 96799, or hand deliver it to the President's Office at American Samoa Community College campus, in the village of Mapusaga.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Rosevonne M. Pato  
President  
American Samoa Community College (ASCC)



# ACCURACY

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samoa news

## HBO plays down threat of hacked internal documents

NEW YORK (AP) — HBO, which acknowledged Monday that hackers had broken into its systems and stolen “proprietary information,” now says the attackers likely haven’t breached the network’s entire email system.

In a Wednesday email to employees, CEO Richard Plepler wrote that “we do not believe that our email system as a whole has been compromised.”

He added that a review continues, and said HBO is hiring an outside firm to help employees monitor their financial accounts.

Purported hackers said in email that they’d accessed HBO’s internal network and email system and then posted stolen information online. An archived version of the named website appeared to have links to downloadable episodes for several HBO shows, including “Insecure” and “Ballers,” and what it said was a link to “script & film” to two “Game of Thrones” episodes, including an upcoming one.

AP did not test the links.

The site was not loading Wednesday afternoon.

But HBO appeared to indirectly confirm that this website linked to potentially sensitive internal material including

“documents, images, videos and sound.”

On Tuesday, a company called IP-Echelon filed a report with Google on behalf of HBO, noting that the named website “shares thousands of Home Box Office (HBO) internal company documents.”

IP-Echelon Pty Ltd. regularly files such copyright-infringement notices on behalf of large media entertainment companies, including HBO.

Federal law requires internet companies like Google to remove links to sites that infringe copyright once they receive such notifications.

Google routinely forward such notices to the long-standing public-interest repository Lumen, formerly known as Chilling Effects, once it has complied.

A Google spokeswoman did not respond to requests for comment.

An HBO spokesman declined to comment on the takedown notice. Messages left with IP-Echelon were not answered.

Previous hacks have created significant repercussions in Hollywood. Sony struggled in the aftermath of its huge hack in 2014, which leaked embarrassing employee emails as well as films.



It's that time of year again, when school teachers across the territory return to campus to tackle workshops and training sessions. Pictured are some of the educators from the Home of the Flames who are currently preparing themselves for the new school year, which starts in less than 2 weeks.

[photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]



# Woman to be sentenced in teen texting suicide case

TAUNTON, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts woman who encouraged her boyfriend to kill himself in dozens of text messages and told him to “get back in” a truck filled with toxic gas faces up to 20 years in prison when a judge sentences her on a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Michelle Carter was convicted in June by a judge who said her final instruction to Conrad Roy III caused his death. Juvenile Court Judge Lawrence Moniz will sentence Carter Thursday. Carter was 17 when the 18-year-old Roy was found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning in July 2014.

In dozens of text messages, Carter urged Roy to follow through on his talk of taking his own life. “The time is right and you are ready ... just do it babe,” Carter wrote in a text the day he killed himself. The sensational trial was closely watched on social media, in part because of the insistent tone of Carter’s text messages.

“You can’t think about it. You just have to do it. You said you were gonna do it. Like I don’t get why you aren’t,” Carter wrote in one text. Carter’s lawyer, Joseph Cataldo, argued that Roy was determined to kill himself and nothing Carter did could change that. He said Carter initially tried

to talk Roy out of it and urged him to get professional help, but eventually went along with his plan. Cataldo also argued that Carter’s words amounted to free speech protected by the First Amendment.

In convicting Carter, the judge focused his ruling on Carter telling Roy to “get back in” after he climbed out of his truck as it was filling with carbon monoxide and told her he was afraid.

The judge said those words constituted “wanton and reckless conduct” under the manslaughter statute.

Carter and Roy met in Florida in 2012 while both were on vacation with their families. After that, they only met in person a handful of times. Their relationship consisted mainly of texting. Both teens struggled with depression. Carter had been treated for anorexia, and Roy had made earlier suicide attempts. Roy’s aunt has asked the judge to sentence Carter to the 20-year maximum. Carter’s father said his daughter made “a tragic mistake,” and is asking for probation and continued counseling. Carter was tried as a youthful offender, so the judge has several options for sentencing. He can commit her to a Department of Youth Services facility until she turns 21 on Aug. 11.



