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KASELEHLIE Press

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Solving Chuuk's Financial Crisis One Payment at a Time

Doone Says That Most Recent Figures Show Chuuk's Debt is Over \$48 Million

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Weno, Chuuk – The recently re-organized Chuuk Chamber of Commerce held a meeting in the VIP room of the Truk Stop Hotel in Weno on December 11, with special invited guest Gillian Doone. Doone is the newly confirmed Director of the Department of Administration for Chuuk State succeeding Winiplat Bisalen who stepped down after JEMCO demanded that the department be “professionalized”.

Before Mr. Doone took the floor to speak to the Chamber, a representative of Aten and Associates who is the agent for DHL brought to the group's attention recent transactions in her office. She said that DHL had accepted shipment of 30 computers shipped directly to Chuuk from the United States, a purchase arranged through

Pohnpei Computer Consulting owned by Pohnpei resident, Noel Boylan. The computers were not ordered by Chuuk Department heads but were externally funded. Customs on the computers had been prepaid in Pohnpei. FSM States receive 50% of customs payments made in their States. In the case of the computers, Pohnpei State will receive the 50% payment rather than Chuuk State though the computers were never physically in Pohnpei State.

Chamber members said that this kind of transaction takes place “all the time,” and that Chuuk State is losing a good deal of money from customs transactions for items shipped directly to them from outside of the country. Doone said that the National Government doesn't want to share information on items shipped directly to Chuuk from outside of the country.

The President of the Chamber, former FSM Vice President Redley Killion said that the problem of lost revenues went deeper than just lost customs revenue. He said that National Government employees working in Chuuk have their taxes paid for them in Pohnpei rather than in Chuuk where they work. Pohnpei, therefore, gets the credit for the tax payment and the shared revenue goes to Pohnpei's coffers rather than Chuuk's.

Gillian Doone took the floor to speak. He told the chamber that he had been in office for two months and that though he has not seen a copy of the resolution confirming him he is working hard just the same. Sometimes, ‘working hard’ means saying ‘no’ to financial requests. He has done so many times since he assumed his position.

It is no secret that Chuuk State Finances are in a shambles and that some, in the past have been secretive about the extent of the problem. Doone, however was completely transparent. He told the Chamber that Chuuk State owed business owners over \$6 million.

He said that his office is recalling \$7 million in floating checks, checks that were previously written with insufficient balance in the account to cover them. He said that Chuuk State will pay the bills “in due time, and I repeat, in due time because I don't know when that time will be.”

He said that the \$6 million owed to businesses is just part of a \$48 million debt owed by the State. The State was able to write off some \$5 million in debt. \$3.5 mil-

See “Doone” on Page 12

Stabbing Death in Tol, Faichuuk, Chuuk

Death May Have Resulted From a Dispute Over Bananas

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Tol, Chuuk– Police are still trying to piece together the details of what actually happened on Sunday evening, December 9. Chuuk State Police say that they have been told that a fight broke out on one of the lagoon islands of Faichuuk in the village of Tol at around 7:00 PM. Police say that the victim known as Chere Takoichi suffered one knife wound and that the wound was fatal.

Details are sketchy but Police have made four arrests in connection with the incident. One of those detained was questioned and released. Three are being held for further questioning about the incident.

Currently Chuuk Police speculate that the fight broke out as a result of a property dispute when someone cut bananas from a tree that wasn't on their own land.

Police left Weno for Tol at approximately 4:00 in the morning



Some of the Faichuuk islands at sunset. The killing took place in Tol, a village in Faichuuk

and arrived at 6:00. Arrests were made and the investigation is ongoing. They are still trying to determine who wielded the knife that ended the life of Takoichi.

Until recent years Chuuk State Police had a substation on Tol but due to budgetary constraints it had

to be closed.

Director of the Department of Public Safety Jimmy Emilio said in a short interview on December 11 that money shortages are a constant problem for law enforcement in Chuuk. They sometimes have no fuel for patrols.

Our interview took place at the picnic bench outside of the Police Station. A few police officers had gathered there because the power was out inside the police station.

see “Faichuuk” on Page 18

Excesses in Pohnpei's Economic Development Authority

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM – Pohnpei Public Auditor, Annes Lebehn on October 16 released his audit of the Pohnpei Economic Development Authority. The audit covered fiscal years 2003 and 2004 a period of time when the EDA was under the direction of a different Executive Director

The auditor qualified their opinion on the Authority's financial statements based on several problems noted by the auditor.

The audit says that three fishing vessels and an ice plant facility were given to EDA in FY 2003 but the assets were never entered into EDA's books. What was entered as an asset under investments were 50,000 shares of common stock of the Bank of the FSM in the amount of \$500,000 purchased by Pohnpei State. The shares are in the name of EDA but dividend payments should be deposited in the Pohnpei State General Fund

according to a 2004 legal opinion of the Attorney General. At least during the audit period in question none of the payments for dividends received that should have been made to Pohnpei State, some \$85,000 worth, have been made.

On April 30, 2003, the Chairman of the Board approved EDA's purchase of two hundred shares of Bank of FSM stock that had been held by the Executive Director. Though EDA paid \$2400 for the shares which they called an addition to investment they never received the original certificates of stock. Though money changed hands EDA is not currently considered to be the rightful owner of those shares.

According to State Law 3L-25-92 EPA was supposed to sell their shares in the Bank of FSM to FSM Citizens who are "pweldaks" of Pohnpei (native born resident citizens of Pohnpei). They were supposed to have had a plan in place for the sale of the shares by the end of 6 months after their pur-

chase. EDA shares were purchased in 1999. By the end of 2004 they still had not filed a plan with the Pohnpei State Legislature.

In June of 2003, EDA, without approval of the Board obtained a loan of \$15,000 for an ice crusher from a client. The one they later purchased in August cost a little over \$800. At least by the end of September 30, 2004 the loan had not been repaid.

Under the heading "Management Control Weaknesses" the auditor pointed out a laundry list of problems. Bank reconciliations were not performed in a timely fashion and often not at all. Accounts were not reviewed, verified, reconciled or updated during 2003 or 2004. Duties were not segregated so that the accountant who recorded and posted transactions was the same one that signed checks. Cash advances were often given to employees and were called "Emergency Loans". Many of those "loans" have still not been recovered. The Authority, by the end of FY 2004 had incurred \$27,587 of expenses to build a building that still has not been completed due to lack of funds. Liabilities were not being paid in a timely fashion resulting in interest fees, penalties and the loss of employee benefits. Even Receivables were not reviewed or collected in a timely fashion. The auditor said that of EDA's \$1.17 million of receivables \$1.13 million of them are doubtful accounts. Writing off bad debts at EDA would leave only \$39,000 in Receivables.

The auditor said that due to the lack of bank reconciliations, the amount of money in the bank during 2003 and 2004 could not at any given point in time, be determined. Cash was not deposited, checks were carried as outstanding that had cleared the bank, and the Authority incurred \$353.35 in banking fees that were never recorded.

vealed [a] serious breakdown of controls relating to the receipting, recording, and depositing of collections." Because receipting and deposits of cash were so badly handled by the Authority the auditor could not insure that all of the cash that flowed through the office ever made it into the bank.

The auditor pointed out that expenses were not monitored effectively in a time when EDA was losing money rather than making it. In 2003 the Authority spent \$1.3 million in operating expenses but brought in only \$1 million. The budget for expenditures that year was \$755,910. The authority overspent their budget by approximately \$.5 million dollars that year. EDA lost approximately \$250,000 in FY 2004.

During that time \$31,000 was spent on travel. The authority added \$114,000 in payroll expenses by recruiting new employees above and beyond the authority's stated needs. Cash prizes were given to employees who brought the best or biggest yam, sakau, pig, or food items. Catering, refreshments, restaurant dining, and entertainment expenses charged to representation for the two years topped \$26,000. Telephone and internet charges for the audit period were more than \$40,000 including calling cards for cell phones. EDA, during the time of the audit paid cash for employees' annual leave balances.

The Authority during 2003 and 2004 incurred \$87,276 in interest and penalties for unpaid Social Security premiums, income taxes, and repatriation of fishing company personnel. "In addition, due to the unpaid insurance premiums the employees lost their insurance benefits that they have been paying for many years."

