



Diocese of Samoa Pago Victor General, Monsignor Viane Etuate (front) blessing the MV Manu'atele with holy water during yesterday's blessing and dedication ceremony at the inter-island dock for the new \$13.6 million ASG vessel, which arrived last Wednesday.

First Lady Cynthia Malala Moliga (left) and Mrs. Gail Kruse cut the ribbon at the ceremony, and later used coconut water during the Samoan blessing of the MV Manu'atele. [photos: AF]



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PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016

\$1.00

Le LALI
 Fa'aititia le aofa'i
 o tagata ua leai
 ni galuega i AS

State of the Territory Address: Gov. Lolo Moliga says local economy on "shaky ground"

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Based on preliminary financial information, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga says the American Samoa Government closed out fiscal year 2016 in the black and noted that revenue collections have increased every year in the last four year's of the Lolo and Lemanu Administration.

The governor made the revelation yesterday during his State of the Territory Address, which was summarized in Samoan.

The Address was not delivered in English, instead a separate 83-page Comprehensive Report in English was handed out to lawmakers and others. The report looks at the last 4 years of the Administration, which took office in January 2013.

The governor informed lawmakers that 2016 was a year full of challenges and this is always the case, when it's an election year for a governor and lieutenant governor, because of the many preparations involved going into the next four-year term for the government.

FINANCIAL STATUS

2016, the governor said, was a time when it was difficult to meet financial obligations, but with the Fono and the Executive branches working hand-in-hand, many of these issues were addressed.

In addition, because of their working together, Lolo said preliminary financial information from Treasury and auditors indicates that ASG closed FY 2016 — which ended Sept. 30, 2016 — with a \$1.2 million surplus.

In the Comprehensive Report, the governor said that in 2013, ASG inherited a \$7.7 million deficit and an outstanding debt of \$59.6 million, including legal obligations totaling \$11 million. To settle the growing deficit, Lolo said the administration created and enforced cost containment measures to reduce overall government spending.

By the end of 2013, the administration was able to reduce the deficit by \$4.8 million and paid down ASG's legal liabilities and obligations by \$5.1 million and closed FY 2013 in the "black" for the first time in over 30 years.

However, Lolo said government spending swiftly soared with the implementation of many new infrastructure developments and program priorities in 2014.

(Continued on page 6)



It's that time of year again, when young, aspiring scientists display their work during science fair presentations in various classrooms across the island. Pictured is George Smith and his project entitled: "Seven Layer Density". [photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

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Jolie and Brad Pitt reach divorce pact



Texans look for improvement ahead of rematch

Sports

**In The High Court
of American Samoa
FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL
COURT DIVISIONS**

FDA/JG No. 05-14

SEGILA P. VAEAO & TAFAGO S. VAEAO,
Petitioners,

In the interest of a minor,
DOB: February 9, 2008, in American Samoa
And concerning mother **Peverita Vaeao** and
an **Un-named father,**

NOTICE/FA'AALIGA

TO: **Un-named Father American Samoa**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named person that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to establish minor guardianship for a Female child (d.o.b.: February 9, 2008, in AS). A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice, in which the Court may enter an order granting the guardianships. If you have any objection, or wish to claim or assert your parental rights, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of first publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.

O LE FA'AALIGA E TU'UINA atu i tagata ua ta'ua i luga; ua failaina se talosaga i le Fa'amasinoga Maualuga ina ia fa'amautuina se tagata tausi mo se tamaititi (d.o.b.: February 9, 2008 i Amerika Samoa). O le iloiloiga o lea mataupu, ma le faia o le fa'aluga a le Fa'amasinoga mo se tasi e fa'amautu ai le tausiga o le tama, o le a faia lea i le mae'a o le lua (2) masina ma aso e sefulu (10) mai le taimi na faia ai lenei fa'aliga. Afai e te tete'e i lea talosaga, pe e te mana'o e puipui i ou aia fa'amatua, po'o ou aia tatau, ia e o'o mai i le fale fa'amasino ma failaina lau tete'e ae e le'i mae'a le lua (2) masina ma aso e sefulu (10) mai le taimi o lenei fa'aliga.

DATE/ASO: January 05, 2017

CLERK OF COURTS

Published: 01/9, 01/17, 01/23



Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga (left) when he acknowledged government leaders including Chief Justice Lealaialoa Michael Kruse during yesterday's opening of the Fono's joint session to start the First Regular Session of the 35th Legislature. [photo: AF]

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Fono's response to Governor's Address: They're ready to work collaboratively

ASKS GOV. LOLO NOT TO FORGET THEIR 'NEW' BUILDING

by Fili Sagapolutele
Samoa News Correspondent

Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie says the Fono is again prepared to work collaboratively with the Lolo Administration for the benefit of the people and government of American Samoa in the next four years. His response was delivered in Samoan only.

