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Pohnpei State leadership sworn into office

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 11, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Today's joint inaugural events started with the seating and swearing in of Pohnpei State Legislators in their chambers.

The chamber was standing room only both inside and outside as the credentials committee verified that all of the Senators were legally qualified to serve. The caucus that ended in the selection of the Legislature's top three leaders took quite a bit longer. Meanwhile the announced time for the beginning of the inauguration at the Pohnpei State Government complex came and went.

When the caucus was completed, Fernando Scaliem was returned to his position as Speaker of the Legislature. Nixon B. Soram was chosen as the Vice-Speaker, and McGarry Miguel was selected as the Floor Leader.

Senators vowed to their oaths of office in the Legislative chambers before making their way to the joint inaugural ceremony where hundreds of people had gathered in whatever shelter from the short rain, and shade from the nearly noon day sun they could find in order to witness the event.

Traditional leaders, dignitaries, and new government leaders were announced and seated followed by a traditional sakau
See "Pohnpei State Leadership" on page 5



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Keller sworn in for another term as Pingelap Mayor

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 12, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Makir Max Keller was sworn in for another term as Mayor of the Pingelap Municipality Government on Tuesday, January 12 and the Pingelap Municipal Government Nanpepper Office.

Nihlis Ernest of the United Church of Christ Pohnpei, Mwalok gave the invocation and Marcus Hendy, Inauguration Committee Chairman gave the welcoming remarks.

Nickontro Johnny, Associate Justice of the Pohnpei State Supreme Court administered the oath of office to Mayor Keller, after which he gave his inaugural address.

by an address from Dohkesa Dr. Berysin Salomon Wasalalalap Nanmwarki of Pingelap.

Ieske Iehsi of UCCP, Mwalok pronounced the benediction.

The eight council members of the Pingelap council are Kensior Boaz, Nixon Boaz, Anstein Dewey, Jimmy Ehmes, Ben Higgin, Mikhelson Mark, Abiner Robert, and Yenson Yens.

FSM President Peter Christian gave special remarks followed



The 2014 FSM Code can now be accessed on the FSM Supreme Court website and the reestablished FSM Legal Information System Website

The legal practitioners in the FSM and the general public are advised that the 2014 FSM Code (2014 FSMC) can now be accessed on the FSM Supreme Court website at <http://fsm-supremecourt.org>.

The FSM Supreme Court also announces that the dedicated legal resource/research website, the FSM Legal Information System (FSMLIS), is now back online at <http://fsm-law.org>. The 2014 FSMC can also be accessed on the FSMLIS. The FSMLIS will provide temporary access to legal resources of the FSM and the four states, until such time as the FSM Legal Information Institute (FSMLII) is completed.

The FSM Supreme Court announces that it is working on a new FSMLII website that will eventually take over all functions of the FSMLIS. When completed, the FSMLII, will become an integrated part of the Legal Information Institutes throughout the world. This connectivity will allow for more powerful searching and accessibility to case law and other legal resources especially from the other Pacific-island nations. The court hopes that the FSMLII can be placed online before the summer of 2016.

If you have any questions over the information provided in this press release or if you have corrections or other legal resource material that can be added to the FSMLIS, please contact FSM Supreme Court Webmaster Derrick Iehsi at (691) 320-2357/2763/2764.

<h3>NEW JOB OPENINGS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terminal Operator (two positions), Chuuk Closing date: Dec. 22, 2015 - Officer in Charge, Pohnpei Closing date: Dec. 22, 2015 - Technical Support Officer, Head Office Closing date: Dec. 22, 2015 - Helpdesk Customer Service Officer, Head Office Closing date: Dec. 22, 2015 - Project Engineer, Head Office Closing date: Jan. 15, 2016 - Project Planner & Scheduler, Head Office Closing date: Jan. 15, 2016 <p>Contact us at: www.vitalenergy.fm employment@fsm-pc.com rfp@fsm-pc.com (691) 320-6364</p>		<h3>EXPRESSION OF INTEREST</h3> <p>We are seeking the services of qualified contractors for:</p> <h4>Corporate Core IT Infrastructure Replacement</h4> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hardware including physical servers 2. Software including serve OS VMware 3. Data Backup 4. Backup power solution with redundancy <p>Closing date: Dec. 8, 2015</p>
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Bill Jaynes
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San Nicolas sworn in as Kolonia Town Mayor



By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

January 11, 2016
Kolonia, Pohnpei—The Kolonia Town government chose to hold the inauguration ceremony for newly elected Chief Magistrate Jose San Nicolas at the same time



as the Pohnpei State inauguration. Organizers said that timing was based on the wording of Kolonia's Constitution.

The inauguration ceremony began after the members of the Kolonia Council were sworn in, in their chambers.

FSM Founding Father Reverend Bethwel Henry gave the invocation after which the Kolonia Town Police Color Guard raised the flags. Bethwel Henry also gave the welcoming remarks.



The oath of office was administered by Acting Presiding Justice Irene Phillip followed by the inaugural address by Mayor Jose SanNicolas.

Father Ken pronounced the benediction.

The Kepinle Youth Choir provided special music.

The Council seated Jack Harris as the Speaker, Yuko Nakasone as the Vice Speaker, and Pericles Perman as Floor Leader. The remaining members are Jimmy Eldridge and Wayner Louis from Section 1; Jolden Lebehn and Randall Harry from Section 2; Rickson Higgins from Section 3; Billimon Henry of Section 4; Atorfine John from Section 5; Takasi Reim from Section 6; and, Bill Edward and Carlos Villazon from Section 7.



Photos by Darsy Augustine

There will be a special election for the seat vacated after the resignation of Henry Pretrick. Pretrick resigned due to policies at his workplace regarding conflict of interest that precluded his keeping the position as councilman.

Pohnpei Tennis Club junior members square off for Saipan championship

TJ Rush Apis

This week Pohnpei Tennis Club hosted a successful qualifying tournament where junior tennis players from Pohnpei and Kosrae battled it out on the court to see who will fly the FSM flag in the North Pacific Regional Championship to be held in Saipan in June 2016.



The qualifying event in Pohnpei started off with a high note where Kosrae's number 1 seed JR notched his first win against Deavin Etscheit of Pohnpei 6-0, 6-1. JR went on winning all his matches and was crowned the 12 and under champion. Jones of Kosrae settled with second place beating Deavin 6-4, 6-1, JT 6-0, 6-1, Nathan 6-0,6-0, Jeremiah 6-0, 6-0, Israel 6-0, 6-0, and Kigo 6-1, 6-1. Deavyn placed at number 3 and Kigo placed at number 4 after making a few upsets being the number 8 in the tournament.

Kosrae took out 1st place while his fellow teammate Sterkis Abraham settle for runner up. Andrea Perillo of Pohnpei took out 3rd beating Weston of Kosrae. The 16 and under girls had only 2 competitors, sunshine Palik from Pohnpei and Chriselda of Kosrae. Sunshine went on to take the win 6-0, 6-2.

In the 14 and under girls, Anne Skilling of Kosrae stunned number 1 seeded Isabel of Pohnpei creating the biggest upset of the tournament. Isabel went down to Anne losing the first set 6-2, she pushed herself to grab the second set but Anne proved too strong and quick taking the final set in a super tiebreaker 10-4.

In the 16 and under boys category, Joab Williams of



TJ receiving a certificate of appreciation from Ron and Sterling

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Future Waste Management Priorities agreed upon at the final Meeting of the J-PRISM Project for FSM

Palikir, Pohnpei -The final National Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting of the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (J-PRISM), was held on December 17, 2015 at FSM OEEM Conference Room in Palikir, Pohnpei.

J-PRISM is a 5-year project started in February 2011 which was implemented by OEEM, the four states of FSM and JICA to strengthen human and institutional capacity for sustainable solid waste management. The meeting brought together representatives from OEEM, the State Environmental Protection Agencies/ KIRMA, Departments of Public Works and Transportation and Infrastructure, National Government Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure, Office of Development Assistance, Pohnpei Waste Management Services, Trash Kings, JICA, and Embassy of Japan.

After confirming their achievement through the Project, participants discussed and agreed about their activities after completion of the project to be implemented in accordance with their action plans of National/ State level Solid Waste Strategy including the seven points mentioned below;

1. Updating Coin Deposit Legislations (CDLs) to include more recyclable products than just aluminum cans. For example, in the case of Kosrae State recycling, batteries, plastic bottles, glass bottles have been included.
2. Improving sharing of information through a newsletter and/or websites
3. Strengthening communication network among the states and OEEM
4. Including waste management agenda through sessions during Environment Conferences and EPA Directors Meetings
5. Sharing of State Action Plans to OEEM for policy making purposes and coordination on addressing gaps
6. Implementing segregation of waste at the household level
7. Implementing the Leachate Monitoring Guidelines

As closing remarks, Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele, Assistance Chief of the J-PRISM Office based in Samoa, praised the utmost efforts of all the participants and stakeholders in the area of solid waste management.

