

Pacific Partnership 2008 - A voyage of friendship

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

Chuuk, FSM -
 The U.S. Naval
 Hospital Ship

Mercy came into view in Chuuk's lagoon bright and early on Friday, August 22. Even before the ship could be seen on the horizon, military helicopters flew in and out of the Chuuk International Airport transporting doctors to Weno for patient evaluations held at the Chuuk State Hospital.

The ship itself is a marvel at 894 feet in length and 105.7 feet across its beam. We estimate that the deck below the flight deck stands above the water by at least 60 feet. The ship continues below the waterline for another 32.8 feet, the draft of the ship. The ship was built by National Steel and Shipbuilding Company and was launched on July 20, 1985 and commissioned for service on November 8, 1986.

Crew members said that the ship is commonly reported to have 1000 beds. That information is misleading. For medical care the ideal number of patients is approximately 100 though USNS Mercy, in the case of emergency can handle 1000 additional people beyond its crew members. The ship contains enough stretchers to accommodate that number but it does not have a thousand beds.

Perhaps an even greater marvel than the tech-



Residents of Fefan with FSM's Secretary Skilling (left second row), President Mori, Rear Admiral Rutstein, and US Ambassador Hughes Photo by Bill Jaynes

nical marvel of the ship itself is the mission the crew was in Chuuk to carry out-the Pacific Partnership.

The mission of the Pacific Partnership is clearly stated: "Working side by side with host nations, our multi-national team will provide humanitarian assistance in Southeast Asia and Oceania. This collaborative effort improves our collective ability to provide relief in response to a disaster or humanitarian crisis. Our activities will promote peace and prosperity and enhance regional security."

The crew consists of approximately 950 committed people. 350 of them are medical personnel. Crew members come from several countries besides the United States. Partner nations that contributed to the mission include Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Republic of South Korea, Singapore, India, Indonesia and New Zealand. Not all of crew members are military personnel. Some come from non-governmental organizations that provide medical, dental, construction and other humanitarian services in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Chuuk was the last port of call for a journey that began in San Diego, California on May 1, 2008. Since then the USNS Mercy has visited the Philippines, Vietnam, East Timor, and Papua New Guinea where they carried out the same type of work that they did in Chuuk.

In the FSM in addition to the services offered in Chuuk "fly away teams" performed services in Pohnpei from August 18-23 and in Yap from August 26-29. "Fly away" teams from the USS Peliliu visited Kosrae last year during Pacific Partnership 2007.

Under the banner of the Pacific Partnership crew members and humanitarian organizations offered medical and dental clinics ashore, surgical care onboard Mercy, construction projects to build or renovate community buildings such as schools and clinics, veterinary services, continuing medical and nursing education, preventive medicine, biomedical equipment repair, and community relations through music, sports, and service projects.

The cost for the entire four month mission was said to be \$20 million.

The USNS Mercy left Chuuk on September 1. They will make a stopover in Guam before the ship steams back to San Diego the home port of the Mercy.

Pohnpei Small Business Conference issues a draft joint communique

On August 20, 2008 at Pohnpei State Legislature's chambers a multi-national group of business men and women participated in the opening session of Pohnpei Small Business Conference. Though advance materials were conveniently translated into English for non-Pohnpeian business people the opening ceremony itself was conducted entirely in Pohnpeian.

Business people met for three days with



Organizer Herman Semes (foreground) listens as Father Joseph Cavanaugh prays at the opening ceremony of the Pohnpei Small Business Conference - Photo by Bill Jaynes

representatives from all sectors that might have an influence on Pohnpei small businesses. On the third day, August 22 representatives met until 8:00 in the evening hammering out a communique. On Friday, August 29 Herman Semes, of the Small Business Development Center said that he was still working on the communique but that he would release a draft version for publication with the understanding that The Kaselehlie Press would be

See "PSBC" on page 2

Nett District registers complaints with Pohnpei Legislature on dredging bill



Dredge ship in the Nankepikep en Parem area in Pohnpei - photo provided by Nett government

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

Nett, Pohnpei - Adeline Edmond, District Administrator of the Nett District Government sent a harshly worded letter to Speaker Nelson Pelep of the Pohnpei State Legislature and Pohnpei

Governor John Ehsa registering their complaints on a bill that recently passed on its second reading in the Pohnpei State Legislature. The footnoted letter is eight pages in length and essentially boils down to Nett leadership's objection that identification of sand mining areas in Pohnpei under the new bill would be transferred from Nett jointly to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Edmond in an interview with The Kaselehlie Press said that the bill violates the terms of article 12 section 6 of the Pohnpei Constitution, which he said requires the State to have the consent of municipal governments before municipal assets can be utilized for State purposes.

See "Nett Dispute" on page 3



Micronesia Challenge interns trained in Palau

See "Interns" on Page ?

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sure to mention that it is still in its draft form and that it has not been signed yet.

The communiqué follows in its entirety:

Joint Communiqué

The Pohnpei Small Business Conference, co-sponsored by Pohnpei State Government, College of Micronesia-FSM Pohnpei Campus, and Pohnpei Chamber of Commerce, was held from August 20-22, 2008, in Kolonia, Pohnpei. It was organized and facilitated by the Pohnpei Small Business Development Center to bring the public and private sectors together to dialogue and seek cooperative approach in empowering small businesses to carry out their role in the economic development of Pohnpei and the Nation.

During the three-day conference, representatives from all levels of government and the private sector engaged in topic discussions important to business development in Pohnpei State. FSM Secretary Peter M. Christian of the Department of Resources and Development headed the FSM National Government participants. Administrator of Economic Affairs Valerio Hallens led the Pohnpei State Government participants. Chief Executives of the local governments from Kitti, Kolonia, Madolenihmw, Nett, Sokehs, and U and outer island local gov-

ernment representatives were also in attendance.

National and Pohnpei State government-owned enterprises and service providers also attended and made their presentations during the conference.

Members of the business community some of whom came from remote villages in Pohnpei participated throughout the conference.

Conference dialogue highlighted existence of constraints that hinder small business development in FSM and its states. In order for small business to provide the impetus and boost to the local economy, a supportive environment must be created and supported by appropriate policy framework to include incentives and appropriate infrastructures.

Therefore, the Conference adopted the following recommendations to be contained in its Joint Communiqué for consideration by policy makers and relevant partners:

A. Pohnpei State Government is requested to seek the assistance of the FSM National Government to create a more supportive environment for small business development in the FSM States through establishment of new policy framework and necessary statutory and regulatory amendments to boost the growth and development of small busi-

ness, including specific items as enumerated below:

- 1) Social Security Act: Title 53, FMC, Sec. 603, Sub-section 8. C, D and Subsection 13. Tax Assessment of Sole Proprietorship. The requirement that a self-employed with employees pays twice the highest paid employee additional social security tax be removed as well as the requirement for a sole proprietor to pay 5% of annual gross revenue if more than \$10,000. Sole proprietors should be given voluntary option to pay into the FSM social security retirement as there are other retirement plans available to them.
- 2) Small business support and incentive legislation:
 - (a) One year GRT exempt for new small business start ups
 - (b) Outstanding interests and penalties on taxes owed by small businesses be waived
 - (c) Sole proprietorship to pay tax based on net income
- 3) Technical assistance: FSM Department of Resources and Development is to make available technical assistance to the States to further develop opportunities in trade, agriculture, and fisheries.
- 4) Transportation: To assist the FSM States in improving and locating sea and air transportation for product export.
- 5) Remittance from abroad: To explore prospect of remittance from citizens working abroad.

B. The Conference seeks the assistance of the Pohnpei State Government in the following areas:

- 1) Local Transport System: To explore the prospect of developing local transportation systems to enable local product accessibility to market outlets.
- 2) Compact II Private Sector Grant: Pohnpei State to adhere to Compact requirements in seeking Private Sector Grant funding assistance in order for Pohnpei to maximize the benefit of using the grant funds.
- 3) Off-island Market Outlets:
 - a) To assist local exporters in securing leased properties in Guam and Marshall Islands to be used as market outlets for local products
 - b) To establish an office in Guam to assist local exporters in ensuring the quality of products being exported and spoilage of exported products are properly accounted for.
 - c) To assist local exporters in identifying products for export and facilitating export into Guam and Marshall Islands;
 - d) Financial Assistance:
 - a) Prioritize financial assistance to business that generates fast revenue;
 - b) Facilitate financial assistance by eliminating stringent collateral requirements. (e.g. collateral);
 - c) Financial institutions needs to ease up its guarantee assistance toward small business in Pohnpei;
 - d) Provide variable interest rate to small business.
 - e) Provide flexible loan term to small business.
 - f) Provide financing support to existing business
 - g) Improving communication and strengthening collaboration: between government service providers and small businesses in Pohnpei;
 - h) Mandate loan documents to be in Pohnpeian version;
 - i) Referral/assistance to farmers fishermen and potential borrowers who want to engage in business;
 - j) To reconsider or modify its established loan requirements in order to broaden financial assistance provided to potential borrowers;
 - k) Improve its monitoring program to include, appropriate agencies in support of small businesses in Pohnpei;
 5. Small Business Support Program:
 - a) Pohnpei State to commit support and funding for PSBDC after the ADB funding assistance terminates in FY09.

See "Communique" on Page 6



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Managing Editor

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Sokehs Municipal Government Pohnpei State Federated States of Micronesia

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF MIIC

The Sokehs Municipal Government, a stockholder of Micronesian Island Investment Corporation, a joint-venture, has served notice of proposed dissolution of the Micronesian Island Investment Corporation (MIIC) upon the Pohnpei State Registrar of Corporations for the dissolution of the joint-venture and deal with its assets, which includes building structures, as deemed proper after thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice. Any person, group of persons or corporation having interests in MIIC and/or its assets or is against the proposed dissolution should contact the Sokehs Municipality Chief Magistrate. The proposed dissolution is due to the inactive status of MIIC since 2004 in contrary to its Foreign Investment Permit and Rules and Regulation governing Corporations.

...Nett Dispute

continued from page 1

Both Speaker Pelep and Governor Ehsa were off island and unavailable for comment on the issue. Pohnpei Public Information Officer, McGarry Miguel said that he would stop by the office of The Kaselehlie Press to give us the State side of the issue. We never heard anything more from him.