The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) said that financial statements of EDA were misstated by

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See "EDA" on Page 15

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Christmas Drop Launches: C-130s Deliver to Micronesia

By **BRETT KELLMAN**
Guam Pacific Daily News

When Chris Hayes and Adam Nance, both senior airmen, pushed the first crate of Operation Christmas Drop 2007 out of their C-130's cargo bay, the sound of rushing wind announced where it will land.

"Chuuuuk!" it roared as the crate was sucked out the plane's rear door. And so it went.

For the islanders gathered 400 feet below on the small atoll of Oneop, a tiny speck of land in Chuuk state of the Federated States of Micronesia, the crate promised another year of medicine, tools, clothing and food.

For the airmen, the crate elicited a feeling of goodwill and a welcome change of pace.

"One of the main things I like about the Christmas Drop is, normally we train and we train all the

time. When we get that done, we train some more," Nance said. "This is our chance to get away for a little fun and specifically accomplish something we know is a more-than-worthwhile cause."

Operation Christmas Drop is an annual Air Force event that parachutes donated supplies to isolated islands throughout Micronesia. This year three C-130 cargo planes manned by crews from Yokota Airbase in Japan will deliver 148 crates to 71 islands in five days — the largest Christmas Drop in its 55-year history.

Because of the popularity of the mission, airmen from Yokota must fight for their role in the operation every year.

This year Nance hounded his squadron chief for a seat on his second Christmas Drop, since he knows a deployment to Texas in January will make it his last. Hayes has proven he has a knack for getting the assignment — in his

five years stationed at Yokota, he has flown in the Operation four times; the other year was spent in Iraq.

"Half of the reason I do this is to get away and do something different," Hayes said. "But the other half, ... well, when you are coming up to shore and you see all these islanders waiting for you and waving, it does feel pretty good." Nance said last year one islander spelled out "Merry Christmas" in stones to thank the flight crews. Another man on an isolated island, who had maybe never even met an American, waited for the planes on the beach, holding an American flag.

After seeing that, Nance was hooked.

Special delivery

While the flight crew of the Santa-1 normally perform more efficient "joint precision airdrops," during their training — which lower the back of the plane and let gravity

do the work — Sr. Airman Daniel Mortensen thought yesterday's push delivery had an old-fashioned, more personal touch.

Perfect for Christmas, he said.

Mortensen said he believed the first Christmas Drop crew would have delivered their crates the same way and watched the supplies drift to the ground just as he did on Friday. From the back of the plane, the airmen got a rare chance to "visually confirm" that each package had hit its mark.

The view — endless ocean around a small, leafy rug of green — was a bonus.

"This is one of the best visuals you are going to get out of this plane. You are right here watching (the crate) go right out the door and all the way down onto the islands or into the ocean and into the hands of these people," Mortensen said. "It's beautiful."

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Chuuk Doctors Protest Finance Directive

By **GEORGE HAUKE**
The Kaselehlie Press

WENO, Chuuk—The Chuuk Hospital sits atop a hill in Weno. One can stand on the front walk and enjoy a splendid view of the islands of Faichuuk. Away from the pothole laden roads of downtown, it is free from the dust that powders the eyelashes brownish white. Though there are problems at the hospital ranging from a pounce of beggar cats in the area to shortages of medicine, nurses and doctors generally go about their daily chores joyfully.

An announcement made on December 4th by Dr. Kennedy Remit, President of the Chuuk Medical Association, chilled the normally cheerful attitudes. Dr. Remit informed 14 Chuukese and 3 Filipino doctors that the 20% additional pay they had received as a “stand-by differential” for “on call” duties for more than

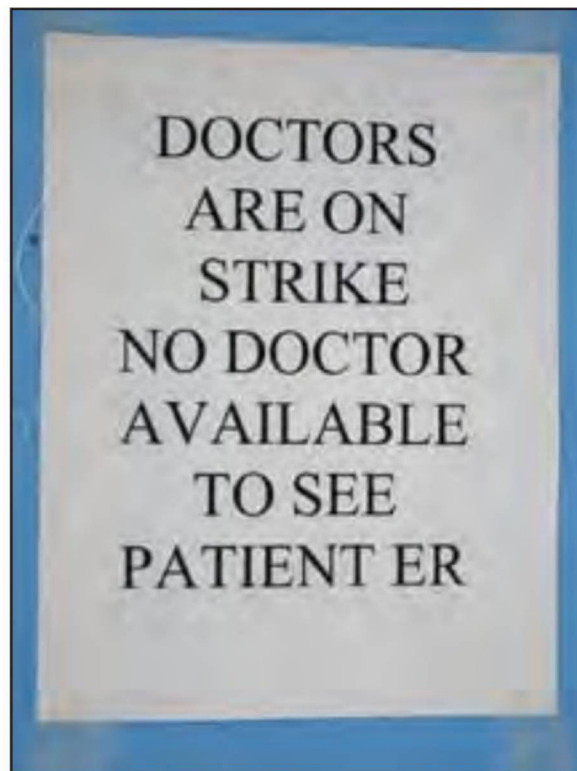
15 years was no longer allowed.

Doctor Felix Yoma said, “It’s not really a strike. It’s a protest.”

“Normally, a doctor will respond to an emergency call or for any other normal call,” stated a physician who asked to remain anonymous, “but during the one-week strike, we only responded to emergency cases.”

The new Director of the Department of Administrative Services, Gillian Doone was asked why after so many years stand-by differentials had only recently become an issue. Doone said, “Because the Chuuk State Public Service System says so.”

The Chuuk State Public Service System, Section 1031 says that physicians are not classified as exempt employees. The Office of the National Public Auditor says that they are being paid as if they are.



Sign on Chuuk State Hospital Emergency Room door

As reported in The Kaselehlie Press in Volume 7 Issue 23, the Office of the National Public auditor conducted an audit of personnel practices in Chuuk for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 through April 30 of that year. In it they said that the State is allowed to give an employee who makes less than \$521.28 bi-weekly (\$13568.88 per year) a stand-by differential of 20% when they can be called to work during normal off-duty hours.

The striking doctors make more than the law allows for a stand-by differential. According to the ONPA, Chuuk law says that the extra pay should not have been given to them in the past. The question of whether the law is appropriate for physicians is still up for consideration.

The auditor pointed out that 21 CDHS employees had been paid in 2006 and 2007, an average of an extra \$5000 per employee per year, a cumulative total of more than \$100,000 per year.

“They exempt themselves from the exemption,” Doone said.

When asked whether the doctors would be getting their 20%, the director said, “the Governor has issued an emergency policy, and yes they are, and the legislature has enacted legislation too.”

Even as the interview with Director Doone was taking place, payroll checks were being printed for the doctors that included the extra 20% of pay to which physicians in Chuuk had become accustomed.

Manny Umwech of Chuuk Public Health said, “The doctors have received two or three step increases and my nurses have not. I think that is not fair.” Mr. Umwech said that he thinks the doctors are aiming for a salary figure of \$32,000 salary per year, which would include a “professional premium” and other benefits.

By way of comparison, Governor Simina, a professional lawyer and Governor of Chuuk draws \$35,000 per year as dictated by the Chuuk State Constitution.

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Please take notice that as of June 30, 2007, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with BANK OF GUAM are inactive, and the account-holders listed below must immediately contact their respective BANK OF GUAM Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2008, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (16) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2008, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

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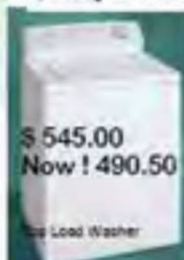
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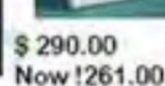
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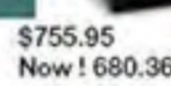
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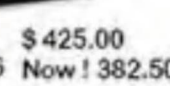
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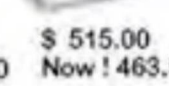
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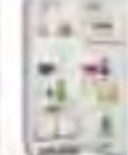
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United Filipino Community of Pohnpei Chooses New Officers

UFCP Press Release

As the result of November 18, 2007 UFCP General Elections held at PICS High School, a Proclamation of successful candidates for the new set of officers was held on November 24, 2007, 7:00 PM at SEI Restaurant. The ad hoc Committee on Elections Chaired by Mrs. Alfonso Del Campo completed the electoral process with the assistance of Mr. Elmer Cuasay as the vice Chairman; Ms. Vedi Saladaga as the Secretary; Ms. Beth Layug, Janet Relles, Evelyn Misa, Erly Aquino, Mr. Jimmy Miranda & Mr. Mandy Avila served as the official tabulators and election committee members.