...Pohnpei State Leadership

Continued from front page

ceremony.

A Pohnpei State Police color guard raised the flags while Judy Penias sang a moving rendition of the Pohnpei anthem set to a spine tingling accompaniment track.

Lt. Governor Joseph Saimon gave welcoming remarks after which Lt. Governor Elect Reed Oliver and Governor Elect Marcelo Peterson were sworn in to their new positions.

Former Lt. Governor Saimon passed the ceremonial paddle to the new Executive Branch leaders.

Saimon has taken a position at the Pohnpei State Government as the Chief of Staff.

Governor Marcelo Peterson gave his inauguration address in Pohnpeian. State radio, V6AH has played his speech many times on the air.

Iso Nahnken of Nett, Salvador Iriarte gave the closing speech at the inauguration ceremony.

During the ceremony, the United Church of Christ Pohnpei, Kepinle Choir at the Temwen Choir sang special musical numbers.

After the formal proceedings of the inaugural ceremony had ended, three dance teams entertained the crowd. Though the sun threatened to melt the performers into puddles, the entertainment was truly special, well done, and enthusiastically received.

On Sunday, January 10, the newly elected leaders gathered at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Kolonia for an

interdenominational service during which the FSM's first Congress Speaker, now a Reverend at the United Church of Christ Pohnpei gave the homily. The Senipehn and Meitik Choirs both performed special musical numbers.

The Inaugural reception was held at Mangrove Bay Bar.

Lt. Governor Oliver spoke as did Speaker Fernando Scaliem.

Dancers also performed for the large audience including Serena Peterson, Governor Peterson's daughter.

The Pohnpei State Legislature has formed its standing committees.

The committee on Education and Cultural Affairs will be chaired by Senator Sendilina Lekka. Senator Stanley S. Etse will serve as Vice Chair.

The Committee on Finance will be chaired by Senator Alipino Kerman with Senator Daniel S. Isaac serving as Vice Chair.

The Committee on Health and Social Services will be chaired by Senator Shelten Neth. First time Senator Brian Etscheit will serve as the vice-chair.

Senator Peter Lohn will chair the committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. Senator Lino Amor.

Senator Marvin Yamaguchi will chair the Committee on Land and Senator Adelino Edmun will serve as Vice Chair.

The Committee on Public Works, Transportation and Communications will be chaired by Senator Stevick Edwin. Vice Chair will be Senator Maskie Jim.

Senator Aurelio Joab will chair the Committee on Resources and Development. Senator Rensper Liwy will serve as Vice Chair of that committee.

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Liemen sworn in as Sokehs Chief Magistrate

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 13, 2016—Michael Liemen was sworn in for another term as Chief Magistrate on January 13, 2016 at Saint Peter's church in Sokehs.

The short ceremony began with the introduction of the Diplomatic Corps, Pohnpei State Legislators, FSM Congressmen, and various officials from other municipalities who were each announced as they entered under the flags of the Sokehs Police Color Guard.

Michaelson Lieman, Jay Limar, and Tommy Lee Defang sang the Sokehs anthem accompanying themselves on guitar and ukulele. The Danpei Youth Choir and the Peidie Youth Choir also sang special musical selections.

Michael Liemen gave a short address, followed by Iso Nahnken Paulus Perman.

Baldesar Sardis of Section 2 was chosen by the council to continue in his role as Speaker of the Sokehs Council Keduwapak. John Kulat of Section 3 was chosen as the Vice Speaker, and Stanley Ernest of Section 4 was chosen as the Floor Leader.

Representing Section 1, Jolden Lipai will serve as Chairman for the Health, Education, and Social Affairs (HESA) Standing Committee. Kendy Ikosia will serve as the Vice Chairman for Justice and Governmental Operations (J&GO). Max Lebehn will serve as Chairman for Resources and Development.

Representing Section 2, Paulino Lambert will serve as the Chairman of the Ways and Means Standing Committee. Yuhki Susaia will serve as Vice Chairman for HESA.

Representing Section 3, Nixon Ludwig will serve as Vice Chairman for R&D. Leon Wenio is currently without a committee appointment.

Representing Section 4, Albert Johnny will serve as the Chairman of J&GO. Loranso Seiola will serve as Vice Chair for the Ways and Means committee.

After the inauguration refreshments were served and a reception was held outside of Flamingo beginning at 3:00.



2016/2017 Chinese Government Scholarship Application

2016/2017 Chinese Government Scholarship is now open for application. The scholarship offers such programs as undergraduate, master, doctoral, general scholar and senior scholar.

The Embassy of People's Republic of China in FSM welcomes eligible FSM high school graduates, bachelor's degree holders, master's degree holders and so on to apply online. Firstly log on to www.csc.edu.cn/laihua or www.campuschina.org and fill in the application form. Your "Agency Number" is 5831. Secondly download the completed form and print two hard copies. Then submit the hard copies and other corresponding application documents to the Chinese Embassy no later than April 16th, 2016.

For more details and requirements, please consult the Chinese Embassy or refer to www.csc.edu.cn/laihua.

Contact person: Mr. Song/ Deqin
Tel: 320-5575 Fax:320-5578
E-mail: chinaemb_fm@mfa.gov.cn

The Embassy of People's Republic of China to FSM
Jan. 13, 2016

ONPA Releases Agreed Upon Procedures on the “Project for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases in Sokehs Municipality

The Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) announces the release of Audit Report No. 2016-03, Agreed Upon Procedures on the “Project for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases in Sokehs Municipality, Pohnpei State”. A digital copy of the audit is available for public review online at www.fsmpa.fm and printed copies are available at the ONPA office in Palikir, Pohnpei. This engagement was conducted based on a request by the College of Micronesia-FSM as a required condition for the grant.

The project was funded by the Embassy of Japan to the FSM through a \$120,569 grant that was awarded to the College of Micronesia-FSM as the recipient. The main objective of the project was to build a quality size field for sports and other health promoting activities. Students and local residents residing in Sokehs Municipality, Pohnpei State are the intended beneficiaries of the project.

The procedures that we performed consist of (1) confirming that the grant was used properly for the purchase of goods and services for the project and that all expenses were valid and properly supported, (2) identifying existence of the project, (3) ensuring that applicable laws and regulations regarding procurement

and competitive bidding were adhered to during the selection and acquisition of products and/or services, and (4) verifying the execution of plans for maintenance and public awareness.

Based on the procedures performed, we identified issues relating to the implementation of the project as follows;

- proper documentation supporting deliveries was not prepared at the time of delivery,
- procurement of goods did not comply with the College’s procurement policies,
- request for financial reports was not provided, and
- targeted goals of the project have not yet been achieved.

Notwithstanding the above, we commend the College of Micronesia-FSM for their continuous efforts in making the campus facilities meet the needs of the students, faculty, and community.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, which incorporates certain attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

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Happy New Year

2016 Chinese Lunar New Year falls on February 8. It is the Year of the Monkey according to Chinese zodiac. It will be a great chance to experience the traditional folk customs!



Origin and History of Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) has a far-reaching history of over 3,800 years. The origin of the festival can be traced back to the worshipping activities in China's ancient agrarian society. The date for the ceremony wasn't fixed till the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD), when Emperor Wudi commanded to use the lunar calendar. From its ancient origins in Yinshang Age (17th century BC - 1046 BC) to present day, the festival has several names such as Yuanchen, Yuanri and Yuandan.

The holiday was closely associated with agrarian society in history. Ancient people concluded the disciplines of cycles of seasons from their planting experience, and the concept of 'year' came into being with the outcome of calendar in the Shang Dynasty (17th century BC - 1046 BC). The earliest worshipping activities became the embryo of the festival. People attributed their food, clothes and harvest to the god and ancestor's will, so they held sacrifice ceremonies to pray for blessing and peace at the end of each year.

However, the name of 'Nian' (year), in fact, emerged in the Zhou Dynasty (1046 - 256 BC), and worshipping performance also turned to be social practice to observe the beginning of farming work in spring. Not only worshipping ancestor and praying for good harvest, they also began to enshrine Kitchen God, Gate God, Joy God, Wealth God, and Well God.