Quotes from Edmond's letter are taken verbatim (word for word including grammatical errors). "It is quite evident that the Legislature's mentality of not willing to even consider the needs and wishes of the Nett District Government, despite the numerous sacrifices that Nett Municipality had made to the State Government was borne out of evil and ill feeling of certain members of the Legislature who find pride in functioning as dictators rather than servants of the people."

He said that the people of the Government of Nett were invited to testify at a public hearing on the matter and were told that they had been invited as a courtesy and that the committee could disregard the testimony. "Sure the Committee did disregard our comments which we offered in good faith from knowledge, experience, history and economic importance of the general area known as "Nankepikpen en Parem."

A Nett representative, according to Edmond's letter, was counseled by Speaker Pelep to withdraw a floor amendment on the first reading of the bill that would "make the bill more conducive to the need and desires of the Nett District Government and the citizens thereof...The counseling coming from a high officer of the Legislature has the effect of belittling thus demoralizing Nett Representatives in the Pohnpei Legislature which in this instance is highly deplorable to the people of Nett and the Nett District Government."

Edmond said that the floor amendment continued on for consideration and "Surprisingly the Legislature flagrantly and deplorably voted down Floor Amendment 12-08 which contains the need and desire of Nett District Government particularly the need to partake in the duty and function of identifying, delineating and installing the landmarks to show the perimeter boundaries at the designated mining area..."

"Nett District Government and the people of Nett consider the wholesale designation of the entire Nankepikpen Parem as a sand mining/dredging site as a State Action tantamount to the process of eminent domain without adequate compensation.

"In his attempt to justify maintaining a general or wholesale designation of the entire Nakepikpen Parem as available dredging site as proposed in Standing

Committee Report No 62-08 of August 12, 2008, rather than in the bill submitted by the Administration and the Floor Amendment No. 12-08 offered by Nett Representatives in the Legislature, the good Chairman of the Committee (Marvin Yamaguchi) explained on the floor quite cunningly that the designation of a general area will not pose any threat to the ecological setting of Nankepikpen Parem, nor will it cause any adverse impact on the environment..." Edmond said that the reasons that the chairman gave for his statement on the floor were not in the bill, "or are we given the wrong L.D. 1 (first reading) of the bill."

The August 12 standing committee report (62-08) from the Committee on Land said that the Namwen Wei Laud and Namwen Pohdol (small areas within the area of Nankepikpen Parem) designated dredging areas have become difficult to dredge because of the depth of the sand. It says that mining has had a negative impact on the surrounding reefs at the dredging sites. "There have been reports of observations that the surrounding reefs at the dredging site are falling apart."

The Land Committee based its proposal to open up a wider area for dredging in the area of Parem Island on a report by the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission that "alleged that there is plenty of sand at Nankepikpen Parem that could last for over 30 years of sand mining."

Essentially the report says that by moving the mining to other areas within Nankepikpen Parem not to exceed an area 300 x 600 feet (180,000 square feet) dredging in the area could continue to supply Pohnpei's infrastructure needs primarily for concrete. By limiting the area only to Namwen Wei Laud and Namwen Pohdol the reefs in those areas have become endangered.

Nett District Administrator Edmond says that the wording of the bill itself cuts Nett District Government out of the loop in terms of approval of dredging sites in the area and that is unacceptable to the Nett Government and its citizens.

A meeting was held at Nett District Government on August 27 that included Nett Government officials, citizens, and traditional leader the Iso Nahnken of Nett, Salvador Iriarte. We have not learned the outcome of the meeting.

Just before the meeting one of the participants from the Resource Management Commission of Nett said when asked if Nett planned to file a lawsuit against the implementation of the law said that would likely be the next step if some kind of agreement between Pohnpei State and the Nett District could not be arranged.

We could not verify whether or not Governor Ehsa had signed the bill into law.

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MC Young Champions Participate in 2nd Annual Workshop in Palau

By Sayuri Holman *Koror, Palau* - Interpretive dance wasn't the main goal on the beach that morning in early August. But in exerting their leadership skills, the Micronesia Challenge interns decided that they wanted to be photographed creatively, and organized themselves accordingly, with many laughs and experiments along the way.

It was slightly unconventional, but then by many standards, so was the workshop they were in the midst of participating in. Lectures and presentations were held in a cabin, while discussions and activities took place on the beach. They were asked to role play, communicate through a variety of techniques and teach the rest of the group something they were experts in. This included how to make tapioca Palaun style, how to survive on a deserted island and how to paddle an outrigger canoe.

The interns arrived in Palau a couple of days earlier for the second annual MC Intern Workshop. They were there to regroup and review the past year, meet and bond with each other and focus on their leadership and professional skills. So what does playing on the beach have to do with the Micronesia Challenge? By focusing on the way they communicate and having the interns practice presenting new information in a variety of ways, they were able to expand their ability to spread awareness of the Micronesia Challenge.

The interns also had a chance to spend a day exploring the famed Rock Islands, including Jellyfish Lake, and even had dinner with Palauan President Tommy Remengesau Jr. The participants included Ann Marie Gawel and Sheeka Tareyama of Guam, Georgia Cabrera of CNMI, Isumech Ngirairikl and Shelley Remengesau of Palau, Susan Gooliyan, Josephine Joseph and Elijah Tarfalma of the FSM. It was facilitated by Sayuri Holman and Meileen Albert of the Micronesia Conservation Trust. All in all, the workshop was a success and the interns have since returned home to their respective jurisdictions to begin their outreach work for the year.

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by Micronesian leaders to conserve the natural resources that are crucial to the survival of Pacific livelihoods. This recognition of healthy ecosystems ensures that the people of Micronesia will be able to maintain their traditions and cultures. Co-operative in nature, the Micronesia Challenge will partner with the governments of Palau, Guam, CNMI, RMI and FSM, communities and local conservation organizations to conserve important natural resources for generations to come. The first of its kind, the Challenge has also inspired similar progressive environmental programs around the world.

World First Aid Day - From Solferino to 'first aid for all'

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world are steadily and significantly expanding their first aid programmes and increasing access to first aid services and training for the general public, says the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, on World First Aid Day.

"We've come a long way since the battle of Solferino, when Henry Dunant, mobilized volunteers to provide first aid to all the war wounded, regardless of their nationality, nearly 150 years ago (1)," notes Grace Lo, Head of the International Federation's Public Health in the Community Unit, in Geneva.

"First aid used to be recognized as the domain of medical or para-medical personnel. Today, all experts recognize that the general public must be trained in first aid, because it is effective in saving lives, improving the chances of survival and minimizing the consequences of a road crash or heart attack," explains Grace Lo. "These skills should also be updated regularly."

First aid is a core activity for virtually all the Federation's 186 member Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and, according to initial reports from National Societies, there is a steady increase in the number of staff and volunteers involved in first aid, either to provide services in crisis situations or to train the general public.

With hundreds of thousands of staff and volunteers involved in first aid, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are the most important providers of first aid services and training globally. In Europe alone, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies train some 3.5 million people every year in first aid - that is 56% of the estimated 6.2 million people trained in life-saving techniques annually on the continent. In 2007, the American Red Cross trained 5.4 million people, nearly half of the 10.9 million total who followed first aid courses.

"These increases are in line with our global policy of up-scaling first aid programmes and achieving a minimum of one person per household trained in basic first aid in as many countries as possible," says Grace Lo. "Every single person in the world has the capacity to save a life - it is an essential gesture of solidarity. First aid education should be accessible to all without discrimination."

The percentage of people trained in first aid is also increasing in many countries. Although the figures vary widely, according to data collected by the International

Federation's European Reference Centre for First Aid Education, hosted by the French Red Cross in Paris, some countries are achieving remarkable results, such as Norway (with 90% of the population trained in first aid), Austria and Germany (80% each). Measures to achieve these results can include making first aid education mandatory to obtain a driving license or teaching it to children in schools, or requiring that teachers be trained.

The International Federation introduced World First Aid Day in 2000, and each year, more than 100 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world organize events and ceremonies on the second Saturday of September to raise public awareness of how first aid can save lives in everyday and crisis situations.

(1) Geneva businessman Henry Dunant is the founder of the International Red Cross. After the battle of Solferino, in June 1859, he was horrified at the sight of thousands of dying men on the battlefield, and mobilized volunteers from the nearby village of Castiglione to provide first aid to all the wounded soldiers, without distinction.

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

Edmund Burke

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Mercy delivers aid to Chuuk through project Handclasp

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Weno, Chuuk - On August 24, a beautiful Sunday afternoon

in Chuuk at a ceremony for Project Handclasp, Chaplain Mark Hughes of the USNS Mercy invited a small group of FSM citizens and U.S. citizens to join him in prayer. He said, "Oh Lord, our God. Militaries of all nations have been used throughout history to draw lines on maps. Today we celebrate that we are here to reach across those boundaries and clasp hands in united service for those in need..."

He explained the U.S. Navy program, Project Handclasp saying that it "coordinates transportation and delivery of humanitarian, education and good will material donated by corporations, charitable and public service organizations, and private citizens throughout the United States for distribution to recipients in foreign countries."

Project Handclasp brought 18 pallets of donated goods including 14 pallets of "Kids Against Hunger" meals, 2 pallets of clothing, 1 pallet of toys, and 1 pallet of school kits.

Commodore William Kearns, the

Mercy hospital ship to you-so that you know that our faraway nation, which extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, is bound to you. Together we are a force for peace, well being and regional security....

"Democratic governance also requires that you act too-that you assert your right to health care, education, and prosperity. Democracy thrives when you participate in civic organizations which enable you to express your needs and mobilize other for the common good. Democracy on paper is not enough. It must function in practice to meet your needs. Civic, or non-governmental organizations are vital components of a participatory society. They are a force for social progress..."

"The United States is building partnership and encouraging participation to help ensure that democratic governments do their best to deliver results and respond to the needs of their people, even in remote islands. Demand no less of your government and each other. A secure future requires that we all join hands."

The FSM's President Manny Mori spoke next. He said, "The three days that I



Mission Commander for the Pacific Partnership who normally commands a fleet of destroyers in Pearl Harbor in his opening remarks said, "I can't tell you what an amazing summer it's been, except to tell you that I've been in the United States Navy for over 20 years and this is the best and most important thing I've ever been involved in."

