

# Workshop aims to strengthen Pacific aquatic biosecurity

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# Chaun Maiava earns All-College Conference Honor – 2nd in a row

Sports

# Fa'afetaia sui Manu'a tau-mafaiga Aumua fa'aleleia auala femalagaaiga

Le Lali

Ms. Eden Brown was crowned Miss SOFIAS 2017- 18 last Friday evening at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei before a SRO crowd. Our congratulations and best wishes go out to Ms. Brown and her reign.

[Photo: EM]



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MONDAY APRIL 24, 2017

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## VICE PRESIDENT PENCE STOPS BRIEFLY IN THE TERRITORY



US Vice President Michael Richard "Mike" Pence arrived in American Samoa yesterday, afternoon, for a flying visit, on his way to Honolulu, Hawai'i. During his brief stop, he did not leave the airport, as announced by Congresswoman Aumua Amata in her press release.

Samoa News was told by one of the soldiers that was a part of the troops Pence reviewed when he disembarked — the VP spoke briefly to military personnel and said a few words inside the VIP lounge to government and military officials that gathered, which included Gov. Lolo M. Moliga.

He did leave the VIP area very briefly — like two minutes — to meet people outside in the crowd, and then returned to the area.

It is not known if an ava ceremony was performed during Pence's visit, Samoa News was told it did not happen, but he did dedicate the

the Veterans Administration outpatient clinic to the memory of the late Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, who passed away in February at his home in Utah.

Samoa News had reported that the dedication was to be centerpiece of the VP's visit, according to Amata.

The Leone and Tafuna High School swing choirs apparently had to go through a TSA screening, to be a part of the entertainment planned for the vice president, but actually did not meet the VP, nor perform for him.

A Facebook post said they were set up in the department lounge and performed there, while the VIPs, Pence included, sat in the Fale Samoa.

The post noted that when Pence and entourage left, the swing choirs performed for friends and families who were sitting in the tents and "cheering us on."

[photos: Leafauna Tavai Yahn]

# Manu'a incident debunked by local Department of Homeland Security

by Rhonda Annesley, editor

An alleged incident purported to happen on Ta'u, Manu'a over the weekend has been debunked by the local Department of Homeland Security, in a "special bulletin" released on Saturday, April 22, 2017 — 5:00 a.m. The incident was posted on Facebook in the early morning hours of Saturday.

The incident, according to the FB post, allegedly involved a "large ship anchored off the coast of Ta'u and small vessels came ashore via Nuu gaogao." The post goes on to say, "All village men went to see who it is and women and children scrambling to safety. Shots fired rn." The post continues, "I just confirmed with homeland sec. n help is on the way from Tutuila. Coast Guard dispatched n on da way." The post goes on to say, "PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES. Tutuila stay alert..."

Comments in response to the post about the alleged incident allude to a possible training drill by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), fishing boats, Ta'u men scaring off the boat with shots, etc. — while others say the post is 'correct'.

The DHS' special bulletin, released in the English and Samoan languages, received by Samoa News via email on Saturday, said the following:

This is a special bulletin from the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security – TEMCO issued at 5:00 a.m. Saturday, April 22, 2017.

The American Samoa Department of Homeland Security has received phone calls of concern from the public regarding an alleged incident occurring on the island of Ta'u, Manu'a. According to credible sources, an unconfirmed sighting at sea during a fishing trip by locals of Ta'u Manu'a, prompted a now wide spread rumor of misinformation.

The public is advised not to be alarmed, the alleged incident or unconfirmed sighting has been reported to the U.S. Coast Guard Office and the Department of Public Safety. There were no gun shots fired, no persons injured, and conditions are safe in Ta'u Manu'a.

The American Samoa Department of Homeland Security – TEMCO will continue to monitor the situation and we will issue further bulletins if necessary. Any concerns please call the EOC at 699-3800/699-0411/0420 or the Police at 633-1111.

O se fa'aaliga taua fa'apitoa lenei mai le Matagaluega o le Puipuiga o le Saogalemu Faa-Lotoifale – le Homeland Security ma le Ofisa o le TEMCO, auina mai i le itula e 5:00 i le taeao nei, le Aso To'ana'i, aso 22 o Aperila 2017.

(Continued on page 2)



# Ms Eden Brown crowned the new 2017-18 Miss SOFIAS

By Leiloa Ese Malala  
Samoa News Staff Writer

Friday night the Society of Fafafine in American Samoa held their 34th annual Miss SOFIAS pageant at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei. This year's winner, Ms Eden Brown, will go on to become an ambassador of the society, promoting a culture of love, respect and organizing future charities and outreaches.

Ms. Brown, who is a teacher at Tafuna High School won the

SOFIAS crown by winning the categories of Lady Sofia, Swim-suit, Talent and Interview.

The territory's renowned transgender pageant this year, had five contestants. Others who competed were: Aruni Talaifaga- 1st runner up, Valentina Faumuina- 2nd runner up, Lima Schwenke- 3rd runner up and Francine Tuutatau- 4th place.

The pageant with the theme was "Carousel of Curiosity" was a great success, bringing



Former Miss SOFIAS Jayleen Chun performs the opening number for the Miss SOFIAS pageant that was held at the Rex H. Lee auditorium last week Friday night in Utulei. [Photo:EM]

excitement, colors, animation and glitter with Wilma Thompson and Ioane Aysha Talo who kept the crowd entertained with smiles and laughter. The Fale Laumei was packed — SRO.

There was great entertainment by former Miss SOFIAS Marion Mageo of Pago Pago, Uni Tanielu and the team, students from Samoana High School as well as the outstanding performances by the participants themselves during the talent category.

Also present was the Miss Samoa Faafafine organization from Samoa and their committee, who came to sup-

port the event. During the pageant, SOFIAS made a donation of \$1,000 to the Red Cross and \$2,000 to the Hope House. According to one of the SOFIAS members, every year they always make a donation to give back to the community.

In Ms. Eden's interview category, done separate from Friday night's event, and where the judges included Samoa News, KHJ Radio and Bluesky Communications representatives, Eden spoke of encouraging SOFIAS to embrace more outreach programs in the community, embracing their role as participating and contributing members of the local commu-

nity. She won this category.

Congresswoman Aumua Amata, who attended the pageant, opened her tualuga with a \$1,000 donation to the SOFIAS. She shared on her Facebook page, "had a great time at last evening's SOFIAS's charity pageant, an annual event that raises money to help the local Red Cross, the Hope House for the elderly and also for scholarships.

Pele Chun of Argosy University also presented scholarships of more than \$10,000 worth to the SOFIAS for the winner.

Congratulations to Ms. Eden Brown and best of luck during your reign!



One of the contestants in her Lady Sofia wear during the first category at the Miss SOFIAS pageant that was held at the Gov H. Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei. [Photo:EM]



Every year, SOFIAS committee is always working together to give back to the community. Last Friday SOFIAS donated \$1,000 dollars to the Red Cross and \$2,000 to Hope House at Gov H. Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei. [Photo:EM]

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## Continued...

*Continued from page 1*

Taluai ona o telefoni mai ni isi o le atunu'u e fesiligia se fa'alavelave le mautinoa ua lipotia mai i Ta'u Manu'a. O se fa'amatalaga ua maua e fa'apea, o se faiga faiva a ni isi lava o Ta'u Manu'a sa va'aia ai se tulaga e le o fa'amaoniaina i le gataifale. O lea tulaga ua mafua ai ni fa'amatalaga 'ese'ese ma le sese.