The festival date had been really entrenched since the emperor Wudi of Han Dynasty fixed the first day of January in Chinese lunar calendar as the New Year's Day, which has been using till the present days. At that time, Chinese New Year had become a nationwide event. There was a big festival fair launched by the government, and civil people also gathered for celebration. New custom activities also arose, such as burning the bamboo (setting off fireworks

nowadays), hanging peach boards (pasting Spring Couplets nowadays) and staying up at night.

In Tang and Song Dynasties, the celebration was finally given a standard name, Yuanri. In the flourishing Tang Dynasty (618 - 907 AD), the function of Chinese New Year had shifted from worshipping and praying for good to social entertainment. People got public holidays for gathering with family. At that time, it evolved into a festival for people's jubilation sharing indeed. With the invention of black powder in the Song Dynasty (960 - 1279 AD), firecrackers also came into the celebration.

From Song Dynasty to Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911 AD), the festival had been named Yuandan, and celebrations were more of social interaction. People began to visit friends, relatives and gave gifts to sharing blessing. More interesting activities such dragon dance, lion dance, walking on stilts and Shehuo performance took place during the holiday.

In 1912, the government decided to abolish Chinese New Year and the lunar calendar, but adopted the Gregorian calendar instead. People were unwilling to change the tradition, so the policy did not carry out successfully. A compromise was made that both calendar systems were kept, and the Gregorian calendar used in government, factory, school and other organizations while lunar calendar used for traditional festivals. The first day on Gregorian calendar called Yuandan (New Year's Day) and the first day on lunar calendar called Chunjie (Spring Festival or Chinese New Year).

After 1949, the Spring Festival was listed as a nationwide public holiday, and people got days off work and school. Today, it is the most important traditional festival in China, and many old customs are inherited from its ancient origins and development throughout history.

Chinese New Year Story - Legend of Monster Nian

Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) is the oldest traditional festival in China, but a few people concern the origin and story behind the holiday. Many existing customs and activities of the festival actually can be traced back to a popular story of the Monster Nian, which helps to explain why and how the festival is celebrated.

According to the ancient Chinese legend, in ancient time, there was a ferocious monster named "Nian" with sharp teeth and horns. Secluding itself in the dark sea for a long time, the beast would go onshore by the end of the lunar year and hunt people and livestock. Therefore, every time before the New Year's Eve, all the villagers would escape to remote mountains to avoid Nian's attack.

Things took a turn from another New Year's Eve. When all the dwellers were bursting to take refuge in the mountains, the village welcomed a strange old man. With silver hair but bright piercing eyes, he was a beggar in rags, walking with a stick.

Drown in great panic, villagers shuttered their doors and windows dead and packed their parcels for life necessities. Everything was in a scene of chaos, and no one cared about the newcomer.

A granny from the east of the village came to the old man and gave him some food. She repeated the terror of the Monster Nian and persuaded him to flee with others together. However, the old kept cool and smoothed his whisker slowly, requesting to stay one night in the old woman's house, and he would expel away the beast of prey in reward.

The granny was not fully convinced of his promise, and she continued her persuasion. However, the old man did not change his mind, and having no alternative, the woman left and escaped to the mountain alone.

At midnight, the monster broke into the village ultimately, but it sensed the subtle change of the atmosphere: in the past, the entire village was in dead darkness, but at that time, the house in the east was lighting. Approaching to

the house slowly, it found all the doors and windows pasted with red papers and many candles lit inside the house.

The beast trembled and squalled, glaring at all strange things. Caught by rage and irritation, it swooped to the front door. At that very moment, loud cracking sound burst in the courtyard, daunting Nian not to dare come closer. The front door was opened in a flash, and the old man came out in red gown, roaring with laughter. The Monster Nian was gravely frightened, fleeing through the dark night.

Till the next day, villagers returned back to their tribe, surprised at the undamaged scene of the village. At that moment, it dawned on the old granny that the relief from Nian came from the old man's promise. She hastened to other villagers and told them about the beggar's commitment. Desiring to check out the truth, all the people flocked to the old granny's house and they found the red papers on doors and windows, candles in the house and the unburnt bamboo in the courtyard.

Soon, villagers were enlightened by the truth that the bamboo burning cracking, red color and bright light were magic keys to scare away the monster.

In order to celebrate the triumph over the monster, people dressed in new and visited neighbors to share the joy. The news spread, and everyone commanded the ways of defending against the beast.

Hence, on every New Year's Eve, people would paste red spring couplets, light candles and burn bamboos (set off firework) to ward off all the evil spirits. The entire village and town were ablaze with lights, and people would stay up to welcome the New Year.

The traditions are inherited till today. According to the story, Chinese New Year's Day or the Spring Festival is also called "Guo Nian," which means "surviving the Nian". The red also becomes the most popular color for festival celebration and dressing code.

"Nian" literally means "year" in Chinese language.

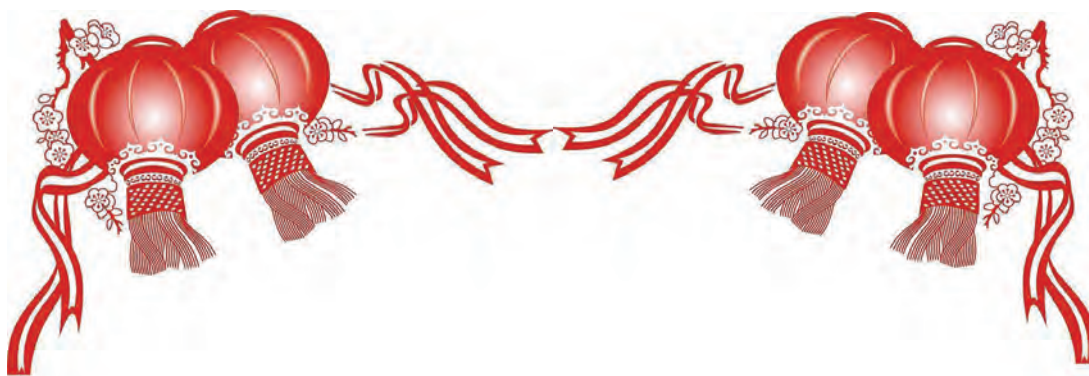


2015 is the Year of the Sheep and 2016 is the Year of the Monkey according to Chinese zodiac. The Year of the Monkey starts from Feb. 8, 2016 (Chinese New Year) and lasts to Jan. 27, 2017.

The Chinese Zodiac, known as Sheng Xiao, is based on a twelve-year cycle, each year in that cycle related to an animal sign. These signs are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. It is calculated according to Chinese lunar calendar. You can use the zodiac calculator to search for your Chinese zodiac animal sign. Select your Gregorian date of birth, and you'll reveal your date of birth according to the lunar calendar, together with your sign.

12 Zodiac Signs

There has been a relationship between human and the 12 zodiacal animals. It is believed that the years represented by the animals affect the characters of people in the same way like the western astrology signs. Facts like years, strengths, weaknesses, best matches and fortune of 2016 and 2015 of each sign are introduced.



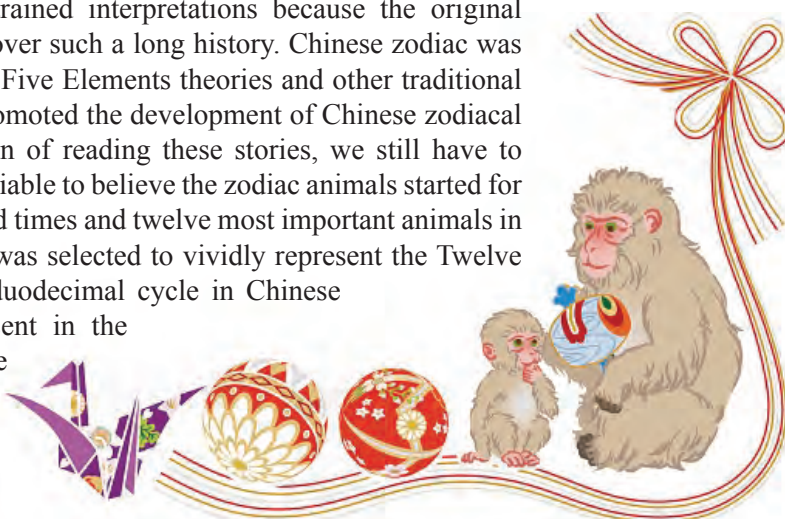
Number of Zodiac Animals' Toes

Many famous scholars in history had their own interpretations about this interesting topic. There was a scholar in the Song Dynasty (960 - 1279) called Hong Xun explained his thought based on Yin Yang Theory. Among the twelve animals - rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig - rat, tiger, dragon, monkey and dog have five toes. Five is an odd number which is thought to be in yang side (or positive). Horse has one toe, also an odd number. Others animals have toes of even numbers which are thought to be yin, negative. Snake has no toe but its tongue has two tips in even number. Ying and yang animal signs were interlaced. There were scholars of the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644) followed and developed this idea.

