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Law Enforcement Community mourns loss of respected Police Chief

By **Tim Fenlon**

Over 500 people crowded into the Soheks Pah Protestant Church on Sunday September 12, 2010 to attend the memorial service of honor for the late Pius Chotailug.

The FSM Chief of Police passed away in Pohnpei on Wednesday evening September 8, 2010. His bedside was surrounded by family and friends. The ward outside his hospital room was a constant scene of congestion as stunned and concerned well-wishers visited the hospital to check on Pius' condition.

On Sunday, a police escorted motorcade travelled from the Pohnpei State Hospital to the Soheks Pah church. Major intersections were controlled by police in formal dress uniform who saluted the motorcade as it passed.

Upon arrival at the church, a police Guard of Honor lined the entry to the church. The coffin was adorned with the FSM Flag, Chief Chotailug's police cap and a framed photograph. A single white rose was placed at the photograph.

Included amongst the people attending the church service,



were members of the Chotailug family who unsuccessfully had rushed from Yap to be with him prior to his passing. FSM Vice President the Honorable Alik L. Alik was joined during the service by U.S. Ambassador Peter Prahar and Australian Ambassador Susan Cox, members of the FSM National Congress from across the Nation, Secretary of Justice the Honorable Maketo Robert, Honorable Lorin Robert the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, former FSM President Joseph Urusemal and senior law enforcement officers.

The one hour service was conducted by Pastor Penter Enicar who led the opening prayer for worshipers and the Affirmation of Faith. Acting FSM Chief of Police, Captain John Santos led the congregation in the emotional and moving Prayer of the Faithful. He also read out many letters of condolences which had been received. These included expressions of sympathy from heads of policing agencies from the U.S., Australia and the Pacific Region.

A visibly distressed Pohnpei State Chief of Police fought to

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Palikir locals stand up for property rights

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM—The crowd assembled peacefully in the rain on the muddy grounds of the construction site for a new Mormon Church in Palikir on the morning of the eighth of September. A few members of the group peacefully erected tents and placed a few chairs underneath one of them. One of the chairs was occupied by His Excellency Herculano Kohler, Nahmwarki of Sokehs. The Chief Magistrate of Sokehs, the Speaker of the Sokehs Council and other Sokehs officials were part of the crowd.

Dump trucks loaded with dredged coral arrived and dumped their solitary



Local residents peacefully gather to protest the construction of a new Mormon Church in Palikir

loads as the accommodating crowd watched. The trucks drove away peacefully even though they had been scheduled to bring more coral to the property.

State Police were on hand to ensure that peacefulness remained the rule of the day.

Members of the crowd carried signs, the majority of which included the word "pwiladak," true Pohnpeians.

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...Pius Chotailug

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control the deep sadness he was feeling when he told the congregation of the remarkable contributions Pius had made to policing within the FSM and to law enforcement throughout the Pacific Region. Chief Roby highlighted the role Pius played in striving to coordinate law enforcement activities to improve the safety and security of the nation and the region. This was demonstrated by the hosting of two major policing conferences in Pohnpei as recent as one month ago.

Just 2 weeks prior to his death, Pius and Chief Roby attended the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Conference (PICP) which was held in Brisbane Australia. This is the primary forum for all Pacific Police Chiefs. At that conference, Pius was successful in securing the 2011 conference to be held in Pohnpei.

“When that conference is held in Pohnpei next year, it will be a tribute to the vision of this remarkable man. Working with others, I will do everything I can to ensure this conference is held in Pohnpei and its success will be the lasting memory we seek for Pius.” Chief Roby told the assembled Congregation.

In a memorial program provided to worshippers at the service, it indicated Pius joined the Division of Security and Investigation (the former Divisional name for the Division of Marine Surveillance which later became the FSM National Police) on September 15, 1985. His talents as a skilled police officer were quickly recognized and he was promoted to Sergeant in less than 2 years. After a succession of further promotions in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he was appointed Deputy Administrator for the Division of Marine Resources in 1992. With the establishment of the FSM National Police in 1998, Pius was appointed the Deputy Chief. Exactly one year to the day, on April 1, 1999, he was appointed Chief of FSM National Police, the position he held until his death.

A funeral service and burial of his body was held at the Chotailug family home on Monday September 13, 2010. The road leading to the

Soheks Pohe mountain property was almost unpassable given the extent of vehicle congestion from mourners attending the funeral.

The funeral was attended by a veritable who’s who of government officials including President Mori. Their attendance didn’t seem to be merely a matter of obligation. Many of the leaders said that they had come to know and to respect Pius Chotailug both in his capacity as Chief of the National Police and as a friend.

Father John S. Hagileiram, S.J. presided over the ceremony and performed the Eucharist. Former President Joseph Urusemal spoke of his memories of Pius.

Members of the FSM National Police acted as pall bearers and proceeded to the gravesite with a full color guard.

At the request of his children Pius Chotailug was laid to rest next to his wife. Police officers gave their respected and fallen leader a 21 gun salute that echoed from the mountainside. He was 50 years old.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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U.S. Navy Rear Admiral visits FSM

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On September 6-13, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Paul J. Bushong visited Chuuk and Pohnpei states. Bushong is the U.S. Defense Representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau. The Rear Admiral also commands the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (COMNAVMAR) and the Joint Region Marianas. He replaced Rear Admiral Douglass T. Biesel on March 27, 2010.

Upon his arrival to Chuuk State with U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Peter A. Prahar on September 6, Rear Admiral Bushong toured the Chuuk State Hospital with Director of Health Services Julio Marar. The tour highlighted the hospital's MDR-TB Ward, for which Chuuk was previously internationally recognized. Director Marar repeated his appreciation for the 2008 U.S. Department of Defense Pacific Partnership, under which a USNS Mercy engineering team rehabilitated sections of

the hospital facility. The following day the U.S. delegation called upon Chuuk State Governor Wesley Simina and toured the Chuuk road project; a twenty-six million dollar grant from the Amended Compact Infrastructure Sector Grant funds the project. Rear Admiral Bushong and Ambassador Prahar rounded out the day with a visit to Mwen Elementary School. During the 2008 Pacific Partnership, the elementary school also underwent extensive renovations.

On September 10, Rear Admiral Bushong arrived in Pohnpei. In the afternoon, Bushong and his delegation traveled to Palikir, where they paid office calls on FSM President Emanuel Mori, Congress Speaker Isaac V. Figir, and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert. Throughout the meetings, Rear Admiral Bushong touched on the unique U.S.-F.S.M. relationship and reaffirmed the Department of Defense's commitment to its treaty obligation under Title III of the Amended Compact, which relates to defense and security matters. The Rear Admiral recognized the sacrifice made by F.S.M. citizens serving in the U.S.

Military, acknowledging that their support is of the utmost importance. In light of the recent search and rescue missions, the discussions also touched upon possible national boating safety legislation. Under the Amended Compact, the U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for conducting search and rescue missions in the F.S.M.

Following his meetings with national leaders, Rear Admiral Bushong vis-

ited the Micronesia Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) where TCU Leader Captain Johnny Santos welcomed him and provided a brief tour of the facility. TCU receives support from the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM).

On Saturday, the Rear Admiral and Ambassador Prahar attended the Pohnpei State Liberation Day opening ceremony at the Spanish Wall in Kolonia Town.

Rear Admiral Bushong is a native of Lucas, Texas, and was commissioned upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1981.



(L-R) TCU Captain Santos, Ambassador Prahar, and Rear Admiral Bushong at the FSM Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) in Palikir September 10.

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Environmental disaster officials refresh their skills in Pohnpei La Nina conditions mean lower typhoon risk but greater possibility for mudslides and tidal inundation

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM—Mr. Chip Guard of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration based in Guam was in Pohnpei on August 24 and 25 to conduct a workshop on weather related disaster preparedness and climate.