E fautuaina le mamalu o le atunu'u ina ia 'aua ne'i

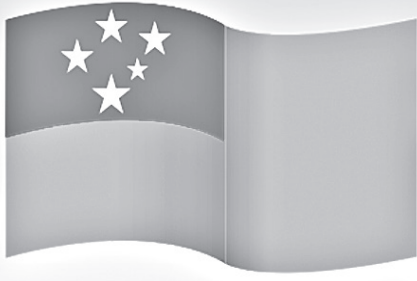
fa'apopoleina, o le fa'alavelave le mautinoa sa lipotia mai ua fa'ailoa atu i le Ofisa e gafa ma le gataifale (Coast Guard) fa'apea ai le Ofisa o Leoleo. E leai se faga sa fa'apaina, e leai se tasi o afaina, ma o lo'o saogalemu uma tulaga i Ta'u Manu'a.

O lo'o va'ava'aia pea ma o le a toe auina atu nisi fautuaga mai le ofisa o le ASDHS-TEMCO pe a fai ae iai nisi fa'amatalaga fou. Vala'au mai le 699-3800/699-0411/0420 le EOC po'o 633-1111 le Ofisa o

Leoleo mo ni isi fa'amatalaga.

Samoa News briefly spoke to Police Commissioner Le'i Sonny Thompson, who is off-island, and said a Department of Safety officer in Manu'a called the main DPS office that there was a report that came in of the possible incident, but it had yet to be confirmed, at the time, including whether or no it was a NOAA training drill.

Le'i says DPS is still awaiting further information on the alleged incident before commenting further.



# SAMOA BRIEFS

compiled by Samoa News staff

## SAMOA, A GATEWAY FOR DRUGS TO BIGGER COUNTRIES

Samoa Observer is reporting that Samoa's police commissioner Fuiavaili'ili Egon Keil admits that it is fair to say that Samoa is one of the gateways for the smuggling of drugs to bigger countries.

"But it's not just Samoa, it's the same for Tahiti where a yacht was recently caught with a large quantity of cocaine with a street value in millions of dollars," he said to the Observer in response to questions during an interview at his office.

The Commissioner was elaborating on the importance of having the Pacific Transnational Crime Network (P.T.C.N.), in all the Pacific islands.

Currently, there are 16 countries, which are members of the P.T.C.N. with the newest member, being American Samoa where their Transnational Crime Unit was officially opened last month.

According to the Commissioner, Samoa is not immune as the "bad guys" target the small island nations to get through to the bigger countries, which have the money to buy and sell these types of drugs.

"When there are drugs, there are guns and when those two mix up, it's always deadly and that's why the TCU in the Pacific works day and night to stop these types of transactions," said Fuiavaili'ili in a recent report in the Samoa Observer.

In Radio New Zealand reports, the cocaine seized in the Tuamotus last week was destined for New Caledonia or possibly Australia.

Authorities found 237 kilogrammes [522 lbs] of cocaine on a burnt-out yacht on Faaite after its two sailors had been detained by the police.

"The prosecutor, Herve Leroy said the two Spanish men, in their forties, deny any knowledge of the cargo. The yacht had run aground and was on fire when the two men were rescued and given medical care. When locals tried to clean up the debris of the burnt yacht, they found the cocaine amid signs that a huge quantity had already been burnt."

In January, 1.4 tons of cocaine was seized in the region on two other yachts.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

## STIGMATA DAD'S DEPARTURE FROM HIS CHURCH

Despite their undying love for their former

Reverend Opapo Oeti, the Congregational Christian Church in Samoa (C.C.C.S) in Falelatai is moving on, Samoa Observer reported over the weekend.

They will be looking for a replacement church minister over the next six months, according to an official of the church, Fa'alavaau Leaia Molesi who told the Observer that it hasn't been easy losing their Reverend who has been with them for 23 years.

"There is nothing we can do as the decision has been made," he said.

Opapo was stripped of his pastoral title last month; a decision taken by the Elders of C.C.C.S.

The Reverend is the father of Toaipuapuaga 'Toa' Patrick who claims to be carrying the marks or stigmata of Jesus.

Fa'alavaau told the Samoa Observer minutes after the service, that they are not rushing into looking for another Reverend, but it's something that will be discussed within the church in the next six months.

He made it clear that the church members are heartbroken with the loss of their Reverend, nonetheless they will honor the decision by the Elders.

He confirmed that not many members of the church attended Sunday's service as they were busy 'cooking' lunch for their last meal with Opapo and his family.

He dismissed suggestions that the church has split since the stigmata in their Church.

It was an emotional service for those who attended including members of other churches in the village, such as the Catholic church and the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

Following the service, an official of the church reminded Opapo that while his services had been terminated, the vow he made with the church cannot be broken.

According to Fa'alavaau they will meet again with Opapo and his family on Tuesday at their farewell meeting.

He also pointed out to the Observer that Opapo met with the Village Council on Saturday and they have sorted their differences and he said it's good that this feud has been settled prior to Opapo leaving the church and village.

"The village has forgiven Opapo and he has forgiven the Village Council, so all is well within the village and with our Reverend," he said.

(Source: Samoa Observer)

(Continued on page 4)



Congresswoman Aumua Amata opened her tauluga by donating \$1,000 to the SOFIAS at their annual pageant last Friday night at the Gov H. Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei. [Photo:EM]

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# Campbell Soup recalls some chicken soup products



WASHINGTON, D.C. — of Feb. 13, 2019 located on the Campbell Soup Company, a Maxton, N.C. establishment, is recalling approximately 4,185 pounds of chicken soup products due to misbranding and undeclared allergens, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced on Saturday. The products contain milk, a known allergen, which is not declared on the product label.

The chicken with whole grain pasta soup items were produced on Feb. 13, 2017. The following products are subject to recall:

- 18.6-oz. cans of "Campbell's Homestyle Healthy Request Chicken with Whole Grain Pasta" with Best By date

of Feb. 13, 2019 located on the bottom of the cans.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "EST. 4R" on the bottom of the cans. These items were shipped to retail locations in Florida.

The problem was discovered on April 20, 2017 when the firm received notification from their corporate office of multiple consumer complaints of the wrong product noticed inside the cans. The products were labeled as "Campbell's Homestyle Healthy Request Chicken with Whole Grain Pasta" but actually contain "Campbell's Homestyle Healthy Request Italian-Style Wedding Spinach & Meatballs in Chicken Broth" soup.

There have been no con-

firmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about an injury or illness should contact a healthcare provider.

Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of

purchase.

FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers. When available, the retail distribution list(s) will be posted on the FSIS website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls).

gov/recalls.

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Consumer Affairs at (866) 400-0965. Media with questions about the recall can contact Michelle Reardon, Director of Communications - Americas, at (856) 571-9911.

(Source: Media Release, Campbell Soup Company)

## 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) Box 909, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799. Contact us by Telephone at (684) 633-5599 Contact us by Fax at (684) 633-4864 or by Email at [news@samoanews.com](mailto:news@samoanews.com)

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The vacancy closes on Friday April 28th 2017

## Samoa Briefs...

Continued from page 3

### FURY BOUT WITH PARKER

Boxer Joseph Parker's camp is demanding a large sum of cash before agreeing to re-schedule their WBO heavyweight title fight with Englishman Hughie Fury.

Fury has withdrawn from the fight citing a back injury which he says means he hasn't been able to train properly for the last three weeks. However David Higgins of Duco Promotions - Parker's management team - is skeptical of the injury.

Higgins says the Fury camp has been difficult to deal with throughout negotiations around the fight.

"Most boxing negotiations are cordial and the camps get along....but there is proper discord in this one," said Higgins.