Why Did Rat Come in the First Place?

Beside the tricks that rat played in the first story, there are other legends about its priority in those animals. In Chinese mythology about the origin of world, the universe was in dark without form like an egg before the earth and heaven was separated. It was the rat that bit a crack and let the air in. He was the hero to start the world. That was to say the importance of him. Another saying goes along with the toes story mentioned above. His forepaws have four toes and hindpaws have five toes, with both odd and even numbers. For such a special creature among the twelve animals, rat won the first place.

Legends seem to be strained interpretations because the original intention had been lost over such a long history. Chinese zodiac was related to the Yin Yang, Five Elements theories and other traditional life concepts. Thus it promoted the development of Chinese zodiacal culture. After having fun of reading these stories, we still have to know some facts: it is reliable to believe the zodiac animals started for worship of animals in old times and twelve most important animals in ancient people's life in was selected to vividly represent the Twelve Earthly Branches (the duodecimal cycle in Chinese calendar). Cat was absent in the name list because there was no cat in China very long time ago.



Origin of Chinese Zodiac

Similar to the ten heavenly stems and twelve earthly branches, animals in Chinese zodiac were also created for counting years as the system that is now universally accepted based on the Gregorian calendar. The selection and order of the animals that influence people's lives very much was originated in the Han Dynasty (202BC - 220AD) and based upon each animal's character and living habits. The old-time division was mostly related to number 12: one ji equals 12 years, one year has 12 months, one day has 12 time periods called shi chen. Ancient people observe that there are 12 full moons within one year. So, its origin is associated with astrology. Each animal sign is usually related with an earthly branch, so the animal years were called Zi Rat, Chou Ox, Yin Tiger, Mao Rabbit, Chen Dragon, Si Snake, Wu Horse, Wei Sheep, Shen Monkey, You Rooster, Xu Dog and Hai Pig.

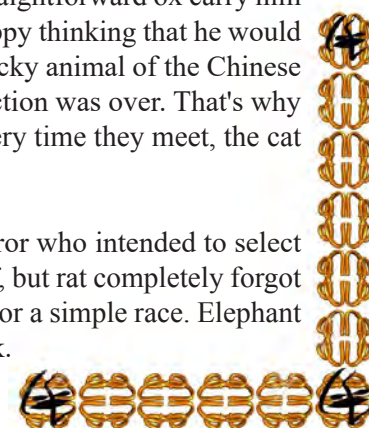
Chinese Zodiac Stories

There are many legends and mythology related to Chinese zodiac and there are various versions and stories popular in different regions. Why were there twelve animals in the zodiac calendar and how did the scheme order come from? Here are the most well-know stories, as an important part of Chinese zodiacal culture.

Order of the Animals

This is the most widespread legend about Chinese zodiac. The Jade Emperor (The Emperor in Heaven in Chinese folklore) ordered that animals would be designated as calendar signs and the twelve that arrived first would be selected. At that time, the cat and the rat were good friends and neighbors. When they heard of this news, the cat said to the rat: 'We should arrive early to sign up, but I usually get up late.' The rat then promised to awaken his friend and go together. However, on the morning when he got up, he was too excited to recall his promise, and went directly to the gathering place. On the way, he encountered the tiger, ox, horse, and other animals that ran much faster. In order not to fall behind them, he thought up a good idea. He made the straightforward ox carry him on condition that he sang for the ox. At last, the ox and him arrived first. The ox was happy thinking that he would be the first sign of the years, but the rat had already slid in front, and became the first lucky animal of the Chinese zodiac. Meanwhile his neighbor the cat was too late so when it finally arrived, the selection was over. That's why other animals appear behind the little rat and why the cat hates the rat so much that every time they meet, the cat will chase and kill it.

About this simple story, there are different editions. Some say it was the Yellow Emperor who intended to select twelve guards. It is also said that cat hope rat could get there early and sign up on behalf, but rat completely forgot it or do that intentionally. Some say the animals were request to have a swimming race, or a simple race. Elephant was said to participate in the race too, but run away finally because rat got into its trunk.



Pohnpei Sports Update



By Ryan Eliwise
Pohnpei Sport Office

Team LP Gas

On January 13, 2016, the 2015 Nutrena Tournament has concluded its championship games at the Pohnpei State Softball field located in Kolonia Town. The games started at 5:30 and ended at 8:30 in the evening. The Nutrena Tournament has become part of Pohnpei Sport Calendar of Activities and always sponsored by the supplier of Nutrena feeds for Pohnpei. The Co-Sponsors of the tournament are Seven Stars Store and Pohnpei Sports Office.

Participating teams for this year's tournament are the followings:

- Team Ekis Ekis
- Team Me Mehn Kana
- Team Pohnpei ACE Hardware
- Team Nett
- Team P4
- Team LP Gas
- Team NinSei

The championship rivalry was held between the top two teams selected from the round robin, between Team Net and Team LP Gas. Both Games of the night ended with a ten difference regulation (10 points difference) causing the lights at the field to shut off early. Even with the early lights out, spectators and everyone enjoyed watching the games under the excellent weather of the night.

Awards were given out in cash to the following top three teams:

1st Place	Team LP Gas	\$500.00
2nd Place	Team Nett	\$300.00
3rd Place	Team Ekis Ekis	\$100.00



Team Nett



Team Ekis Ekis

Parliamentary Delegation of the House of Councilors of Japan Visited Pohnpei

From December 18th to 21st, Parliamentary Delegation of the House of Councilors visited Pohnpei to research Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). The delegation consists of 4 members; Mr. Kiyomi AKAISHI, the leader of the delegation, Liberal Democratic Party, Mr. Masahiro ISHII, Liberal Democratic Party, Mr. Hiroyuki NAGAHAMA, Democratic Party and the Shin-Ryokufukai and Mr. Kotaro TATSUMI Japanese Communist Party. They made visits to project sites of Japan's ODA: Pohnpei State Hospital, Pohnpei International Airport, Dump Site, two of the cargo and passenger vessels, solar panels at the President Office and Pohnpei State Hospital. They enthusiastically exchanged views with JICA volunteers.

They paid a courtesy call on FSM National and State officials, President Christian and had a meeting with Secretary Robert and Secretary Weilbacher. They also paid a courtesy call on Vice Speaker Martin, Sen. Urusemal and Sen. Perman at National Congress. The delegation members received very warm welcome traditional shell necklaces as a present and great appreciation toward the Japan's ODA. They also visited a war memorial and offered flowers to the fallen soldiers.

On the last day, the delegation was invited to Ant Atoll by President Christian. President had arrived Ant Atoll before they arrived and gave them a surprise by showing fish caught by his own hand, President himself caught earlier. President made sashimi and grilled fish in foil and served to the delegation. They were deeply impressed by President's performance and hospitality.

Ambassador Sakai hosted the receptions on 18th and 19th by inviting the delegation to his residence. President Christian, Secretary Robert and Sen. Urusemal on the 18th, and so were JICA Volunteers on the 19th. The delegation exchanged opinions with attendants and had fruitful discussions.



In front of the Solar Panels provided by Japan
(From left) Mr. Nagahama, Mr. Akaishi, Secretary Robert, Mr. Ishii and Mr. Tatsumi

Women in Church

The number of woman lay ministers in the United Church of Christ Pohnpei has increased; however, as a woman, the journey can be challenging at times according to Ms Emiko Santos.

Lay Minister Emiko Santos is one of the first few women ordained as a lay minister under the support from the United Church of Christ in Pohnpei.

It took about two years of waiting for Ms Emiko Santos to be confirmed to the position of lay minister and the waiting on the Lord to provide his will was worth it throughout the process.

Ms Emiko Santos, a lady lay minister retired from her post last month as lay minister from years of ministering God's word in her local church under the United Church of Christ Rongkitti in Kitti, Pohnpei.

According to Ms Emiko Santos, she could not have done it without the support and backing of good friends and families. Especially the individuals who stood by her side during the process of her confirmation to the position of lay minister.

She is thankful to the late Likend Pah Uh of Uh, Mr. and Mrs. Bethwel Henry, Reverend Paulino David, Reverend Shadoru Santos, Reverend Paul, Brigitte from Germany, and many more family members and friends from within and outside of the country.

Ms Santos would like to encourage young girls around Pohnpei to always dream big and never give up or give in to any set backs that come in life because by waiting on the Lord, things come together for good. If God brings you to it, he will make sure that he takes you through it.

Ms Santos is sincerely thankful to everyone who has given her the support she needed to becoming and now retiring from the post of lay minister.