He said that in the Philippines he told a Barangí Captain (the mayor of the neighborhood) that the oceans connect us and we want to be good neighbors. The mayor said, "Neighbors is okay, brothers is better."

Commodore Kearns said, "I took that to heart, that really as we go around it really is more about being brothers and sisters of the Pacific."

Chuuk's Governor Wesley Simina next took the podium for an address saying, "...we indeed welcome Project Handclasp to Chuuk State...Chuuk State is very grateful." He urged the three designated non-governmental organizations, the Chuuk Women's Advisory Council, the local chapter of the Micronesian Red Cross Society, and the local chapter of the Rotary Club to make sure that the donated items go where they are supposed to go.

Miriam K. Hughes, US Ambassador was the next speaker. She said, "When hands clasp together we are all stronger. This is the fundamental reason that the United States Government has sent the

have spent here-it really proves to me that partnership can move a lot of things on the ground and in the ocean..."

"...I sincerely want to thank the Navy for the contributions that they have made not only for the kids, but for the entire ship. I think we are fortunate that they chose, they picked FSM, and in particular Chuuk because we have serious problems..."

"...we visited the patients. They're in good hands. Therefore, on behalf of the entire nation, even those states that are not here represented: Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap, I deeply want to express my gratitude to Commodore Kearns, and of course, Ambassador Hughes, for the coordination, collaboration, and partnership, and I want to thank you ladies and gentlemen who have contributed so much from Chuuk to enable to program to be a success..."

"...I visited Uman, Fefan, Polle; it's a real success. I will depart tonight with the full satisfaction that at the end of the tour they will accomplish more than what they came here to accomplish."

Christina "Kiki" Stinnett represented the Chuuk Women's Advisory Council. Esekio Lippwe represented the Micronesian Red Cross Society, Chuuk Chapter. Cindy Mori represented the Rotary Club of Chuuk Lagoon.

The three civic action groups will be in charge of distributing the eighteen pallets of donated goods.

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to an order of the FSM Supreme Court entered July 23, 2008, public notice is hereby given that each of the 2 parcels of land described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel One: Parcel No. 008-T-32, locally called Finfoke in Tafunsak Municipality, Kosrae State, consisting of an area of 770 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 008T00.

Parcel Two: Parcel No. 008-T-10, locally called Finfoke in Tafunsak Municipality, Kosrae State, consisting of 191 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 008T00.

- There is no minimum bid amount for any of the parcels.
 - Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "FSMDB Land Auction" by personal delivery to FSM Development Bank, Corporate Office, 2nd Floor of the Namio Building, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941 or to the FSM Development Bank, Kosrae Branch Office, FNS Building, Tofol, Kosrae, FM 96944.
 - The deadline for submission of all bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 19, 2008.
 - All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, and e-mail address or other valid contact information for the person submitting the bid.
 - All bid submissions must state a bid amount separately for each parcel. Bids may be placed on one or both of the parcels.
 - The winning bidder for each parcel will be notified in writing by FSM Development Bank. Each winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the bid by delivery of a cashier's check payable to the FSM Development Bank no later than 10 days after the winning bidder is notified.
 - If the winning bidder fails to remit payment within the required time, the award will be granted to the next highest bidder and the same conditions will apply.
 - FSM Development Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
 - The properties are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to its condition whatsoever.
 - The winning bidders will take title to the parcels through a quitclaim deed issued by the FSM Development Bank.
- Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel at the FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, fax no. 691-320-2842, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, website: www.fsmdb.fm*

Scientists find oil leak threatening Chuuk Lagoon

Newswatch - Scientists affiliated with Earthwatch have uncovered signs of an oil leak in Chuuk (formerly known as Truk) Lagoon*, a popular dive destination in Micronesia.

Earthwatch volunteers and scientists, who are conducting the first-ever comprehensive survey of the area, recently discovered a long oil slick coming from the sunken oil tanker Hoyo Maru and a smaller surface slick originating from the Rio de Janeiro Maru, a former passenger vessel that was converted to a submarine tender (support ship for submarines) by the Japanese navy during World War II.

There are 52 documented World War II shipwrecks and three oil tankers found in

Chuuk Lagoon, with an estimated 32,000,000 litres of oil still secured inside. Dynamite fishing practices, storms and human activities (such as irresponsible anchoring) are destabilizing some of the wrecks, increasing the chances of an oil spill.

"This could have a devastating effect on the marine environment and negatively impact Chuuk's tourist industry," said Dr. Bill Jeffery from James Cook University, who leads the Earthwatch research project. "Some areas of mangroves that provide breeding grounds for many fish species could be completely decimated." "There is reason to believe that Hoyo Maru is leaking from her bunker, which means there could be a lot more oil left to spill. We're hoping that Japanese histori-

ans can help us to determine if she went down with a full tank so we can estimate the full scale of the threat," Jeffery said. The coral encrusted wrecks attract a diverse array of marine life, including manta-rays, turtles, sharks and corals. In 2007, 266 species of reef fish were recorded by the Earthwatch teams and in 2006 the rare coral *Acropora pichoni* was identified. (It had never been found at this depth (18 metres) or on an artificial reef before.)

A report from Dr. Jeffery has been submitted to the Chuuk State Department of Marine Resources and the Chuuk Historic Preservation Office who will liaise with the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) to investigate how the oil pollution can be addressed.

Earthwatch dive teams will return in November to continue their assessment into the ecological values of the site. Read the report here:
http://www.earthwatch.org/europe/downloads/Newsroom/Oil_leaking_Chruik_report.pdf.

*Chuuk, an island area formerly known as 'Truk', is part of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), found in the central Caroline Islands of the Western Pacific. During World War II, Chuuk Lagoon was bombed for over 18 months by the Allied forces and was considered a potential target for an atomic attack. The waters became a graveyard for the Japanese sailors and pilots killed in ships and aircraft.

Deadline Sept 21, 2008

THE MICRONESIA CHALLENGE
ESSAY AND DRAWING CONTEST

The Essay
Write a 500 word essay on the following topic:
What are small things that we can do from day to day to preserve our environment for the future?

The Drawing
How do you hope the FSM environment will look in 10 years?
Enter either contest, or both!

Age Categories:
*12 and under
*13 - 17
*18 - 24
Please tell us your name, age, phone number, and e-mail

Winners receive CASH prizes!

Mail to:
Micronesia Conservation Trust
PO Box 2177 Kolonia, Pohnpei
FSM, 96941 #691-320-5670
Fax: 691-320-8903

Contact sayuri_holman@yahoo.ca and hbeynon08@gmail.com for more details

...Communique

continued from page 2

- b) Full support be given to farmers cooperatives.
- c) Service providers to collaborate on the conduct of a State-wide crop survey on what is available and what is needed.
- d) Annual business awards be issued during annual conference in recognition and appreciation for successful small businesses
- e) Pohnpei Small Business Development Center, service providers and small businesses are to establish lasting partnership
- f) Government middle-man (government run office) to manage sale of excess produce to schools and hospitals.
- g) Laws to prohibit importation of products that are in direct competition with products that are being produced locally.
- h) This event becomes an annual small business conference with the full support of all levels of government and the private sector.
- i) Small business training (good management and personality)

C. The Conference seeks the assistance of the local governments in the following areas:

- a) Local governments should require that a business seeking to obtain a business license must acquire a social security business ID number and present it with the business license application.
- b) Local governments are requested to issue business license based on category of business.
- c) Where appropriate, local governments are requested to encourage farming development by providing special license as incentive.
- d) Local governments are requested to enforce road-service licensees to refrain from engaging in any illegal retailing activity in competition with their own retail clients.

Adopted this 22nd, day of August 2008 at Pohnpei State Legislature Chamber, in Kolonia Pohnpei.

Mercy doctors notice dietary health issues both good and bad in lagoon islands of Chuuk

By *Bill Jaynes* *Chuuk, FSM* - *The Kaselehlie Press* According to Dr. Vita Skilling, the FSM Secretary of Health and physicians that served in the FSM as part of the Pacific Partnership mission the diet of many islanders contributes to good dental health.

Except for the doctors from the USNS Mercy and their scary looking tools, the

room at Sapou Elementary School in Polle, Chuuk that had been set aside for dental examinations was empty. The doctors were in Polle to provide dental exams and tooth extractions as part of the Pacific Partnership. We asked one of the dentists why it was that he had no patients when the rooms designated for eye exams and medical exams were packed to capacity. He said that the patients he had examined had remarkably healthy teeth. He theorized that the healthy teeth were a result of



"Mercy" doctors check the eyesight of a young Uman resident - Photo by Bill Jaynes

TIMETABLE

FOR MARCH 3, 2009 FSM GENERAL ELECTION
This timetable is based on the revised National Election Act of 2005

By *Kimeuo Kimiuo*
Office of the National Election Director

Open and close of absentee request by mail (9FSMC) Sec. 602 (2) a	November 3, 2008 January 22, 2009	Request to vote absentee ballot by mail must be received by NEC not more than 120 days but not less than 40 days before Election Day
Closing for filing Nomination Petition (9FSMC) Sec. 202 (4)	November 3, 2008	The name of any candidate shall be printed on an official ballot only if, at least 120 days but not less than 40 days before Election Day
Last day to appoint various boards and Counting and Tabulating Committee members (9FSMC) Sec. 302 (3) a	January 2, 2009	The NEC of each state with the approval of the National Election Director shall appoint election board and tabulation committee member on or before January of each election year.
Substitute Candidate (9FSMC) Sec. 204 (1)	January 2, 2009	Substitute candidate may be nominated prior to 60 days before general election
Designation of Special Polling Places (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (2)	January 2, 2009	Not less than 60 days prior to a general election, the NED shall designate the location of the special polling places, (one in Guam and one in Honolulu)
Printing of specimen Ballots (9FSMC) Sec. 503 (2)	January 7, 2009	At least 55 days before a general election, the NEC shall print the sample ballots.
Printing of Official Ballots (9FSMC) Sec. 503 (1)	January 12, 2009	The NEC shall complete the printing of the official ballots no later than 50 days before a general election.
Request to vote at a special polling place (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (3)	February 1, 2009	Request to vote at a special polling place must be received by the NEC of the state of registration not less than 30 days prior to a general election.
Last day to send absentee ballots (9FSMC) Sec. 602 (2) e	February 1, 2009	The NEC, shall, at least 30 days before a National Election, mail an absentee ballot to any absentee voter who has requested an absentee ballot in accordance with this section.
Absentee for travelers (9FSMC) Sec. 606 (1) b	February 1, 2009 March 2, 2009	Not more than 30 days and not less than 1 day before the National Election; a voter must submit in person a written request to cast a ballot prior to travelling.
Preparation of signature lists (9FSMC) Sec. 303 (7)	February 11, 2009	NEC shall prepare signature lists from National Voter Registrar for each of the polling places not later than 20 days prior to each election
VAAPP Requests (9FSMC) Sec. 604 (1) d	February 24, 2009	NEC of the state of registration receives the written VAAPP requests at least 7 days before the National Election.
Posting of signature lists of SPP (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (4)	February 25, 2009	Not later than 6 days before a National Election, NEC shall post at the National Election Offices in their states signature lists of each special polling place in their state.
Posting of signature lists for Guam and Honolulu (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (5)	February 25, 2009	No later than 6 days before a National Election, the National Election Director, or his Designee, shall post the Special Polling Place Signature lists for Guam and Honolulu in a publicly accessible place in each location to be set out in the regulations promulgated pursuant to this title
Election Day (9FSMC) Sec. 105 (1)	March 3, 2009	All general elections for members shall be biennially in each odd-numbered year on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in March.

a diet that among other things didn't include much refined sugar.