"I would say that they have damaged the trust between the camps. They put a statement out saying they want to postpone (but) because they have damaged the trust, the only for them to fix that is to pay a big chunk of cash up front to a lawyer's trust fund account and then we will fight Hughie," said Higgins.

The fight was to be Parker's first title defense since he beat Andy Ruiz Jr in December.

In the meantime Higgins is trying to arrange a replacement challenger for the May 6th bout.

The WBO has advised them to investigate the possibility of a voluntary defense against an opponent ranked in the top 15 of the world rankings.

Higgins rates the chances of organizing another bout in time better than 50-50 and hopes to have one confirmed in the next day or so.

(Source: RNZI)

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

# Workshop aims to strengthen Pacific aquatic biosecurity



*Different seaweed varieties farmed in Kiribati.*

[courtesy photo]

Noumea, New Caledonia – Apr. 24, 2017 — Nineteen quarantine, biosecurity and aquaculture officers from across the Pacific are in Noumea, New Caledonia this week in an effort to strengthen aquatic biosecurity in their respective Pacific Island countries and territories.

Aquatic biosecurity is a system of standardized protocols and measures to deal with biological risks in aquatic environments, such as the risk of diseases and the risk of invasive species.

Good aquatic biosecurity measures are vital to maintaining healthy animals, reducing the risk of acquiring diseases in aquaculture facilities and harvesting of high quality yield.

The Aquatic Biosecurity Planning workshop (24-28 April), organized by the Pacific Community (SPC) aims to build

the capacities of participants on general aquatic biosecurity including import risk analysis for live aquatic organisms, quarantine operations and facilities for live aquatic organisms, guidelines for certification and inspection of quarantine facilities for live aquatic organisms, health certification and emergency preparedness.

One entire day of the workshop will also be devoted to raising awareness on animal diseases, diagnosis, surveillance and official reporting requirements under the World Animal Health Organization (OIE).

“Farmed aquatic species should be healthy and free from diseases and pests and this workshop aims to provide the skills and knowledge needed to achieve sustainable development of the aquaculture sector while safeguarding human health, our environment

and respective national economies,” SPC Aquatic Biosecurity Specialist, Ruth Garcia Gomez, said.

“It is also important to ensure that the highly biodiverse and rich aquatic ecosystem of the Pacific region should be preserved and the introduction and spread of invasive and aquatic species prevented,” Ms Garcia Gomez added.

During this sub-regional training workshop, partici-

pants will discuss and agree on the main components of their respective National Aquatic Biosecurity Strategies, and steps for the implementation of these strategies will be assessed.

Participants will also undertake field visits to the New Caledonian Technical Aquaculture Centre based in Bouloupari and the National Veterinary Laboratory in Port Laguerre.

The quarantine, biosecurity and aquaculture representatives

attending the workshop are from Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The week-long workshop is an activity funded by the New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Program under the Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture Development project and is being held at SPC’s Headquarters.

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**Tender closes at 4pm on May 1st, 2017**

For any further details please contact Elena Talitiga-Felise.

Phone#: 633-4266 or 699-1267

# PNA NEWS

*compiled by Samoa News staff*

**MARKET UPDATE**

Tuna prices were around \$1550 metric ton (mt) in Bangkok at the end of March, down from a high of \$1750 mt in February.

Pundits predicted the price would hover at the \$1500 mt mark for April, based on supply and demand in current conditions.

**US INCREASES FISHING IN COOK ISLANDS**

The United States has purchased an extra 100 fishing days from Cook Islands for an undisclosed sum. The deal is on top of the US Treaty which allocates days to the US to fish in PNA and Cook Islands waters.

Moves to increase commercial fishing in Cook Islands have been somewhat controversial – first environmentalists pushed for and got a ban that no fishing would occur within 50 nautical miles of the island and

now they are also campaigning against the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs).

**TOURISM FEES TO REPLACE FISH DOLLARS IN PALAU**

Revenues from commercial tuna fishing licenses will be replaced by allocation from the new Pristine Paradise Environmental Fee (PPEF) collection from tourists visiting Palau.

Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. signed into law March 29 amendment to the Palau National Marine Sanctuary Law.

The \$100 PPEF fee which will be collected as soon as the Minister of Finance promulgate its rules and regulation, will allocate \$10 for the Fisheries Protection Fund.

The fund will be used to finance the enforcement and surveillance of the marine sanctuary, while \$12.50 from the fee will replace the shares that each of the 16 states of Palau get

from the current commercial fishing licenses and revenues.

By 2021, 80 percent of Palau's EEZ will be closed to commercial fishing while 20 percent of its waters will be designated as domestic fishing zone.

Remengesau said the PPEF, "represents an additional and meaningful component of the prudent decision to turn away from the already dangerously exploited fisheries industry and the deleterious mass tourism market and instead embrace a new identity that emphasizes quality over quantity."

**SOLOMON ISLANDS SMALL SCALE CANNING STARTS UP**

Participants from government and industry were trained in small scale fish canning processes in Honiara, Solomon Islands last month. Organised by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Chris Bourne from FoodStream taught participants how to can bycatch fish in accordance with international safety and HACCP standards.

Following these trainings several small-scale operations are running in Papua New Guinea and Marshall Islands. Melino Bain-Vete, PNA Policy and Research Support Officer commented that this year training would also roll out to Palau, FSM, Kiribati and Tokelau.

**CATCH RATES INDICATE PNA AND S-E ASIAN DOMINANCE**

Meanwhile, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency's compilation of economic and development indicators continued to evidence the dominance of PNA countries in regional tuna catches.

For 2015, the top 5 biggest catches occurred in Kiribati (641,119 mt), Indonesia (432,083 mt), Philippines (216,382 mt), Papua New Guinea (187,597 mt) and Federated States of Micronesia (166,163 mt). Collectively, catches in PNA waters (plus Tokelau) were 1,363,763 mt, or 50% of the total tuna catch of 2,692,412 mt.

**VESSEL DAY USAGE CONSTANT FOR 2017**

The monthly usage of the PNA Purse Seine Total Allowable Effort for 2017 in the EEZs (exclusive economic zones) of VDS participants (PNA + Tokelau) is illustrated in the graph. The yellow line represents the constant monthly usage for staying within the TAE of 45,590 days, and the red line shows the monthly effort (VDS days) in Participants' zones, taking into account non-fishing days.

The collective effort at the end of March was just under 11,000 days.

(Source: Compiled with permission from PNA)



## Annual Scholarship Awards



**"Deadline for all application.... Friday, April 28th, 2017 at 4pm"**

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- One scholarship is for a 2017 ASCC graduate planning to continue at an accredited college/university in the US. We also have a continuing student every year.

You can pick up and turn in, an application at the McDonald's Head Office in Nu'uuli, beginning Monday, March 6, 2017 at 2:30pm.

**Deadline for all applications: Friday, April 28, 2017 at 4pm.**

**For more information, please contact Silika Vai Tui at 699-8686 or Evelyn Gebauer at 699-8699.**

# N. Korea detains US citizen; 3rd American being held

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea has detained a U.S. citizen, officials said, bringing to three the number of Americans now being held there.

Tony Kim, who also goes by his Korean name Kim Sang-duk, was detained on Saturday, according to Park Chan-mo, the chancellor of the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology.

Park said Kim, who is 58, taught accounting at the university for about a month. He said Kim was detained by officials as he was trying to leave the country from Pyongyang's international airport. A university spokesman said he was trying to leave with his wife on a flight to China.

The Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang said Sunday it was aware of a Korean-American citizen being detained recently, but could not comment further. The embassy looks after consular affairs for the United States in North Korea because the two countries do not have diplomatic relations.