Finally, her gratitude goes out to Reverend Samuel Anson in preparing an exceptional celebration during their retirement ceremony. Thank you.

ONPA Releases Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) Engagement Report on the Project “Improving Pig Production in Nel Village, Yap State”

The Office of the National Public Auditor announces the release of AUP engagement report No. 2016-01 for the Project “Improving Pig Production in Nel Village, Yap State”.

This engagement was conducted based on a request from the College of Micronesia-FSM to report findings based on specific agreed-upon procedures. These procedures, which were concurred by the Embassy of Japan-FSM (Grantor) and the College of Micronesia-FSM (Recipient), were conducted solely to assist both parties in ascertaining that the implementation of the Project complied with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

In March 2011, the College of Micronesia-FSM was awarded a grant assistance in the amount of \$53,000 from the Embassy of Japan-FSM. The purpose of the grant was to fund a Piggery Project in Nel Village, Yap State, to assist the community of Nel Village and other surrounding villages increase the production of pork through the use of an improved local pig diet.

ed consists of (1) verifying that the Grant was used properly and strictly for the Project with proper documentation, (2) ensure the compliance of applicable procurement laws/regulations, and (3) verify the completion and proper maintenance of the Project. The following are the key issues resulting from the

procedures performed for the Project:

- The completion of the Project was delayed for more than the required one year.
- The Project was not properly maintained. However, current attempts are made to revive the Project.

This engagement was conducted in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, which incorporates certain attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



World Class eye surgeon now practicing at Pohnpei State Hospital is Pohnpeian

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press
and the Australian Embassy

January 14, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Years of cooperation between Australian and local doctors have meant that FSM now has the capacity to carry out world class cataract operations. This should see a continued reduction in the levels of blindness and vision problems in the country. Pohnpeian eye surgeon Dr. Padwick Gallen is now carrying out cataract operations at the Pohnpei Hospital, achieving world class results in this complex procedure.

Australian ophthalmologist Dr John Kearney has been visiting FSM to provide eye treatments on a volunteer basis for five years, supported by an Australian Government aid program implemented by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. However, some years ago Dr. Kearney realised that FSM doctors had the capacity to provide this treatment themselves if they were given the opportunity to undertake the specialised training. In conjunction with the Australian Embassy, Dr. Kearney arranged for Dr. Gallen to undertake further training in ophthalmology (the treatment of diseases of the eyes) at the Pacific Eye Institute in Fiji.

The Kearney family personally paid for much of Dr. Gallen’s training. Dr. Kearney said that many of the practicing eye doctors in the Pacific Region graduated with a diploma with one year of study after medical school. Dr. Gallen pursued an intensive four year program of education and residency.

Following his return to Pohnpei this month, Dr. Gallen has commenced providing cataract surgery and other treatments at the hospital. The new eye clinic will provide year round services that have previously been available only when visiting doctors have been on island for mission trips or by off island referral.

Visiting Pohnpei again in January, Dr Kearney who has been working in the Pacific region since the 1970’s was very impressed with the quality of the surgery being undertaken.

“Dr Gallen has clearly shown that he has the ability to undertake this delicate and complex procedure to a very high standard”, said Dr Kearney. “Citizens of FSM should be proud of this important achievement. If they come to Dr Gallen for eye treatment they can feel very confident that they will be well looked after.”

Dr. Kearney went so far as to say that he would easily defer to Dr. Gallen’s skills as a surgeon. He said that during Dr. Gallen’s training he performed several surgeries a day to a high standard in a world class hospital. “His skills are top notch,” he said. “I might perform three or four surgeries a week but Dr. Gallen has often been performing that many in a day.”

Dr. Gallen performed five cataract surgeries this week alone, and followup visits with those patients showed that they were healing nicely.

Dr. Kearney said that in addition to Dr. Gallen’s excellent surgical skills he has demonstrated wisdom in treating patients. For instance, he knows to look for the underlying causes of eye diseases knowing that it does no good to treat symptoms surgically if the root cause is something like diabetes.

Dr. Kearney says that Dr. Gallen knows that some vision problems can be corrected simply by the use of eye glasses, and also that sometimes vision problems can be solved with simple, inexpensive, off the rack eye glasses. Dr. Gallen will also be able to write prescriptions for eye glasses that can be filled by any eye glass provider such as MedPharm.

Donations of many kinds have helped to equip the new eye clinic including a donation by the Philippines Lion’s Club of equipment with an estimated value of \$100,000.

Dr. Kearney said that Dr. Gallen has already saved money for the program by meeting with the hospital pharmacist to inventory and rationalize, or “right size” pharmaceutical stocks for eye care. Dr. Gallen is also establishing a plan for surgical “consumables” such as “interocular lenses” (the array of correct lenses that are installed in the eye during cataract surgery) so that there will be a proper inventory of those supplies to meet patient requirements without having excessive stocks on hand.

Dr. Kearney has always had big dreams about the establishment of an Eye Clinic in Pohnpei with surgical capabilities. He says that the clinic will certainly be big news for people living in the outer islands. Whereas in the past, outer islanders with vision problems either organized transportation to the main island during times when visiting ophthalmologists were on island or they simply did without. The fact that the clinic will be ongoing means that it will be much easier for outer islanders to get the eye care treatment they need. Dr. Kearney envisions

missions by a trained eye care nurse to the outer islands for evaluation and basic treatment with referrals to the Pohnpei State Hospital for people who may require surgical care.

He also envisions the new clinic as a resource for the rest of the FSM and beyond rather than having to much more expensively refer patients to place like the Philippines or the U.S.

“It’s going to save the FSM a lot of money in the long run,” Dr. Kearney says, and adds that it will save a lot of people from avoidable blindness as well.

Dr. Kearney’s enthusiasm is contagious and while Dr. Gallen agrees with all of the big goals that Dr. Kearney has for eye care in the FSM he admits that he is only one person. He says that he will work toward the goals one step at a time, but for now, it is important for people in the FSM to know that there is now a local resource for their eye care needs.



Photo by Australian Embassy
Dr Padwick Gallen performs cataract surgery, watched by Australian Embassy staff, Dr Kearney, and Pohnpei Hospital Operating Theatre Supervisor Mira Allen.

“Trio Chicago and Friends” returns to Pohnpei for a brief tour

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

January 9, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Trio Chicago and Friends made a triumphant return to Pohnpei for a series of concerts in Pohnpei showcasing uniquely American music written by American composers and played by American virtuoso performers.

In April of 2013, the U.S. Embassy to the FSM brought the group of musicians headed by founding member, violinist and concertmaster Elliott Golub to Pohnpei. The group’s musicianship and passion made a big hit wherever they performed and this visit was no different.

This year the group raised their own funding and came to Pohnpei with the facilitation of the U.S. Embassy. They performed at Pacific Missionary Aviation studio for a small but enthusiastic crowd on the evening of January 7, and again at the College of Micronesia on the following evening for a larger crowd.

The group’s special musical guests on those evenings were the members of Pohnpei’s “Youth for Change”.

On their last musical evening in Pohnpei they performed “chamber music style” at the home of U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen for a small group of invited guests.

“Trio Chicago and Friends” is a quintet consisting of founder Elliot Golub on violin, co-founder Marlou Johnston on violin and viola, Suna Gunther the Soprano vocalist and sometimes Saxophonist, Laura Hamm on flute and piccolo, and Susan Chou on Piano.

For 19 years, Golub has been leading Trio Chicago as cultural ambassadors on musical tours throughout the world. The number of countries in which the group has performed is significant and includes two visits to Cuba. They have also performed as musical ambassadors in Belize, Venezuela, Barbados, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Turkey, Ethiopia, Mali, Zambia, Uganda, the Russian Far East, Djibouti, Jordan, Egypt, Mongolia, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea, Turkey, China, Botswana, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. They are still adding to their list.

At the U.S. Ambassador’s residence the group the group beautifully performed arrangements written by American composers George Gershwin, Aaron Copeland, Duke Ellington and my personal favorite, Leonard Bernstein.

Ms. Gunther’s rendition of Copeland’s “I Bought Me a Cat” was a particular crowd pleaser for the young people in the group’s audiences.