He said that he was very pleased that at this year's workshop appropriate national government officials also participated in the annual workshop for the first time. "It was one of the better visits I've had here," Guard said.

Workshop participants honed their skills and refreshed their knowledge on environmental phenomena that could strike in the FSM, such as typhoons, El Nino and La Nina conditions, tsunamis, climate variability and change, and even potential effects of Pacific wide volcanic activity on Pohnpei and the FSM.

Guard said that the Pacific is currently in a La Nina condition. The tropical cyclone, or typhoon season lasts longer

during La Nina conditions but typhoons also tend to form further west than they do at other times, even further west than Guam, he said. FSM danger from typhoons during La Nina conditions is low although they certainly can't be ruled out entirely and the weather service vigilantly watches atmospheric conditions.

"Just about every major storm in the FSM has occurred during an El Nino," Guard said.

La Nina also means more rain and higher tides. Guard said that the FSM should put into place a plan to deal with tidal inundation especially for the low lying atoll outer islands. Tidal inundation, encroachment by the ocean on the land of atoll islands is most likely during La Nina conditions such as the Pacific is currently experiencing.

Guard said that those officials in Pohnpei and the National Government responsible for disaster services also discussed the increased possibility of landslides due to increased rainfall. It was during a La Nina condition in the

late 80's when several people in Palikir lost their lives due to landslides.

"I want to be sure the message gets out there that landslides are more likely right now," Guard warned.

One of the most vital disaster preparedness needs in the FSM is rapid and timely communication from those in a position to warn islanders regarding an approaching danger. Outer islanders are particularly affected by the lack of communications abilities. They generally communicate with "the rest of the world" by battery powered VHF radios which are not on or manned 24 hours a day.

Guard said that a Pacific wide plan to provide a number of "chatty beetles," is nearly ready for implementation. A chatty beetle is a communication device that is solar powered and can be activated from a satellite. When it is activated the chatty beetle sets off a loud alarm that tells islanders that someone needs to communicate with them on an urgent basis. The chatty beetle doesn't carry voice signals. Remote islanders

would know if the alarm sounds on the chatty beetle that they should turn on their radio for urgent communication. Chatty beetles would strictly be used for the most isolated areas.

He said that satellite rental fees of approximately \$20 per month would need to be budgeted for each of the chatty beetles. The European Union is working on a large plan to provide the devices throughout the Pacific. NOAA is also working on a plan to provide the devices but on a smaller scale than the EU.

He said that each state has its own mechanisms and procedures for environmental disaster preparedness and relief and that factor sometimes makes nationwide coordination a bit more difficult than it might otherwise be. Just the same, when Mr. Guard left Pohnpei he was bound for Chuuk and Yap where he conducted similar workshops with those states' officials.

Pohnpei disaster officials have scheduled a disaster response exercise for October.

Congratulations to The Bank of Guam

I wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to the management and staff of the Bank of Guam, Pohnpei Branch, on the occasion of the branch's relocation to its new and more spacious offices at the new Etscheit's Building in Nett. Certainly this is a reflection of the continuing success for Bank of Guam in the FSM in general, and Pohnpei in particular.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank Bank of Guam for being part of FSM and its development for the past many years, and I look forward to the same strong partnership to continue in the future for our mutual benefit.

I conclude with best wishes for a bright future for Bank of Guam and the Federated States of Micronesia.

President Manny Mori



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Chuuk SDA School gets a face lift

By *Bill Stinnett*

The Chuuk Seventh Day Adventist School is getting a serious face lift thanks to the kindness of Sam Robinson of Southerlin, Oregon, and his lovely, and very supportive wife, Gladys. Also contributing to this volunteer and free renovation effort is Steve Kasperbauer, an SDA Lay Person from Guam and owner of the ABC Beach Club.

I found out about this project by accident and in stages and when it was all pieced together it was just too beautiful a story to go untold – so I'm happy to be sharing this with the readers of the K-Press.

Sam has 8 siblings – all of whom went to college and graduated. He mentions this because he is a firm believer in the value of education and has been building schools and churches on a volunteer basis since 1966. He has a brother in Taiwan serving as a Principal of an SDA school there, another brother doing church work in India, sisters teaching college in the Philippines and New Guinea, and sisters teaching in California.

And then there is Sam, who has lived 3 lifetimes and mostly in foreign countries, building schools and churches in Indonesia, Taiwan, Philippines, Guam, Micronesia, and of course, in Oregon. Gladys has been right there next to him on all these adventures.

Just before starting to work on the Chuuk SDA facility, Sam and Gladys were in Pohnpei renovating the SDA Gym and some buildings. This was very memorable for Sam & Gladys because while working a building there, Sam fell through a roof and was injured, having to be flown to Guam where he was hospitalized.

Sam was released on Christmas Day of 2009 and a month later returned to Guam. Shortly after getting back to Pohnpei Sam learned that his back was actually broken, Gladys fell on the job site breaking her arm and gashing her face, so they decided to return home to Oregon and rest. Recovered and rested, they returned to Chuuk on July 2, 2010 and began work on the 2 story main SDA staff house.

Sam & Gladys bid on military surplus furniture in Fort Lewis, Washington, and loaded 7 containers which he shipped to Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei. Sam brought a lot of equipment for working on wood and concrete to Chuuk and estimates the value of what he has personally contributed to this project to be about \$40,000.

Once on the ground in Chuuk he quickly discovered what most folks learn when they come to Chuuk to do a specific project – that there is much more work to be done than originally thought. Sam discovered that there were plumbing, electrical, and tile work that needed to be done, that there were metal beams that needed to be replaced, roofs and siding that needed work, windows and doors that needed to be replaced, and of course – everything needed a coat of paint.

Sam & Gladys are certainly a gift to the Chuuk SDA School and although school there has started, Sam and his crew continue working away to complete the many jobs before them. They have

a young American named Jason Deapen, from Oregon, who has volunteered to help and they have expressed appreciation for Steve Kasperbauer for his unselfish contribution of material, funding and time to support this project.

Also extremely helpful to Sam and Gladys is Bernardo Gumarao, a builder and friend of the Robinson's who worked with Sam to build a college in the Philippines, and Mr. Charles Reel, Treasurer of the SDA Guam-Micronesia Mission based in Guam.

Sam & Gladys mentioned that a volunteer Electrical Engineer will be coming to Chuuk in late September to work on the entire SDA electrical system and that he will be accompanied by his wife who is an OB/GYN Physician who hopes to be able to work with the hospital and our communities in this medical area. This group is also expected to bring a number of other medical staff to help out in Chuuk.



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Rotary Scholarships

By *Rotary Club of Pohnpei*

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei is proud to announce the winners of its school year 2010-2011 scholarships. The Rotary Club has a self-funded scholarship program for college and post graduate students who are FSM citizens. The maximum award per student is \$1,000.00. This year we are happy to announce that the Rotary Club has awarded \$11,000.00 in scholarships. The selected students are listed below.

\$1,000	Avalon Edward	Walla Walla University
\$1,000	Korinne Mangtamag	University of Guam
\$1,000	Auslynn Lambert	University of Guam
\$1,000	Leilani Giltinag	University of Guam
\$1,000	Rhennay Leben	University of Guam
\$1,000	Pernes Samuel	University of Guam
\$1,000	LaShauna Wilson	University of Hawaii
\$750	Lisa Garayol	University of Guam
\$500	Desiree Yamase	Chaminade University
\$500	Nicole Yamase	Chaminade University

\$500	Universe Yamase	Chaminade University
\$500	Timson Daniel	COM-FSM
\$500	Vanessa James	COM-FSM
\$500	William Piki	COM-FSM
\$250	Yolanda Joab	COM-FSM

The Rotary Club wishes to thank all its sponsors and supporters, without whom the money for the scholarships would not be available. Our sponsors have been extremely generous, and this year we were able to increase the total scholarships awarded from \$8,000.00 last year to \$11,000.00 this year. We also wish to express our best wishes to all our scholarship winners for all the hard work they have put in so far, and for all the challenges they will face in the coming school year.