The State Department also said it was aware of the report about a U.S. citizen being detained, but declined further comment "due to privacy considerations."

Park said he was informed that the detention had "nothing to do" with Kim's work at the university but did not know further details.

Kim previously taught Korean at the Yanbian University of Science and Technology in Yanji, China, not far from the North Korea border, said the school's Communist Party Committee secretary, who would only give his surname, Huang.

Kim resigned last August and has not contacted the school since, Huang said. "We don't know anything about his trip to North Korea."

As of Monday morning, North Korea's official media had not reported on the detention.

The Pyongyang University of Science and Technology is the only privately funded university in North Korea. It held its first classes in 2010. It is unique in the North for its large number of foreign staff.

Colin McCulloch, the director of external affairs, said the university was not under investigation and was continuing its normal operations. He said he could not immediately confirm Kim's hometown.

Though no details on why Kim was detained have been released, the detention comes at a time of unusually heightened tensions between the U.S. and North Korea. Both countries have recently been trading threats of war and having another American in jail will likely up the ante even further.

Last year, Otto Warmbier, then a 21-year-old University of Virginia student from suburban Cincinnati, was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor in prison after he confessed to trying to steal a propaganda banner.

Kim Dong Chul, who was born in South Korea but is also believed to have U.S. citizenship, is serving a sentence of 10 years for espionage.


Another foreigner, a Canadian pastor, is also being detained in North Korea. Hyeon Soo Lim, a South Korean-born Canadian citizen in his 60s, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in 2015 on charges of trying to use religion to destroy the North Korean system and helping U.S. and South Korean authorities lure and abduct North Korean citizens.




FILE - In this combination of file photos, U.S. citizens Otto Warmbier on March 16, 2016, left, and Kim Dong Chul on April 29, 2016; are escorted at court in Pyongyang, North Korea. North Korea has detained U.S. citizen, Tony Kim, who also goes by his Korean name Kim Sang-duk, officials said Sunday, April 23, 2017, bringing to three the number of Americans now being held there. (AP Photo/Files)

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# Sheryl Sandberg picks 'Option B' in her book on resilience



FILE - In this Wednesday, June 22, 2016, file photo, Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg speaks at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — Though perhaps best known as Facebook's No. 2 executive, Sheryl Sandberg is also a mentor, a mother, a billionaire and an author. When her husband Dave Goldberg died suddenly in 2015 while they were vacationing in Mexico, she added "widow" to the list.

"The grief felt like a void, like it was sucking me in and pushing on me, pulling me in and I couldn't even see or breathe," she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "People who have been through things like this told me it gets better. And I really didn't believe them.... I want other people going through things to believe it does get better."

Her new book — "Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience and Finding Joy," written with psychologist Adam Grant — chronicles the devastating loss, her grief and how she emerged from it with a new perspective on life. A humbled follow-up to her first book, "Lean In," it's also a how-to, drawing from studies and the experiences of others to describe techniques for building strength and resilience and ways to support those going through hard times.

Sandberg also uses the new book to address what she now sees as shortcomings in the career advice she offered women in "Lean In." Surveying the world as a wealthy corporate executive rendered her oblivious to the circumstances faced by less fortunate women, she acknowledged. Not everyone can lean in; not everyone wants to.

"I didn't get it," she wrote. "I didn't get how hard it is to succeed at work when you are overwhelmed at home."

## THE FIRST MONTHS

The most affecting parts of the book recount not just Sandberg's grief, but that of her children. When she had to tell them that their father died. When, arriving at the cemetery for his funeral, they "got out of the car and fell to the ground, unable to take another step. I lay on the grass, holding them as they wailed," unable to protect them from their sorrow.

It did get better, though slowly. Sandberg returned to work at Facebook in a haze, unable to summon her previous self-confidence.

"I couldn't understand when friends didn't ask me how I was. I felt invisible, as if I was standing in front of them but they couldn't see me," she writes, adding later, that by staying silent in such situations "we often isolate friends, family

and co-workers."

At Facebook, Sandberg has long been an advocate of "bringing your whole self to work," meaning a willingness to share your personal life with co-workers. But this can get tricky when it comes to facing trauma. Sandberg found it difficult, and even considered carrying around a stuffed pachyderm to encourage co-workers and even friends to talk about the "elephant in the room."

## PICKING UP THE PIECES

Then one day, about a month after Goldberg died, she decided to post on Facebook about her grief, her gratitude toward her friends, and her

related tumultuous feelings — for instance, coming to believe she would never again feel real joy. She wrote it out, not planning to share it publicly. After some more thought, she decided it couldn't possibly make things worse.

The change was immediate. Friends, co-workers and strangers — many of whom had dealt with loss themselves — began reaching out. It helped, Sandberg wrote. The post has been shared more than 400,000 times and has some 74,000 comments. It opened up a conversation.

"I know it almost sounds silly because I certainly work

at Facebook and I know what Facebook's mission is," she said. "But experiencing it for myself was a very ... deep experience."

Talking about these things, as difficult as it might be, can be a lifeline. As is getting help at work, something Sandberg acknowledged not everyone can. Facebook has recently extended its bereavement poli-

cies to allow employees more time off after the death of a loved one. But Sandberg says supporting people once they are back at work — including reminding them that their contributions are needed and welcome — is just as important.

"Death is not the only kind of adversity that summons up the elephant," Sandberg wrote in the book.

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## AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Academic Affairs

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Position Title:** LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE INSTRUCTOR  
**Employment Status:** Full Time 10 months (Career Service)

**General Description:**

Instructor will report directly to the Academic Chairperson of the Languages and Literature Department. The department offers intensive English writing courses aimed at developing and strengthening thinking and writing skills for effective communication of ideas. It emphasizes a variety of approaches to writing, research, organizational techniques and effective writing processes. The literature courses emphasize analytical reading and appreciation of literary works that allow students to develop a broader, deeper, keener understanding of their world and the worlds they read about. The skills acquired prepare students for both academic studies and the work place.

**Job Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Collect, prepare and present instructional materials for all assigned subjects to be taught.
- Prepare and distribute course syllabi/outlines for each course during the first week of instruction.
- Teach a full instructional course load of 15 credit hours or 225 instructional contact hours per semester. However, loads may vary between 12 and 16 credit hours per semester.
- Prepare and distribute a comprehensive syllabi for all courses taught in a timely manner as requested by Academic Affairs
- Teach each class as scheduled and supervise examinations, field trips, internships, service learning activities and practicum.
- Maintain attendance and scholastic records and submit the required records to the Admissions and Records Office at the assigned date every semester/session.
- Develop, implement, and assess Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for each course taught.
- Share data on SLOs collected from courses taught with the department and other college stakeholders, and provide recommendations for improvement of student learning.
- Participate in the different levels of SLO review, program review, and student assessment.
- Academically advise students regarding their chosen program of study.
- Provide students with information on careers, academic referrals, and transfer opportunities.
- Assist with the registration process; participate in faculty orientation, commencement exercises, and professional development activities.
- Post and maintain a class schedule and office hours for student assistance.
- Provide safety measures and fully exercise the enforcement of these measures in the classroom.
- Actively participate and contribute to college committees and extracurricular functions.
- Observe and enforce all ASCC rules and regulations.
- Perform other duties as may be required by the department Chairperson, Dean of Academic Affairs, or the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Masters Degree in literature / composition or a related field.
- At least three (3) years of teaching experience in college freshman and sophomore composition, reading and literature at a two or four year university/college.
- Must demonstrate knowledge in curriculum development, good analytical and interpersonal skills.
- Must also be computer literate (Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.)