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No: ASPA17.046.ESD-WTR      Closing Date & Time: August 8, 2017  
Issuance Date: July 24, 2017      No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

The American Samoa Power Authority issues a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite qualified firms to submit formal, written proposals for the:

### “Driller and Construction Manager for Water Well Drilling (Re-bid)”

**Submission** An original and one PDF copy of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: “RFP NO. ASPA17.046.ESD-WTR Driller and Construction Manager for Water Well Drilling.” Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), Tuesday, August 8, 2017:

Procurement Office  
American Samoa Power Authority  
P.O. Box PPB, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
Attn: Ioana Uli, Procurement Manager

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 package outlining the proposal requirements is available at the Procurement Office at ASPA’s New Operations Building and may also be obtained from our Website: <http://www.aspower.com>.

### Right of Rejection

The American Samoa Power Authority 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 Power Authority or the public.

Approved for Issuance: **Utu Abe Malae**, Executive Director



Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago Vicar General, Monsignor Viane Etuale (far left) with two residents of Hope House on Tuesday, following a brief ceremony where the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago’s Mafutaga Tina made a \$5,000 donation in support of the Hope House’s 30th Anniversary celebration this year. Pictured on the right side are Hope House board chairman Ta’afano Joe Tavale, Mafutaga Tina secretary Luana Tavale, treasurer Dr. Annie Fuavai, and a family member.

[photo: Hope House]



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# Thousands show up for jobs at Amazon warehouses in US cities

FALL RIVER, Mass. (AP) — Thousands of people showed up Wednesday for a chance to pack and ship products to Amazon customers, as the e-commerce company held a giant job fair at nearly a dozen U.S. warehouses.

Although the wages offered will make it hard for some to make ends meet, many of the candidates were excited by the prospect of health insurance and other benefits, as well as advancement opportunities.

It's common for Amazon to ramp up its shipping center staff in August to prepare for holiday shopping. But the magnitude of its current hiring spree underscores Amazon's growth when traditional retailers are closing stores — and blaming Amazon for a shift to buying goods online.

Amazon said it received “a record-breaking 20,000 applications” and hired thousands of

people on the spot, and will hire more in the coming days. That number represented fewer than half of the 50,000 people it had said it planned to hire.

Most of the jobs are full-time positions in packing, sorting and shipping and will count toward Amazon's previously announced goal of adding 100,000 full-time workers by the middle of next year.

The bad news is that more people are likely to lose jobs in stores than get jobs in warehouses, said Anthony Carnevale, director of Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce.

On the flip side, Amazon's warehouse jobs provide “decent and competitive” wages and could help build skills.

“Interpersonal team work, problem solving, critical thinking, all that stuff goes on in these warehouses,” Carnevale said. “They're serious entry-

level jobs for a lot of young people, even those who are still making their way through school.”

The company is advertising starting wages that range from \$11.50 an hour in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to \$13.75 an hour in Kent, Washington, near Amazon's Seattle headquarters. The \$11.50 rate amounts to about \$23,920 a year. In Washington state, the current minimum wage is \$11.50 but by 2020 will increase to \$13.50. By comparison, the warehouse store operator Costco raised its minimum wage for entry-level workers last year from \$13 to \$13.50 an hour. Some job candidates Wednesday were looking to supplement other income.

Rodney Huffman, a 27-year-old personal trainer, said the \$13-an-hour job in Baltimore would pay enough to help cover bills while he starts his own company.

“I'm looking to do the night shifts and then run my own company during the day,” he said. At one warehouse — Amazon calls them “fulfillment centers” — in Fall River, Massachusetts, Amazon was looking to hire more than 200 people Wednesday, adding to a workforce of about 1,500. Employees there focus on sorting, labeling and shipping what the company calls “non-sortable” items — big products such as shovels, kayaks, surfboards, grills, car seats — and lots of giant diaper boxes. Other warehouses are focused on smaller products.

While Amazon has attracted attention for deploying robots at some of its warehouses, experts said it could take a while before automation begins to seriously bite into its growing labor force.

“When it comes to dexterity, machines aren't really great at it,” said Jason Roberts, head of technology and analytics for mass recruiter Randstad Sourceright, which is not working with Amazon on its jobs fair. “The picker-packer role is something humans do way better than machines right now.”

Steve King, 47, a job candidate in Fall River with experience running his own business, agreed: “I don't think robots are up to snuff yet. I think they will be. Hopefully I can get in before the robots get that good and get above the robots in administration or something.”

In recent years, reports have emerged about difficult working conditions at Amazon's warehouses, including deaths at two Amazon warehouses in 2014. The company also came under fire in 2011 for extreme heat at its warehouses that caused “heat-related injuries” among workers. Amazon said at the time that it took emergency actions during heat waves and subsequently installed cooling systems in its warehouses.

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