The new set of officers proclaimed are – Mr. Gerard Figueras as the President; Mr. Rodelio Pulmano as the Vice President and Ms.

Ursula Abalos, Mr. Russell Figueras, Willy Aquino, Mr. Rey de Leon, Mr. Raul Miralles, Mr. Arnold Mallari, Mrs. Marlyn Tiburcio, Dr. Paul Dacanay and Mr. Noel Pascua completing the list is as Board of Directors.

The United Filipino Community of Pohnpei was chartered and recognized as an NGO in 1984. During the twenty three years of its existence the organization has had as one it purposes, the fostering of good relations with the host country by promoting and keeping the welfare of its general members in good standing within the area. The goal remains the same with broader arms as the mother of all Filipino organizations on the island. The organization has performed many charitable works in Pohnpei. Its members have contributed goods and services to



From L to R: R. Miralles; U. Abalos; M. Tiburcio; W. Aquino; G. Figueras; A. Del Campo; R. Pulmano; A. Mallari;; R. Figueras; R de Leon

complete those projects that have benefitted the community.

The leadership and members of UFCP feel that its work is essential to boost and nourish the deep involvement of its members in the community as a whole.

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Regional Tuberculosis Workshop Held In Palikir

The Embassy of the United States

The fifth annual Pacific Island Tuberculosis Controllers Association (PITCA) workshop was held November 26-30, 2007, at the College of Micronesia in Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pacific Island Health Officers Association sponsored the workshop in conjunction with the FSM national government. This event was the first PITCA meeting held outside of Honolulu and in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPIs). Over 90 individuals attended this meeting, with representatives from each of the six U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPIs): American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the FSM, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

During 2006, 138 confirmed tuberculosis (TB) cases were reported in the USAPIs, with the exception of American Samoa. The USAPI case rate (27.58 per 100,000 people) is six times greater than that reported in the U.S., and exceeds by three times the TB rate of Hawaii. Among the USAPI cases reported in 2006, three patients (2%) were diagnosed with multi-drug resistant TB, which is an extremely dangerous form of the disease. TB is spread when a person with active TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs or sneezes. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria, which can settle in the lungs and may move to other parts of the body, such as the kidney, spine and brain.

At the workshop, PITCA representatives included TB administrators, controllers, physicians, nurses, and laboratory staff, particularly from the four FSM states. This year, participants benefited from the inclusion of professional faculty from a variety of organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination in Atlanta; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) Region 9 Office of Pacific Health and Human Services; the World Health Organization's Western Pacific Regional Office in Manila; the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in New Caledonia; the Australian Respiratory Council; the California State Microbial Disease Laboratory; the new Pacific TB regional reference laboratory, Di-

agnostic Laboratory Services, based in Honolulu; the University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine; and the Francis Curry National TB Center in San Francisco.

Sessions featured the monitoring and evaluation of TB program data, drug medications, a review of shipping protocols from the International Air Transportation Association, TB laboratory onsite evaluations, genotyping, contact investigations, problem-based learning for clinical cases, and expert medical consultation. Participants were treated to a premier of a new TB educational movie



developed by the Micronesian Seminar, made possible in part through funding by the Office of Minority Health in the USDHHS. In addition, attendees were able to

make side trips to the Pohnpei State Hospital, laboratory, and public health clinics. The next PITCA meeting will be held in Honolulu in 2008

Before it became conveniently referred to as a Holiday Season, this time of the year in our islands is known and celebrated as Christmas Time.

Christmas is a time in our islands that have always been held in high regard because it is a time to individually and collectively reflect on and strengthen the love, peace and goodwill among families, friends and strangers alike. It is a time to renew faith in the goodness of mankind. It is also a time afforded to each one of us to pause and reflect on the past year.

This past year has been a momentous time for our nation as we held elections for both State and National Leaderships. We have a new President, a new Congress, and for some of us, new Governors and new Legislatures.

New leaderships oftentimes effect changes in the working environment with new bosses and new challenges. These challenges may sometimes become overwhelming and discouraging with spill-over effects into our private and personal environments. It is precisely times like these that the true meaning of Christmas is appreciated.

Christmas is hope realized, faith reaffirmed and life celebrated.

In the City of David – two millennia ago, a child was born, bringing love, faith and hope to the world. That event has since been the one day of the year that the world unites in remembrance and celebration of the goodness of the Lord, the Savior of us all.

Therefore, no matter how daunting our challenges become, we can always take comfort in knowing that His birth will always remain a reaffirmation of faith and a realization of our hopes. Comforted by this fortitude, we can prevail over those challenges of temporary.

In this spirit, the Vice Speaker, the Floor Leader and members of the 15th Congress join me, in urging all citizens - individually and severally, to take ownership of true peace and love in our common humanity in the Federated States of Micronesia and the world over.

On behalf of your 15th FSM Congress, I extend Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to the Leadership and the People of the Federated States of Micronesia.

May the Blessings of Christmas be with you and your family always
 &
May peace be yours the New Year through

/ S / Resio S. Moses Vice Speaker 15 th FSM CONGRESS	/ S / Isaac V. Figir Speaker 15 th FSM CONGRESS
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STREET TALK!

"How do you and your family celebrate CHRISTMAS?"

photos by Nigel Jaynes



- Dina Linge -

We always go to church and to parties. Only sometimes we give gifts.

- Albert Henry -

We go to church, which is very important. We also exchange gifts and have a merry Christmas. (Party celebration)



- Kenny Iohp -

We celebrate christmas because Jesus was born. Our family gets together and gives gifts to each other.

- Tracy Yamaguchi -

Well, only once I celebrated Christmas with my family, so I usually hang out with my friends. Mostly I do nothing... same as a usual day. So Christmas doesn't really make a difference in my life.



- Lydia Midar -

A week before Christmas we all draw names and everyone gets fifty bucks to spend on the other person. We spend our Christmas opening gifts from others.

Pangelinan Wins COM-FSM English Speech Contest



COM-FSM National Campus English Speech Competition competitors. The contest was sponsored by Toshiyuki Inoue, the director of the English Speaking Union of Japan.

The first annual COM-FSM English Speech Contest was held at the national campus on December 1st, 2007. The contest was sponsored by Toshiyuki Inoue, the director of the English Speaking Union of Japan, and supported by the FSM Embassy in Japan and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Five students presented speeches in English to a panel of three judges. A 1st place prize was awarded to Eugene C Pangelinan, Jr. The topic of his speech was "Global Warming in Micronesia."

When asked to comment about the speech contest, Eugene commented, "I saw it as an opportunity for me to enhance my speech skills. The whole process turned out to be a great learning experience for me. It was actually my first public speech, and I didn't expect to win. We all did a great job. Anyone could have won."

In March, 2008, the winner, Eugene will fly to Japan for a one week stay. He will visit Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and present his speech as well as discuss with the Japanese students and professors at the university. He will also visit the FSM embassy, Mt. Fuji, Kyoto, and other regions.

All of the contestants presented excellent speeches. These students were; Vallynna Gippin, Asumy Henry, Janet John, Korine Mangtamag, and Eugene C. Pangelinan, Jr.

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!

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Crisis Time Approaching for Pacific Tuna

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia: Thirty three members of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission completed six days of intensive negotiations last week in Guam. Reports from the meeting indicate that while fisheries officials were able to identify continuous positive developments in the Commission most were frustrated by the meeting outcomes on the key issue of stock conservation. Glenn Hurry, Chairman of the Commission said "Agreement to proceed with the implementation of a programme to place observers on board fishing vessels to monitor their operations in the western and central Pacific Ocean and also to proceed with a system to monitor the position and activities of fishing vessels by satellite were identified as good developments from the meeting and this now means that most of the tools to properly manage the fishery are now in place or underway".