Other dentists said that they had noticed that the more developed a country was the more likely its people would be to experience dental problems. One them said that during the visit of The Mercy in the Philippines their dentists extracted over 7000 teeth in one week.

A Pacific Partnership dentist in Uman said that he had established his own personal record for the number of tooth extractions he had performed in a single day. Still, dentists there said that they found that dental health was much better on the whole than they had seen in more developed nations though it was not as good as in Polle.

Uman is about a 45 minute boat ride from Weno, the State's capital. It takes over an hour and a half to get to Polle.

While dentists noticed good dental health related to diet in the lagoon islands, optometrists noted vitamin A deficiencies on both Polle and Uman. MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Project) Pharmacists on Uman said that physician prescriptions for Vitamin A supplements had nearly depleted their available stock by the middle of their last day there.

Vitamin A could be supplied by fruits and vegetables that are rich in beta-carotene such as the Karat banana, the Taiwan (Tayiwang) banana, the traditional marech (pelew) and Taro.

Dr. Skilling said that some islanders have fallen out of the habit of eating those fruits and vegetables but that Chuuk farmers have once again to begun to plant them. She said that she hoped that islanders would once again start eating those fruits and vegetables.

The Island Food Community of Pohnpei has been on a long and vocal campaign to foster the consumption of local fruits and vegetables. Besides international attention to their efforts Pohnpeians have begun to take serious interest in local foods that had previously declined because of the importation of easy to prepare foods.

Recently, Kosrae established their own organization to stimulate local interest in local foods. There is a small but vocal movement in Chuuk to re-establish interest in local foods that is slowly taking hold.

Dr. Skilling said that another problem prevalent in the FSM is roundworms. Roundworms are parasites that live in the intestines of its host. The roundworm steals nutrients from its host including vitamin A. The worms can be ingested by eating improperly washed fruits or vegetables. Dr. Skilling said that ingestion of roundworms can be avoided by a soap and water washing of fruits and vegetables before they are consumed.

She said that UNICEF funded a program to provide a drug called mebendazole to the FSM. She said that taken once a year mebendazole kills existing round worms and also prevents the possibility of further roundworms for at least a year.

The drug does not supplement nutrient levels. Those must be dealt with by proper diet and if necessary by the use of vitamin supplements.

Dr. Skilling said that the drug is available at dispensaries and hospitals across the FSM. The drug has provided significant progress against the roundworm problem in the FSM. "People need to know that it is available and begin to take advantage of it," said Dr. Skilling.

USNS Mercy in the FSM for Pacific Partnership 2008



Dr. Vita Skilling

Polle



USNS Mercy at anchor in Chuuk Lagoon



Captain Rice and Information Officer Franco in Polle



US Ambassador Hughes



FSM President Mori



Rear Admiral Rutstein

Fefan



"Seabee city"



Ambassador Hughes and "Seabees" in Fefan

Dignitaries gather in Chuuk for an opening ceremony for the Pacific

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlle Press

Weno, Chuuk - Dignitaries of the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States along with approximately 100 spectators gathered at the Transco pier in Weno to kickoff the Pacific Partnership in Chuuk on Friday August 22. Anchored in the distance was the hospital ship Mercy, its crew at the ready to receive patients. On the pier was a sign nearly forty feet long with the words "Mercy Ran Allim Welcome."

Preliminary music was provided by a US Navy band. During ceremony a local band from Chuuk performed the FSM National Anthem and the Navy band performed the Star Spangled Banner, the US National Anthem.

Chuuk's Governor Wesley Simina spoke first to the gathered crowd. "We are very excited for being part of this mission. I note with pride the fact that this would be the first onsite visit by USNS Mercy to the FSM, and it happens to be at Chuuk. We also note that this is probably the largest vessel to have ever visited the ports of Chuuk since the U.S. Naval Administration back in the 1950's or earlier..."

"...This mission, to me, is more than just services in the areas of health and education. It connects real people-from Chuuk and from the United States. This mission serves to remind us that everything-everywhere-on this globe is premised on people. It is an embodiment of our two peoples' opportunity to get to know each other, exchange ideas and skills, and to appreciate the nuances of our differences in cultures and lifestyles. The degree of understanding between us, however large or small, stemming from this mission, will go a long way in advancing and strengthening our already solid friendship and commitment to the betterment of our people and our governments."

Commodore William A. Kearns III, the Mission Commander for the Pacific Partnership who normally is in command of a fleet of destroyers in Pearl Harbor, said that the visit to Chuuk represented the culmination of a five month voyage of peace and goodwill. He said that the crew consisted of representatives from a diverse group from many nations rather than just the US military. "Working together we will renew longstanding commitments and build new friendships."

Miriam Hughes, the US Ambassador to the FSM spoke next. "We share a strong relationship with the Federated States of Micronesia. Our commitment to work together, which the visit of the Mercy exemplifies, is longstanding. Our relationship is now undergoing a creative process of transformation and reinvigoration. The future of the FSM depends upon responsible governance, the integrity of your leaders and their ability to rise above special interests, and a belief in the inherent capabilities of your people. The viability of the FSM particularly depends upon improvement of conditions in this largest state of Chuuk. Honest hard teamwork, transparent communication, and political will, which have become urgent, must come from you. We hope the Mercy Mission will spark a process of rejuvenation."

"We thank you for your warm welcome, as well as for your cooperation and patience with our requirements. It is a privilege to

be friends with you."

FSM's President Manny Mori spoke last saying, as he has often done in the past, that he cannot help but remember the FSM citizens serving in the US Armed Forces. He pointed to the meetings he has had with the highest level leaders of the US military and said that he thought those meetings were an indication of the strong relationship between the FSM and the United States.

He called the visit of the Mercy timely in light of the health problems that have recently come to light in Chuuk. He thanked the crew of the Mercy and added that because of limitations in infrastructure the FSM could not reciprocate the service that was being provided by the US to the FSM but that he was grateful for the service that was being provided in the FSM.

Even while the opening ceremony was in progress doctors were already performing medical evaluations at the Chuuk State Hospital to select patients that they could help with surgical procedures on board The Mercy. The US Navy Seabees had been in Chuuk for over a week renovating two schools and the hospital in Weno, Chuuk. On several lagoon islands medical teams were providing medical help, dental service

Advance teams from the Mercy visited each of the three advance of the visit by The Mercy.

The Mercy was in Chuuk from August 22 through Septe

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All work and no play would make The Mercy a dull boat

August 20 - September 3, 2008
The Kaselehlie Press

EDITORIAL
By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Chuuk, FSM - And it came down from on high that in Chuuk there should be dancing in the streets. Chief musician Jay Loose heard the word, assembled his musical host and tuned up. And when they blew their first note, lo and behold, there was dancing in the streets. And the leaders looked down from their lofty positions and said, "It is good. It is very good!" And they joined the dance too.

As Captain James Rice, Commander of the Military Treatment Facility (the hospital aboard The Mercy) said as he was showing dignitaries the hospital facilities, "Really it's not about what we brought but the relationships we have put together."

On Anderson Field in Chuuk soldiers and volunteers from the Mercy sponsored a sports day on a Saturday afternoon. The gathered children and adults dribbled soccer balls, stuffed basketballs, pounded volleyballs, and threw Frisbees. Even US Ambassador Hughes played Frisbee with children in the blazing sun. She said that it was the first time she'd thrown a Frisbee but that she had fun with the kids in Chuuk.

This was just one of the fun events for the citizens of Chuuk. Soldiers and volunteers traveled throughout the lagoon islands sharing goodwill with the citizens of the islands.

Chuuk citizens are amazingly resilient. The high cost of living, government debt, criminal procedures and sometimes convictions of government leaders, poor infrastructure, bad roads, and even health issues led one soldier from the Mercy to say "I don't think I could smile if I lived in Chuuk." But smile they do and so did the members of the crew of the Mercy.



U.S. Department of State Foreign Policy Advisor Kris Pelz kicks it up with a surprising young dancer from Chuuk - man he was good!! - photo by Bill Jaynes

On Sunday afternoon, one of the 95 concerts the band from the ship had performed since May 10 was held at the Chuuk International Airport. Actually there are several bands on the ship with members often changing instruments or at least styles to join another band.

Instruments seldom seen in the FSM: trombones, trumpets, flutes, saxophones, and one sousaphone were brandished like weapons designed for the sole purpose of piercing the darkness and putting a smile on a face that might not otherwise have one.

The concert band plays traditional military band music as they did at the opening ceremony of The Mercy at the Transco dock. You might expect to hear that band play something like "Stars and Stripes Forever" or another John Phillip Sousa march.

There is also a stage band consisting of many of the same musicians with an added rhythm section including a very small travel drum set (and drummer), a bass player, a guitarist, and a keyboardist. At the Sunday afternoon concert that band had Chuukese and Americans dancing together in the parking lot as the band screamed through hits of Motown and others.