The Rotary Club will be awarding scholarships again for the 2011-2012 school year, with applications becoming available in February, 2011. We are also having our largest fundraiser of the year on November 13, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at PCR Restaurant, which is our annual quiz night. Please plan on attending so that we can continue to increase our scholarship awards.



Youth Environmental Ambassadors Summer Camp 2010

Conservation Society of Pohnpei

On August 11th 21 high school students from Pohnlongas High School and Nanpei Memorial High School gathered at Black Coral Island for the 2010 Youth Environmental Ambassadors Summer Camp. Since 2006 the focus of each summer camp has alternated between a terrestrial or marine focus. And what better place to enjoy a summer camp about Pohnpei's many marine ecosystems than the beautiful island of Black Coral!

The students are all member of Youth Environmental Ambassadors Club (YEA), which began at PICS High School in 2005 and has since grown to include Pohnlangas and Nanpei schools. Each club has student officers, memberships and faculty advisors, and meets regularly to address local environmental issues. Club members have organized activities such as roadside and campus cleanups and mural painting. Members are dedicated to spread their knowledge of all the environmental challenges facing Pohnpei through peer and community outreach.

The Society's Marine program and the Marine Conservation Unit led the students through three full days of interactive sessions. The students learned about marine conservation and the different laws and regulations in Pohnpei aimed at protecting the natural environment. The students were also led on a tour of the Nahtik Marine Protected area and got to spend some time on the monitoring raft "Liemin". Kesdy Ray Ladore, the Society's MPA coordinator, also led the students through a coral identification and explained the connection between human activities on land and their effect on coral.

Black Coral served as an ideal location for the three-day camp. It was the first time many of the students had ever been to the island and seen such a healthy marine environment. The Society would like to express sincere appreciation to the Pohnpei State Marine Conservation Unit and the Adams family in helping make this event a success. The students are now ready to begin another school year with a greater understanding of the beauty of Pohnpei and an increased passion for preserving it!

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These appointments will carry a competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance. The salary for these positions will be in the range of SDR20,359 to SDR30,538 which according to the September 2010 exchange rates are equivalent to FJD47,302 to FJD70,953. For non-Fijian nationals, this salary may be tax-free. Applicants should be willing to travel economy class.

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Applications should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva and can be sent electronically to jobs@forumsec.org.fj. Applications should be received by close of business on Friday 8 October 2010.

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...Palikir Land

Continued from front page

One sign asked outsiders to respect property rights in Pohnpei. "Se kin rorohki irepen sah-pw," the sign said.

Onlookers might not have known that a petition signed by 79 local residents had been sent to Nelson Pelep, the Speaker of the Pohnpei State Legislature. The cover letter for the petition, dated August 13, sent by Benjamin Louis and Mariano Mauricio, Soumas and Paliendal, respectively, of the Kousapw Nanmal, Palikir Powe said that Palikir already had four different denominations or religions practicing in the area and it didn't want another. It said that the adherence of family members to one of the four denominations had already threatened traditional family unity in the area.

It also called into question the legality of the process by which the Mormon Church had obtained the rights to build on land in their community. The letter asked how it was that an outside organization could get land in Palikir when locals had not been able to do the same.

The Mormons have at least two churches in Sokehs, one in Panasahng and the other in Sekere. Those church buildings differ from the one being built on the property in Nanmal, Palikir Powe in that they are on private land. The one being contested, albeit, not yet through the courts, is on "public land."

The lease for the property was held at one point, by Keitleen Louis. The land had been designated by the legislature for residential use. According to the lease, Louis was to have paid \$342.60 per year for the property and was to have begun construction on it within 90 days of the lease date. She did not build a home on the property and there currently is no home on the property.

In 2003, the Board of Trustees approved Louis' request to change the usage designation of the land from residential to commercial and to irrevocably assign her interest in the parcel of land to Alexander Panuelo. No money figure was specified as having preceded the agreement between the two.

The Board of Trustees approved the lease assignment.

After that point, Keitleen Louis no longer had any legal claim to that parcel of land in Nanmal, Palikir.

Panuelo later requested, and the Board of Trustees approved, a conversion of the commercial lease to a lease for development purposes in his name. The term was for 25 years and was to have concluded by the year 2032. His annual lease rate for the land is 10 times what Louis was to have paid for the same property.

The lease hold development act changed in 2006 and allowed for 55 year leases in Pohnpei not just for commercial developers but also for other types of developers, provided that those developers invest at a certain investment threshold.

The Mormon Church met the requirements for a 55 year lease under the law but Panuelo held

a 25 year lease. He asked the Board of Trustees for a new development lease for a period of 55 years and the Board granted that request.

The day after the Nahmwarki of Sokehs and his people demonstrated their disagreement with the land practices in Pohnpei, he said that he has nothing against the Mormons. He would not have objected to the use of the land for a commercial endeavor that would have benefited his people economically in terms of jobs but he didn't see how a new church would do that.

Nahmwarkis are also referred to as "Mwohnsapw." The term essentially means that the traditional chiefs are the guardians of the land. The Nahmwarki of Sokehs who also served as a Senator in the Pohnpei State Legislature for 12 years takes that task seriously on behalf of his people.

"Land is a commodity that is very rare in Pohnpei" he said, "and it should be protected for our people."

He said that when the Land Commission was set up, the law required that three members of the Board of Trustees were to be appointed by the Governor, three would be appointed by the Legislature, and three members would be from amongst the Nahmwarkis. But a 1987 act of the Legislature superseded the earlier act. The "new" law said that members of the Board of Trustees from that point forward would be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Pohnpei Legislature.

"Now when there is a dispute they come to us," Kohler said referring to the State Government. "Otherwise everything they do is done outside of our knowledge."

It's possible that the dissemination of information or more particularly, the lack of it might have served as an accelerant to the present tensions in the small Palikir village.

"There seems to have been some kind of confusion about the process," Yosiwo Phillip of Pohnpei's Department of Land and Natural Resources said.

Phillip's department was asked to provide documents to the Pohnpei State Legislature's Standing Committee on Land for a special hearing the committee held to discuss the petition and the contents of the petition's cover letter. "I'm pretty sure that information cleared things up," he conjectured.

But it didn't. The committee meeting to which Phillip referred was held on the 7th of September, the day before the crowd arrived at the construction site for the new church.

Additionally, a letter written by Senator Marvin Yamaguchi, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Land to Attorney General Scott Garvey on September 13 expressed "serious concerns" about whether or not the Pohnpei Public Lands Trust Board of Trustees overstepped its legal authority when it converted a residential lease to a commercial lease.

Garvey was to have responded in writing to the committee's questions within two days of the letter, press time for The Kaselehlie Press.



UNDAF Joint Programme Federated States of Micronesia

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Detailed Terms of Reference and UN Personnel History Form (P11) can be obtained from the office of the Joint Presence of UNDP, UNFPA & UNICEF or UNICEF website: www.unicef.org/pacificisland.

UNICEF is seeking a consultant to coordinate the planning and implementation of the UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Baseline Research in accordance with the UNDAF Joint Programme between the Government of Federated States of Micronesia and UNDP, UNFPA & UNICEF. The consultancy will be under a short-term (6 months) special service agreement (SSA) contract with UNICEF Pacific and carried out in the Federated States of Micronesia.

QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

Education Qualification:

University Degree in Social Sciences or related technical field such as development, children or social research.