Gaoteote made the comment as he, speaking on behalf of House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale, and lawmakers, responded to Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga's State of the Territory Address delivered yesterday at the official opening of the 35th Legislature, which followed the blessing and dedication.

At the start of his remarks, Gaoteote first congratulated Lolo and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga for being re-elected into office for a second four-year term.

According to the Senate President the administration still has a lot more work to be completed that was planned for the last four years. Gaoteote noted some of the work already completed, such as roads, the new \$13.6 million ASG vessel MV Manu'atele and the establishment of the Territorial Bank of American Samoa.

As the administration plans move forward this year, Gaoteote asked the governor to not forget the new Fono building. This brought laughter from the

audience.

He called on the administration not to look at the past but look forward to the future for ways that will further benefit the people and government of American Samoa. He thanked the governor for always seeking out the Fono's input and for working together in the last four years that made it possible for the government to accomplish many things.

Gaoteote suggested that the governor not ignore good projects that will benefit the community because of criticism.

JOINT SESSION REMARKS

Savali, who presided over yesterday's joint session, announced that each chamber of the Fono would convene at 10a.m. today. He also told all director-appointees to be prepared when the time comes for their confirmation hearings — which are not yet scheduled.

He also invited all those in attendance to the inter island dock for the blessing and dedication of the MV Manu'atele.

MV MANU'ATELE CEREMONY

At the dedication, where Diocese of Samoa Pago Victor General, Monsignor Viane Etuale blessed the vessel with holy water while First Lady Cynthia Moliga and Mrs. Gail Kruse used coconut water for the Samoan blessing, Sen. Misaalefua J. Hudson told the gath-

ering that God has answered prayers by the people of Manu'a who have suffered for many years of problems with ocean transportation by providing a new vessel.

Misaalefua, who was Manu'a District Governor, when he pleaded many times with past administrations for improvement to ocean transportation via a new vessel, thanked the current administration, as well as the US Department of Interior for making this a reality for Manu'a residents with the new vessel.

Another speaker at the ceremony was Gaoteote, who said that ocean transportation is the one issue about Manu'a that is raised by lawmakers many times. With the new vessel, he said that hopefully many Manu'a residents residing on Tutuila will now think about returning to Manu'a to serve their families and counties; or travel to Manu'a to spend Sundays there with the family and return to Tutuila on Monday for work.

Gaoteote recommended that Manu'a take good care of the vessel, which is brand new, so it will last long.

Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Mauga Tasi Asuega also delivered special remarks at the event, which was followed by a lunch hosted by the Fono leaders at the Fono Guest Fale.



Mrs. Gail Kruse (right) and First Lady Cynthia Malala Moliga cutting the ribbon at yesterday's blessing and dedication ceremony at the inter island dock for the new \$13.6 million ASG vessel, MV Manu'atele which arrived last Wednesday. [photo: AF]

In The High Court of American Samoa FAMILY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT DIVISIONS
 FDA/JG No. 03-14
 SEGILA P. VAEAO & TAFAGO S. VAEAO, Petitioners,
 In the interest of a minor,
 DOB: November 20, 2006, in American Samoa
 And concerning mother Peverita Vaeao and an Un-named father,
NOTICE/FA'AALIGA
TO: Un-named Father American Samoa
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above-named person that a petition has been filed before the High Court of American Samoa to establish minor guardianship for a Female child (d.o.b.: November 20, 2006 in AS). A hearing will be held after two months and ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice, in which the Court may enter an order granting the guardianships. If you have any objection, or wish to claim or assert your parental rights, you must appear within two months and ten days from the date of first publication of this notice and file an objection or a claim with the Court.
 O LE FA'AALIGA E TU'UINA atu i tagata ua ta'ua i luga; ua failaina se talosaga i le Fa'amasinoga Mauluga ina ia fa'amautiina se tagata tausi mo se tamaititi (d.o.b.: November 20, 2006 i Amerika Samoa). O le iloiloga o le mataupu, ma le faia o le fa'aiuga a le Fa'amasinoga mo se tasi e fa'amautu ai le tausiga o le tama, o le a faia lea i le mae'a o le lua (2) masina ma aso e sefulu (10) mai le taimi na faia ai lenei fa'aliga. Afai e te tete'e i lea talosaga, pe e te mana'o e puipui i ou aia fa'amatua, po'ou ou aia tatau, ia e o'o mai i le fale fa'amasino ma failaina lau tete'e ae e le'i mae'a le lua (2) masina ma aso e sefulu (10) mai le taimi o lenei fa'aliga.
 DATE/ASO: January 05, 2017
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Territorial Bank still working on getting bank routing number

by Fili Sagapolutele
 Samoa News Correspondent

Territorial Bank of American Samoa is working hard towards securing a bank routing number, while testing the bank's debit card was being completed, says TBAS chief executive officer, Phil Ware, who confirmed that the ASG entity had last month issued loans under the Christmas loan program.