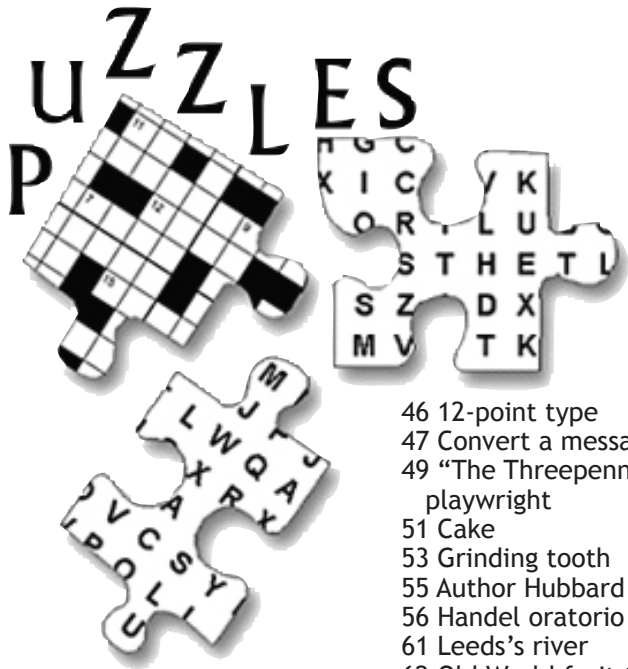
In addition to beautiful accompaniment of the group, pianist Susan Chou, who is currently a doctoral candidate in Piano Performance effortlessly performed the rhythmically difficult ragtime piece “Maple Leaf Rag” by Scott Joplin. That piece, written in 1899 has often been called “an American institution”, and has appeared in hundreds of films, cartoons, and commercials.

Chou later showed off her ukulele chops as she accompanied Soprano Suna Gunther’s performance of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” conjuring up memories of the late great Israel Kamakawiwo’ole as it is best known in the islands. It was originally written for the 1939 movie, “The Wizard of Oz” by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg and sung by actress Judy Garland.

The concert ended with a beautiful arrangement of Victor Young and Edward Heyman’s “When I Fall in Love” that was first made popular by Doris Day and also covered spine tinglingly by Nat King Cole. Suna Gunther’s performance was equally as thrilling.

Before leaving Pohnpei, the group had opportunity to visit some of Pohnpei’s scenic wonders.





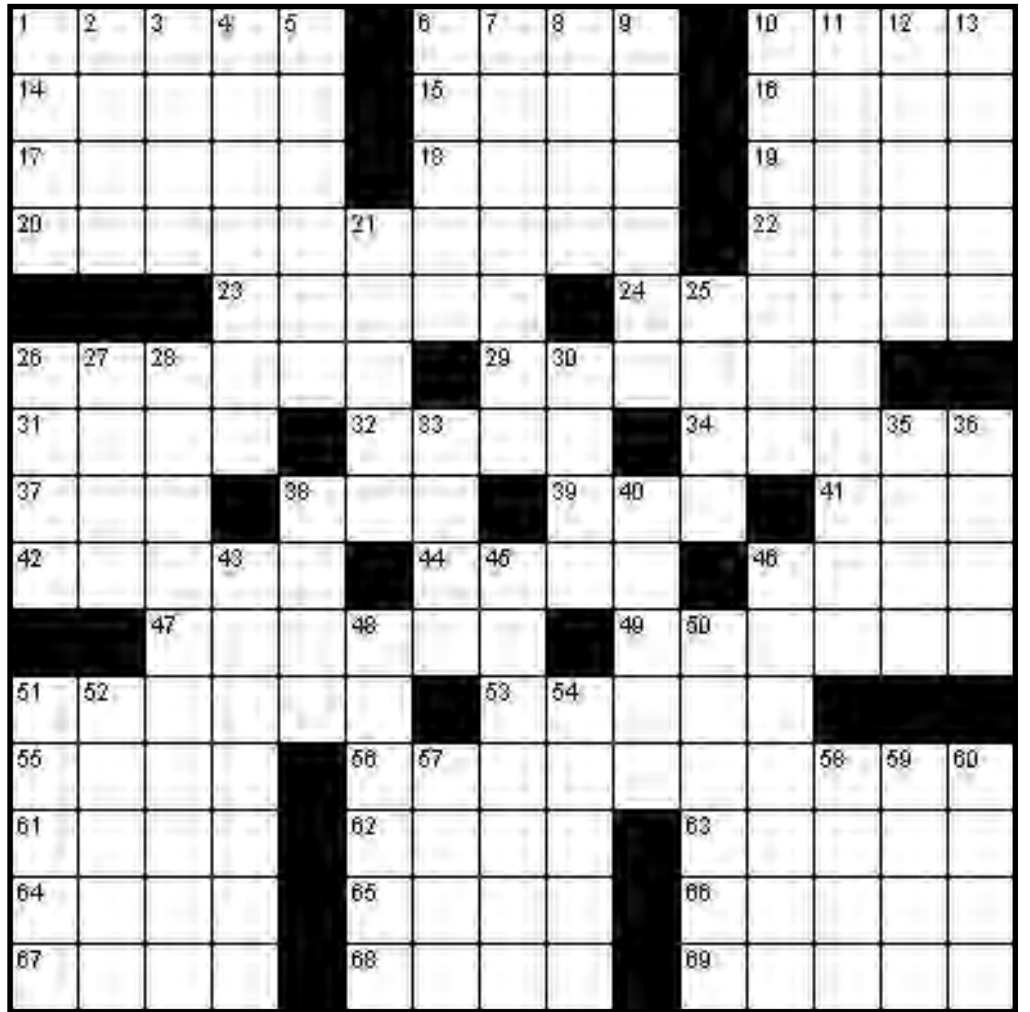
- 46 12-point type
- 47 Convert a message
- 49 "The Threepenny Opera" playwright
- 51 Cake
- 53 Grinding tooth
- 55 Author Hubbard
- 56 Handel oratorio
- 61 Leeds's river
- 62 Old World fruit tree
- 63 Plantain lily
- 64 Graycoats
- 65 Moslem leader
- 66 Terminator
- 67 Ancient ally of Sparta
- 68 Carry
- 69 Indian princess

- DOWN**
- 1 Thunder sound
 - 2 Dig this!
 - 3 22 across, poetically
 - 4 Film maker?
 - 5 Lightweight hat
 - 6 Shoreline irregularity
 - 7 Like a boor
 - 8 Superior, e.g.
 - 9 Himalayan guide
 - 10 Penny-pinching
 - 11 Germicidal
 - 12 Metric unit
 - 13 High spot
 - 21 Big house
 - 25 Doing
 - 26 Chief city of Moravia
 - 27 Tresses

ACROSS

- 1 Low-priced
- 6 Troubles
- 10 Food for hogs
- 14 Spanish poet and playwright
- 15 Grandson of Methuselah
- 16 Showing a fancy for
- 17 Foreigner
- 18 One of the Gospels
- 19 Crockpot concoction
- 20 Five-foot line
- 22 Cork's place
- 23 Fine fiddle
- 24 Ship's officer
- 26 Kingdom in the Himalayas
- 29 Basic food
- 31 Infrequent
- 32 Island near Kauai
- 34 Melville adventure
- 37 Pen point
- 38 Like some vbs.
- 39 Sgt., for one
- 41 It paves the way
- 42 Astral hunter
- 44 Inkling

Crossword



- 28 Papal blessing words
- 30 Air
- 33 Unproductive
- 35 Apiece
- 36 Proof word
- 38 Quipu maker
- 40 Transmission medium
- 43 Unity
- 45 Fault
- 46 ___ non grata
- 48 Commencement

- 50 Bacon serving
- 51 Hostile look
- 52 Posthumous Plath book
- 54 Game played with deck of 40 cards
- 57 ___ sapiens
- 58 High spd. phone line
- 59 Suit to ___
- 60 Run quickly

Word Search - Fun Time -

- ball
- bench
- carousel
- children
- enjoyment
- frisbee
- grass
- hopscotch
- jungle gym
- ladders
- laughter
- monkey bars
- nannies
- pail
- parents
- sand box
- seesaw
- slide
- smiles
- spring horse
- sunhat
- swing