Knowledge and Skills:

Experience in programme design, administration, monitoring and evaluation or research design and management. Good qualitative and quantitative research skills including experience in conducting community-based processes and/or research on social issues and specifically on child protection would be desirable. Experience in managing a team. Excellent knowledge of English and fluency in any one of the FSM local languages desirable. Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and relevant internet and e-mail software. Experience in computer data entry for research analysis is strongly recommended. Good working knowledge of, and contacts relevant to, national child protection systems would be desirable. Understanding of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and child protection laws, regulations and policies would be desirable as would familiarity with legal language.

Experience:

More than 3 years of progressively responsible experience in programme design, administration, monitoring and evaluation or research design and management. Previous work experience with UNICEF or other UN agencies in the related field is an asset.

Application together with **UN Personnel History Form (P11 form)** and **Curriculum Vitae** should be submitted by **5pm Monday, October 04, 2010** under confidential cover to:

Hand Delivered

Vacancy – Child Protection Baseline Research Consultancy Country Development Manager Joint Presence of UNDP, UNFPA & UNICEF 2nd Floor AMCRES Building, 1 Yakipa Street Kolonia, Pohnpei

Email

OKean Ehmes: ehmes@unfpa.org Country Development Manager Joint Presence of UNDP, UNFPA & UNICEF

UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment. Applications from qualified women are encouraged.

First FSM Forum for Persons with Disabilities

By John Obed

The 1st FSM Forum on Persons Living with Disabilities was hosted by the State of Chuuk from 23rd -26th August 2010. Participants included government officials from the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs; the Division of Special Education, FSM Education Department, States Special Education Offices; States Health Services and Non-Governmental Organizations also attended. Active participants from Parents and Disability groups also attended [this first of its kind] the FSM Forum

Direct funding support and technical assistance was provided by several international agencies; the UN Economic & Social Commission Asia Pacific; Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; the Pacific Disability Forum; Disability Rights Fund and special guest, Mrs. Fiona Wilkinson. Organizers of the event, the Pohnpei Consumer Organization, the Disability Focal Point person from the FSM Health & Social Affairs Department and special contributions from the Director of College of Micronesia-Chuuk Campus deserves special recognition.

Each of the states representatives came up with their own action plans to accomplish when they return to their respective states, as part of the monitoring mechanism in the implementation of the National Disability Policy. General presentations on overview and background history of the new International Convention on the Rights of Person with Disability, the international and regional undertakings in respect to the Pacific Plan, Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and the Biwako Millennium Framework for action were explored. This Forum was an opportunity to provide training on Human Rights and to develop skills to advocate those rights at decision-making levels.

The Forum was concluded with the adoption [and signatures from all Participants] of the '1st National Disability Forum Resolution':

The Resolution states the following points;

Governments to seek additional resources to assist with the implementation of the policy;

National and State Governments to establish a National Disability Coordinating Council;

Calls for the establishment of the national Disabled Persons Organization (DPO) and strengthening the existing DPOs;

Government to seek the assistance of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) based North Pacific Office, UN Agencies, Pacific Disability Forum, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and other donors to support the implementation of the national Policy and related disability initiatives;

The National Forum to take place at least every two years;

The Forum urges and encourages the Government to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability without delay;

The Forum urges and encourages the Government to ensure that the National Policy on Disability is made available to all stakeholders in accessible formats;

The Forum supports the establishment of a national network of women with disabilities recognizing that this group is doubly disadvantaged.

In concluding, the Forum reiterates that;

We hope to strengthen self-help organizations and synchronize the activities of a disability day in the states. At the end, the anticipation is to form some type of a National Coalition and/or Disability Com-

mission to strengthen governments and NGO relations for the implementation of the national policy, as well as the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We are grateful for the funding support provided by the FSM Government, Government of New Zealand, and Disability Rights Fund. Our appreciation was also extended to the following persons for their supports and technical assistance; Mr. Alastair Wilkinson of the UN ESCAP, Mr. Frederick Miller of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and Mr. Setareki Macanawai of the Pacific Disability Forum. We are also thankful to Mr. Paul Deany of the Disability Right Funds for his contributions.

i link

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Conference of lawmakers precedes the 16th Congress Fifth Regular session

FSM Congress

September 8, 2010

PALIKIR, POHNPEI. – The Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia begins its full September calendar today with the opening of the 2010 Micronesian Legislative Conference (MLC) and precedes Monday’s convening of the Fifth Regular Session.

The MLC was established to strengthen the cooperation and working relationship between and amongst the legislative branches of the five governments. It provides the forum for which the nation’s legislative bodies gather to discuss and define solutions for issues of mutual concerns.

Under the banner, “Sharing Information Strengthens National Unity” the nation’s lawmakers are scheduled to discuss a wide range of national issues, but the main focus of the 2010 MLC conference as agreed to by a majority of the states will be on the topics of Tax Reform and Social Security.

Today’s opening meeting selected Senate President Mark Mailo of the Chuuk State Legislature as Chairperson for the 2010 MLC. The 2010 MLC as scheduled will be from September 8 – 10, 2010. The 2010 MLC precedes the busiest session of the FSM Congress, the national budget session.

Speaker Isaac V. Figir has called for the Fifth Regular Session of Sixteenth FSM Congress to convene on September 13th, instead of the 12th which falls on a Sunday. The session is expected to adjourn on October 02 2010, but may be shortened or extended by Congress.

The September session is normally the busiest of all sessions as Congress deliberates on the national government budget for the upcoming fiscal year which begins on October 2010.

Monday’s session will convene at 10am in the Congress Chambers and as usual, the public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Association for Micronesian Development honored in Tokyo and in Pohnpei

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM—The Association for Micronesian Development (AMD) was recently awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendation for 2010 for their effort. The award recognizes that AMD has contributed in a significant way to strengthening the relationship between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia.

On Saturday evening, September 4, Japan’s Ambassador to the FSM, Shoji Sato held a reception at his home in Nanpohnmal, Pohnpei for visiting members of the Association for Micronesian Development including AMD Chairman Masahiro Abe.

Each year the Japanese Foreign Minister gives his special commendation to individuals and groups for outstanding achievements in international fields and to acknowledge their contribution to the promotion of friendly relations with foreign countries.

AMD was established in 1997 as a non-profit organization. The aim of the organization was to assist with the FSM’s economic and social development.

The efforts of the AMD have been felt in all corners of the FSM through donations of sports equipment and

more than 59,000 notebooks to schools in the FSM, and promotion of FSM tourism through holding events such as Food Fairs and Photo Exhibits,” Ambassador Sato said.

The organization placed hybrid solar and wind panels at Xavier High School in Chuuk and at the FSM President’s official residence as well as outside of his office in Palikir in order to promote clean and sustainable energy in the FSM.

AMD has also been successful in marketing Noni Juice in Japan.

“AMD has been well recognized as one of the best supporters of the ever growing relationship between Japan and the FSM,” Ambassador Sato said.



Ambassador Shoji Sato addresses his guests

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Letter to the Editor

2010 Micronesia Legislative Conference [MLC] concludes with members of the FSM Congress burying their heads in the sand on letting the amendments in PL15-73 become effective

Despite the united position and requests from the four states by resolutions, petitions, letters and statements in the MLC Conference to the Congress to repeal the amendments in favor of more reasonable and long term solution that does not burden the beneficiaries of social security benefits nor deny younger generation of any benefits from all they will have contributed up to years 2025.

Today, after much discussion on the Social Security issue, or rather, the amendments to raise taxes and the age of eligibility for 100% of the benefits to 65 years, the members of the 2010 Micronesia Legislative Conference finally decided, oh so wisely, to leave it to Congress to make the final decision on what to do before the amendments become effective in the next fiscal year (2011). It is a sad day, to my mind, when a group of our distinguished leaders, especially lawmakers, did not have the resolve to collectively make a decision one way or the other on an issue of vital importance to the lives of the people of the FSM.