TBAS officially opened Oct. 3, 2016 at the former location of the Bank of Hawaii at the Centennial Building in Utulei and local residents started opening savings and checking accounts. Customers interested in the debit cards had also ordered them.

However, Samoa News has received concerns from some customers that they are still waiting for their checking account checkbook as well as the debit card. Customers say that they were told that there was a delay in getting the check order book in and customers will be contacted, to come in to look at it when it is received to order their checks.

Bank customers have also not received their Master debit card; and were told by the bank that there is a bit of delay. Samoa News was also given the same information when TBAS was contacted in the latter part of November and again last month.

Samoa News learned last month that one of the main reasons for the delay with the checks for checking accounts, as well as debit cards, is that TBAS has not yet received a bank-routing number, which is from the Federal Reserve, the central banking system of the United States.

Responding to Samoa News questions regarding the issue, Ware first pointed out that TBAS opened in October and began accepting deposits from consumers, and these accounts are associated with a debit card.

"As of this writing the final testing of these cards is being completed. It is anticipated customers will be receiving these cards very soon," Ware said via email last Friday afternoon.

For checking accounts, Ware explained that currently, customer checks are dependent on the routing number situation and TBAS is working hard on this matter.

"We are confident that from the progress made this number, together with the corresponding Federal Reserve account, checks will be available to customers very shortly," he pointed out.

Early last month, many employees — in both public and private sector — were able to obtain loans from the bank.

Asked about the loan programs, Ware said TBAS began with a Christmas promotion, which was "very successful" and these loans were unsecured and ranged from \$300 to \$2,500. Additional loan programs will be offered in 2017, he said.

"In order for TBAS to be successful, it has to operate in a very controlled manner. To that extent, we have a strategic plan for the introduction and continuance of products and services," Ware explained. "This will proceed in a prescribed manner, based on both planned activities and the current logistic environment. By operating in this prudent manner, TBAS will be able to achieve the goals it has established."

TBAS is governed by a seven-member board of the Territorial Bancorp Holding Company, an ASG entity, and board members told senators last September examples of loan programs to be offered, would be small loans, which are the "fa'alavelave loans" of \$500 up to \$2,500; and personal loans of over \$2,500 up to \$10,000.

Business loans would come later, they told the Senate, but these types of loans are usually tied to the prime rate and also depend on the individual business. Additionally, vehicle loans would also be available later.