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 <p>34%off → ? %off Ref.20845 PRICE:\$6,210 BMW X5 Year 2001 AT 4,390cc PETROL Mileage 90,000km Color Dark Blue</p>	 <p>32%off → ? %off Ref.19418 PRICE:\$6,880 TOYOTA RAV4 Year 2004 AT 1,790cc PETROL Mileage 63,000km Color Silver</p>	 <p>35%off → ? %off Ref.21001 PRICE:\$6,430 VOLVO XC90 Year 2004 AT 2,520cc PETROL Mileage 96,000km Color Silver</p>
 <p>7%off → ? %off Ref.22642 PRICE:\$4,730 FORD ESCAPE Year 2004 AT 2,260cc PETROL Mileage 89,000km Color Dark Blue</p>	 <p>47%off → ? %off Ref.21828 PRICE:\$2,960 TOYOTA VEROSSA Year 2002 AT 1,980cc PETROL Mileage 52,000km Color Silver</p>	 <p>44%off → ? %off Ref.22018 PRICE:\$3,070 HONDA ODYSSEY Year 2004 AT 2,350cc PETROL Mileage 86,000km Color Silver</p>
 <p>21%off → ? %off Ref.22309 PRICE:\$3,430 TOYOTA WISH Year 2005 AT 1,790cc PETROL Mileage 97,000km Color Silver</p>	 <p>12%off → ? %off Ref.22798 PRICE:\$3,060 TOYOTA ALTEZZA Year 2002 AT 1,980cc PETROL Mileage 91,000km Color Pearl</p>	 <p>22%off → ? %off Ref.22286 PRICE:\$2,610 NISSAN LIBERTY Year 2004 AT 1,990cc PETROL Mileage 96,000km Color Pearl</p>
 <p>53%off → ? %off Ref.21515 PRICE:\$3,100 TOYOTA ESTIMA Year 2000 AT 2,360cc PETROL Mileage 94,000km Color Silver</p>	 <p>47%off → ? %off Ref.20805 PRICE:\$4,540 TOYOTA HILUX SURF Year 1998 AT 2,690cc PETROL Mileage 159,000km Color White</p>	 <p>3%off → ? %off Ref.21853 PRICE:\$2,820 NISSAN TIIDA LATIO Year 2005 AT 1,490cc PETROL Mileage 76,000km Color White</p>

*Price Include Car Cost & Freight up to Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae or Chuuk

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JICA Alumni Association of FSM Ninth Annual General Meeting

Members of the JICA Alumni Association of FSM (JAA-FSM) from four FSM States held the 9th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Yap on November 05, 2015. This is the first time the Association had its AGM out of Pohnpei State. JAA-FSM was established in 2006 in Pohnpei as a non-profit corporation with the purpose to (1) gather and create friendship among all JICA Alumni those who studied in Japan and JICA volunteers within and outside of the FSM, (2) develop relationships between the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Alumni with the frames of the Official Development Assistance Program of Japan and (3) support economic, culture, scientific and technical cooperation between the FSM and Japan.

During the opening of the meeting Master of Ceremony, Mr. Charles Sakios (Secretary JAA-FSM), welcomed and acknowledged the Honorable Lt. Governor James Yangetmai, JAA members, JICA volunteers in Yap, guests and families from Yap. Mr. Simpson Abraham, President of JAA-FSM, also delivered a remark on this occasion briefly outlining the history and purpose of JAA-FSM and the activities which the Association had undertaken since its establishment.

Two representatives of each JAA state Chapter in Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk; Mr. Clain William and Mr. Remos Livaia, President and Vice President of Kosrae JAA, Mr. Luciano Mathias and Ms. Masako Johnnyboy, Representatives of Pohnpei JAA, and Mr. Kichy Joseph and Mr. Jack Sam, Representatives of Chuuk JAA, joined the meeting and introduced their activities in this year and proposed activities for 2016. Some of the activities that the Chapters have completed in the previous year include Pakin clean-up campaign, cleaning of Okeefes, publication of Chuuk/Japanese/English dictionary, and many others.

The meeting concluded with remarks by Mr. James Limar, Vice President, JAA-Yap who reiterated the importance of the establishment of the JAA-FSM Chapters and outlined the important roles that reflects the establishments of the State Chapter to keep its members together and strengthen the relationship between FSM and Japan, especially through collaboration and partnership with JICA volunteers, and communities in FSM to help achieving the purpose of JAA's formation at the community and grass roots level.

Many local bananas are vitamin A-rich

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

The Karat Banana is not the only local vitamin A-rich banana, there are 15 others identified so far. This is important because these bananas protect against vitamin A deficiency disorders and also diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers.

Some of the bananas are rare like Utin Yap, and Ihpali, but there is one vitamin A-rich banana that is very common, Taiwang. This banana has a low status because it is so available and is often used for feeding the pigs but it is delicious dried and used in baking because it is sweet.

The substances in plant foods that convert to vitamin A in the body are called carotenoids. Epidemiological research shows that carotenoid-rich foods protect against a number of chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers. So these local carotenoid-rich foods provide double benefits, against vitamin A deficiency and chronic diseases.

In 1998, the Karat banana was the first of the bananas in the Federated States of Micronesia to be analyzed. Then a series of analyses of 16 banana varieties from the year 2000 to 2002 were analysed for different nutrients. All bananas were from Pohnpei and Kosrae, except one banana from Chuuk. The analyses were carried out at five laboratories, the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii; University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji; Roche Vitamins Ltd, Basel, Switzerland; Covance Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin;

and Food and Drug Administration Atlanta Center of Nutrient Analysis, Atlanta, Georgia.

Yellow and orange coloration of the edible portion of the banana was very much related to the amount of carotenoid contained. Those banana varieties with a deeper yellow or orange coloration had a higher carotenoid content. For example, Utin Yap has the darkest coloration of all, and it had by far the highest carotenoid content. This means that people in the community can use coloration of the banana flesh as a rough indicator of the carotenoid content.

What about rice? How much of provitamin A carotenoid does it contain? Absolutely none, zero!!! Also wheat flour and rice contain no provitamin A carotenoid. All bananas (and other local foods like taro and breadfruit) contain at least some carotenoids, so all the local foods provide some protection against vitamin A deficiency, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, whereas rice does not provide that benefit.

Diabetes particularly is an increasingly serious problem in the community. Vitamin A deficiency disorders include problems with vision and eye health, but also involve increased rates of many kinds of infections, particularly skin, respiratory, and diarrheal infections.

Thus, there is great potential in consuming many local vitamin A- and carotenoid-rich bananas for protecting against these health problems.

Opinion Editorials

Chuuk's Senator Mark Mailo's interpretation on proposed resolution to dissolve the Compact

Dear Editor,

After the Kaselehlie Press published a short letter I wrote in its December 21, 2015 issue (Vol. 6 Issue No. 2) RE Congress Resolution No. 19-155, my Inbox has been inundated with emails and text messages from constituents here and abroad. It would be time consuming and redundant to write and send a reply to each and every one of those comments and questions.

The following would help those constituents to understand generally the implications and political processes should the FSM decides to terminate the amended Compact. To minimize ambiguity, it is necessary to include the actual text of the relevant sections of the treaty.

Contrary to commentaries in the news and within some popular on-line social networks, not only could the US and FSM mutually terminate the Compact (Section 441); either party can unilaterally terminate it (Sections 442 and 443, respectively) in accordance with their constitutional processes. In each case, certain provisions in the Compact would remain in effect if it is terminated, prior to or following the twentieth anniversary (2023) of its effective date. Those provisions have to do mainly with non-resident status, security and defense, the environment, trust fund, and economic assistance, if any.

Section 453 referenced those provisions as follows(words in parenthesis added):

"(a) Should termination occur pursuant to Section 443(by FSM) prior to the twentieth anniversary of the effective date of this Compact, as amended, the following provisions of this Compact, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect until the twentieth anniversary of the effective date of this Compact, as amended, and thereafter as mutually agreed:

- Article VI and Sections 172(FSM citizen has rights and remedies under US laws as any non-resident),173 (Relating

to protection of US personnel, property, installations, programs, and services in the FSM),176(TTPI court judgments continued in effect), and 177(nuclear testing compensation) of Title One.

- Sections 232 and 234 of Title Two (Grant assistance administration, inspection).

- Title Three (Relating to security and defense; Unilateral termination of this Title shall be considered termination of the entire Compact without prejudice to the continued application of Sections 452 and 453).

- Articles II, III, V and VI of Title Four (Conference and Dispute Resolutions, Amendment, Survivability, Definition of Terms).

(b) Upon receipt of notice of termination pursuant to Section 443(by FSM), the US and the FSM shall promptly consult with regard to their future relationship. Except as provided in subsection (c) and (d) of this Section, these consultations shall determine the level of economic and other assistance, if any, which the US shall provide to the FSM for the period ending on the twentieth of the anniversary of the effective date of this Compact, as amended, and for any period thereafter, if mutually agreed.

(c) In view of the special relationship of the US and FSM, as reflected in Section 354(b) and (c) of this Compact, as amended, and the separate agreements regarding mutual security, and the Trust Fund Agreement, if termination occurs pursuant to Section 443(by FSM) prior to the twentieth anniversary of the effective date of this Compact, as amended, the US shall continue to make contributions to the Trust Fund described in Section 215 of this Compact, as amended, in the manner described in the Trust Fund Agreement.