However, these outcomes were overshadowed by two key issues that dominated the meeting. The first related to the application by five countries to join the Commission. Mr Hurry explained "This proved to be a contentious issue as some existing members of the Commission cautioned that regional tuna stocks are already fully exploited and as a result there is no room for new entrants. Others were of the view that in order to secure cooperation from these new entrants it was important to accommodate them within the Commission". The result was that Indonesia's and Belize's application were approved while applications from Senegal, Ecuador and El Salvador were rejected. Hurry went on to note that "this issue and the related issues of the aspirations of small island states and the state of the stocks will require serious debate internally if it is to be resolved at next year's meeting".

Many participants agreed that the main disappointment from the Guam meeting was a failure to secure an agreement to limit fishing on yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks in the region. For almost a decade now scientists have been advising that favorable environmental conditions have supported local yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks at unusually high levels. However, if fishing continues to increase, and environmental conditions return to long term norms, then these stocks face the threat of being over-fished – a situation that has happened in every other major world tuna fishery. Mr Hurry said that, as a result of not being able to reach agreement on cut backs, principally in western and central Pacific longline and purse seine fisheries, this would have to be the main agenda item at next year's meeting in Korea. Mr Hurry said "A key element of that debate will be achieving cut backs so as the sustainability of the tuna stocks are not threatened while continuing to provide for the fisheries development aspirations of the small island developing State members of the Commission".

Secretariat of the Pacific Community Donates Tamiflu Vaccine to the FSM

The FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs accepted a donation of 100 courses of Tamiflu from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). In a letter dated October 31, 2007 from the Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Affairs Mr. Marcus Samo thanked the SPC for its assistance and further requested SPC to reconsider FSM if another opportunity arises.

Tamiflu is currently used as treatment for flu and some countries are stockpiling it for prophylaxis treatment in the event of the H5N1 pandemic influenza. SPC will be responsible for the ordering and shipment of the Tamiflu courses to the FSM. FSM will be responsible for the stockpiling and distribution of the 100 course of the Tamiflu based on its Pandemic Influenza Plan and Strategies.

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Deputy Assistant Secretary David Cohen Leaving Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne today announced that Deputy Assistant Secretary David B. Cohen will be leaving the Department after an unprecedented five and a half year term at the helm of the Office of Insular Affairs.

"David has been a passionate advocate for the U.S.-affiliated islands," Secretary Kempthorne said. "His passion has rubbed off on me, and I have become personally committed to island issues. I wish I could have convinced David to stay until the end of the term."

"I have many to thank for the great experience that I've had here at Interior," Cohen said. "I am especially grateful to Secretary Kempthorne, former Secretary Norton, Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett, OIA Director Nikolao Pula and our phenomenal team at OIA, my colleagues in the Administration, my colleagues on Capitol Hill and, most particularly, my colleagues throughout the islands. I've had the opportunity to have a significant impact to help people and places that I care very much about. You can't ask for more than that." Ha v-

ing served as Interior's lead official for insular affairs for a longer continuous period than anyone else, Cohen will return to California to practice law. He will leave the Department by the end of January, 2008.

"After all the preaching I've done about the importance of the private sector, I thought that it was time to practice what I preach by returning to it myself," said Cohen, who has been responsible for administering the Federal Government's relationship with its territories and for administering financial assistance to U.S. territories and Freely Associated States.

Among his many accomplishments, Cohen is credited with significantly raising the visibility of island issues in Washington, helping to reactivate the White House Interagency Group on Insular Areas, launching comprehensive new programs to promote private sector economic development and accountability, leading the implementation of the amended Compacts of Free Association, and being a strong advocate for both locals and guest workers in the Northern Mariana Islands.

During his tenure, Cohen focused

on helping the islands improve their business climates and reach out to potential investors to promote private sector economic development. Under his leadership, the Office of Insular Affairs developed an Island Fellows Program, which assigned candidates for Masters of Business Administration degrees from prestigious U.S. universities to address economic development issues in the islands; organized four successful Conferences on Business Opportunities in the Islands, and led Business Opportunities Missions which have brought delegations of potential investors to the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Cohen emphasized and promoted improved accountability of federal funds, providing technical assistance to help insular area governments improve their financial management.

He and his team at OIA were the principal architects of the comprehensive new accountability requirements adopted with recent amendments to the Compacts of Free Association with the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia

Cohen also took a particular interest in helping Chamorros, Carolinians, foreign guest workers and others who are suffering because of the structural problems with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' economy. He and his staff drafted and won Bush Administration support for legislation calling for "flexible federalization" of the Northern Marianas immigration system to accommodate the islands' special needs to attract workers, tourists, investors and other visitors.

"It has been a very eventful five and a half years," said Cohen. "I'm proud of the degree to which we've been able to shape the agenda. We've tried to be creative in our efforts to help the islands, and have tried a lot of new ideas that had never been tried before. All of our new initiatives have placed great demands on OIA's staff, and I am tremendously impressed by the way in which they have responded."

A summary of David Cohen's accomplishments as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, including additional quotes, is available online at www.doi.gov/oia.

HIS EXCELLENCY MANNY MORI CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



As we prepare ourselves for the Holiday season and to usher in the New Year, it is only fitting that we take this occasion to give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us as a People and as a Nation. In reflection, we are indeed grateful to the Almighty for all that He has given, and His continued blessings upon the Federated States of Micronesia.

For the coming New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to call upon my fellow citizens and friends of the FSM, to reaffirm and rededicate ourselves to the higher call of making these islands a better place to live. This, again, will require all of us to work together so that we can build a stable and peaceful place for us, and leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

During this Holiday Season, we will never forget our brothers and sisters who have left our country to seek opportunities in the United States and its Territories and furthermore, let us also remember our sons and daughters who are in harms way, serving in the US Armed Forces in troubled spots of the world. We remember them in our prayers, and we extend our warmest greetings and love during this Holiday Season.

Vice President Alik and I, as well as our families, and the entire staff of your National Government wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



KILISOU CHAPUR
KALANGAN
KULO MALULAP
KAMAGAR
THANK YOU



Rotary Quiz Night Successful Yet Again

Rotary Club of Pohnpei

Can you answer the following questions? In Scrabble, if the word "quick" were on double word score how many points would it be worth? Or Shrek is a big green ogre, who has made three movies so far. What is the name of his wife in the movies? If you can answer these questions, you should have attended the Rotary Club of Pohnpei annual quiz night fundraiser on November 17, 2007, which was held at PCR Restaurant. It was a tremendous success, with much public support.

The Rotary Club is a local civic organization made up of local business and government people and affiliated with Rotary International. The Rotary Club seeks to help the community, and has many public service projects including the painting of crosswalks, arranging doctors to come to Pohnpei for eye care and eye exams, arranging the donations of an ambulance and a fire truck and to assist in providing safe drinking water to local schools. This fund raiser is the largest one of the year for the Club. Through the generous support of our sponsors who made significant donations, and the as-

sistance of all of the players who attended, the Rotary Club raised over \$7,000.00. This fundraising will go to our scholarship fund. For school year 2007-2008 the Rotary Club has provided \$5,000.00 in scholarships to local students for college education, the most ever awarded. With the success of this year's fundraiser we can continue to award scholarships at this level.

The quiz night itself is set up so that tables of six persons answer trivia questions over the course of the night. This year there were 20 tables competing. Additionally, we had auctions, raffles and other giveaways. The winning team, Simon Ellis, Eileen Ellis, Chip Fokker, Helen Lanctot, Johanna Houghton and Ben Gilbert won \$100.00 each, generously donated by Bank of Guam. The major auction item was a pair of tickets donated by Continental Micronesia, capable of being used anywhere in the Pacific. We wish to heartily thank these major sponsors and our other sponsors, FSM Telecommunications Corp., Bank of the FSM, DJ Store, Nukuoro Black Pearls, Pohnpei White Sand, VCS



Participants at the winning table each received \$100 from the Bank of Guam

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Pohnpei LP Gas, Pohnpei Arts & Crafts, Dollar-Up, Shimbros Distributing, Tony Mix, the Australian Embassy, En's Seven Star Store, Western Union, Neime's, Scooby's Wholesale, Ron & Serlynn Kersey, PCR Restaurant for the venue and the Kaselehlie Press for the publicity.

It was an entertaining night for everyone, and we hope all that attended had a good time. The support for the Rotary Club was phenomenal. For those who didn't make it this year, the next quiz night will be in November, 2008. Lastly, for those of you who made it through the article, the answer to the Scrabble question is 40 points, and Shrek's wife is Fiona.