BACKGROUND

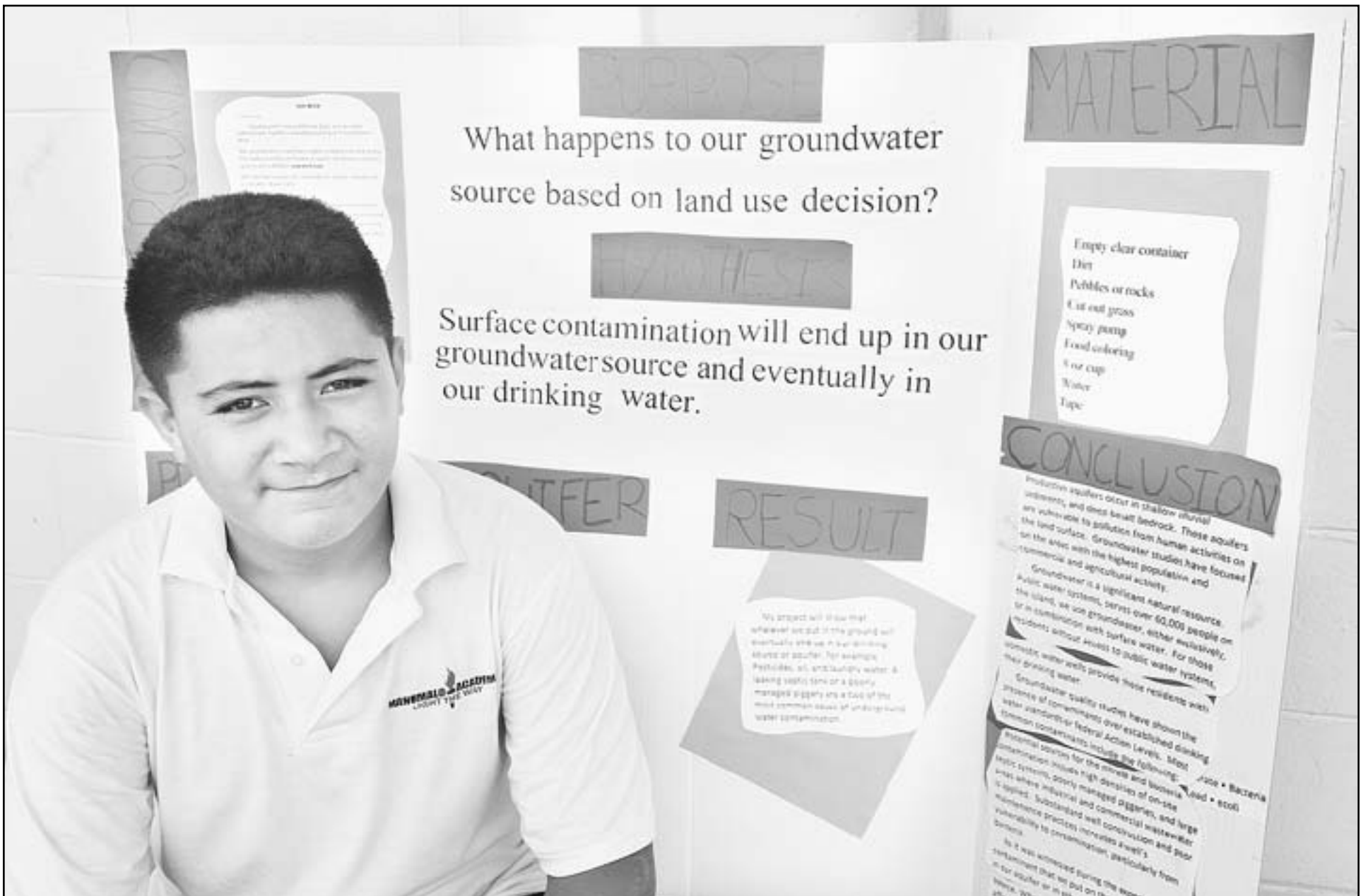
A bank routing number or routing transit number (RTN) is a nine-digit number used to identify a financial institution in a transaction, with the most common types of transactions being Automatic Clearing House (ACH) and wire transfers.

The ACH — is an electronic network for financial transactions in the United States. ACH processes large volumes of credit and debit transactions in batches. ACH credit transfers include direct deposit, payroll and vendor payments.

For a checking account, it's the first set of numbers printed on the bottom of your checks, on the left side.


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Seventh grader Martin Seko sits with his science project entitled: "What happens to our groundwater source, based on land use decision?" Currently, schools across the territory are conducting science project presentations to determine who will be presenting their project at the Territorial Science Fair. [photo: Blue Chen-Fruean]

⊗ Lolo Admin looking at Universal Health Insurance for the territory thru Medicaid Program



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by Joyetter Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu
 Samoa News Reporter

The Lolo and Lemanu Administration is looking at the future sustainability of a Universal Health Insurance Program for the territory by expanding the Medicaid Program. This is according to Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga's State of the Territory Address Comprehensive Report in English that was handed out to lawmakers and others at the opening of the Fono yesterday.

The governor delivered his Address in Samoan only, but there was no mention of health, education or Manu'a matters, instead he offered a brief summary of the state of the Territory.

However, the 83-page Comprehensive report, which looks at the last 4 years of the Administration that took office in January 2013, does include review and discussion of health, education and Manu'a matters.

MEDICAID – UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

The comprehensive report notes the territory's inability to set up an Insurance Exchange has allowed the addition of \$16.5million of the Affordable Care Act funds to expand the Territory's Medicaid program. To Access ACA funds, American Samoa had to expand all of its regular Medicaid funds for allowable expenses.

As a result, ACA funding has significantly improved funding opportunities for the LBJ hospital and all the Community Health Centers

(CHC) under DOH.

There are also efforts currently being made to address the future sustainability of a Universal Health Insurance Program for American Samoa. Medicaid is aggressively exploring the viability of the program before ACA funds expire by 2019.

Therefore, ASG is venturing towards the option of expanding the Medicaid Program as a Universal Health Insurance Plan. "With a universal insurance coverage in place, Medicaid could provide legal residents of American Samoa with affordable health insurance and access to various healthcare providers both local and abroad."

The report says through a verbal agreement with the CMS — the CMS Deputy Administrator and Director of Medicaid and Services — Medicaid has been affirmed to utilize the Territory's Medicaid program to provide universal coverage by including off island coverage for legal residents of American Samoa.

MEDICAID – MATCH AND STATUTORY CAP

The report notes that the local Medicaid Office has been working with the Center of Medicaid and Medicare Services to lower the local match from 45% to 30% and increase the federal contribution from 55% to 70% or at the same level as other US States.