1. After having the issue in front of them for a year, and meeting in the last two and half days only to make a kind of wishy-washy cop out decision which is to let the Congress decide despite the expressed unified position of the states does not make me feel confident in their leadership abilities to address the challenges before the nation and our people.

2. After listening to our own trusted veteran Congressman stating that he feels his conscience bothered more by Social Security Administration than by the people he is supposed to represent, I am sad. Here's why. The presentation by SSA claims there are three options to choose from, and the one that allowed the amendments to become effective is not only a total solution it pushes the burden of solvency onto the people, and it only pushes the date back for insolvency to 2025. I may be wrong, but I think more than half of the workforce is under 45 years old right now. 2025 is 15 years away. If the SSA becomes bankrupt on that date, this age group has no benefits after the last fifteen years of paying contributions, and the Congress knows this and we are asking to deliberate on solution, yet the only solution the congressmen have are the amendments to become effective. Do the math. Is the Social Security Administration more important than our future and that of our younger working citizens? I do not think so!

The amendments I insist should have been an option of last resort for temporary relief and yet the congressmen would rather have them as the first option to address the solvency of the SSA despite the burden and sacrifice by those approaching retirement age and the potential denial of benefits to younger workers who will not be at retirement age by 2025. While long term solution is what we urgently need our congress-

men want a short term and unreasonable solution by insisting on the amendments to punish those retiring before 2025 and denying benefits to those who retire afterwards and everybody. I don't see another way because the SSA will end in 2025 unless a more durable and enduring solution is found. At the rate we are going, spending two and half days in a Conference and making no real decisions will not get us anywhere closer to any solution. I wish I did not come to this meeting and waste my time.

3. One of the amendments that will be effective will be the "full payment" retirement age which will be pushed back to 65 years of age. Again, our Congressmen seem to be ensuring that the youth of this country will have no option but to look elsewhere for a job as the currently employed will have a stranglehold on the job market until they are able to retire fully at 65 if a good percentage of them don't die before 65. Two disappointments are apparent here. One is that the lip service shown to "youth is our most important resource" is just that - lip service. And two, if the youth are the future leaders of this country, and this is the type of decision that has been made, which affect this generation's future, I am sad that our younger citizens are not being thought of by the congressmen as the bury their heads in the sand on insisting on those heinous amendments to become effective.

4. Congress seems to be caring more for the agency itself, and the short term solutions that shifts the burden for solvency to the current citizens and lost sight of the future and the need to find solutions for the long term benefits of the people of the FSM and their future. The Solvency of a government agency should be secondary to that. If it is of benefit for the future to have the agency abolished and find other retirement programs or plans to work with, then Congress members should be strong enough to make that decision.

5. I heard the phrase "tighten our belts" from my own congressman. It is hard work to do so, but with enough education and having the people understand exactly the issue that our future and our children's future is at stake, than they will tighten their belts to allow for reform in social security in taking a gamble against citizens retiring before 2025 and ignore the rest and the long term survival of the SSA itself. If this is the case, I suggested abolishing the system and give each state its share of it to administer and manage for their people. I agree that the amendments may be needed; however, I strongly believe that amendments should be the option of last resort not the first option and more should be done so the SSA does not end in 2025. Even if the amendments become effective, SSA is still ending in 2025 according to the SSA presentation unless a durable solution is found by the Government.

6. The Resolutions by the states of Pohnpei and Yap on using the fishing access fees to provide the money to address the insolvency of the social security system were practically ignored by the members of Congress in the meeting and discussion was sidelined when it was brought up by the Pohnpei Delegation. It seemed that the Congress despite the state resolution, petitions and joint letters and statements in MLC meetings have decided to ignore these expressed views of the states and will just let the amendments take effect. At this stage, I cannot come close to agreeing with the congressmen, especially my own senator on this issue and I feel that we are debating and not listening. How can they insist on the amendments which are clearly not durable instead of insisting on a long term solution if their effort is genuine to save the SSA. As it is the amendments in PL15-73 will not save the SSA, so why are they insisting on it instead of listening to the states and explore and come up with long term government solutions not that of the beneficiaries of ss benefits, after all the Social Security is a National Government entitlement program.

A sketchy and short joint communiqué was signed which was not fully reviewed by all the delegations and did not include the fact that the Conference adopted several resolutions including the one that asks the Congress to once again delay the effective dates of the amendments by one year in order to have the Social Security Administration come up with better more reasonable long term options to address the impending insolvency of the Social Security System. The resolution drafted by Yap to repeal the amendments was modified and replaced by the resolution to again delay the effective dates of the amendments. My congressman plea to let the tax increase take effect in October 1st and work out a compromise on the amendment to reduce and delay 100% benefits to age 65. But all of that is in the face of the fact that even with the amendments the SSA will only be good to 2025 and that calls for better long term solution, which nobody in the Conference seem appreciate. It was for that reason that the Yap Delegation insisted on directing the appropriate agency including the SSA to work on long term solutions for consideration and approval of the leaders and repeal the amendments because they are not and cannot be the solution but that was simply brushed aside.

The resolution on the Tax Reform was also adopted but the states are united in their view that in order for the state legislatures to enact legislation to align their tax laws with the National law the Congress must enact the National Tax Legislation first. The Conference also adopted a Resolution introduced by the Yap State Legislature Delegation requesting the FSM President to work with the governors of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap to develop appropriate national and state nutrition policies setting

forth the minimum nutrition requirements for the people of the FSM.

If we are true to the process, it would be highly valuable for our people in each of the four states to go with our congressmen to task in appropriate public forum to face the public and discuss the issues of the day and the social security and especially the amendments in PL15-73 to raise tax and extend eligibility for 100% benefit from age 60 to age 65 so our people can understand the different points of views on these importance issues before the nation and the people.

Let us all understand that our future success as a nation and people will rest with how we honor, understand, respect and appreciate our differences not our similarities and thus I stand with views I have which we normally would hold and just sit in silence. I do stand in the fervent hope that the debate would commence respecting our differences on issues important to the future of our children, a future that must be better than our own. At the end of the day, it will be our differences not our similarities that will bring changes we believe in and move us forward toward achieving our societal goals and objectives, the challenge that must be met is the self-sustainability by 2023 of the states and the country.

Senator Jesse Raglmar-SUBOLMAR of Yap State Legislature from Election District II

Election Office prepares ID cards for eligible voters in Yap

Yap Department of Youth and Civic Affairs

The FSM National Election Office in Yap has been processing Voter's Identification Card and is encouraging all eligible voters in Yap including those who are 18 years old and who will turn 18 before or on the national election day which will be on March 8, 2011.

The Voter's ID Card is necessary to help election workers on that day to distinguish your age and nationality so they will allow you to cast your vote in the election, according to a statement from the FSM Election Office.

The Office has stated that they are open during regular government working hours from Monday through Friday for people to go in and have their pictures taken before processing their new Voter's ID. However, the Office did not specify as to when they will stop from processing the new Voter's ID Card.

Guest Perspective

Fisheries management decisions need to be made before Pohnpei reef fish disappear

By **Josh Fuder**
Conservation Society of Pohnpei

Almost immediately after coming on board at CSP last July I began to hear about SPAGS monitoring, an acronym for spawning aggregations, which take place in Pohnpei every spring. After nearly nine months of waiting, I immediately understood the anticipation upon entering the water with the CSP Marine team as they conducted their annual grouper counts. I was supposed to follow the team and help count groupers along the 325-ft transect. Needless to say, I was overwhelmed by the swarm of viciously territorial groupers below and lost count within moments. With my count totally ruined, I resumed the only duty I could be trusted with, taking pictures of the fish and the team counting them.