...Doone

continued from Page 1

lion of that was for medical referral payments. He said that auditors Deloitte and Touche had confirmed that it was financially acceptable to do so. He said that part of the medical referral debt on the books were for Chuukese citizens that had not been referred by the Chuuk State Health System and who didn't live in Chuuk.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding on Chuuk State Financial Reforms, the State has prioritized their debts along the lines of short term, medium term and long term obligations. They are beginning to dispatch short term debt first.

He begged members of the Chamber to understand that the State is beefing up its tax collections. "In order to pay you we need to collect."

He said that the government only has enough money to cover payroll and that there is no money for programs or services. He said that payroll currently stands at over \$196,000 bi-weekly. By March, all government employees will go to a 32 hour work week and 369 po-

sitions will have been eliminated to begin to alleviate the problem.

The FSM Department of Finance and Administration has been on site in Chuuk observing the operations of the State Department of Administration. Their function is to be certain that the department runs properly. In January a new financial advisor with CPA qualifications will assume that role. Doone said that in February or March a tax advisor hired from Australia will become part of the department.

On the subject of Chuuk Legislature's establishment of a debt reduction fund, Doone said that he didn't like the way the bill was worded. He said that the plan would become part of the political machine in that the government would pay only people "they like" and never pay those they "don't like".

When FSM President Mori described Gillian Doone's qualifications for the position he particularly noted his strength in saying "no" when it is necessary and saying what needs to be said when it needs to be said. Doone said, "I'm not gonna sign anything if I don't like it."

On the subject of competitive bidding practices Doone told the Chamber that a bill on the subject is up for consideration by the Chuuk State legislature. He said that if the bill passes it would increase the threshold amount before competitive bidding practices will be required. The amount would increase from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Redley Killion said that it is bad government policy. He said that Government should be decreasing the threshold rather than increasing it but that the "Government is going the other way!"

Doone said that he had been told that one of the motivations for the bill is that the purchase of medical supplies was being hampered by competitive bidding. He said that he felt there was a way around that problem without establishing what would essentially throw out the competitive bidding process.

The Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Representative Keiuo William in a separate interview admitted that he had not yet read the bill but promised to review it thoroughly. He said that the practice of competitive bidding

had been abused in the past. As example, he pointed to a person hired to supervise competitive bidding who, unbeknownst to State Government officials sent requests for proposals only to companies in which he had a personal stake guaranteeing that one of his companies would win the bid. William said that as a result the State Hospital cost \$2.5 million to build, much more than the building should have cost. The new Legislature building is uncompleted after spending \$1.2 million on it so far.

On infrastructure funds William said that there is currently \$40 million available for infrastructure projects that have gone unused. He said that within a few months there will be \$9 million more and still the roads in Weno are nearing the point of impassibility. "How we gonna make Chuuk normal," he asked?

Gillian Doone closed his presentation by encouraging the Chamber members to become active in Government processes. He said "You play a much stronger role than I can. You can fight them... You have a lot of authority. There is a crisis in Chuuk because no one has come and said anything about it!"

BNN

By Bermin F. Weilbacher

bnn_fsm@yahoo.com

The opinions expressed in the BNN Column are those of the author.

Note: This Column appears in the Kaselehlie Press twice a month. Bloggers can also find it in <http://bnnpni.blogspot.com> under PROS N CONS.

CORRECTION:

My apologies for errors reported in the Nov. 15 column....

I made some errors in reporting the results of the November 13, 2007 election in Pohnpei.

It was Eperit Mikel and not Eperit Eperiam who lost one of the Kitti legislature seats.

In the Kolonia Town election, two women from Section 3, not Section 5, defeated the incumbent male councilmen.

I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that these errors may have caused.

Another failed attempt (military coup) to topple the Presidency

The biggest news since I arrived here (PI) on December 1, 2007 is the failed coup in which a senator and a general walked out of a trial of an earlier failed coup called the 2003 Oakwood mutiny. They were followed by a few loyal soldiers but they failed to get the peoples' power like Corazon Aquino and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who is the center of the plotter's gripe. All local papers, radio and television stations keep singing the "coup song" until I left on December 15, 2007. The plotters took over a 5-star hotel (The Peninsula) in Makati but the Little Iron Lady gave the green light to barge into the lobby with the thick-skin tanks. In the process, the government arrested some journalists but released them later without charge. This has caused more noise than the failed coup itself.

What's in a name?

And now it is reported in the PI press that the lead senator in this current failed coup has requested his share of his pork barrel before the coup 100 million pesos (\$20,000 US) from what he called funds from Priority Development Assistance. This guy does not know that his counterparts in the FSM have a better term for that kind of money? In the FSM the pork barrel money is called funds from Public Laws creating Economic And Social Development Projects—a catchall phrase that

sometime could sound very legal. The editorial of one of the major English newspapers bannered this request for pork barrel money, THE NERVE...

Anyway, the Executive Branch denied the senator's request. Now that's where the FSM counterparts are smarter. If the FSM President vetoes their legislations for funds under the so-called Economic and Social Development Acts, they simply override the President and continue to spend the pork barrel money as if it's their own pocket change.

Reduce negative publicity....

I ran into former Chuuk Governor Dr. Ansito Walter, who now lives and teaches at the University of Guam. He is spearheading a program to educate incoming Micronesians into Guam. I asked him the name of the program and he said Micronesian Center for Information, to help educate incoming Micronesian about the different cultures in Guam. Let's face it, there has been plenty of negative publicity in Saipan, Guam, Hawaii and the mainland about people coming from the FSM, especially people coming from Chuuk. But recently the other FSM states are doing their share of negative publicity like the shooting of Micronesian church goers in Kansas and the apprehension of band thieves and prostitutes recently in Guam—both incident by residents, not new comers, from the State of Pohnpei.

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure it out.

In passing thru Guam, I learned that dozens of Pacific countries met in Guam recently to discuss how to control the tuna stock in the Pacific. At the end of the meeting, the Marshallese representative publicly said he was disappointed that the foreign (fishing) countries attending the conference refused to agree to reduce the tuna fish from our waters, saying they need more information ...bla...bla...bla, although they have attended many of the same meetings in which scientists provide data about the depleting tuna stock. So why do you think these

foreign countries continue to give out grants for this, grants for that??? It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that they need our fish. Is it a coincidence that Japan recently invited the new FSM President for an official visit? Don't be surprised if China invites the FSM President to join other VIPs to the Beijing Olympics as a cover. But I am curious.

When was the last time that countries other than Japan and China invited our Heads of State for official state visits?

No, I did not forget. You will be reading this edition either just before or after Christmas 2007 so MERRY CHRISTMAS and I might as well throw in my HAPPY NEW YEAR wishes.

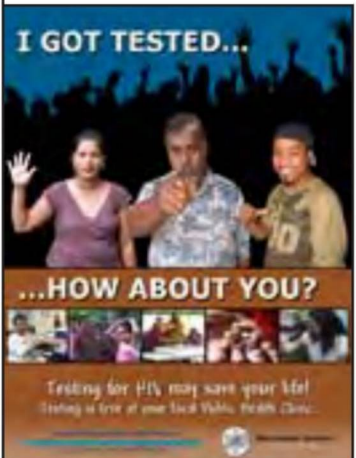
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Please check under the bed, in the closet, in the locked chest to see if you have anything that should be saved. If you find something you'd be willing to share, write to us at: Micronesian Seminar. PO Box 160, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941 or call us at 320 4067 or email us at micsem@micsem.org or fxhezel@micsem.org



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K-Press Perspective

What I Learned in Japan

Beginning immediately after check in at Pohnpei International Airport I knew my trip to Japan was going to be different than if I had simply chosen to take a vacation there on my own. I was asked to join the President's entourage in the VIP room which was very comfortable indeed. The experience began to ease my nerves about the trip. Particularly, the issue of whether or not I would be included in conversations began to be resolved in my mind. President Mori and Secretary Robert treated me as if I were one of them. I am grateful to them for that.

Throughout the trip we were whisked through the processes of airport security, customs and immigration procedures. I've never made it through an airport so fast and we went through several. If my observations are correct, the President didn't let any of this go to his head.