(Continued on page 12)

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Trump predicts all Cabinet picks will win confirmation

NEW YORK (AP) — Facing a week of high-profile tests for his administration-in-waiting, President-elect Donald Trump predicted Monday that all of his Cabinet picks would win Senate confirmation even as Democrats charged that Trump's team was ignoring standard vetting protocol.

"I think they'll all pass," Trump said of his would-be Cabinet, describing them as "all at the highest level" in between private meetings in his Manhattan sky rise.

Trump's confidence comes as lawmakers in both parties eagerly await the submission of background material from Cabinet picks, including billionaires whose extensive personal financial dealings have never faced public scrutiny. Senate Democrats urged GOP leaders to slow their aggressive hearing schedule, which includes Trump's picks for the nation's top diplomat, lead law enforcement officer and head of homeland security, among others.

"Bear in mind President-elect Trump's nominees pose particularly difficult ethics and conflict-of-interest challenges," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said. "They come from enormous wealth, many have vast holdings and stocks, and very few have experience in government."

One wealthy Trump pick official who won't require Senate confirmation: son-in-law Jared Kushner, who transition officials confirmed Monday would serve as a senior adviser in the new administration. Kushner, a New York real estate executive, is expected to exert broad sway over both domestic and foreign policy, particularly Middle East issues and trade negotiations.

While not subject to Senate approval, White House staff must publicly disclose personal financial information.

Addressing the Cabinet selections, Trump's incoming press secretary Sean Spicer insisted Monday, "Everyone who has a hearing this week has their paperwork in."

It's unclear, however, whether each had submitted the extensive list of requirements that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell requested of President Barack Obama's nominees eight years ago. Those include an FBI background check, detailed questionnaires and financial disclosure

statements that include tax returns, according to a 2009 letter from McConnell that Schumer read Monday on the Senate floor.

"Everybody'll be properly vetted as they have been in the past," McConnell told reporters Monday after meeting privately with the president-elect in Trump Tower.

On Friday, however, Office of Government Ethics Director Walter Shaub said in a letter to congressional leaders that his office "has not received even initial draft financial disclosure reports for some of the nominees scheduled for hearings."

Among the committees that haven't yet received the forms was the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, which has scheduled a hearing this week for Betsy DeVos, Trump's pick to lead the Education Department. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee said it had also not received the forms for Trump's pick for commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, though a spokeswoman said they're expected soon.

Committee aides said they had received ethics forms for Sen. Jeff Sessions, Trump's pick for attorney general; Rex Tillerson, Trump's choice for secretary of state; former Marine Gen. John Kelly, his pick for homeland security secretary; James Mattis, his pick for defense secretary; Rep. Mike Pompeo, his choice for director of the Central Intelligence Agency; and Elaine Chao, his pick for transportation secretary.

The committee handling Ben Carson's nomination for housing secretary declined to comment on the record.

McConnell said he's hopeful that up to six or seven of Trump's picks, "particularly the national security team," will be "in place on Day One."

The Senate cannot vote on any Cabinet pick until after Trump is sworn in on Jan. 20.

Trump's selections, meanwhile, have been going through extensive preparation in the days leading up to the hearings.

Transition officials said the nominees have spent more than 70 hours participating in full-blown mock hearings, with volunteers playing the role of senators asking questions.

"They're listening, they're learning, they're preparing," Spicer said.

As his Cabinet prospects prepare to disclose their per-



President-elect Donald Trump, accompanied by French businessman Bernard Arnault speaks with reporters after a meeting at Trump Tower in New York, Monday, Jan. 9, 2017. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

sonal business dealings, Trump insisted Monday that there is a "very simple, very easy" way to disentangle himself from his global business empire before he takes office.

The details, he said, would have to wait until Wednesday, when he holds his first formal

news conference in nearly six months.

Trump has pledged to step away from the Trump Organization during his time in office, but amid warnings from government watchdogs and officials in both parties, he has yet to say specifically how he

would do that.

Trump continues to own or control some 500 companies that make up the Trump Organization and has said he intends for his two oldest sons and company executives to run the business while he's gone.



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RFP No: ASPA17.016.WW

Issuance Date: January 4, 2017

Closing Date & Time: January 25, 2017

No later than 2:00 p.m. local time

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

**"Utulei and Fogagogo Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
Outfall Diffuser Modification Project"**

Submission

An Original and one PDF of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked: "RFP No. ASPA17.016.WW Utulei and Fogagogo WWTP Outfall Diffuser Modification Project." Submissions are to be sent to the following address and will be received until 2:00 p.m. (local time), **Wednesday, January 25, 2017:**

Materials Management Office
American Samoa Power Authority
P.O. Box PPB
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attn: 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 Materials Management Office at ASPA's Tafuna Compound 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



A look at some of the senators of the 35th Legislature at yesterday's opening of the First Regular Session of the 35th Legislature.