The aggregation is truly phenomenal when you consider the complexity and logistics of how fish reach these sites and behave in preparation for spawning. Many of Pohnpei's groupers return yearly to Kephara. The three aggregating species—Widir (Camouflage grouper), Sawi (Coral trout), and Ripw-ripw (Brown Marbled grouper)—divide the reef into sections where they perform rituals that include color

change, territoriality and courtship. These events repeat around full moon every January to May and last 1-2 weeks per month. Unfortunately, Widir is now only a fraction of its former abundance due to unregulated overfishing. Of the three, Widir is the most vulnerable because it aggregates only two months and spawns only two days of the whole year! It's easy to see how fishing could impact Widir if most eggs are removed before spawning occurs.

I was able to catch up with Dr. Kevin Rhodes at Black Coral and get a better understanding of grouper aggregations and fisheries conservation in Pohnpei. Dr. Rhodes has been researching fish life cycles and spawning aggregations in Pohnpei since 1997. He is fascinated by Pohnpei culture and loves its people, but says he is deeply saddened by the continued decline in fish from management inactivity. In his 12 years of research here, he has returned almost every spring to continue his work, while providing training to CSP staff, teaching COM interns and engaging with local leaders.

Since 1997, Dr. Rhodes has been adamantly trying to promote conservation efforts and legislation in order to help save Pohn-

pei's diminishing fishery. Data from his 2006 market survey shows that 1.6 million pounds of reef fish are harvested annually, while Pohnpei's reef can produce only 1.1 million pounds of reef fish each year. To make matters worse, declines in coral reef health and increased fishing are adding to the problem.

According to Dr. Rhodes, "Marine Protected Areas are not enough to maintain fish

stocks in Pohnpei. Other regulations, like a reef fish export ban and fish size limits are needed. Right now, 10% of Pohnpei's reef fish go to Guam and Hawaii, places which once had abundant reef fish, but failed to properly regulate their fisheries". Rhodes also recommends placing some restrictions on gill nets and night-time spearfishing, and providing more protection for fish during spawning times. "Pohnpei has a good shot at restoration, but if management decisions continue to be put off we will need more drastic actions to maintain Pohnpei's beautiful natural history and rich fishing culture".



Steve Lindfield

Dr. Kevin Rhodes releases a grouper

Letter to the Editor

COMPACT IDP BONDING

At issue is the stringent cash bond requirement of 100% each performance and payment imposed upon the FSM infrastructure investment program. In essence, it is 200%

doubling the cost of a given project contracted with an independent private contractor. Should that requirement apply to Phase 1 Weno Road & Drainage Upgrade PII would purchase a combined 10% premium or \$2.8 millions of an original \$28 million contracted price, provided, a bonding company of choice accepted that transaction. So would LYON & Associates for design and management contracts over that project with unknown prices.

In good faith local contractors openly admitted their financial predicaments over that requirement, stop short of saying "... we perform in a money economy which is nearly non-existent on the scale of a competitive international money market, therefore, we are unable to come to term with that requirement". If this train of thought is valid to the point of full acceptance by our international financial consultants (Merrill Lynch, IMF, etc.) perhaps it may substantiate a request from our end for a waiver of that requirement. Even so, both governments need to beef up engineering, financial and management accountability of the Compact-mandated PMU, do away with project management contracts as being costly time-consuming duplication of PMU functions, recruit a multi-staff force of professionals to enforce optimum compliance of the ABOC and its subsidiary ASTM procedures, U.S. Federal grant regulations with more emphasis on the Compact FPA and its transparency clause to ensure proper expenditures of the Compact IDP grant and full public awareness of infrastructure project. A restructured PMU must develop its in-house "Advise and

Consent" framework among quality control engineers, cost benefit analysts, inspectors, budget analysts, public contract experts to jointly review, approve or disapprove all contractors' submittals. An efficient setup such as contemplated here may eliminate public fear over projects not being successfully completed by contractors – one project fails, it is PMU failure.

Should the DOI position remain unchanged we have to revamp our money generating capacity to a new height with imposition of highly stringent fees on entry and work permits for off-shore contractors and their alien workforce, highly stringent rates on duty and custom for major pieces of equipment, hardwares, gears brought in for construction use, highly stringent tax rates on import, sales, service, business gross revenue, POL purchase through supply contracts, licensing all for outside contractors doing business within our province.

This may compliment an ongoing fiscal reform program throughout the FSM and, at the same time, assist our partner with its roles of "...providing continued economic and financial assistance to FSM..." so stipulated in the preamble of the amended Compact.

For the benefit of public information my next letter will address the background and pace of Phase 1 Weno Road & Drainage Upgrade.

Sincerely,
Hiroshi Muludy
Retired Chief of Planning
Chuuk

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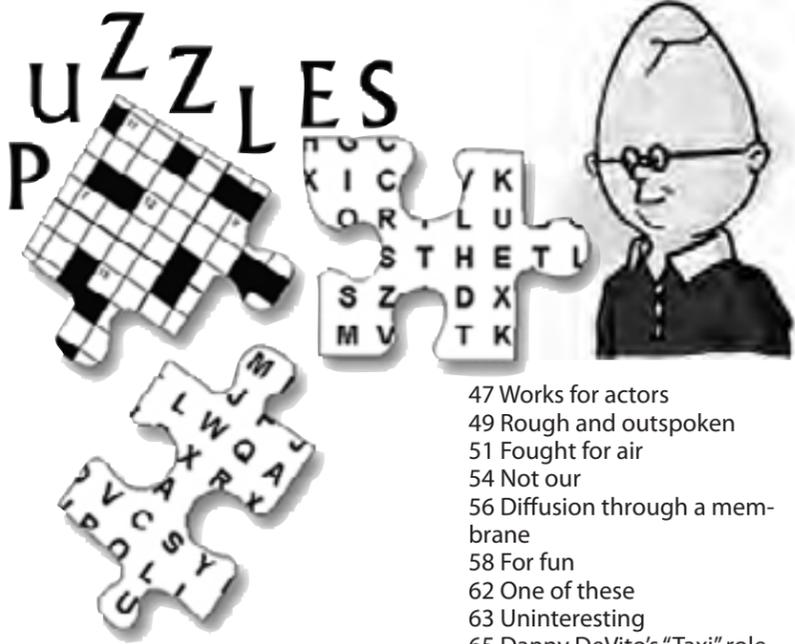
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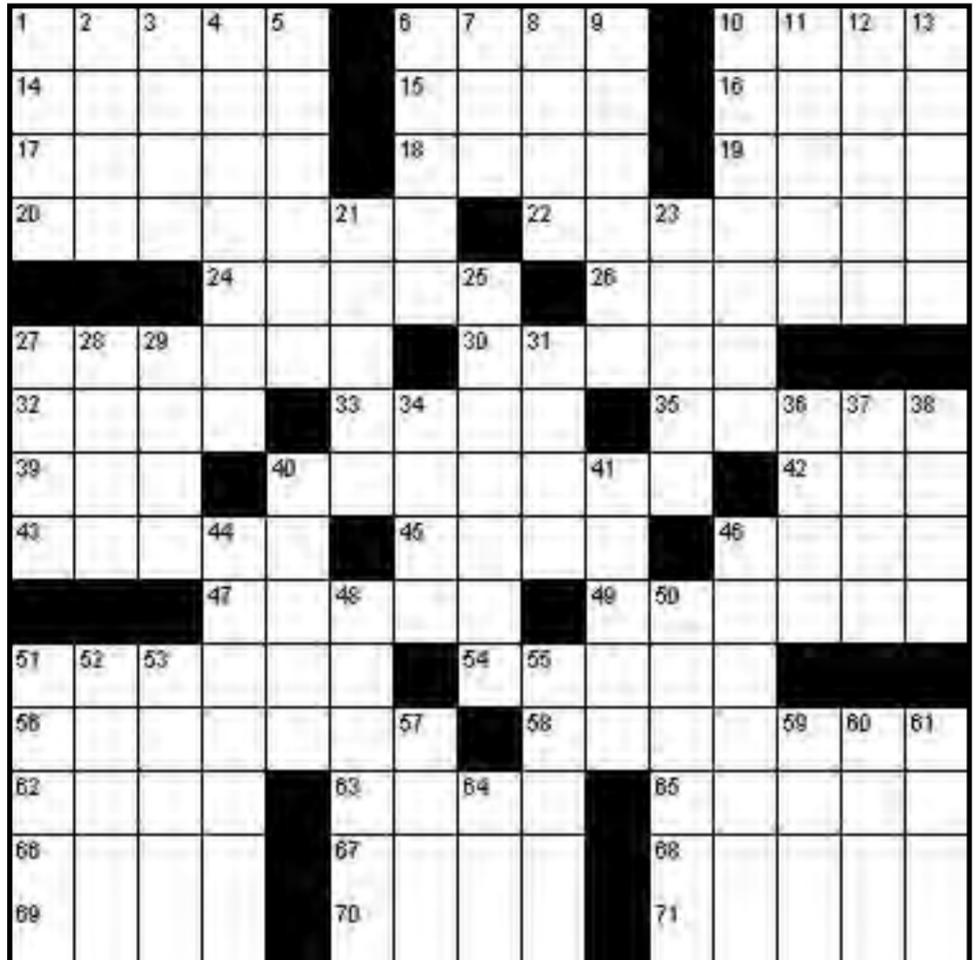
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Crossword