Even the ship's Chaplain danced as he walked.

While the Dixieland band got ready for their set other members of the band got ready to dance with the crowd. When the band lit into the song made famous by Cab Calloway, "Minnie the Moocher" I wasn't sure if the audience would really understand that they were supposed to repeat the scat vocal lines of the chorus and they did miss the first line but the crowd jumped in on the rest of the lines singing, "Hidy Hidy Hidy Ho" and "Heedy Heedy Heedy Hee" like they'd been doing it all of their lives, big smiles on their faces.

Dixieland bands usually have a clarinet and the bass part is usually played on an upright tuba. The band's sound didn't suffer one bit because the clarinet part was played by saxophones. Clarinets are made of wood and wouldn't have done well in Chuuk. The bass part was played by a sousaphone player who was hampered by a sticky first valve. Even he was smiling when he wasn't pounding on the errant valve trying to make it work in the high humidity.

The rock band was next and delivered up versions of some my favorite music. The Chuukese audience thought it was pretty good too and danced their hearts out in the parking lot. As a guitarist I was especially attentive to the skills of MU1 Scott Verville the band's guitarist (and trumpet player on occasion) who I found to be... well... formidable. I'd tell you all about modal scales and chromatic passing tones but I'd bore you to death and that's not my goal. I'll just say that he was good.

I was particularly impressed with a song the band played that was written and performed by Steve Miller in the mid 1970's. The band's version, probably because of the synthesizer patch that was chosen by the keyboardist sounded like I imagine the Steve Miller Band would have sounded if Rick Wakeman (of the 70's progressive rock band "Yes") had been the keyboardist.

The lyrics to that song made perfect sense for the crew members of The Mercy on the Pacific Partnership. "...House the people living on the street. Shoe the children with no shoes on their feet. Feed the babies who don't have enough to eat. Oh there's a solution. Time keeps on slippin' into the future...."

The crew of The Mercy showed that they weren't letting any time slip past by them and shared with the people of the FSM their enthusiasm for life and for other people.



Sports Days at Anderson Field - Photo by Bill Jaynes

Uman

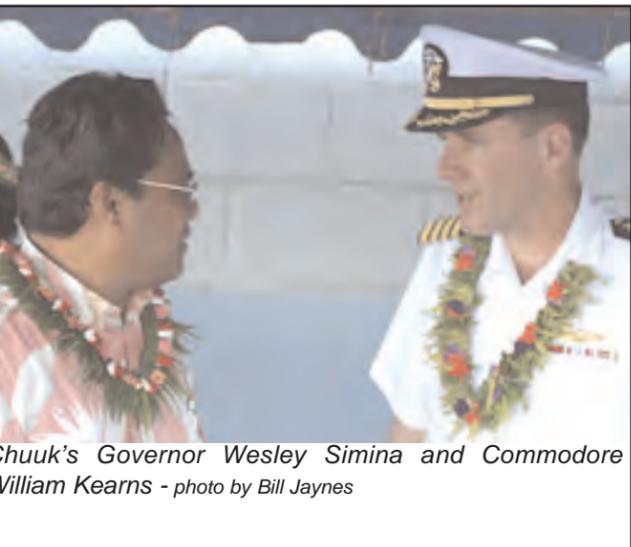


Hughes talks with efan



Chuukese translators played an important role in the mission

Partnership - 2008



Chuuk's Governor Wesley Simina and Commodore William Kearns - photo by Bill Jaynes

...s, and eye examinations and treatments. ...e states where they had been asked to provide service several months in ...ember 1, 2008.

Letters to the Editor

Termination of JLEA Wrong

In reference to your recent article on Governor Ehsa's termination of the Law Enforcement agreement, please find below my response.

The recent action of the Governor of Pohnpei in termination the Joint Law Enforcement Agreement with the National Government is wrong. It is wrong because the motivation for the termination is wrong. Although presented as a contract termination, which it is technically, what it represents is a disregard of the Rule of Law.

The reason the Governor decided to terminate the agreement was because he, maybe under political pressure, refused to incarcerate four national government prisoners. The prisoners were there because they refused to obey and order of the FSM Supreme Court. Now, the Governor by refusing to jail them is doing the same thing: refusing to implement and order from the FSM Supreme Court. However, instead of explicitly saying so, he adroitly terminated the JLEA with the National Government so that he does not have to enforce the jail order any longer.

All high-level officials in the FSM, including all governors and state legislators, upon taking office take an oath to respect and obey

the laws and Constitution of the FSM. Under the Constitution, the people of the FSM have delegated to the Supreme Court the power to decide judicial disputes. The Court has decided. Its decision is the law of the land, which everyone, including the governors must obey if we respect the Constitution. Governor Ehsa apparently is not living up to his oath of office.

Now, there are arguments being proffered to the extent that the court was wrong, for this or that reason. Those arguments should have been brought to the attention of the Court for the Court to consider, and undoubtedly they must have been, giving the length of time the matter was in dispute. What is not acceptable is for people to decide unilaterally outside the Court system that the Court was wrong, and refuse to enforce the law of the land. The people of the FSM have not delegated judicial power to those objectors.

The FSM Constitution enshrines the Rule of Law. No one is above the law. The National Government has indicted and convicted high level officials for violation of the law. The same FSM Supreme Court is the institution that found them guilty and sentenced them. These high level officials obviously did not like the court's decision but they obeyed, just as the President, the Congress and any other citizen is bound to do.

There is talk of legislation to change the Court's jurisdiction. But why that was not done way before the decision is a mystery. Using layman language, it is a form of cheating in any kind of game to wait until the result and if you do not like it, to change the rule of the game. And even if such legislation passes, it cannot be made retroactive, so the Court must still be obeyed in the present instance. Our legal system is the way it is because we the people of the FSM made it that way. To subvert it is tantamount to treason.

If we can find an analogy in American history, this is similar to Governor Wallace of Alabama, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, refusing to enforce the US Supreme Court's decision to desegregate schools. He had state law and tradition behind him. But he had to obey the law as decided by the US Supreme Court. He was forcibly made to comply, and in his later years apologized for his action.

What is at stake here is the legitimacy of the FSM Supreme Court and the Rule of law in the FSM. The FSM has many problems but its proudest achievements have been the establishment of democracy and the Rule of Law in this new nation. They are our most precious achievement. Let us not squander it.

Sincerely yours,
Resio S. Moses

Micronesia mangrove challenge?

The Pohnpei mangrove forest is a haven for the elimoang, many migratory and song birds and many threatened species. Pohnpei's unique culture as well as the livelihoods of several thousand people depends on mangroves for a variety of reasons. It helps our near shore areas by filtering all the toxic particles from the run-offs before entering the vast oceans. It also shelters many small fish species and acts as a protective barrier between the ocean and the land.

Little known to most, there is a big problem; Mangrove Forests have been destroyed to the point of vanishing. This essential eco-system is made up of magnificent forest, near shore swamps that span all around Pohnpei. In the past and even today, people used mangroves for making houses. Today, the practice of clearing the mangroves is pushing this important ecosystem to its limits. People are not only cutting the mangroves for one reason, but are clearing the mangroves for several reasons including near shore development, dredging etc. Our mangrove forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. If we don't reduce the improper practice of destroying our mangroves, what about the threatened species who use mangroves for shelter? Where will they go? What will happen in the future if we

See "Mangrove" on page 11

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...Mangrove

Continued from page 10

don't use our mangrove forest wisely?

I'm asking nature lovers the world over to join me in preserving the mangrove forests for future generations. The Micronesia Challenge is the biggest commitment throughout Micronesia to effectively conserve our environment, by protecting 20 percent of our land resources and 30 percent of our marine resources. I am asking the public to help me raise awareness to reduce the impact of Mangrove forest. I know for sure that when we ask the old people about how vast the mangroves around Pohnpei were during their times, the answer would be different from how our mangrove forests look today. You can help! Join the fight to help us turn back our losses.

Elijah Tarofalmal

Kpress Perspective The Great Paper Chase

As you can probably tell, I did go to Chuuk to cover the visit of the US Navy Hospital ship The Mercy there. I'll answer the question right now. No, there's no way that The Kaselehlie Press could have afforded to send me to Chuuk. The invitation was extended by The US Embassy in the FSM for me to accompany the Ambassador as a reporter at their expense. I was told that I could write whatever I saw whether good or bad.

I have to tell you that it was extremely refreshing to be able to write so many good things about Chuuk at long last and that is what I saw.

The volunteer task force that handled Chuuk's side of the coordination of the Pacific Partnership visit of 2008 did an excellent job of being sure that the needs of the crew of The

Mercy were met. To single out any one agency or individual in Chuuk that gave service above and beyond their normal call of duty would mean that I would leave out someone else who worked just as hard. I don't want to leave anyone out so I will simply say to those in Chuuk who worked so hard for the last several months, "Great job!!"

It was extremely interesting traveling in Chuuk with the "dignitaries" and to watch their faces as they saw the fruits of their labor being realized in tangible form all over Chuuk. If there had been someone else to hold down the fort at The Kaselehlie Press I would have tried to stay for the duration of The Mercy's trip.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end and Pollyanna, I have come to know, was dead wrong. Not everything is wonderful all of the time. I was unfortunately reminded of that fact on the morning of the day that I flew back to Pohnpei.

Even while I was at the opening ceremony for the visit of The Mercy someone was whispering in my ear, "If you want some news you should check out the recent conviction of senior legislator Roman Robert." That was a Friday afternoon and I had no possibility of getting to the Chuuk Supreme Court before the end of the day and the court was closed during the weekend.

The person who whispered in my ear had a copy of the document I would need to get the details of the story but he could not give it to me until he'd checked with a high official in Government. Of course, that official said that I would have to get the document from the Court.

On Monday morning, my last morning in Chuuk, with an hour left before immigration closed at the Chuuk International Airport I borrowed a car and drove to the court just across the street from the scandalously maintained Chuuk High School.

It was difficult to find out where to go due to the

lack of signage. Fortunately I am not particularly shy and I asked a very friendly and helpful man who helped me to find the right person to talk to about my request. I wanted to get a copy of the conviction judgment which is a public record of the court.