**Salary:** Salary to commensurate with experiences, qualifications and credentials.

**Application Deadline:** May 05, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

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

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# Fearing a worker shortage, farmers push back on immigration

JUNCTION CITY, Ore. (AP) — The head of Bethel Heights Vineyard looked out over the 100 acres of vines her crew of 20 Mexicans had just finished pruning, worried about what will happen if the Trump administration presses ahead with its crackdown on immigrants.

From tending the plants to harvesting the grapes, it takes skill and a strong work ethic to produce the winery's pinot noir and chardonnay, and native-born Americans just aren't willing to work that hard, Patricia Dudley said as a cold rain drenched the vineyard in the hills of Oregon.

"Who's going to come out here and do this work when they deport them all?" she asked.

President Donald Trump's hard line against immigrants in the U.S. illegally has sent a chill through the nation's agricultural industry, which fears a crackdown will deprive it of the labor it needs to plant, grow and pick the crops that feed the country.

Fruit and vegetable growers, dairy and cattle farmers and owners of plant nurseries and vineyards have begun lobbying politicians at home and in Washington to get them to deal with immigration in a way that minimizes the harm to their livelihoods.

Some of the farm leaders are Republicans who voted for Trump and are torn, wanting border security but also mercy toward laborers who are not dangerous criminals.

Farming uses a higher percentage of illegal labor than any other U.S. industry, according to a Pew Research Center study.

Immigrants working illegally in this country accounted for about 46 percent of America's roughly 800,000 crop farmworkers in recent years, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from the U.S. Departments of Labor and Agriculture.

Stepped-up deportations could carry "significant economic implications," a 2012 U.S. Department of Agriculture study said. If America's unauthorized labor force shrank 40 percent, for example, vegetable production could drop by more than 4 percent, the study said.

The American Farm Bureau Federation says strict immigration enforcement would raise food prices 5 to 6 percent because of a drop in supply and because of the higher labor costs farmers could face.

In addition to proposing a wall at the Mexican border, Trump wants to hire 10,000

more Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and has served notice that he intends to be more aggressive than the Obama administration in deporting immigrants.

ICE agents have arrested hundreds of immigrants since Trump took office, though how much of a change from the Obama administration that represents is a matter of debate.

Field hands have been among those targeted, with apple pickers detained in upstate New York and Guatemalans pulled over in Oregon on their way to a forest to pick a plant used in floral arrangements.

It doesn't appear the arrests themselves have put a sizable dent in the agricultural workforce yet, but the fear is taking its toll.

Some workers in Oregon are leaving for job sites as early as 1 a.m. and staying away from check-cashing shops on payday to avoid dragnets. Farm employers are worried about losing their workforces.

"They say, 'Don't go out, don't get drunk, don't do nothing illegal' because they need us too. They worry too," said Moses Maldonado, who is in the U.S. illegally and has worked for nearly four decades tending wine grapes and picking fruit in Oregon.

In Los Banos, California, asparagus farmer Joe Del Bosque said workers are so afraid of being arrested in the field that he struggled to find enough hands in March to pick his crop.

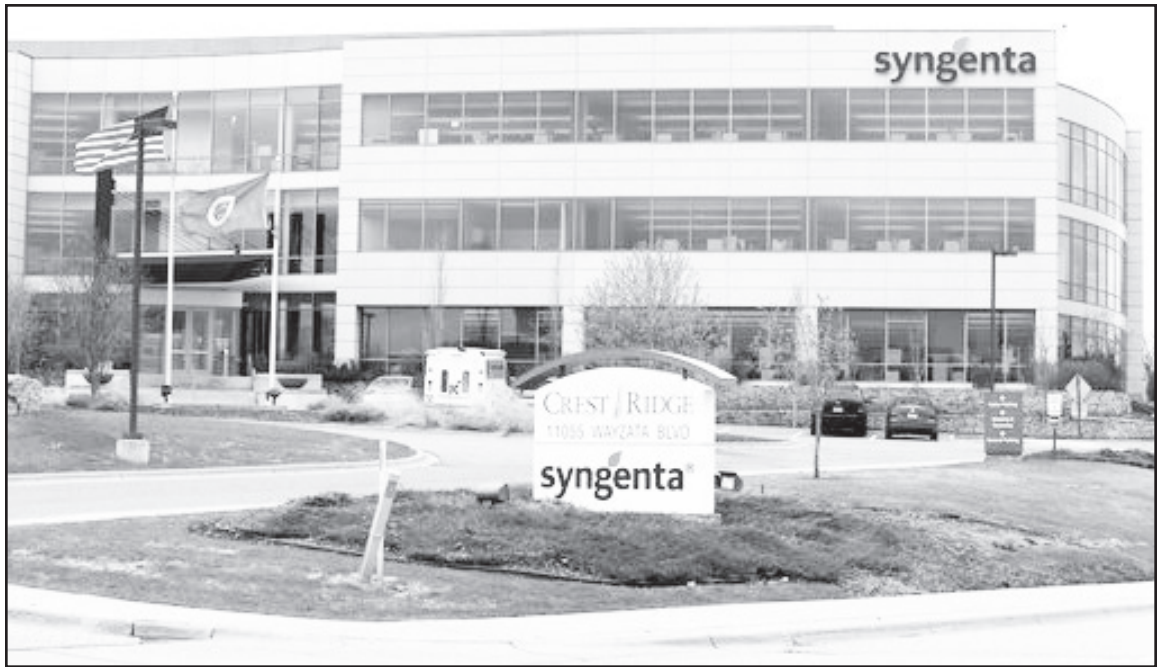
When immigration attorney Sarah Loftin held a recent seminar in the Oregon wine-region town of Newberg to talk about immigrants' legal rights, she was surprised to see about half of those present were winery owners or farmers.

By law, job seekers must provide documents establishing their eligibility to work in the U.S. But the papers are often fake. Many agricultural employers say that it's not their responsibility — and that they lack the expertise — to determine if they're genuine.

At the same time, they say that U.S.-born workers have little interest at laboring in the dirt and the cold at the crack of dawn.

As 18 Guatemalans in hoodies and rubber boots toiled in such conditions recently in Oregon's Willamette Valley, their boss expressed admiration for their willingness to do the back-breaking work he said native-born Americans won't do.

# 1st farmer lawsuit on deck against Syngenta over China trade



*This April 18, 2017 photo shows the suburban Minneapolis headquarters of Syngenta in Minnetonka, Minn. The first lawsuit out of tens of thousands across the country is about to go to trial against Swiss the agribusiness giant Syngenta over its decision to put a genetically engineered corn variety onto the U.S. market before China had approved it.*  
(AP Photo/Jim Mone)

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The first of tens of thousands of U.S. lawsuits will go to trial on Monday against Swiss agribusiness giant Syngenta over its decision to introduce a genetically engineered corn seed variety to the U.S. market before China approved it for imports.

The lawsuits allege Syngenta's move wrecked an increasingly important export market for U.S. corn and resulted in price drops that hurt all producers. Court filings show Syngenta aggressively marketed the seeds even when it knew Chinese approval was going to be a problem.

Plaintiffs' experts estimate the economic damage at about \$5 billion, though Syngenta denies its actions caused any losses for farmers.

Monday's trial in state court in Minneapolis will mark the first test case. The second goes to trial in federal court in Kansas City, Kansas, on June 5. The

two cases are meant to provide guidance for how the complex web of litigation in state and federal courts could be resolved.