Across

- 1 Lights
- 6 Thomas ___ Edison
- 10 Actor Lugosi
- 14 Banish
- 15 Great Trek participant
- 16 Berserk
- 17 Funny man Woody
- 18 "Touched ___ Angel"
- 19 Persian fairy
- 20 Must
- 22 Speaker's spot
- 24 Billy, Nanny and the kids?
- 26 English counties
- 27 Heraldic dragon
- 30 Orbital point
- 32 Weeding tools
- 33 Commotion
- 35 D-day beach
- 39 Like some vbs.
- 40 Checkpoint sites
- 42 Yang's opposite
- 43 Words of agreement
- 45 "I ___ Kick Out Of You"
- 46 Hang in the balance

- 47 Works for actors
- 49 Rough and outspoken
- 51 Fought for air
- 54 Not our
- 56 Diffusion through a membrane
- 58 For fun
- 62 One of these
- 63 Uninteresting
- 65 Danny DeVito's "Taxi" role
- 66 "Women and Love" author
- 67 Tel ___
- 68 Touch of color
- 69 Rushed
- 70 Computer command
- 71 Readily available

Down

- 1 "Ryan's Daughter" director
- 2 Wheel support
- 3 Race distance
- 4 Promises
- 5 It picks up readings
- 6 Monks' head
- 7 Frequent Powell co-star
- 8 Calf's flesh
- 9 TV's "Gunsmoke" star
- 10 Christening
- 11 Mideast prince
- 12 Mr Moto portrayer Peter
- 13 Actor Claude
- 21 So much, to Solti
- 23 Aegean island
- 25 Most pathetic
- 27 Caprice
- 28 Days gone by

- 29 Green, in heraldry
- 31 Longfellow, e.g.
- 34 Wild party
- 36 Passing remarks?
- 37 Helpful suggestion
- 38 Capp of comics
- 40 Tree trunks
- 41 Track events
- 44 Anti
- 46 Filch
- 48 Gymwear name

- 50 Commercial area of Venice
- 51 Ancient invaders
- 52 On board
- 53 Afflict
- 55 Reduce by 50 percent
- 57 Fiji's capital
- 59 Female relative
- 60 Baltic port
- 61 Retain
- 64 Actress Ullmann

Word Search

- So Soon -

- Buffoonery
- Burlesque
- Clowning
- Comedy
- Drollery
- Farce
- Gags
- Japes
- Jests
- Jocularly

- Jokes
- Nonsense
- Parody
- Puns
- Raillery
- Satire
- Slapstick
- Wisecracks
- Witticism



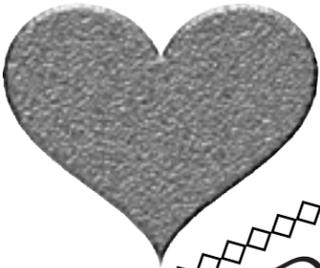
K.P. Crazy Korner

Me

Time:

I am always right... sometimes.

THINK ABOUT IT: Take the "L" out of lover, we are over.



Island Inspiration:

English 101: DWN WTH VWLS!

Talk only if you can improve the silence.

Daffy Definition: Horse lovers -- Stable People

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Mama Says:

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- P. O. Box 2222 phone to: (691) 320-6547
Pohnpei, FM 96941 email to: FSMKpress@yahoo.com
- 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 Kia's Restaurant at 6:30 p.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 or 370-3209.
 - 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 High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: - rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
 - Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service Invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the kids too!. Call: 320-2496

Kaselehlie Dental Clinic

located, ground floor of the Namiki Building

FSM Health Insurance is accepted

Dr. Than Tun Kyaw (B.D.S.)

Dr. Hnin Thida Kyu (B.D.S.)

Clinic opens Monday through Saturday
9 AM to 6 PM

**For additional information or appointments,
Please call (691) 320-4250**

New FSM Postal Stamps Promote Local Foods

By *Michelle Hanson*

Eight new colorful postal stamps, promoting local foods were released by the FSM Postal Services, on June 8, 2010. The stamps include photos of coconut, soursop and banana.

The definitive stamp series includes five coconut stamps with denominations ranging from 22 cents to \$1.00, soursop with denominations of \$4.60 and \$4.80, and banana varieties with denominations of 10, 19, 20, and 28 cents.

Masatomo Mori, FSM Philatelic Bureau manager, initiated this new stamp series project of local foods and requested photos from the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP). The coconut and soursop photos were taken by KP Studios as part of the global health project led by the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE) in collaboration with Pohnpei. The banana photos were taken by Dr. Lois Englberger. All photos were selected as based on aesthetic appeal and selling potential.

The coconut was chosen to help promote FSM Coconut Day, September 2, which was declared last year by President Emmanuel Mori. Historically, the coconut was very important in Pacific Island culture. It was an essential source of fat in a time when fat was very low in local diets. Coconut products also contain rich amounts of vitamins and minerals and have important health benefits.

The Soursop was chosen due to personal interest by Mr. Mori, and relates to the new information that soursop can help prevent cancer. "I eat soursop because it tastes good," he states, "but I learned from the IFCP e-mail network that it helps prevent some cancers as well."

The banana varieties in the new stamp series include Akadah Weitahta, Utin Kerenis, Peleu, and Mangat. They are a continuation of previous banana stamps which include the state banana Karat, Utin Kerenis, Akadah Weitahta, Mangat Ihpali, Utin Iap, Utimwas, Daiwong, and Peleu. The commemorative Karat series was released in 2005 at a ceremony with over 50 guests. A definitive stamp series presenting the eight carotenoid-rich banana varieties listed above was released in 2006.

The stamps are now available for purchase in post offices on all four states of the FSM. Definitive stamps can be re-printed and used for years whereas commemorative series are a one-time release.

The stamps are hoped to help increase promotion and consumption of valuable local foods, such as, the banana varieties, soursop, and coconut.

Thanks to Patti Arthur for assistance in this article and to KPstudios and CINE for the photographs.



Madolenihmw Health Council Focuses on Growing and Consuming Local Food

By *Emihner Johnson*

As requested by the Madolenihmw Health Advisory Board, the Island Food Community of Pohnpei(IFCP) gave the IFCP Standard Talk on August 17, 2010 to a group of 10 people at the Madolenihmw Dispensary. Facilitating the meeting was Mr. Ricky Mudong, Chairman of the Madolenihmw Health Advisory Board.