[photo: AF]

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State of the...

Continued from page 6

Sadly, he said, the administration closed out FY 2014 in the “red” — but regained its financial prowess to close both FY 2015 and FY 2016 in the “black”.

In his Samoan address, the governor informed lawmakers that another important financial issue for ASG is the increase in local revenue collections since the administration took the helm of government in 2013.

According to the governor, in the year 2013 local revenues collected totaled \$90.3 million, for the year 2014 a total of \$98.9 million was collected; in the year 2015 a total of \$101.04 million was collected and in the year 2016 — as of Dec. 31st — \$104.4 million has been collected.

Lolo said these numbers show the continued increase every year of local revenue collections, but this is offset by a noticeable increase in the needs of the people as identified by the Fono and the Executive branch. However he said, this is a clear indication that the government of American Samoa is moving forward (in meeting the needs of the people).

HEALTH OF THE ECONOMY

Regarding the health of the local economy, or the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Lolo said that a 2012 review by the US Departments of Labor and Commerce showed a decline of 4.3%, but when reviewed in 2015, the GDP showed a 1.1% increase, which is a positive sign for the local economy moving forward.

While numbers are positive, there is a concern about the impact of outside issues, which are beyond American Samoa's control — for example, change

(Continued on page 7)

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[l-r] Senate President Gaoteote Tofau Palaie, Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale and Chief Justice Lealialoa Michael Kruse during the national anthems of the United States and American Samoa at yesterday's opening of the Fono's joint session to start the First Regular Session of the 35th Legislature. [photo: AF]

▶ Gov. Lolo...

Continued from page 6

in federal laws as well as globally, he said.

Lolo also spoke on the issue of unemployment, which was 20.4% in 2013, but the latest report on Dec. 16, shows unemployment dropped to 10.5%.

According to the governor, employment as well as the economy improved with the entrance of Tri Marine International into the local economy, investing \$70 million in 2013, setting up Samoa Tuna Processors (STP) Inc. He explained that between 2013 and 2016 about 1,500 new jobs were created in American Samoa and many of these jobs were due to Tri Marine's new operation and other major ASG infrastructure projects.

However, STP on Dec. 16 closed indefinitely its cannery operation and laid-off nearly 700 workers. Lolo said the job losses at STP are a "major economic loss" for American Samoa.

Lolo again reiterated that issues surrounding these job losses on our economy are beyond local control. He said American Samoa prays that the federal government makes it easier for American Samoa in the new year so there are new and good changes to the local economy, which is on "shaky ground", because of various reasons, including there are no firm plans released by the incoming Trump Administration for the territories.

Lolo called for patience, saying there are many challenges ahead but not to give up easy. He did note that it's important that everyone works collaboratively — similar to the past four years — to achieve great benefits for the people and government of American Samoa.



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FILE - In this May 28, 2014 file photo, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt arrive at the world premiere of "Maleficent" in Los Angeles. Angelina Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt have reached an agreement to handle their divorce in a private forum and will work together to reunify their family, the actors announced in a joint statement Monday, Jan. 9, 2017. (Photo by Matt Sayles/Invision/AP, File)

APNewsBreak: Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt reach divorce pact

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Angelina Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt have reached an agreement to handle their divorce in a private forum and will work together to reunify their family, the actors announced in a joint statement Monday.

Their statement released Monday night to The Associated Press said that they will keep future details of their divorce confidential by using a private judge.

"The parties and their counsel have signed agreements to preserve the privacy rights of their children and family by keeping all court documents confidential and engaging a private judge to make any necessary legal decisions and to facilitate the expeditious resolution of any remaining issues," their statement read. "The parents are committed to act as a united

front to effectuate recovery and reunification."

The statement is the first joint comment from the actors on their divorce since Jolie Pitt filed to end their marriage in September. At the time, one of her attorneys stated the petition was filed "for the health of the family."

Authorities investigated allegations that Pitt was abusive toward his 15-year-old son on a private flight, but sources familiar with the cases said the actor was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Private judges are often used in high-profile divorce cases, keeping many details of a breakup out of the public eye while a final judgment is negotiated.

Custody of their six children has been the primary issue in the divorce, with Jolie Pitt initially

seeking sole physical custody. California law favors joint custody in divorce cases, although final arrangements are often agreed to by parents and formalized in a written agreement.

Pitt and Jolie were married for two years and together for 12 years after becoming close while filming 2005's "Mr. & Mrs. Smith."