The clerk told me that he could provide a copy but that I would have to wait until the power came back on so that he could use the copy machine. I understood that. After all I was in Chuuk. I was willing to wait as long as I didn't miss my plane.

After a few tense moments of waiting I felt that I needed to visit the room I had earlier passed that was marked "Men". When I found that the room was locked I went to another employee of the court who said that he would have to find the janitor to unlock the room. As things go, my need was suddenly more urgent and I was willing to ignore the "Out of order" sign on the other door that was also marked "Men" to which I was ushered.

Fortunately the room was not pitch black because there was a window and it was 9:30 on the morning of yet another beautiful sunny day. The first thing that I noticed was that despite the court's requirement for a great deal of paper work there was no neat paper waiting there for me, only a pile of torn newspapers next to where I would sit. If it had not been for the fact that I am still a smoker despite my best laid plans to quit I would never have trusted that unruly pile of paper. A flash of my lighter revealed that I would be the first person to utilize the top piece of newspaper. The things in which I take respite are widely varied depending on circumstances.

Having finished with the paper work I went back to the clerk who asked me why I needed a copy of the conviction ruling against Roman Robert. I didn't lie though I probably could have. I told him that I was with The Kaselehlie Press and that I wanted to write a story on the issue.

Suddenly the temperature that had previously caused me to sweat profusely became frosty. I could nearly see my breath.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I'll have to check with the Chief to see if we can release that to you."

"But, the document is public record."

"Yes, but I'll have to check with the Chief first."

I offered to leave \$10 to cover the cost of faxing the document to me in Pohnpei, thinking that would more than cover the cost of a fax transmission and the rest could be used for paper in the room marked "Men".

He was very polite but adamant. "I have to check with the Chief first."

I got back in the car empty handed and headed back through the maze of Chuuk's famous potholes to the Chuuk International Airport with fifteen minutes to spare and a head full of, "You've got to be kidding?"

In terms of public information in Chuuk there is still a very long way to go. What a shame. The state is full of absolutely wonderful people!

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

Collector looking for Collectable Coins

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The Robert Etscheit Tournament Wraps Up

By N.N. Isaac On the weekend of August 13, 2008, the proud participants of the 9th Robert F.C. Etscheit Tournament came together to celebrate the culmination of two and half months of nerves, sweat, and downright competitiveness. With kids in tow and a bountiful potluck fare of Pacific cuisine ranging from Filipino lumpia to Palauan taro leaf soup, the members of the Pohnpei Tennis Association partied down until the wee hours at the Nan Pepper tennis courts. The evening of fun started off with several PTA fund-raising exhibition games open to anyone who had a few dollars to spare. Prizes ranged from nice bottles of wine, donated by the Neime Company and Antonia Panuelo, to a free night's stay at the Ocean View Hotel, courtesy of hotelier Lucy Panuelo. The games proved to be a lucrative venture for the tennis club as the competitive nature of the donors got the better of them, with some entrants spending upwards of fifty dollars in efforts to prove their prowess on the court.

After the club managed to raise a few hundred dollars and several IOU's, club business commenced with the election of new officers. After an expedient round of votes, former PTA President Murphy Panuelo handed the reins over to the new administration headed by Dr. Bryan Isaac as club president, and David Panuelo as the vice-president. Also elected were Marites Delos Reyes as the club's secretary and Pelma Palik who will be serving her second term as the club's treasurer.

After Brother Dave Antonelli blessed the food and folks managed to put a little sustenance in their bellies, Robert Etscheit Jr. got the awarding ceremony going by thanking the all the participants of his father's tournament on behalf of his family. He also reminded everyone that the names of the Men's Open Singles winners are engraved on a nameplate that's affixed to a cup; the reason for this applying only to 'Men's Singles' being that it was the division that his father played. The cup currently sits in Mrs. Agnes Etscheit's office awaiting the completion of their new shopping center, where it will be put on permanent display. Robert Jr. also gave everyone a taste of what's to come next year by revealing that his family hopes to invite the winners of their tournament in Kosrae to come up to Pohnpei for a championship showdown between the best players of the two states.

Speeches and ceremony aside, the new PTA officers along with Ronald and Robert Etscheit Jr., handed out certificates and trophies to the winners of both the 8th and 9th year tournaments. The awarding ceremony brought the evening to a close, leaving players to enjoy the rest of the night reminiscing their wins and losses. Most of all, everyone enjoyed the good-natured fun they had playing the sport loved by Robby Etscheit.

9th Annual Tournament Champions

Men's Open Singles
1st Place: Johnson Asher
2nd Place: Dr. Bryan Isaac
3rd Place: Rene Merencillo

Women's Open Singles
1st Place: Iolani Neth
2nd Place: Anastasia Isaac
3rd Place: Kristina Isaac

Men's B Class Singles
1st Place: Rey Garcia
2nd Place: Froilan Nunez
3rd Place: Robel Basa

Juniors - 13 Years Old and Under
1st Place: Shawn Adams
2nd Place: T.J. Rush
3rd Place: Nile Panuelo

Open Master's Division
1st Place: Dr. Bryan Isaac
2nd Place: Reedson Abraham
3rd Place: Dave Antonelli, S.J.

Men's Doubles
1st Place: Johnson Asher & Ronald Etscheit
2nd Place: Rene Merencillo & Ed Parce
3rd Place: Dr. Bryan Isaac & Robert Etscheit Jr.

Women's Doubles
1st Place: Iolani Neth & Shelolyn Neth
2nd Place: Hacinta Omura & Mona Jackson
3rd Place: Sepe Palik & Thelma Loyola

Women's B Class Singles
1st Place: Sepe Palik
2nd Place: Ashley Yauvoli
3rd Place: Kristina Isaac

Juniors - 13 to 18 Years Old
1st Place: Alex Kalau
2nd Place: Ashley Yauvoli
3rd Place: Chris Yamada

Mixed Doubles
1st Place: Dr. Bryan Isaac & Anastasia Isaac
2nd Place: Froilan Nunez & Iolani Neth
3rd Place: Rene Merencillo & Thelma Loyola

8th Annual Tournament Champions

Men's Open Singles
1st Place: Johnson Asher
2nd Place: Rene Merencillo

Women's Open Singles
1st Place: Iolani Neth
2nd Place: Thelma Loyola
3rd Place: Allyssa Hawkins

Men's B Class Singles
1st Place: William H.
2nd Place: Lionel Apis
3rd Place: Froilan Nunez

Juniors - 18 Years Old and Under
1st Place: Dayne Iehsi
2nd Place: Chris Yamada
3rd Place: Allyssa Hawkins

Men's Doubles
1st Place: Rene Merencillo & Ed Parce
2nd Place: Johnson Asher & Alik Jackson
3rd Place: Abiner Robert & Froilan Nunez

Women's Doubles
1st Place: Iolani Neth & Melissalyn Neth
2nd Place: Thelma Loyola & Pelma Palik
3rd Place: Hannah Isaac & Kristina Isaac

Open Master's Division
1st Place: Dave Antonelli, S.J.
2nd Place: Ed Ochoco
3rd Place: Ed Parce

Mixed Doubles
1st Place: Iolani Neth & Froilan Nunez
2nd Place: Mona Jackson & Alik Jackson
3rd Place: Pelma Palik & Rene Merencillo

Astronomical Tide Prediction September 3 - 16, 2008

	Pohnpei		Chuuk	
Monday	03 Wed 04:41AM 3.9 10:47AM 0.8 05:04PM 4.1 11:13PM 1.1	10 Wed 12:05AM 3.2 08:22AM 1.4 03:10PM 2.5 06:18PM 2.3	03 Wed 03:09AM 1.5 09:20AM 0.2 03:49PM 1.7 09:54PM 0.5	10 Wed 09:00AM -0.2
Tuesday	04 Thu 05:01AM 3.5 11:02AM 0.9 05:28PM 4.0 11:42PM 1.4	11 Thu 12:56AM 3.5 08:15AM 1.2 02:29PM 2.7 07:10PM 2.0	04 Thu 03:09AM 1.2 09:11AM 0.1 04:06PM 1.8 10:25PM 0.6	11 Thu 12:25AM 1.7 08:53AM -0.1
Wednesday	05 Fri 05:15AM 3.1 11:13AM 1.1 05:52PM 3.8	12 Fri 01:29AM 3.9 08:23AM 1.0 02:29PM 3.1 07:45PM 1.7	05 Fri 03:00AM 1.0 09:02AM 0.1 04:23PM 1.8 10:54PM 0.7	12 Fri 12:51AM 1.9 08:44AM -0.1 03:11PM 0.9 06:35PM 0.7
Thursday	06 Sat 12:13AM 1.7 05:20AM 2.8 11:17AM 1.2 06:18PM 3.6	13 Sat 02:00AM 4.2 08:39AM 0.8 02:42PM 3.5 08:17PM 1.3	06 Sat 02:37AM 0.9 08:56AM 0.0 04:41PM 1.7 11:24PM 0.8	13 Sat 01:17AM 2.0 08:39AM 0.0 02:43PM 1.0 07:13PM 0.5
Friday	07 Sun 12:51AM 2.1 05:05AM 2.5 11:12AM 1.4 06:49PM 3.3	14 Sun 02:29AM 4.4 08:58AM 0.7 03:02PM 3.8 08:49PM 1.0	07 Sun 01:55AM 0.9 08:55AM -0.1 05:02PM 1.6	14 Sun 01:43AM 2.0 08:40AM 0.0 02:39PM 1.2 07:50PM 0.4
Saturday	08 Mon 10:39AM 1.5 08:00PM 3.1	15 Mon 02:59AM 4.5 09:19AM 0.6 03:24PM 4.1 09:22PM 0.8	08 Mon 08:58AM -0.2 05:31PM 1.5	15 Mon 02:10AM 2.0 08:45AM 0.1 02:46PM 1.4 08:28PM 0.3
Sunday	09 Tue 09:12AM 1.6	16 Tue 03:29AM 4.4 09:41AM 0.6 03:49PM 4.4 09:55PM 0.8	09 Tue 09:01AM -0.2 11:55PM 1.5	16 Tue 02:36AM 1.8 08:51AM 0.1 03:00PM 1.7 09:07PM 0.2

Kudos to the Champs!