Here are a look at some of the issues:

**THE PROBLEM**

Syngenta decided to commercialize its Viptera brand of genetically modified corn seeds before China approved importing it. Syngenta invested over \$100 million and 15 years in developing Viptera, which has a trait called MIR162 that protects against pests such as earworms, cutworms, armyworms and corn borers.

With U.S. government approval, Syngenta began selling Viptera in the U.S. for the 2011 growing season. But China didn't approve it until December 2014.

Court papers show that Syngenta initially assured stakeholders that China would approve MIR162 in time for the 2011 crop. But the date kept

slipping. Some exporters sent shipments containing the trait to China anyway. After two years of accepting them, China began rejecting them in late 2013.

One expert working for the plaintiffs estimated the damage to U.S. farmers to be \$5.77 billion; another pegged it at \$4.68 billion.

Most plaintiffs didn't grow Viptera, but China excluded their grain, too, because elevators and shippers typically mix grain from large numbers of suppliers, making it difficult to source corn that was free of the trait. So they say all farmers were hurt by the resulting price drop.

**THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE**

About 60,000 individual

cases involving farmers from across the country, plus a class-action lawsuit on behalf of Minnesota farmers, are consolidated before Hennepin County District Judge Thomas Sipkins. Syngenta's North American seed business is based in suburban Minneapolis.

The other big bloc, which includes cases from corn belt states other than Minnesota, has been consolidated before U.S. District Judge John Lungstrum in Kansas City, Kansas. The lawyers themselves aren't sure how many farmers are covered there, but it's a lot.

The first two cases will serve as bellwether trials, which courts often use when there are large numbers of lawsuits

concerning similar legal issue. This way the attorneys can see how juries react and determine whether to settle other cases or take them to trial.

The trial that starts Monday in Minneapolis is for a lawsuit filed by Daniel Mesnick of Morse Bluff, Nebraska, who grew Viptera and claims about \$150,000 in damages. It is expected to last up to three weeks.

The second trial will take place in federal court in Kansas City and will be a class-action case involving Kansas farmers who claim about \$200 million in damages.

(Continued on page 14)



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**AMERICAN SAMOA  
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Department of Academic Affairs

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Position Title:** SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR  
**Employment Status:** Full Time 10 months (Career Service)

**General Description:**

The instructor reports to the Social Science Chairperson and supports the ASCC mission and core values. He/she will provide instruction to fulfill the general education requirements for all Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree programs. The instructor will develop and implement assessment of student learning for improvements to instruction and learning. The skills acquired in Social Science courses prepare students for both academic studies (college transferability) and the work place.

**Job Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Collect, prepare, and present instructional materials for all classes to be taught
- Prepare and distribute course syllabi/outlines for each subject during the first week of instructions.
- Teach a full instructional course load of at least 15 credits or 225 instructional contact hours per semester. However, loads may vary between 12 and 16 credit hours per semester.
- Prepare and distribute a comprehensive syllabi for all courses taught in a timely manner as requested by Academic Affairs.
- Teach each class as scheduled and supervise examinations, field trips, internships, service learning activities, and practicum.
- Maintain attendance and scholastic records and submit these to the Admissions and Records Office by the assigned date every semester / session.
- Develop, implement, and assess Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for each course taught.
- Share data on SLOs collected from courses taught with the department and other college stakeholders, and provide recommendations for improvement of student learning.
- Participate in the different levels of student learning outcome review, program review, and student assessment.
- Academically advise assigned students regarding their chosen program of study
- Provide students with information on career, academic referrals, and transfer opportunities
- Assist with the registration process; participate in faculty orientation, commencement exercises, and professional development activities.
- Post and maintain class schedules and office hours to assist students.
- Provide safety measures and fully exercise the enforcement of these measures in the classrooms.
- Actively participate in college committees and extracurricular functions.
- Observe and enforce all ASCC rules and regulations
- Perform other duties assigned by the Department Chairperson, Dean of Academic Affairs or the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Master's Degree in History, and emphasis on World, U.S., and Pacific History, Political Science, or Anthropology.
- Must have at least three (3) years of teaching experience in History at a two or four year university/college.
- Must demonstrate knowledge in curriculum development, good analytical and interpersonal skills.
- Must also be computer literate ( Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.)

**Salary:** Salary to commensurate with experiences, qualifications and credentials.

**Application Deadline:** May 05, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

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

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# Scams push foreclosure fraud to limit, taking victims' homes

NEW YORK (AP) — The phone call came as Raymond Murray neared the bottom of his luck. His wife had died, his career had been ended by injuries, and struggling to get by on his disability check, he had scraped together just enough to pay a lawyer to avoid imminent foreclosure on his modest Brooklyn home.

The voice on the line offered a godsend: No more attorney fees, no more foreclosure, a lower monthly mortgage, and all this help for free.

Murray was soon picked up by a black Mercedes-Benz, off to meet the man on the phone. Not long after, he was back at the office again, property deed in hand and a ring of people around a conference room table, finalizing the supposed fix to keep him in the home he hoped to die in.

Eventually, the blessing Murray thought he had found was revealed as a curse. Amid unfulfilled promises, unreturned calls and unwelcome visitors at his door, the truth became clear: This aging immigrant, who thought he'd realized an American dream, was scammed out of his home.

Around the U.S., deed theft has emerged as one of the most sophisticated and devastating frauds ever to menace homeowners. Foreclosure "rescue" scams that have stolen thousands of dollars from individual homeowners in the years since the housing collapse have been pushed by savvy perpetrators to their limit. They use lies to convince the desperate to sign over their title, then force them into homelessness or a years-long legal battle.

"The scammers are no longer content with stealing \$5,000. Now they want the whole house," said Dina Levy, who heads the Homeowner Protection Program in the New York attorney general's office, which has spread word about deed theft and prosecuted culprits.

Although there are no firm numbers on how many cases of deed theft have occurred, they have been reported around the U.S., particularly in markets that have rebounded from the housing crisis or in neighborhoods that are gentrifying.

"It's growing, absolutely," said Kristen Clarke, who heads the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a non-profit that has researched foreclosure-related fraud. "We're beginning to see these scammers operate in a far more bold way."

— In San Diego, federal

prosecutors netted a guilty plea and a six-year prison sentence last year for a man who forged deeds on at least 15 homes, and then quickly sold them to the surprise of unwitting owners. The ringleader of what investigators called a "tangled web of deceit" netted about \$2.2 million in the scheme. Buyers coaxed into purchasing the homes were left with worthless claims to titles.

— In Detroit, the Wayne County Register of Deeds is looking to expand its mortgage and deed fraud unit to deal with a crush of cases. The problem is so severe the office runs a round-the-clock property fraud hotline and has a marked deed-theft patrol car used by investigators following up on tips. Investors in Kuwait, Australia and the United Kingdom looking to capitalize on Detroit's resurgence are among those who have been caught up in scams.

— In Indianapolis, Crystal Francis, an attorney with Indiana Legal Services, tells of deed theft cases sprinkled throughout the area in recent years, with elderly people the preferred targets.

One woman victimized by a scam while in the throes of a liver problem and dialysis treatment was overcome with shame. She couldn't muster the strength for a protracted legal fight, choosing to simply walk away from her longtime home and move in with a friend. "She was so discouraged," Francis said. "She just concluded it was too much."

The problem has been gravest in New York, particularly the ever-pricier neighborhoods of Brooklyn. The New York sheriff's office has taken a lead on the cases and since 2014, the office has amassed more than 1,700 complaints, with hundreds under investigation, and some 32 arrests already tallied.