The IFCP Local Food Educator, Mrs. Emihner Johnson presented the IFCP Standard Talk and the benefits of Growing and Eating Local Food. After the presentation, the Chairman, on behalf of the Health Advisory Board thanked the IFCP for the information that they gained and added that the reason they invited IFCP was to support the Health Advisory Board's idea of focusing on preventive measures and to help prevent diseases from even starting.

At the present time, most health activities have to focus on curative measures. However, it would be much better if efforts could be taken to prevent the diseases from even occurring in the first place.

The Health Advisory Board of Madolenihmw consists of one representative from each of the seven sections in Madolenihmw Municipality. After the workshop, the representatives in the Board planned to go to their respective Sections and schedule an appropriate time for IFCP to conduct workshop on IFCP Awareness messages on Benefits of Growing and Eating Local Food in their communities.

Since that time, Section 1(ESDM) held its workshop at ESDM School on September 2, 2010. Over 40 community members participated at this workshop on Local Food. Section 4, Sempehn was rescheduled to a later date due to other traditional and social commitments of the community members. At Section 3, over 100 adults and children participated in the workshop which was held right after Sunday Service in the Pihs Protestant Church Building on September 5, 2010. Also scheduled are: September 8, 2010- Tamworohi, and Temwen September 10, 2010; and Dolopwail planned their meeting for September 17, 2010.

Thanks are extended to the Madolenihmw Health Advisory Board for their initiative on health awareness and to the US Forestry, Papa Ola Lokahi, and Pacific CEED for funding support.

Astronomical Tide Prediction September 20 - October 3, 2010

	Pohnpei				Chuuk			
Monday	09/20		09/27		09/20		09/27	
	01:43AM 3.9		04:27AM 3.4		01:01AM 1.7		03:10AM 0.9	
	08:21AM 1.1		10:16AM 1.1		08:31AM 0.1		08:33AM 0.1	
	02:30PM 3.4		04:50PM 4.4		02:47PM 1.0		03:32PM 2.0	
	08:04PM 1.6		11:20PM 1.4		07:06PM 0.7		10:44PM 0.4	
Tuesday	09/21		09/28		09/21		09/28	
	02:09AM 4.0		04:50AM 3.1		01:21AM 1.7		03:10AM 0.7	
	08:35AM 1.0		10:33AM 1.2		08:19AM 0.2		08:32AM 0.1	
	02:43PM 3.7		05:19PM 4.3		02:25PM 1.2		03:56PM 2.0	
	08:30PM 1.4				07:33PM 0.5		11:44PM 0.5	
Wednesday	09/22		09/29		09/22		09/29	
	02:32AM 4.1		12:01AM 1.6		01:41AM 1.7		02:30AM 0.6	
	08:50AM 0.9		05:13AM 2.8		08:12AM 0.2		08:24AM 0.0	
	02:59PM 4.0		10:48AM 1.4		02:18PM 1.4		04:23PM 1.9	
	08:55PM 1.2		05:54PM 4.0		08:01PM 0.4			
Thursday	09/23		09/30		09/23		09/30	
	02:55AM 4.1		01:01AM 1.9		02:01AM 1.6		08:04AM -0.1	
	09:06AM 0.9		05:34AM 2.4		08:12AM 0.2		04:55PM 1.8	
	03:18PM 4.2		10:56AM 1.7		02:23PM 1.6			
	09:21PM 1.1		06:44PM 3.8		08:29PM 0.3			
Friday	09/24		10/01		09/24		10/01	
	03:18AM 4.1		10:02AM 2.0		02:21AM 1.5		07:43AM -0.2	
	09:23AM 0.9		08:41PM 3.5		08:15AM 0.2		05:38PM 1.6	
	03:38PM 4.4				2:35PM 1.8			
	09:48PM 1.1				08:59PM 0.2			
Saturday	09/25		10/02		09/25		10/02	
	03:41AM 3.9		06:38AM 1.7		02:40AM 1.4		07:33AM -0.2	
	09:40AM 0.9		11:21PM 3.6		08:22AM 0.2		10:53PM 1.6	
	04:00PM 4.5				02:51PM 1.9			
	10:16PM 1.1				09:30PM 0.2			
Sunday	09/26		10/03		09/26		10/03	
	04:04AM 3.7		06:58AM 1.5		02:57AM 1.2		07:35AM -0.2	
	09:58AM 1.0		01:21PM 2.9		08:28AM 0.1			
	04:24PM 4.5		06:12PM 2.2		03:11PM 2.0			
	10:46PM 1.2				10:04PM 0.3			

Pohnpei Liberation Day celebration and games in full swing

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM—The 31st annual celebration of Pohnpei Liberation Day officially kicked off at the Spanish Wall softball field at 4:00 on the afternoon of September 11.

The ceremony began with a procession of team players from Madolenihmw, U, Kitti, Sokehs, Kolonia, Pingelap, Mwoakilloa, Sapwafik, Nukuoro and Kanpingamarangi. The team members will be competing in sporting events everyday until the closing ceremony which will be held on September 25 at 4:00 in the afternoon also at the Spanish Wall softball field. Lt. Governor Churchill B. Edward will give the closing remarks at that event.

At the opening, Governor John Ehsa gave welcoming remarks and Nelson Pelep, Speaker of the Pohnpei State Legislature gave the keynote address.

Senator Aurelio Joab presented an award to the participants of the 2010 Micro Games at the ceremony and a special award to Ms. Debra Daniel, the outstanding Pohnpei swimmer for her remarkable achievements at the games in Palau.

Secretary Treasurer of the Liberation Day celebration organizing committee,

Mr. Roney Pretrick officially declared the games to be open under the theme “Kitail Minimim, Roson oh Pohpohl,” which essentially means, “For everyone, unity, good spirit, and pride.”

For a variety of reasons teams will only be competing in four sports this year compared to seven as has been the case in previous competitions. Representatives from the municipalities will compete in tennis, basketball, volleyball, and fast pitch softball.

Pretrick said that none of the teams were ready to compete in swimming or canoeing. Certainly track and field teams were ready to compete but the state of the PICS high school track is atrocious and unusable for competition. That issue will need to be resolved soon as Pohnpei State is committed and scheduled to host the next Micro Games.

Organizing Committee officers included Ronald Etscheit who served as



Senator Aurelio Joab and President Manny Mori present special award to Debra Daniel

Chairman, Bernolina L. Hedson who served as Vice Chairperson, Roney Pretrick who served as Secretary/Treasurer. Members included Mike Loyola, SeNellie Singeo, Trevayne Esiel, McGarry Miguel, John Augustine, Patterson Anson, Nimrod Half, and George Steven.

Committee members wish to thank the many donors who helped make the games possible including the FSM National Olympic Committee, Leo Foun-

dation, Ray and Dor’s Enterprises, Blue Nile, Western Union, Ray Roque Architect, The College of Micronesia FSM Pohnpei Campus, FSM Telecommunications Corporation, Dr. Hedson, Pohnpei Port Authority, and V6AH radio.

V6AH, the State radio station broadcasted the opening ceremony live and is announcing the schedule of events and results during their regular broadcasting. They also will be broadcasting the closing ceremony live.

KITAIL MINIMIN, ROSON OH POHPOHL

**POHNPEI
31st LIBERATION DAY**

FOR INFORMATION: (CALL)
SPORTS OFFICE: 320-6278

VENUE: SPANISH WALL, SOFTBALL FIELD

Opening Ceremony

“LARN ET MOYEL ANGANU”
SEPTEMBER 11, 2010
@ 4 PM

Closing Ceremony

SEPTEMBER 25, 2010
@ 4 PM

MADOLENIMHW, U, KITTI, SOKEHS, NETT, KOLONIA, PINGELAP, MWOAKILLOA, SAPWAFIK, NUKUORO, KAPINGAMARANGI

Photos by **Bermin Weilbacher** (Photoshop compilation below - **Nigel Jaynes**)