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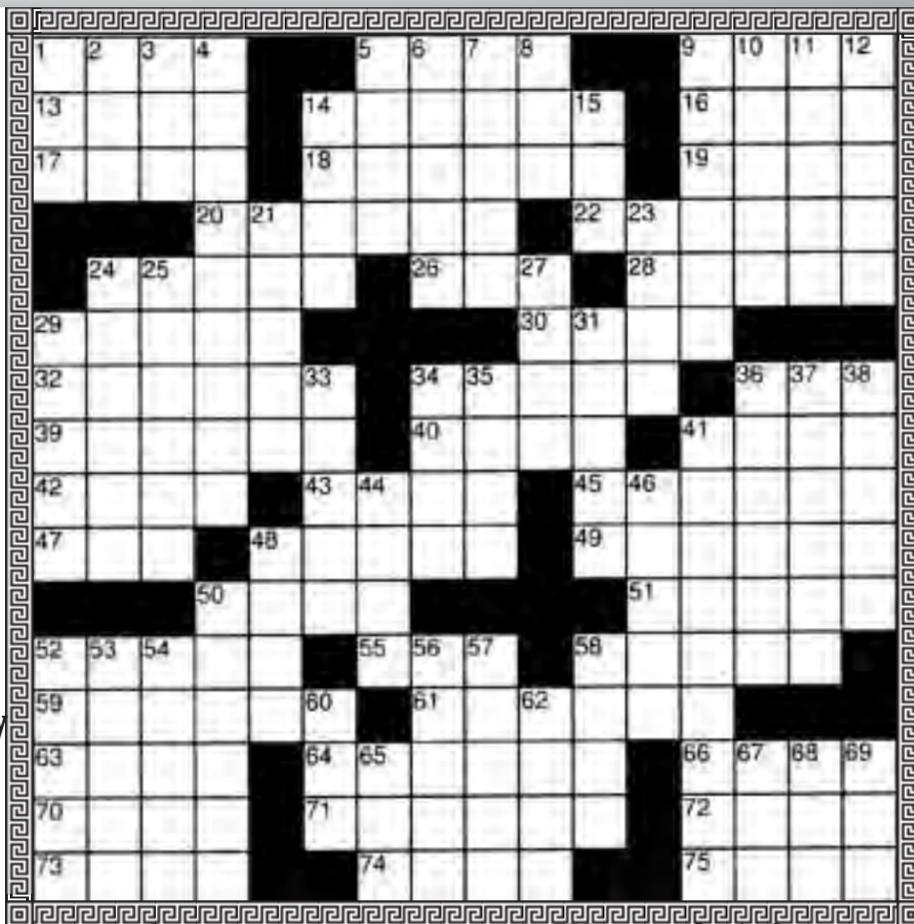
Kolonia, Pohnpei

FM 96941

Email: mberman163@yahoo.com

Crossword - *It's Mindless*

- ACROSS**
- 1. Ice ____
 - 5. They come out of a joke writer's mouth
 - 9. Holiday precursors
 - 13. Advance
 - 14. Wage ____
 - 16. A secretary might take one
 - 17. It locks an ox
 - 18. Naughty netizen
 - 19. Elite alternative
 - 20. They charge
 - 22. Hatchet, or that there lumberjack
 - 24. Harry Potter's specialty
 - 26. Sufferer's question
 - 28. Valentine's Day gift
 - 29. Hyped a film
 - 30. Like custard
 - 32. Joins forces
 - 34. Outdoor living room
 - 36. Commie
 - 39. One not kept in stitches
 - 40. Betwixt
 - 41. Test run
 - 42. Soft stone
 - 43. Scratchy voice
 - 45. It's mindless
 - 47. Clever
 - 48. Stops marching
 - 49. Tzatziki base
 - 50. Shops
 - 51. The ____ of society
 - 52. Desert request
 - 55. Stick in the water
 - 58. V flyers
 - 59. Moral compass
 - 61. No-no olio
 - 63. Titles for knights
 - 64. Homes
 - 66. Surgical reminder
 - 70. Annoying one
 - 71. Scrub
 - 72. Buyer in Britain
 - 73. Takes to court
 - 74. Bad mark
 - 75. Manually skilled
 - 5. Close in on
 - 6. Archer's object
 - 7. Grate together
 - 8. Play place
 - 9. Use
 - 10. Widow covers
 - 11. Host
 - 12. Flies through the air
 - 14. It's a long story
 - 15. Diamond expert
 - 21. Takes cover
 - 23. Part of QED
 - 24. Not automatic
 - 25. With rapt attention
 - 27. Mountain man?
 - 29. Litter's littles
 - 31. Happy-go-lucky
 - 33. Wander
 - 34. ____ due
 - 35. DJ gear
 - 36. Hodgepodge shows
 - 37. Exit
 - 38. Morons
 - 41. Gotten off the point
 - 44. Too
 - 46. It might have clowns



- 48. Pitch
- 50. Hooligans
- 52. Faint traces
- 53. Bye-bye, Gigi
- 54. Short on words
- 56. Bikini, for one
- 57. Commuter's news source
- 58. Wow, in the '50s
- 60. Dispirit
- 62. Oscar word
- 65. Go for an apple
- 67. White ball
- 68. Sandy's statement
- 69. . . . and all that ____

K Press Puzzle Pleasure



Listless Fun

Each of the words in the puzzle is made up only of the letters found in the phrase, **FIND THESE WORDS**. There are 25 5-letter words and 20 6-letter words, for a total of 45. Remember, you may use a letter only as many times as it appears in:

FIND THESE WORDS

YOUR WORD LIST:

A fairy tale...or something to reflect on even today?

Over 2000 years ago a child was born in very poor circumstances in what we call today the Middle East. That land was occupied by invading conquerors at that time.

They were not a free people. During their whole history the people were having a hard time living up to their own traditions and preserving their values. Many of their own people were struggling with real difficulties and many others of their own people were trying to tell them how to live. It was hard for the uneducated and the poor to make their own decisions in such circumstances. Choices were very difficult to make and to stick with.

This young man lived for many years known only in his own village and really not recognized even there. He stayed close to his family and helped them and those around him to find the things that they needed to subsist, to feel free, to find a living, and to be happy together.

When he was about thirty and after much prayer and reflection about what his life was all about, he heard about a relative who at that time was living a very different life in the desert and trying very hard to help others to reflect on the meaning of their own life, the love of God and how we are to love and help each other so that all people could find the peace and happiness that they were waiting and longing for.

So, he went to spend about a month in the desert with the man called John reflecting on the Promises that God had made to his people and how their God had always been with them and true to his promises to watch over them and one day to give them a full and abundant life together.

Soon after this "retreat" this man returned home and told his mother that he now better understood why he was born and what he was called on to do with the gifts that he had as a human being. He began to tell people everywhere that he went how much God loved them and was calling them to help others to

realize this love and how important they were in the eyes of God. God planned and wanted the best for them. He had great plans for them that were almost too much to believe. He spent most of his time telling them to love one another and to try to understand one another even though at times all of them could be very different, very selfish and think only of ourselves.

There were many who heard this message and listened to his invitation to join him, to pray and to reflect with him and to begin bringing this message wherever they went. Others found this message too hard, too different from the life and problems that they were facing at the time. Many felt that if they lived life in His way they would be "losers."

This man who we call Jesus today never promised that it would be easy to do what he preached or that there would be instant rewards for all that we would try to do. But he did promise that He would always be with us and would always give us all that we needed to be able to live this kind of a life. We would find peace and happiness with Him and with all our brothers and sisters.

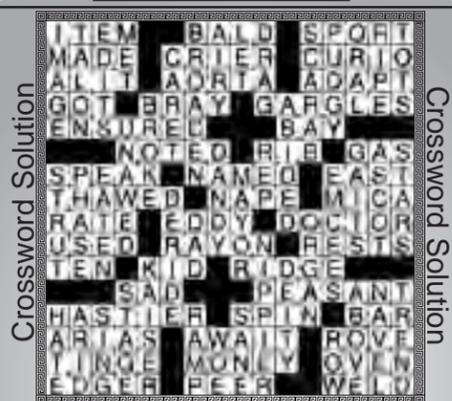
He did promise that one day everyone who tried to do what he said even if they were weak and made many mistakes and perhaps at times selfishly turned away from his advice and way of living would be completely happy and would live with him and all other people in peace and happiness that no one could take away from them.

He not only preached this message but he lived this message and paid the price with his own human life offered for us and for our eternal peace and happiness.

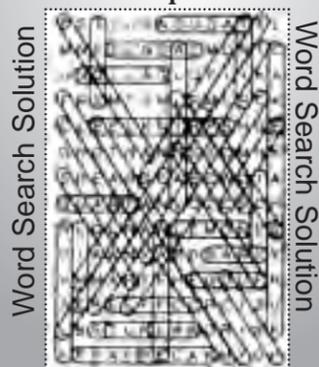
We have all heard this story in many different ways. Do we reflect on it as we live life in 2008 or do we treat it as a fairy tale that really has no meaning in our life today?

Joseph A Cavanagh, S.J

Puzzle Pleasure Previous Issue's Solutions



Hot Spot



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant VIP Room. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press

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Mighty memiap (papaya), a fruit for the whole family

By *Blanche Greene-Cramer*,
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Papaya is one of the healthiest and tastiest foods found in the Pacific islands, however, in some places people let papaya rot or feed it to the pigs. But papaya is not just for the animals! It can be enjoyed by people too, either green or ripe. One fully grown tree provides 15 to 30 fruits per year, which are a great alternative to expensive imported fruits and sugary snacks.

Papaya is an excellent source of provitamin A carotenoid and vitamin C. Provitamin A is important for healthy eyes, protection against infection, and prevention of chronic diseases like cancer, anemia, heart disease, diabetes, healthy eyes, and helps prevent against infection. Vitamin C helps keep the body tissues strong, assists chemical processes in the body, and helps the body absorb iron. Although both green and ripe papaya is a good source of these important vitamins, as papaya ripens, the amount of these vitamins increases. Half a slice of ripe papaya (about ¼ cup) provides 21% of the estimated provitamin A and 178% of the Vitamin C that a child needs each day. One small apple provides only 1% of the provitamin A and 20% of the Vitamin C needed daily.