Their divorce, and every filing in it, has attracted international attention. Last month, Pitt sought to seal custody records in the case, and a hearing had been scheduled for next week on the issue.

Both actors have kept a relatively low profile since their breakup was announced, although Pitt made an appearance onstage at Sunday's Golden Globes to spirited applause.

Apple proved a phone can change the world in just 10 years

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Few people realized it at the time, but the world shifted fundamentally a decade ago when Steve Jobs pulled the first iPhone from Apple's bag of technological tricks.

"Every once in a while, a revolutionary product comes along that changes everything," Jobs declared as he paced across a San Francisco stage. It obviously wasn't an empty boast. We all know now that Jobs' "magical product" has reshaped culture, shaken up industries, put computers in billions of pockets and made it possible to do just about anything with a few taps on a screen. Besides its then 3.5-inch touch screen, the first iPhone featured a browser for on-the-go web surfing and built-in apps to check email and get directions.

GOING MOBILE

Apple has sold more than 1 billion iPhones since its debut, spawning millions of mobile applications and prodding other technology companies to make similar smartphones that have become like phantom limbs for many of us.

We use iPhones and their copycats to instantly share video and pictures with friends and family from almost anywhere. We use them to figure out where we are going. We use them to find the best deals while shopping in stores and to pay for stuff at the checkout stand. We use the phones to a hail ride, to tune instruments, to monitor our health and help find our next jobs.

Phones have gotten so smart that they even talk back to us via helpful digital concierges such as the iPhone's Siri and the recently introduced Assistant

on Google's Pixel phone. "iPhone is an essential part of our customers' lives, and today more than ever it is redefining the way we communicate, entertain, work and live," Apple's current CEO, Tim Cook, boasted in a retrospective that the Cupertino, California, company posted on its website.

ROADKILL IN ITS WAKE

The iPhone's revolutionary touch screen doomed the BlackBerry, another once-popular internet-connected phone. Mobile phones and their tablet cousins triggered a downturn in personal computer sales that is still unfolding.

An estimated 219 million desktop and laptop computers shipped worldwide last year, down from 264 million in 2007, according to the research firm Gartner Inc. Meanwhile, nearly 1.9 billion mobile phones shipped last year, up from 1.15 billion in 2007. All told, Gartner estimates about 5 billion mobile phones are currently in use around the world compared to 1.3 billion PCs.

The eroding popularity of PCs spurred shake-ups at powerful tech companies such as Microsoft, Intel, Hewlett-Packard and Dell, none of which adapted nimbly to the mobile world unleashed by the iPhone. Then-Microsoft's CEO Steve Ballmer scoffed at Apple's glass-and-metal gadget, telling USA Today in April 2007 that "there's no chance that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share. No chance."

Microsoft wound up squandering the \$7.6 billion that it spent to buy phone maker Nokia in a futile attempt to catch up to the iPhone.



FILE- In this Jan. 9, 2007, file photo, Apple CEO Steve Jobs holds up an iPhone at the MacWorld Conference in San Francisco. Jobs introduced the first iPhone a decade ago. Jobs' "magical product" reshaped culture, shook up industries and made it seem possible to do just about anything with a few taps on a screen while walking around with the equivalent of a computer in our pocket. (AP Photo/Paul Sakuma, File)



