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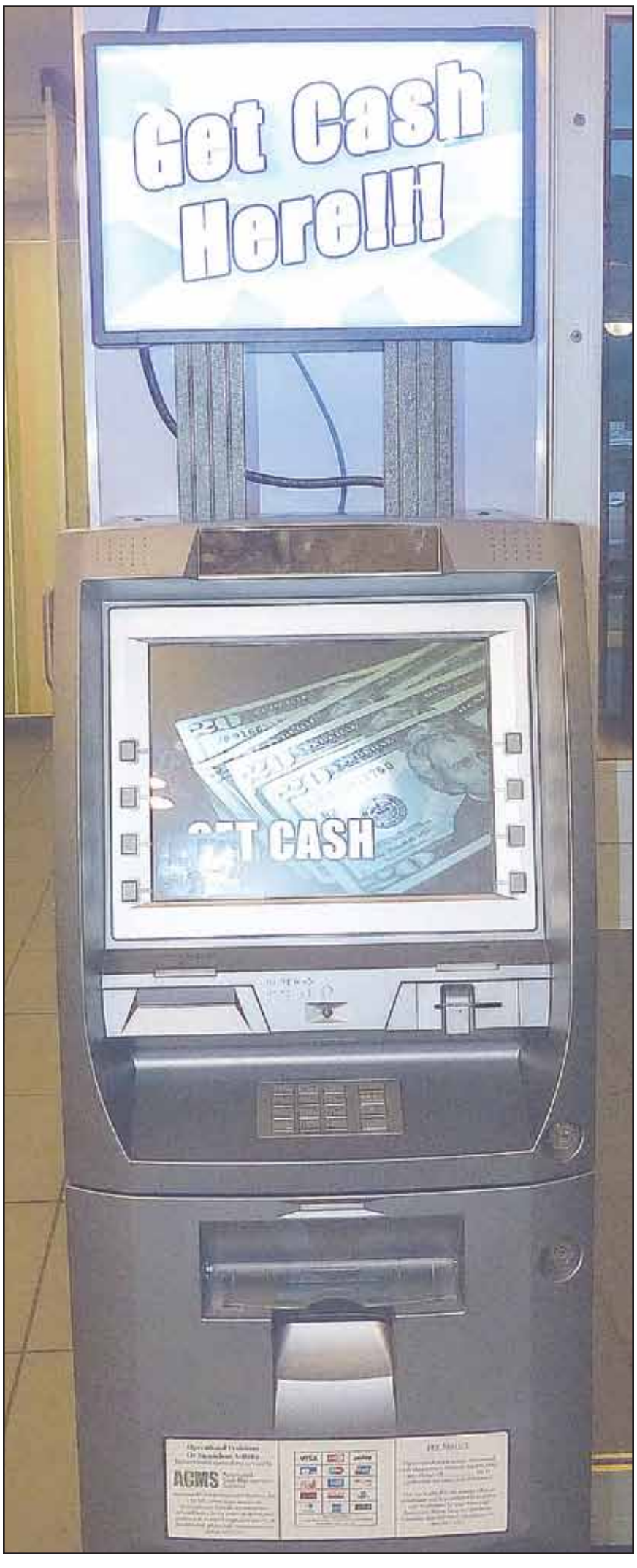
A Community Favorite: The DOE 2016 Speech Festival saw superb performances from the various public high school participants. The choral division of the festival is usually highly competitive, with groups in costume and make up as part of their performances. [Photo: LF]

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samoa news

DAILY CIRCULATION 7,000

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A look at one of the new ATMs that can be found at McDonald's in Tafuna and the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building in Utulei where the new service was launched last week. This is a partnership between locally based Betham Technology Inc. in Nu'uuli and two US based firms: Automated Cash Management Systems and Coast To Coast Processing and Media Services.

Betham Technology owner David Betham plans to install 10 ATMs on Tutuila with the first two already in place. (See Samoan story in yesterday's Samoa News on the Lali section.)

Samoa News understands the ATMs take credit cards and bank debit cards that have a security chip; and as a result, local ANZ bank cards do not work in these machines. Samoa News tried a BoH bank card with the security chip — and yes it does work. There is a fee (less than $3) charged for use of these ATMs, and the cash amount is no more than $200 per withdrawal. What your bank charges you for using an ATM not owned by them, is of course dependent on their policy.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

DOC preliminary survey results show population increase in the territory

MANU'A CONTINUES TO HAVE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF PEOPLE, TUALAUTA THE MOST

by Samoa News staff

The preliminary population count for American Samoa in 2015 conducted by the local Department of Commerce was just over 57,000, an increase of more than 2,000 people from the 2010 Census.

In an April 8, 2016 press statement, DOC says these are the preliminary results of the 2015 Household Income and Expenditures Survey (HIES), which was carried out in April and May last year.

DOC says the survey collected information on population and housing, but also on expenditures, including durable goods bought, travel, health, transportation, and cost of community activities. The respondents in the selected units for the survey also filled out a daily diary for a week, recording everything they spent, including general grocery shopping as well as money spent in fast food outlets and other restaurants.

American Samoa's population, according to the 2010 count carried out by the US Census, shows 55,519. (Samoa News points out that lawmakers and others challenged results of the 2010 Census after its release in mid 2011.)

According to the preliminary HIES population count; the territory's estimated population in 2015 was at 57,436.

The population included about 28,238 males and 29,198 females. The median age of the population was 25.3 years, with 23.7 for males and 26.9 for females, which are much lower than for the United States, whose median population is 36.8 years.

Samoa News notes that compared to the 2010 Census, the 2015 Manu'a Island's population count has increased by 140 people, i.e. 1,143 people vs. 1,283 people. Tualauta County continues to be the largest with a 2015 population count of 31,920 people; an increase of 591 people as compared to the 2010 Census, which was 31,329.

The survey also collected information on American Samoa's religions and the largest religion was the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa with 19,147 members, followed by Catholics with 10,410, and the LDS (Mormon) faith with 9,091.

According to the preliminary results, a majority of American Samoa's population — 36,952 or almost two-thirds — was born in the territory. Approximately 14,000 were reported as born in Samoa, 900 in Tonga, and 1,000 in the Philippines.

While American Samoa has fewer people born in Samoa than previously reported, almost half of all mothers of people living in American Samoa were born in Samoa, and more than half of the fathers of the territory's people were born in Samoa. "So, the ties between the two Samoas continue," according to DOC.

And as expected, Samoans are the largest ethnic group — with 53,490 or 93% of the population.

Other groups included 1,607 Tongans.

(Continued on page 14)