A traveler seated opposite me on the flight to Guam was amazed to learn that President Mori was staying in the Days Inn while in Guam. He was from another Pacific island, and said that his President always insisted on staying in one of the finest hotels there, always required a Secret Service detail, and a chauffeur driven limousine.

Since I now live in Pohnpei I no longer need a suit but for this trip I needed one. President Mori didn't own a proper suit either and showed up in shorts and a T-Shirt at the same store where I had just finished purchasing mine, in an outlet mall of all places. I was proud to be associated with a President like that. I saw many examples of that type of behavior from the President and his entourage during the trip.

I learned that the FSM Government is much more concerned with transparency than I ever believed they were. That was surprising to me since he denied all interview requests for the first three months of his Presidency.

The last conversation I had with him over breakfast at Kings Restaurant in Guam centered on

how The Kaselehlie Press could become a weekly paper. I told him that with our limited resources it was impossible, a fact that distressed him. He agreed with me that the Government should not fund us because that would take away our ability to be critical when it is necessary.

I was included in everything that the FSM was involved in where the FSM was the one that made the decision. I was shut out of a large number of meetings because Japanese leaders in Government and in business simply do things differently than Westerners are used to doing them.

I learned that a very important function of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, besides the requirement that he know everything about what is going on in the Pacific and those that are players in that arena, is that he be a good editor. He acquitted both responsibilities magnificently. He used his vast knowledge of international issues to edit the wording of speeches so that they were factually correct, diplomatically acceptable, and still managed to get the FSM's agenda across.

For those who think these trips are frivolous, and I know there are many, I can attest to the fact that they are not. The entourage was not there to show numbers and wander the hallways of hotels. Each member had a specific purpose and worked hard, I would say tirelessly but I was there and was able to look into their red eyes. They were tired, not from late night partying but from late night laptop computer sessions in shared hotel rooms as they hammered out all of the work that needed to be done to prepare the President for everything he was responsible for on the trip.

If I was the judge I would say that the trip was a smashing success for the FSM judging from the fact that one major Japanese corporation has now registered a corporation in the FSM and that more are now inclined to do so. I believe (I can say this in an opinion piece) that it was the direct result of the display of commitment

demonstrated by President Mori for the Japanese friendly captive insurance and corporate registry laws in the FSM. Since I've already given my opinion on the success of the trip I may as well go ahead and say that the Venture Funds Bill that is up for consideration may well be one of the best things to ever happen to the FSM if it passes Congress.

Many readers I have talked with don't agree with that evaluation and you're well within your rights to be skeptical as I am within mine to support the plan. Other islands have had some very real difficulties with outside investors but I now believe that those situations were entirely different than what the FSM has put into place.

Detractors say that the scheme could be used for money laundering. I'm not schooled in international finance and in my naiveté I may have missed a method or two but I can't think of a single way that money could be laundered through the scheme. Other governments including one of the worlds' most powerful and most concerned about money laundering, according to FSM Government officials have said that they don't have an objection to the scheme.

I can't imagine either, a way the FSM would lose but I can imagine many ways that it could mutually gain along with Japanese Corporations that take part in the plan.

Major Japanese corporations with assets hundreds of times

larger than the FSM's gross domestic product are anxious to get started.

Many FSM citizens said that the FSM would never realize a cent from the Corporate Registration program but the first income tax payment to the FSM is set to arrive in January, money that wouldn't have come to the FSM without the new programs.

I constantly hear about a desire for more autonomy in the FSM. Perhaps this is the road.

Back to transparency, I'm proud to have been accepted into the FSM where transparency is much better than I had thought. Speaker Figir, as he was driving down the road in Yap saw me and pulled over to ask me to pay him a visit in his Yap office. We sat for nearly an hour discussing many things about the FSM government while his newly hired Public Information Officer listened. The fact that the Yap representation now has a PIO is impressive enough but he told me of his plans to hold a seminar in Palikir for news gatherers so that Congress could get accurate information to the public. I nearly fell off the couch when he told me that.

Not every leader is the best thing that ever happened to the FSM but you have many outstanding ones. You put them there and you should be proud. For the most part, they represent you well.

*Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor*



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Nukuoro Suicide Prevention

By **KOISIMY RUDOLPH**

The recently appointed Australian Ambassador to the FSM, Her Excellency Susan Cox, made her first official community visit by presenting a check in the amount of USD5,150.00 to the Nukuoro Association of Pohnpei (NAP). Building on the successes of a MICSEM Suicide Prevention regional project funded by the AusAID Human Rights Small Grants, NAP's project will consist of participatory parenting workshops which will be conducted monthly at the Nukuoro Nahs in Nan Pepper.

With the changing of times and growing outside influence on local culture, parenting in Micronesia is becoming more difficult than it once was. With the family structure moving away from a network of extended relatives to the smaller nuclear family, parents are being forced to do more with less help. The parenting workshops aim to assist parents to understand how parenting has changed, what children today need, and how parents can better meet those needs.

The public is invited to attend the workshops however, they will be conducted mainly in



Nukuoroan.

Statistical figures from MICSEM indicated that out of all the major islands of Micronesia, (Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap), Pohnpei State has taken the lead in the number of suicides reported in 2006. In the Nukuoro community on Pohnpei alone, three suicides were reported within a six-month period, which prompted the Mayor of Nukuoro to organize the community, particularly parents, to address this pressing issue.

In addition to the parenting workshops, AusAID funds will

...EDA

continued from page 2

\$854,000 in 2003 and by \$1.2 million in 2004.

They said that during the period of the audit there was no policy in place to prevent conflict of interest. More than \$71,000 in expenses was paid to parties related to the one who made the decision to pay the bill. They said that the expenditures "mostly involved the catering of food, purchases of pigs, and hotel room accommodation including meals for the Authority's shipping agency clients." The auditor recognized that there are times when it is necessary to utilize the services of a relative but that in those times extra documentation should be provided to ensure that conflict of interest does not occur.

also be used to develop, print and distribute 10,000 copies of a brochure designed to provide parental tips and will be in Pohnpeian, English and Nukuoroan languages. Radio spots will also be produced and aired in Pohnpeian and English to support this suicide prevention campaign.

The Nukuoro Association of Pohnpei extends its profound heart-felt appreciation to the Australian Embassy to the FSM for the monetary gift in support of this project; to the Fine Arts Club at

EDA Executive Director Yusuo Phillip who stepped down from his position to pursue a seat in the legislature wrote the audit response. He said, "It should be pointed out that the Executive Director was the main problem. Being a political appointee subject to advice and consent of the Legislature may be a secondary problem. This practice has to change." He said that if the Board of Developers was to choose a contracted employee as the Executive Director of EDA, the contracted employee would pay more attention to compliance because non-compliance would effect his overall qualifications to the Board implying that an Executive Director who performed badly would not be re-contracted.

The audit is available for public review at the Pohnpei Public Library or by making a written request to OPA for a copy of the audit at P.O. Box 370 Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941.

COM-FSM National and, particularly to the Media Production class, who will assist in producing and airing the radio spots; and lastly, to Aramas Kapw and Pohnpei State Mental Health for their willingness to be used as a contact office for support. The Nukuoro Association of Pohnpei is also grateful to MICSEM for providing support and particularly giving NAP permission to translate their booklet on Parenting which will be used in the course of this project.

\$500

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
11				12				13		14		
15				16				17				
18			19					20	21			
			22		23	24	25					
26	27	28		29				30	31	32	33	34
35				36				37		38		
39				40				41				
42				43		44				45		
				46	47					48		
49	50	51	52					53		54	55	56
57				58	59	60	61			62		
63				64						65		
66						67				68		

SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

I WOULD WOULD I?