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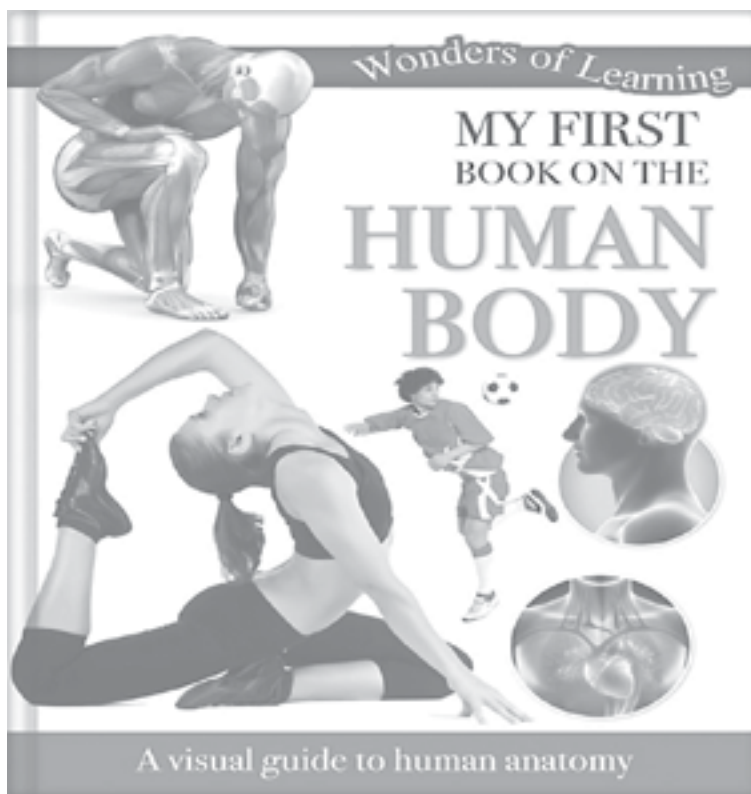
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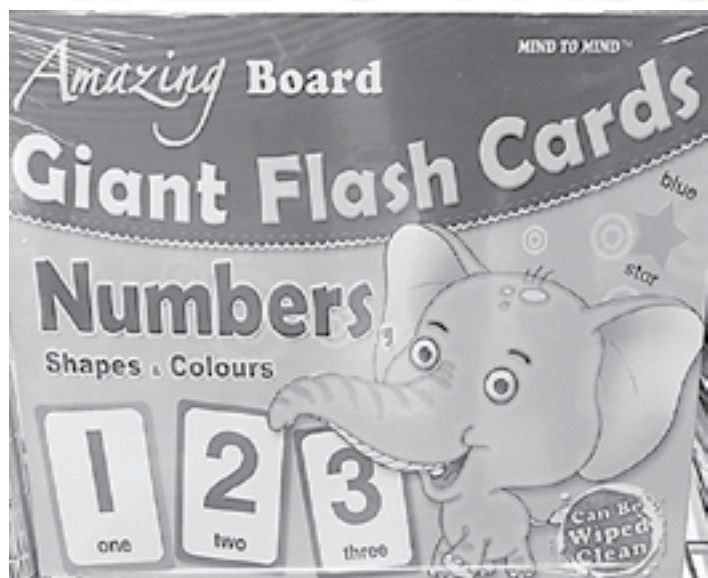
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**NEW! THE GRILLED
BURRITO**



Congresswoman Aumua Amata as she made her way into the Fono Guest Fale yesterday for the opening of the Fono's joint session to start the First Regular Session of the 35th Legislature.

[photo: AF]

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► **Lolo Admin looking at ...**

Continued from page 4

The Medicaid office has also been working with the CMS leadership and the USDOJ Office of Insular Affairs to lower or remove the statutory cap behind the Medicaid Assistance Program (MAP), which is based on a set population formula that only Congress can change.

“This cap has affected the amount of funds American Samoa receives every year. This issue has been recognized by President Barack Obama; and submitted legislation to the US Congress to remove the Medicaid cap for all five US Territories in 2015.

“The Medicaid Program also recently received a 2.2% increase in the Federal MAP percentage, which reduces the local match requirement for Medicaid funds and generated an additional \$1.8million to its revenue steam for over a two-year period. The completed reconciliation of the 2012 Medicare Cost Report by Medicaid in 2015 yielded an additional distributional payment of \$2.3million of incentive funding for LBJ without need for a local match.”

According to the report, CMS also approved the Medicaid office application for the State Innovation Model Design Grant, which netted \$750,000 to finance the implementation of Phase 1 of the SIM Program in the territory.

The approval also provides eligibility for American Samoa to financial resources under the State Health Care Innovation and Health Improvement Plan and additional benefits to improve both healthcare delivery and reduce healthcare costs for residents of American Samoa.

The report notes that with Phase 1 that's currently ongoing, Medicaid might receive an additional \$30million to implement

Phase 2 of the SIM program.

**MEDICAID
— PROSTHETICS**

The report says that the Territory's State Plan Amendment Reimbursement for prosthetics coverage has received CMS approval.

“It means local residents may now receive coverage services for prosthetics through the local Medicaid program. To facilitate the coverage more effectively, Medicaid has been working with LBJ to resolve and identify a suitable payment and reimbursement methods for the program. One of the payment options being currently considered by Medicaid to resolve the issue is through direct payments to vendors.”

**MEDICAID — STATE PLAN
REVISION**

Lolo said that to ensure that more funding opportunities are available for the Territory, the Medicaid Office has been working to revise the American Samoa Medicaid State Plan to bring the territory's healthcare delivery and accessibility up to standard.

He noted, “Unfortunately, the existing State plan fails to recognize the healthcare services provided by the Community Health Centers. It further undermines DOH's eligibility for other technical assistance available under the Medicaid program. The Medicaid Office anticipates a revised final draft of the Medicaid State plan before the end of this year.”

Samoa News will report on the other matters that are reviewed and discussed in the Territory Address Comprehensive Report in English and were not during the governor's Samoan Address — Education and Manu'a.

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