The cases can take investigators years to solve. Sheriff Joseph Fucito points to a graphic of a single case, a snare of lines representing the three partners at the center of the probe, and their ties to 110 different companies and 189 properties. In this case, like many others, Fucito said the perpetrators did a mix of above-board and fraudulent business through a series of limited-liability companies, leaving it to detectives to pinpoint victims.

"Some of it's legitimate, some of it's not legitimate, and we have to pick through it," Fucito said. "But all of it smells funny."



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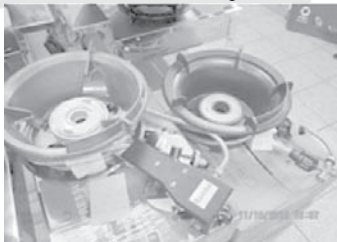


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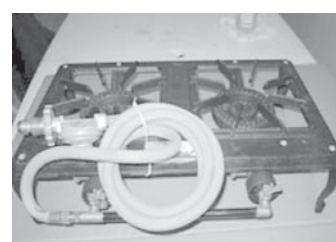
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FILE - In this March 3, 2017, file photo, a U.S. Navy F18 fighter jet lands on the USS Carl Vinson following a routine patrol of the disputed South China Sea, off the Philippines, when the U.S. military take a group of journalists to the aircraft carrier. The American aircraft carrier heading toward the Korean Peninsula began joint exercises Sunday, April 23 with Japanese naval ships in the Philippine Sea.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez, File)

# US carrier heading for Korea trains with Japanese destroyers

TOKYO (AP) — An American aircraft carrier heading toward the Korean Peninsula began joint exercises Sunday with Japanese naval ships in the Philippine Sea.

Two Japanese destroyers joined the USS Carl Vinson and two other U.S. warships as they continued their journey north in the western Pacific Ocean, the U.S. Navy said in a statement.

The Vinson had canceled a scheduled visit to Australia to divert toward North Korea in a show of force, though it still conducted a curtailed training exercise with Australia before doing so. Tensions are elevated on the Korean Peninsula, with the Trump administration saying that all options are on the table, and indications that North Korea may be preparing to test

a nuclear weapon or long-range missile.

Two Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyers left Sasebo port in southern Japan on Friday to join the Vinson strike group. The U.S. group also includes a guided-missile cruiser and a guided-missile destroyer.

The Navy called the exercise “routine” and said it is designed to improve combined maritime response and defense capabilities, as well as joint maneuvering proficiency.

The Vinson group has conducted three previous bilateral exercises with the Japanese navy since leaving San Diego on Jan. 5 for a western Pacific deployment. The most recent one was in March.



## AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Department of Academic Affairs

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Position Title:** PSYCHOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY INSTRUCTOR  
**Employment Status:** Full Time 10 months (Career Service)

**General Description:**

Instructor will report to the Academic Chairperson of the Social Science Department. Instructor will provide instruction to fulfill General Education requirements for all Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree programs. Instructor will develop and implement assessment of Student Learning for improvements to instruction and learning. The department provides a diverse spectrum of courses acquainting students with historical processes, cultural developments, interrelationships amongst people, and the dynamics of social elements reflected in social, religious, political and technological progress. The skills acquired prepare students for both academic students (college transferability) and the work place.

**Job Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Collect, prepare, and present instructional materials for all classes to be taught
- Prepare and distribute course syllabi/outlines for each subject during the first week of instructions.
- Teach a full instructional course load of at least 15 credits or 225 instructional contact hours per semester. However, loads may vary between 12 and 16 credit hours per semester.
- Prepare and distribute a comprehensive syllabi for all courses taught in a timely manner as requested by Academic Affairs.
- Teach each class as scheduled and supervise examinations, field trips, internships, service learning activities, and practicum.
- Maintain attendance and scholastic records and submit these to the Admissions and Records Office by the assigned date every semester / session.
- Develop, implement, and assess Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for each course taught.
- Share data on SLOs collected from courses taught with the department and other college stakeholders, and provide recommendations for improvement of student learning.
- Participate in the different levels of student learning outcome review, program review, and student assessment.
- Academically advise assigned students regarding their chosen program of study
- Provide students with information on career, academic referrals, and transfer opportunities
- Assist with the registration process; participate in faculty orientation, commencement exercises, and professional development activities.
- Post and maintain class schedules and office hours to assist students.
- Provide safety measures and fully exercise the enforcement of these measures in the classrooms.
- Actively participate in college committees and extracurricular functions.
- Observe and enforce all ASCC rules and regulations
- Perform other duties assigned by the Department Chairperson, Dean of Academic Affairs or the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Master's Degree in Psychology/Sociology or related area.
- Must have at least three years of teaching experience in Psychology or Sociology at a two or four year university/college.
- Must also be computer literate (Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.)

**Salary:** Salary to commensurate with experiences, qualifications and credentials.

**Application Deadline:** May 05, 2017 no later than 4:00pm.

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

“An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer – And A Drug-Free Workplace”

### Continued...

*Continued from page 11*

“By the middle of July we should have one individual farmer and one class trial under our belt, which should give everybody a lot of information about how juries view these facts and what damages should be awarded,” said Lew Remele, lead attorney for the Minnesota individual plaintiffs.

A few thousand other less advanced cases have been consolidated with a federal judge in Illinois, while lawsuits by grain handlers including Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland are pending in Louisiana.

**THE MINNESOTA JUDGE**

Sipkins last year denied Syngenta’s motion to dismiss the case, ruling that the company had a duty to control the timing, manner and scope of taking Viptera to market. This January, Sipkins ruled that the plaintiffs’ attorneys had found enough evidence to meet the legal requirements for seeking punitive damages, and his order contained harsh words for Syngenta.

“There is evidence that Syngenta was at least disingenuous, perhaps mendacious at worst, about the timing of Chinese approval to induce farmers to buy and plant Viptera,” Sipkins wrote. He also said Syngenta was “less than

forthright” about the anticipated approval date to dissuade grain elevators from refusing to take Viptera, which would have deterred farmers from planting it.

**SYNGENTA’S DEFENSE**

Syngenta attorney Mike Jones said the company sold a legal product fully approved for sale in the U.S. and other key importing countries, and that it complied with industry standards for international marketing. The company also argues that China’s rejection had no meaningful impact on U.S. corn prices.

Syngenta points to U.S. Department of Agriculture figures showing that China was just a small market for U.S. corn in 2010 when Syngenta launched Viptera. The company says it was larger market forces, and not China’s decision, that drove prices down.

Jones said corn prices fell sharply in 2013, even before China rejected its first shipment, because of a bumper U.S. crop that brought prices down from record highs. Jurors will see evidence that the rejections conveniently let the Chinese walk away from contracts they signed when prices were much higher, he said.

# Obama meets with at-risk youth ahead of Chicago speech



FILE - In this Jan. 20, 2017, file photo, former President Barack Obama waves as he boards a Marine helicopter during a departure ceremony on the East Front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington after President Donald Trump was inaugurated.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Barack Obama met Sunday with at-risk young men and boys in his hometown of Chicago before his first major post-presidency speech.

The former president spent time at a roundtable with youth from the organization Chicago Create Real Economic Destiny located in the Roseland/Pullman neighborhood in South Side Chicago where Obama started as a community organizer at age 25.

The CRED program provides job skills and employment opportunities for at-risk young adults.

Spokesman Kevin Lewis says Obama listened to the young men's stories and shared some of the challenges that he faced growing up. Obama "was optimistic about their potential to positively contribute to their communities and support their families because of the services provided in the program," Lewis said.

The program was founded by Obama's education secretary, Arne Duncan, who also attended the meeting.