ACROSS

1. Road ____
4. Mire
7. De-energizes
11. In the past
12. Haunted house sounds
14. Look at in a funny way
15. "Ode on a Grecian ____"
16. Dreadful
17. Virginia dance
18. Cautious
20. Starry
22. Ransomed one
26. In need of a massage
29. Objective
30. In the know
35. Buddy
36. Use needles
38. Gave a chill to
39. Spun yarn
40. Like an omelet
41. Little holdup
42. Card suit
44. Trim a tree
45. Not there
46. Not a pretty sight
49. For a time
53. Just sat
57. Crazy bird
58. Helpers
62. Like some rinks
63. Roger Rabbit, for one
64. "I would, would I?" look
65. This gal
66. Does a hit man's job
67. Each
68. ____ person (one who's not himself)

DOWN

1. Move something heavy
2. Fairy tale baddie
3. No longer 45 Across
4. Archer's need
5. Klutz
6. Creature that doesn't sound old
7. Ilk
8. Distiller's need
9. Comment to the court
10. Vend
12. Sandwich spread
13. Ore's waste
19. Wined and dined, for instance
21. Body of water
23. For Pete's ____!
24. Sensation
25. *The Three*
26. Biblical book
27. Fellow
28. Wahine wiggle
31. Used a certain well
32. A problem for Noriega
33. Not the front
34. Embroidery place
37. Key problem
43. Slippery fish
47. Votes for
48. Jeopardy
49. Choral singer
50. Fido's remark
51. Horseshoe's place
52. Cozy places to stay
54. Sylvester's weakness
55. Reverb response
56. ____ in the wool
59. Mischievous one
60. Playing cube
61. Make a typo

Two For One

Only one word list for two puzzles! You must discover in which diagram each word is hidden.

I	W	Y	D	K	H	C	L	U	M	P	K
L	Y	O	E	M	R	U	O	F	O	L	X
L	P	K	L	I	B	E	R	T	Y	I	F
P	E	I	U	L	X	C	S	R	H	F	I
X	P	G	X	K	I	N	L	O	A	U	M
F	G	W	E	Y	O	P	O	H	F	H	H
X	D	P	B	N	D	B	G	S	C	C	L
L	B	Y	M	C	D	H	A	K	N	T	D
H	L	T	T	F	E	C	N	E	F	O	N
F	F	U	L	B	B	P	B	D	D	C	M

Puzzle
A

Puzzle
B

L	O	U	G	Y	R	U	B	L	I	T	H
I	F	S	N	X	P	E	L	T	S	E	P
M	N	K	E	L	K	O	U	E	C	R	M
K	U	D	U	X	I	H	E	A	R	A	
T	O	M	E	M	D	S	C	N	N	E	G
O	P	I	B	X	U	H	R	K	Y	F	P
W	I	R	O	L	A	W	A	I	O	I	E
G	U	L	F	T	E	W	N	C	N	F	C
G	H	R	T	Y	S	C	O	L	D	K	F
P	S	Y	M	T	U	G	M	O	X	N	D

- | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|
| BENCH | CLUMP | FLYBY |
| BLUFF | DELUXE | GULF |
| CANYON | FENCE | HURRAH |
| CHATTY | FERRET | KICKOFF |

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| LEGEND | NONSTOP | |
| LIBERTY | PESTLE | SHORT |
| LUSHEST | PHLOX | SLOGAN |
| MILKY | PILLOW | TILBURY |
| MONARCH | PLUMP | WAXED |
| MUMBLE | SCOLD | |

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Pick Up Your Shovels and Get to Work

John the Baptist was not the kind of person you'd invite to a dinner party. His appearance wasn't very refined, we are told. Dressed in animal skins, with a beard gone wild, he might have come across as a jungle-man—except for the fact that he lived in the most forlorn part of the desert—dining on locusts and the sweet sap that drips from certain types of plants. John's speech was every bit as off-putting as his dress and behavior. He was not the sort of person you'd want as your pastor if you needed a great deal of affirmation and a hug now and then. His language was straight-forward, even shocking, as when he called the religious leaders who came out to see him a nest of poison snakes.

Never do we hear of John touching people with gentleness, as Jesus did. It appears that John had only one thing on his mind—the

message of reform that became his trademark. "Repent," he says again and again. "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Another way of putting this is that simply *waiting* for the Messiah wasn't good enough. If anyone was going to find the Lord, he or she couldn't sit tight and wait for the apparition. It was going to take work. We would have to pick up our shovels and get to work, filling in the potholes and leveling the mounds in our lives. Otherwise, how would the Lord be able to make his entrance into our hearts! His message was insistent, even a little harsh, because the Messiah his listeners claimed to be waiting for couldn't gain access to them if there were boulders blocking the way and heavy undergrowth around their hearts. They had heavy work to do before they welcomed the Lord.

Then again, not all of us have boulders and deep potholes on the road that leads within us. Or so we like to think! But John reminds us that perhaps we are not quite as genteel and polished as we imagine. After all, he is trying to get his listeners to remove any obstacles that might prevent them (and us) from welcoming the Lord and the salvation he offers.

In Palau last week I had the privilege of saying mass for over 20 prisoners in the Koror jail. Here was a group of people—druggies, swindlers, prostitutes, and even a killer or two—who would have had no problem understanding John's call. They didn't need to be convinced that there were rough spots in their lives. That was well established by the law, and taken to heart by each one of them. They knew all too well that they needed a saving touch from outside of themselves. My job was to keep alive the hope that the Christ they awaited at Christmas would bring that saving touch. That's why the hour with them was the best reminder of what Christmas is all about that I could have had.

So we take up our shovels and start digging, filling in the hollows and knocking down the raised patches that could bring to a halt, traffic into the deepest parts of our hearts. The payoff for all this work, in John's view, is not a happy holiday season. It's not just a deep sense of personal satisfaction that everything is finally right within us. The end result is the reign of God, not just in our hearts but everywhere. The pathway into our own hearts is also a pathway up the mountain,

described in Isaiah 11, that is a fulfillment of the reign of God. No worry about poison snakes any longer, since even babies can play with them without harm. No enmity between ferocious animals (like lions) and domestic ones (like lambs). No need for standing armies any longer, nor police, nor prisons. People finally get along with one another and are able to live in lasting peace. What a world!

But that's the end vision of the reign of God. Meanwhile, the work of reforming hearts and lives must continue if the Lord and his message are ever to find a reception by individuals. So, as the wild-eyed prophet says, pick up your shovels and start digging.

Francis X. Hezel, SJ

Astronomical Tide Prediction December 26 - January 8, 2007				
	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	26 Wed 04:48AM 2.4 09:53AM 0.9 04:42PM 4.6 11:45PM 0.4	02 Wed 03:06AM 1.4 11:32AM 2.9	26 Wed 12:01AM -0.6 03:26PM 2.4	05 Wed 04:38AM 0.3 12:58PM 1.5 10:11PM 0.2
Thursday	27 Thu 05:27AM 2.5 10:32AM 1.0 05:18PM 4.4	03 Thu 04:06AM 1.5 12:33PM 3.2 08:41PM 1.6	27 Thu 12:32AM -0.4 03:51PM 2.2	06 Thu 01:25AM 0.3 04:21AM 0.2 12:56PM 1.7 09:52PM 0.1
Friday	28 Fri 12:20AM 0.6 06:08AM 2.5 11:12AM 1.2 05:52PM 4.0	04 Fri 12:32AM 1.8 05:21AM 1.4 01:14PM 3.5 08:54PM 1.3	28 Fri 12:56AM -0.2 04:09PM 2.0	07 Fri 02:02AM 0.2 04:21AM 0.1 01:08PM 1.9 09:51PM -0.1
Saturday	29 Sat 12:54AM 0.8 06:52AM 2.5 11:53AM 1.5 06:24PM 3.6	05 Sat 01:48AM 1.8 06:23AM 1.4 01:48PM 3.7 09:13PM 1.0	29 Sat 01:09AM -0.1 04:16PM 1.7	08 Sat 02:21AM 0.1 04:39AM 0.0 01:28PM 2.0 10:01PM -0.2
Sunday	30 Sun 01:27AM 1.0 07:42AM 2.6 12:39PM 1.8 06:53PM 3.2	06 Sun 02:30AM 2.0 07:12AM 1.2 02:20PM 4.0 09:34PM 0.7	30 Sun 01:04AM 0.1 04:10PM 1.5	09 Sun 02:36AM 0.0 05:06AM -0.1 01:53PM 2.1 10:21PM -0.3
Monday	31 Mon 02:00AM 1.2 08:46AM 2.6 01:44PM 2.1 07:18PM 2.8	07 Mon 03:04AM 2.1 07:54AM 1.1 02:50PM 4.2 09:58PM 0.5	31 Mon 12:37AM 0.2 03:44PM 1.3 11:58PM 0.2	10 Mon 02:53AM 0.0 05:33AM -0.1 02:20PM 2.2 10:47PM -0.3
Tuesday	01 Tue 02:25AM 1.3 10:01AM 2.8 04:05PM 2.3 07:25PM 2.4	08 Tue 03:34AM 2.2 08:33AM 1.0 03:21PM 4.4 10:23PM 0.3	01 Tue 02:36PM 1.2 11:14PM 0.0	11 Tue 03:14AM -0.1 05:57AM -0.2 02:50PM 2.2 11:19PM -0.3

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...Faichuuk

continued from page 1

Emilio confirmed that it would be fair to say that Chuuk's financial crisis has led to an increase in crime in the State.