(d) In view of the special relationship of the US and FSM, as reflected in Section 354(b) and (c) of this Compact, as amended, and the separate agreements regarding mutual security, and the Trust Fund Agreement, if termination occurs pursuant to Section 443(by FSM) following to the twentieth anniversary of the effective date of this Compact, as amended, the FSM shall continue to be eligible to receive proceeds from the Trust Fund described in Section 215 of this Compact, as amended, in the manner described in the Trust Fund Agreement".

Many pundits are keen to point out their own interpretations of endless possibilities inferred by Section 345(b).

Section 443 states "This Compact, as amended, shall be terminated by the FSM pursuant to its constitutional processes, subject to Section 453 if the people represented by that Government vote in a plebiscite to terminate the Compact or by another process permitted by the FSM constitution and mutually agreed between the US and the FSM. The FSM shall notify the US of its intention to call such

a plebiscite, or to pursue another mutually agreed and constitutional process, which plebiscite or process shall take place not earlier than three months after delivery of such notice".

What could be that "another process" permitted by the FSM Constitution? This question hangs in the air and only the Congress has the final answer.

Article IX, Section 2 of the FSM Constitution expressly delegated certain powers to Congress including (b) the power to ratify treaties [by 2/3 members of Congress, except that a treaty delegating major powers of the Government of the FSM to another government shall also require majority approval by the legislatures of 2/3 of the states (Section 4)]. The FSM delegated major powers concerning its security and defense to the US under the Compact. Whether the Compact, in its original form or as amended, was approved by the people of the FSM in a plebiscite and also ratified by 2/3 of the state legislatures need to be verified.

Like the US constitution, the FSM constitution is silent on what branch can terminate or "unmake" a federal treaty. Since the power to ratify treaties is circumscribe to the FSM Congress(not the President), maybe Congress could also terminate such treaties.

The Compact of Free Association with the United States is a treaty not a political status as some constituents are led to believe. The Federated States of Micronesia is a political status, being a constitutionally established democratic government and a sovereign nation. To change its political status, the FSM would hold a plebiscite, however, when it comes to federal treaties, the Congress has the sole power to ratify such treaties. The FSM is already a party to many international treaties that the duly elected Congress ratified without calling for a plebiscite for voters to approve those treaties. Some legal minds have opined that international treaties, once ratified, become part of the "supreme law of the land" similar to domestic statues, and that only the legislative process can amend or render null those treaties.

Should the FSM conduct a plebiscite each time it enters into or terminates a treaty with another nation or international organization, notwithstanding that only Congress has the constitutional power to ratify treaties? Not necessarily, as termination of the amended Compact by the duly elected Congress may be a permissible constitutional process. On the US side, the amended Compact of Free Association was signed by President George Bush in 2003 and concurred to by a joint resolution of the 108th US Congress, not by the American voters or by a majority of the 50 state legislatures.

I hope the above helps to answer many of the good comments and questions raised by those constituents.

**Senator Mailo
Chuuk**

Pacific Daily News fails to print letter to the editor from Senator Figir

{Editor's Note: On December 10, 2015, Senator Isaac Figir sent the letter below to the Pacific Daily News in response to their coverage of the resolution he introduced regarding the Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the United States of America. The office of the FSM Congress contacted us this week asking us to print the letter since the Pacific Daily News failed to do so. It follows in its entirety.}

Dear Editor:

I am writing to respond to the article dated December 4, 2015 on my recently introduced Congressional resolution for the FSM to terminate the Compact of Free Association. I am appalled that the article violates journalistic ethics by mixing facts and opinions, and furthermore by getting the facts wrong. The PDN (Pacific Daily News) is considered a foremost source of information in the region so it is incumbent upon the paper to check its facts.

The most egregious misstatement of fact is the phrase "efforts by some elected congressional officials of the FSM to end the Compact sooner than the 2023 date to renegotiate the agreement." A factual check of the Compact would reveal that in fact there is NO mechanism to renegotiate the financial provisions of the Compact let alone the entire agreement. In other words in 2023 the US stops giving financial assistance to the FSM under the Compact. That is what is currently in the Compact.

As one introducer of the resolution it is incumbent upon myself to convince the Congress of the FSM to adopt the resolution. I may or may not succeed. But I will do so at the proper time on the floor of Congress where I will present my arguments. I would appreciate your paper to stop propagating erroneous speculation as to my motives. The resolution may get debated as early as the next session of Congress in January. Just wait and report.

One inane speculation of my motives has to do with an alleged grant from China for \$10 million. You can check the records of Congress. No such grant has been submitted to Congress for approval so I do not know anything about it, let alone having it as a reason for the resolution. This is just cheap inflammatory speculation that allowed you to launch into a completely unsupported discussion that beggared belief.

I would respectfully request that you correct the records on the renegotiation of the Compact, and also this so-called grant from China.

That being said I thank you for the article. This is matter for all FSM citizens to ponder about, and to discuss but with the right information.

**Sincerely,
Isaac Figir**

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Education Corner: Richard Womack, Ed.D

The C-word Revisited and the DDP

About 10 days ago I was informed that someone was expressing some serious disagreement with the W&A (2015) EC Column—the C-word in the on-line Micronesian Forum. It is a public forum so I immediately visited that site and indeed found a headline--**COM-Professor Dr. Womack and his concept of culture and change. Is he real?** The reader not only was disagreeing but was quite angry. At first I was taken aback because the interpretation was certainly not my intent. When this occurs I always take it to mean I was unclear and should try again. I did so and 7-8 others joined in and some real critical thinking occurred. But the whole exercise required the initial objections. Someone must challenge in this case the authority, me. As I mentioned in one EC (The R-word) when I taught at the college I always told the students how I wished someone would just stand up and say “Dr. Womack-I disagree and here is why”. I always pointed out it is one way to develop critical thinking skills. But my students always fell back on the R-word telling me that they just cannot be disrespectful to an old man-a professor-a doctor. This is

actually why I enjoyed the criticisms and joined in the discussions and as always—learned some more about Pohnpeians and Pohnpeian Culture. EC readers can view the various discussions at the Micronesian Forum and see folk’s opinions on many topics. I will now visit myself at least monthly as I did several years ago.

However the discussions force me to repeat several points EC has mentioned earlier

- Dr. Womack is no longer a professor at COM-FSM

- Womack and Associates (2015) is simply a group of professors who are “standing ready” to help train teachers and write textbooks and other much needed curriculum materials as called upon.

- Dr. Womack is a voluntary point person for W&A (2015) and serves as spokesperson, develops specific training and curriculum proposals, and writes the Education Corner. He is the Senior Associate—because he is the oldest of all Associates and he is real

- Always feel free to mail us at womackandassociates765@gmail.com with questions or criticisms. These are always answered within 24 hours. We accept all questions even those we are unable to answer—when that happens we will say so. If you want to air complaints publically that’s fine too.

- W&A (2015) has only one current project with Pohnpei State titled Data for

Decision Making Project (DDP)
Data for Decision Making

All the Education corners to date were written with this project in mind. We introduced you to little Willy doing first grade math and sister Willymina doing first grade addition problems. One had 80% and improvement was simple. The other missed four out of five and improvement may take more time. It was pointed out that it is the wrong answers that we actually want to look at. That tells us the improvement areas. Further, we introduced topics as need for evidence; FSM Accreditation; the R-word and C-word, standards and benchmarks; getting students to school and on time; Student Learning Outcomes; and assessment for improvement. But these were just preliminary to the project. We were trying to do a little education about Pohnpei schools, the teachers and the students and test scores on National examinations. We stated that educators, parents, and the community at large wishes to see improvement. Everyone does. But it is very possible. We firmly believe that improving students requires improving teachers. When we do this student scores will improve. This is an obvious truism but is sometimes ignored.

During the next several months we will test all elementary teachers on the science and social studies standards. This enables

us to see the strengths of the teachers and weaknesses of the teachers. It is on these weaknesses where specific focus for Continuing Education can improve individual teachers. We can see individual school weaknesses and like groups of weaker teachers and treat them. We treat teachers as we expect teachers to treat students—that is when they don’t do well we offer a prescription—as do doctors. By focusing on teacher weakness we know where and to whom to offer Continuing Education. We know of no profession where Continuing Education is not found and usually it is required. At the same time the project focuses on the School Principal and the role of the school’s curriculum leader. This role is critical as we all work with a new system that grants all schools more independence. The demands on the school principal are almost over whelming. This project adds one more. Get your teachers into Continuing Education and see to their improvement.

And At the same time we shall inventory all science and social studies curriculum in each classroom in every school. We shall see where there are needs for new textbooks. These should be written at grade level using our local environment the reference. Next EC we will do “Making Relevant Curriculum. We think many of you will learn quite a bit from this upcoming topic.

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