"The president and Mrs. Obama look forward to working with similar organizations through the Obama Foundation and the My Brother's Keeper initiative that are already committed to bringing much needed expansion of opportunities in Chicago neighborhoods," Lewis said.

Obama will speak Monday to young community leaders and organizers at the University of Chicago, where his presidential library is planned.

Obama's first public engagement comes as President Donald Trump nears his 100-day mark in office.



American Samoa Power Authority

April 21, 2017

## Monthly Fuel Surcharge Notification

The American Samoa Power Authority is informing its customers about the monthly fuel surcharge rate, which is the direct cost of fuel to generate electricity. The charge for each kilowatt hour (kWh) comprises the "base rate" and the "fuel surcharge rate."

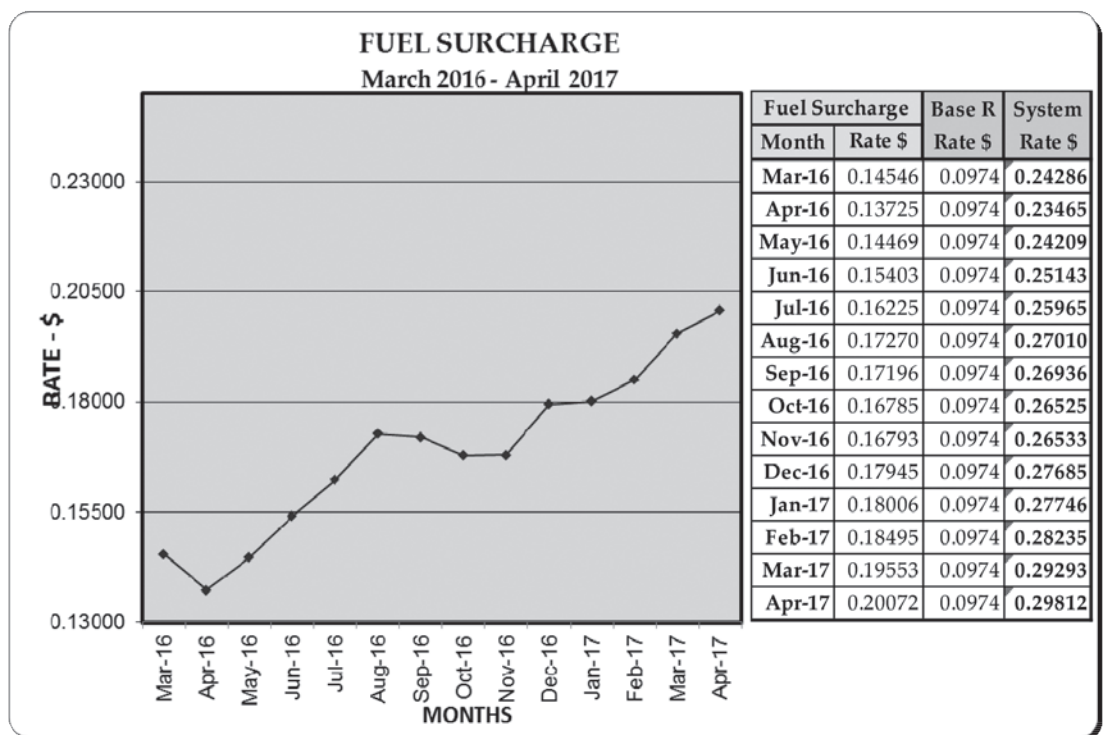
The base rate, which remains the same monthly for all electric customer classes, pays for ASPA's operating costs and for infrastructure upgrades needed to get power to your home and business.

The fuel surcharge rate changes monthly due to fluctuating fuel costs. The fuel surcharge is approximately 70%-75% of the total kWh price. This is considered a "pass-through" revenue because it goes directly to pay the local fuel suppliers for diesel fuel consumed at the five power plants in Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu.

The fuel surcharge rate also includes the "Renewable Reduction" from electricity produced by the ASPA Photo Voltaic panels. The avoided fuel costs or fuel being saved from producing electricity through the Photo Voltaic panels, is passed on to customers as the "Renewable Reduction" savings. There are five active sites, with more sites in progress to increase ASPA's renewable energy portfolio. As ASPA increases renewable energy capacity, more savings will be realized and passed on to customers.

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Fuel Surcharge and System Rate for April 2017			
Rate - \$	Residential	Small General	Large General
Calculated Fuel Surcharge	0.20920	0.20920	0.2092
Renewable Reduction	-0.00848	-0.00848	-0.00848
Fuel Surcharge	0.20072	0.20072	0.20072
Fixed Electric Base Rate	0.09740	0.10650	0.08960
Electric System Rate (kWh)	0.29812	0.30722	0.29032



McConnell Dowell is an Equal opportunity employer.

### Employment Opportunity

#### Supervisor

Only those who can demonstrate all of the below considered.

- Minimum of Five years experience of Civil Construction Supervisor
- Trades qualification relevant to Civil Construction
- Sound working knowledge of HS&E requirements
- Strong and proven ability to lead, direct and manage civil construction projects
- Effective planning and programming skills
- Experience in roading and seawall construction
- Experience in Procurement for roading and seawall construction
- Must be self motivated

If you are interested in applying, please deliver your SV (Resume) to McConnell Dowell office by **Tuesday April 25, 2017 no later than 2:00pm**

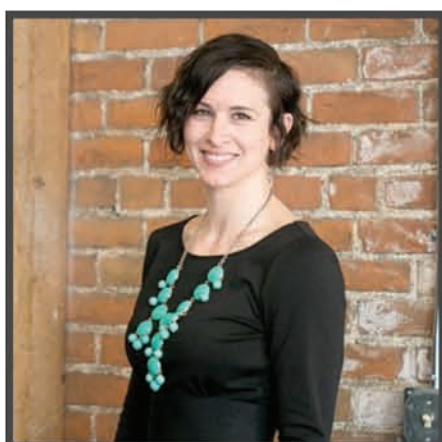
# MWS ROSE ATTORNEYS

## ROSE JONESON VARGAS IS NOW MOONEY WIELAND SMITH & ROSE

Rose Joneson Vargas has merged with Idaho law firm Wieland Perdue PLLC to become Mooney Wieland Smith & Rose PLLC—or MWS Rose for short. Still led by longtime local attorney Barry I. Rose in American Samoa, MWS Rose brings a new level of experience and energy to businesses in the Territory and beyond. MWS Rose’s team of attorneys continues the legacy of Rose and his now-retired colleagues, David P. Vargas and Jennifer L. Joneson, with the same quality of service clients have come to expect. MWS Rose’s American Samoa office includes Rose, Nick Smith, and Daniel E. Mooney, with Jessica E. Pollack joining in May. The firm’s Idaho office is led by Jaren and Steven Wieland.

684.699.2100  
contact@mwsrose.com

Jaren Wieland



Barry I. Rose



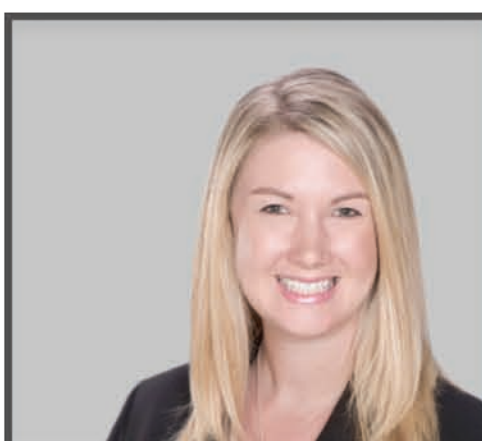
Steven Wieland



Nick Smith



Jessica E. Pollack



Daniel E. Mooney