He said that often a shortage of funds leaves the Police Department without fuel for patrols.

Currently Chuuk State Police Officers have worked through three payroll periods without receiving pay.

Police Department phone lines were down at the beginning of the week of December 10 because of non-payment of telephone bills. That problem was resolved by the afternoon of the 11th of December so that now at least one phone line is currently operating.

The 911 emergency telephone system is also still in operation. 911 can be dialed from land lines in the State of Chuuk but the emergency number cannot yet be accessed by cell phones. Most of the lagoon islands rely on cell phones and radio for communication to the other islands.

Things may get worse for the department if that is possible. Under the Chuuk and FSM Memorandum of Understanding on

Chuuk Financial Reforms the Police Department is slated to give up 36 positions decreasing the current size of the force of 149 officers to 113. The downsizing operation is scheduled to take place in the month of March.

An informed resident of Chuuk with prior Police administrative experience said that since on any given shift, an average of 2/3 of the scheduled personnel arrives for work this decreased number should present no problem assuming that all of the remaining officers show up for work when they are scheduled to do so.

Emilio said that while the Department is in a weakened position and that might lead some would be criminals to think they can get away with criminal activity, his officers will continue to be vigilant and will continue to fight crime. He called upon fellow residents of Chuuk to pull together during this time of financial crisis saying, "It's not us alone! In order to do the job we need their help!"

The Chuuk State Police Department is continuing its ongoing public education programs in schools and elsewhere across the State of Chuuk so that residents will understand their role in helping their own Police Department to enforce the law.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-2123.
- **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 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 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

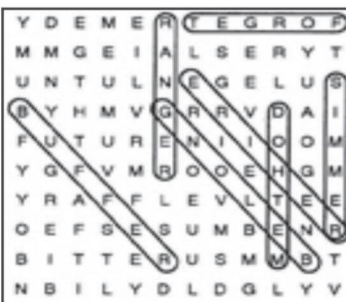
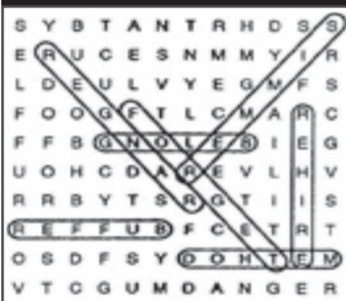
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LAST Issue's Solution



The deadline for Ads, News Items, or Letters to the Editor for the next issue is January 4

LAST Issue's Solution



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Pandanus, The Divine Tree

By **AMY LEVENDUSKY**
Pohnpei Island Food Community

Pandanus (*Pandanus tectorius*) is an important staple food in the Federated States of Micronesia, especially on the atoll islands and is also an important food on many other atoll islands in the Pacific, including Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Tokelau.

Pandanus is known as the 'divine tree' in the Marshall Islands because of its important role in everyday life. In Kiribati, pandanus is called the 'tree of life' as it provides food, shelter and medicine.

There are many varieties of pandanus that can be eaten, some also have edible nuts. The leaves of pandanus are used for weaving and thatching and the wood for construction. The bark and flowers are used to scent body oils and the roots are used in making medicines, paintbrushes and rope. The fruit is made up of small individual pieces called keys that can be eaten when raw, and after being consumed the left-over keys can be used to make charcoal or to use as a paint brush.

Pandanus fruit is a valuable source of many nutrients, particularly for people living on atolls where only a limited number of food crops can grow due to poor soils and harsh dry climates. **Pandanus contains significant amounts of vitamin C**, which is important for fighting infection and for absorbing some forms of iron (needed for building blood). On some islands, eating 10 keys a day is very com-

mon, even among children. This would provide more than the estimated daily requirement of vitamin C for most adults or children.

Pandanus also contains significant amounts of provitamin A carotenoids, the most important of which is beta-carotene. Provitamin A carotenoids are converted in the body to vitamin A, which is important for good vision and eye health, and helps to fight against infection and build blood. Eating carotenoid-rich food may also help protect against diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

Most edible pandanus fruit turns from green to yellow and then orange when ripe. The keys of some tough varieties can be boiled or baked and then consumed, or the pulp can be removed and used in taro or other dishes.

Pandanus paste or *sehnikun in kipar* will keep for many years without refrigeration. Traditionally, the keys are cooked (boiled or baked) and the pulp is scraped out and then spread in a thin layer on a clean surface to dry in the sun for five or more days. The finished product is either rolled tightly and bound in pandanus leaves or folded and kept in an air-tight container. Dried pandanus was once an important food for voyagers on outrigger canoes, enabling seafarers of long ago to survive long journeys.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community Pacific Food Leaflet No. 6 on Pandanus is acknowledged for providing the information for this article.



Pandanus with Taro
(*Maitahlik* from Mwoakilloa Atoll, Pohnpei, FSM)

Ingredients:

- Fresh ripe pandanus fruit
- Coconut cream
- Syrup prepared from sweet toddy or imported sugar
- Giant swamp taro (*Cyrtosperma*), boiled or baked

Method:

1. Boil pandanus keys.
2. Scrape out the pulp.
3. Add coconut cream.
4. Add sweet toddy syrup or imported sugar.
5. Grate the cooked giant swamp taro.
6. Form the grated taro into balls and put into baking tin.
7. Add the pandanus mixture.
8. Bake and serve.

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Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Bank of the FSM currently maintains accounts for the following individuals & groups:

Marites C. B. Allens	P.O. Box 1938	Kolonia Pohnpei
Anton Augustine	P.O. Box 856	Kolonia Pohnpei
Brian Jacob Forest	P.O. Box 9	Kolonia Pohnpei
Wahu Mwoamwoadiso En Ping Elap	P.O. Box 373	Kolonia Pohnpei
Eot Housing Authority	P.O. Box 1292	Weno Chuuk
Urupwin Fishing Project	P.O. Box 790	Weno Chuuk
Edgardo C Carlit	P.O. Box 1190	Colonia Yap
Anthony Lowthiy or Lesa G Nelson	P.O. Box 551	Colonia Yap
Bechiyal Cultural Center	P.O. Box 37	Colonia Yap
FSM Football Association	P.O. Box 698	Colonia Yap
Academy for Culture & Education of Yap	P.O. Box 1034	Colonia Yap
Peter Managol & Maria Urtin	P.O. Box 281	Colonia Yap
Robert Struppeck	P.O. Box 1189	APO, AP
Timothy Hill	P.O. Box 786	Tofol Kosrae

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform these customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2008. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2007.

Kosraean:

In fwal nuke pusren Masap lun FSM, Bank FSM inge akkalemye nusin Customers nukewa ,ma e akkalemyeyuk lung inge la account lowos ma akkalemyeyuk inge e tufwa kauli a money ka an ac tuhfa itukyan nusin Secretary lun Finance ke FSM National Government ke January 2008. In oralla account se lom an tia putatyan nuke oakwuk ku oiya se inge, kom enenu in tuku nu Bank FSM oralla sie deposit ku withdrawal nuke account san meet liki December 31, 2007.

Chuukese:

Sia awora ei esinesin ngeni ami kei aramas, mwicheichen aramas, ika sopai mi affat itemi assan pun faan pungun annukun FSM, masowan ami kei accounts epuene lo ngeni ach ewe FSM Finance lon January 2008, ika pwe ese wor mwokutukutun uttut (withdrawal) ika isonanong (deposit) lon me mwen December 31, 2007. Ach anean pwe kopwe chuuto rech ach sipue annisfengen won om kei account.

Yapese:

Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan I January 2008, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2007.

Pohnpeian:

E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2008. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasauwada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2007 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.