But papaya is not just for children! A slice of papaya contains more than enough vitamin C to meet the daily recommended amount for adults as well. Eating rice does not provide any vitamin C. Papaya is also an excellent food for babies aged 6 months or older because it is high in vitamins and easy to digest. Papaya can also be given to sick people because sometimes it makes other foods easier to digest.

While the most nutritious way of enjoying papaya is to eat it fresh when it is ripe, there are many healthy ways to prepare papaya so that the vitamins aren't lost, such as by baking or preparing in a stew with other foods. However, always be sure not to cook papaya longer than required to minimize loss of vitamins. Papaya can also be preserved by drying. Once dried, papaya will keep for several

Photos by Blanche-Greene Cramer



months when stored in an air tight container like a tightly sealed jar or plastic bag. Dried papaya makes an excellent snack for children!!

Not only is papaya a delicious food, but the leaves and green fruit contain a chemical called papain which has many special uses. Papain is used as a commercial meat tenderizer, but you can do this yourself too by wrapping meat in a papaya leaf and leaving it overnight or if rubbing the juice of the green papaya into the meat. (To get the juice, cut the skin of a

green papaya and let the juice drip onto a clean dish). The juice of a green papaya can also be used to reduce the pain of an insect sting or jellyfish sting by rubbing it over the site and to kill intestinal worms or aid digestion by enjoying it in a cup of hot water with equal amount of honey. The young papaya leaves can also be used in the place of soap to wash clothes and remove stains. To do this, first rub clothes with the crushed leaves and then rub the clothes against each other during washing.



Traditional Water Container Made from a Taro Leaf (Ohd)

Pohnpeian people in the past had some amazing skills. One is that of preparing the traditional water container, folded ingeniously from a leaf of the *Alocasia taro* species, known locally as *ohd* (see photo). The container in the photo was made by Samuel Washington, Salapwuk, Kitti. Traditionally, people would make such a container when going into the forest and needed to carry drinking water. Few people still have this skill of making the traditional water container. For this reason, it was presented at Pohnpei Cultural Day, March 31, 2008, in order to promote and maintain the skill. People attending were allowed to try drinking from the two "spouts" and all were amazed that a simple leaf can actually be used to hold and carry water for long distances.

Recipe of the Week

Green Papaya and Fish Soup (six servings)

Ingredients:

- 1 medium-sized fish
- 1 cup coconut cream (from 1 coconut)
- 2 cups coarsely grated green papaya
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 3 cups water

Method:

1. Clean fish and cut into pieces
2. Bring 3 cups water to a boil, add fish, then boil for 10 minutes. Remove bones.
3. Add grated papaya and soy sauce, then cook until tender (about 10 minutes).
4. Add coconut cream, stir once, and remove from heat.
5. Serve hot.

Reference: South Pacific Food Leaflets No. 2, Papaya; Secretariat for the Pacific Community, 1992

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U.S. and FSM dignitaries visit Chuuk Lagoon islands and the USNS Mercy

By **Bill Jaynes** *Chuuk, FSM* - A group of dignitaries from the United States and from the FSM visited Polle, Uman, Fefen, and Weno to observe the activities of medical and engineering crews working in Chuuk under the Pacific Partnership.

Crews from the US Naval Service Hospital ship, USNS Mercy provided medical services to residents of thirteen islands during their ten day mission in Chuuk.

The dignitaries that travelled to the lagoon islands among others included FSM's President Manny Mori; Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert; Secretary for the Department of Health Vita Skilling; Chuuk's Governor Wesley Simina, Lt. Governor Johnson Elimo, and US Ambassador to the FSM Miriam Hughes. From the Mercy dignitaries included Commodore William A. Kearns, Mission Commander for the Pacific Partnership; Rear Admiral David Rutstein, Assistant Surgeon General and Chief Medical Officer for the U.S. Public Health Service; Captain James Rice, Commander of the Military Treatment Facility who is in charge of the hospital on the ship; and Captain Peter Linz, Director of Medical Operations.

Rear Admiral Rutstein is not new to the Federated States of Micronesia. He served for over a decade in both Pohnpei and Yap's hospitals as a staff physician and instructor at the Pacific Basin Medical Officer Training Program.

The entourage was greeted in Polle on Saturday August 23 by a large group of

singing children who lined the path to Sapou Elementary and Polle Junior High School where doctors were treating hundreds of patients.

The visitors were able to witness the health services being provided to residents of Polle, care that included medical examinations for all ages, eye examinations and free prescription glasses for those who needed them, and dental examinations and tooth extractions. Polle Junior High School, a brightly painted pre-fabricated building that has withstood the fury of two typhoons, was the site of the temporary pharmacy.

While the dignitaries were in Polle doctors determined that three patients needed surgical care aboard the Mercy and made arrangements for the patients to be transported on the boats that had carried the entourage to the island. When the boats left the island headed for the Mercy the three patients rode on the boat that carried the President of the FSM and the Ambassador of the United States.

While the patients were being admitted to the hospital aboard the Mercy the entourage took a tour of the hospital ship. There they were shown the waiting rooms, the TRIAGE area where patients needs are prioritized. They were given a basic introduction into what images taken by the onboard CATSCAN machine can show about a patient's health. They were shown nursing facilities, the surgical ward and the intensive care unit.

At the end of the tour Captain Rice told the gathered dignitaries, "Really it's not about what we brought but the relationships we



Commodore William Kearns, Mission Commander for the Pacific Partnership with children from Uman - Photo by Bill Jaynes

have put together."

After leaving the Mercy the entourage toured Mwan Elementary School followed by the renovation project taking place at the Chuuk State Hospital.

On the next day the same dignitaries visited Uman to witness medical services on that lagoon island being delivered at Sapota Elementary School. In addition to the other services that were offered in Polle, doctors had

set up special pediatric ward where children with maladies ranging from skin tacks to painful boils were treated.

In Fefen, dignitaries talked with US Navy Seabees (a stylized acronym for Construction Battalion or CB) who were working against the clock to renovate one of the buildings of Messa Elementary School. The ribbon cutting for that project is scheduled for September first just in time for the opening of the school.

U.S. Navy Seabees restoring schools and hospital in Chuuk

By **Bill Jaynes** *Chuuk, FSM* - Members of a U.S. Navy Construction Battalion "Seabees" are in Chuuk renovating two school buildings and the Chuuk State Hospital. Crew leaders say that they have been nearly overwhelmed by the number of volunteers from Chuuk that have offered to help with the projects.

The crew leader at Mwan Elementary School said that when they arrived to begin work at the school there were more than 30 volunteers prepared to help the crew. He said that the volunteers "kicked off" the roof in just 15 minutes. He introduced Marvin Mino a Chuukese citizen to US Ambassador Miriam Hughes, President Manny Mori, and Governor Wesley Simina. Mino arrived every morning before the Seabees crew started its work day and stayed longer than the Seabees did.

Ambassador Hughes thanked Mino for his hard work and said that his dedication and the help of the other Chuukese volunteers showed that the Chuukese are ready to be mobilized to help themselves. The theme was repeated at each of the engineering sites in Weno and in Fefan.

A shiny new tin roof is in the place of the rusted old roof at Mwan Elementary. The windows are gone and will be replaced with new louvered windows. There is a new coat of white paint on the walls. The large single room classroom will be divided into two classrooms by a new dividing wall. A new drop ceiling is being installed.

One of the crew members at Mwan said that when they pulled down the old rotted drop ceiling the debris that came with it filled the entire classroom. She said that they found old bottles and cans and other detritus that showed that people had been using the attic of the school as a hidden place to party. In Fefan the debris in the attic wasn't quite as bad but they did find a homemade bong (a device used to smoke marijuana) made of a plastic bottle



Marvin Mino helps Steel Worker 3rd Class Michael Featherston with a gutter at Mwan Elementary School in Chuuk - Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) James Seward and a garden hose.

In Fefan, Seabee crews worked against the clock to do similar renovations to a classroom building there. While crews working in Weno went back to a comfortable hotel room at the end of their work day, the crew in Fefan camped out in tents on the school lawn and crashed out on cots in one of the other classrooms. Except for occasional barbecues of local fish the crew members ate MRE's, meals ready to eat which come in Army green plastic bags.

Not a single soldier complained about the living arrangements when we visited there. If they were dissatisfied with the accommodations they kept that to themselves. Crew members said that they enjoyed swimming in

the ocean at the end of the day and playing with the village children and that they were satisfied. One even went so far as to say that he was having the time of his life.

Seabee crews knew what to expect before they arrived at each of the engineering sites. Advance crews had thoroughly defined the work that was to be done before crews arrived. Containers of materials bought at Guam's Home Depot store had already arrived and were in place when the crews mobilized to begin their work.

The crew at Chuuk State Hospital had potentially the most formidable task of all of the crews. The Hospital has long been an eyesore. The crew painted the main entry way by the end of six days covering the graffiti and

betel nuts stains on the walls. The entry way was a depressing color of blue that, as Crew Chief CE-1 Higgins said did not "inspire confidence in the cleanliness of the hospital." It is now an easy to clean semi-gloss white with blue trim that looks much cleaner.

They have painted the Emergency Room. Higgins said that the walls had formerly had both betel nut and blood stains on them. The room now looks clean and sanitary.

Seabees are doing projects all over the hospital not only to clean up its appearance but to make the facility safer. Electricians have done some major rewiring in the hospital and have solved all of the major problems with electricity.

Crew members said that when they pulled the drop ceiling down in the intensive care unit they were surprised and disgusted at the number of rodent and cat skeletons and carcasses that came down with the ceiling. They will be replacing the old drop ceiling with a new one and making it more difficult for animals to gain access to the attic space while still allowing for ventilation.

Seabees are completely remodeling the pediatric ward. They have replaced broken down ceiling fans where those have been needed.

Working on the project are twelve Seabees and eleven volunteers from the Mercy, along with several local Chuukese volunteers.

While Seabees work on the renovation projects, broken down medical equipment is being repaired by another crew of specialists from the Mercy.

Chuuk State Department of Health Services personnel are being trained on a number of issues critical to their jobs by trainers from the Mercy.

As long as the repair work is maintained in the future, Chuukese citizens will no longer have to dread a trip to the Chuuk State Hospital.