

The
KASELEHLIE PRESS

This bi-weekly publication is only \$1.00

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Former Chuuk Tuna Industry building burns in Weno

Residents of Weno, Chuuk sent photos to the K Press of the FSM Petroleum Corporation fuel tank farm engulfed in smoke.

The fire was not at the FSMPC tank farm but at the former Chuuk Tuna Industry building, which is now occupied by the Chuuk Department of Transportation.

See Story on Page 5



Falling COMET

“These test results represent not only a failing public school system but also ruined lives. ...If this is not a national emergency, I don’t know what is,”

U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, Peter Prahar

Article on page 8

High tech ARFF building completed



Story on page 11

“Kizuna” in the Pacific that binds us all together



“Kizuna” - The bond of friendship.

The kizuna between Japan and Pacific Island Countries is deeply rooted in the fact that we share the same Pacific Ocean and the common spirits of islanders nurtured by this great Ocean.

See Japan Prime Minister Noda’s Message on Page 4

Former CDPS Director Emilio and Detective John arrested

Charged with six counts related to beating tourist while in custody

“This is a major step forward in this investigation and of course it is now a matter for the Court to determine and I will not go into the facts of the case. However, I am prepared to say that these arrests demonstrate that we in the DPS are determined to ensure that our community and our Government can be assured that we are committed to the highest standards of integrity with the Police. We will investigate our own where there are allegations of wrongdoing.”

CDPS Director Kerson Rizal

See Story on Page 6

Putting our islands on the map – jigsaw-puzzles to teach kids geography

Island Research & Education Initiative (IREI)

Kolonia, Pohnpei - April, 27, 2012 - Island Research & Education Initiative (IREI) has developed a unique educational resource for children, to encourage them to learn the fundamentals of our nation's geography through play. Entitled "Maps of Micronesia -- Book of Puzzles," the resource is a high-quality, full-color book containing within it a series of seven custom-made jigsaw puzzles. Each puzzle separately introduces one main island or island group in Micronesia via a child-friendly map and descriptive text and artwork. The unique jigsaw-puzzle approach was chosen to support children's natural curiosity and allow them to learn while playing.

The production of these books was funded by the Direct Aid Program through the Australian Embassy in Kolonia. Created as a non-profit endeavor, the books will not be sold. Instead, they will be individually donated to children and their families throughout the FSM. They will be presented to the public for the first time on Saturday, May 19th at the Pohnpei Public Library. Representatives of Island Research & Education Initiative and the Australian Embassy will be at the library from 09:00 until 12:00 and give a present of one book to each family that brings their children to this event.



Micronesian countries top Asia/Pacific press freedom index

Radio New Zealand

The Freedom House annual press freedom report has listed Palau and the Marshall Islands at the top of 40 nations in the Asia/Pacific region in media freedom.

The Federated States of Micronesia comes in at number five.

A former Pacific Magazine publisher Floyd Takeuchi says history has shown that media freedom is central to the development of democratic institutions in all three of the independent nations in the Western Pacific.

Mr Takeuchi says in his view, the impact of newspapers in the Micronesian region is greater today than it was in the 1970s.

Francis Hezel, an American Jesuit priest who in the 1970s founded the Micronesian Seminar think tank, says the most important factor for governments in the north Pacific to support media freedom is the reputation of the government itself.

He says to withhold public information would needlessly tarnish the governments in the eyes of the United States and the world.

Cultural sites visited by Yap students

Habele Outer Island Education Fund

Friday, May 4, 2012

Yap, Micronesia - Approximately 30 students from St. Mary's Elementary School in Yap visited the canoe carving site in Colonia, home of



the Waa'gey Canoe Building Project. Waa'gey, in partnership with the Habele Outer Island Education Fund, was established to promote cultural activities among the island's youth.

"Every generation is responsible to the next generation for the instruction of our local customs and traditions. Never is that more apparent in the teaching and learning of these kinds of skills, which were acquired by our ancestors over thousands of years. Without the transfer of this knowledge and these skills, our heritage, in this regard, could be lost in a single generation," said Larry Raigetel, the founder of the Waa'gey NGO and it's Canoe Building Project.

some of the techniques required in building local canoes first hand by the carvers on site. They were also treated to a tour of the Yap Living Museum and were informed about the cultural significance of such places by the staff of Yap's Historic Preservation Office. Students of St. Mary's will continue to visit in groups continuing into next week through Wednesday.

Several of the Sant Mary's students are attending that school through Habele's K-12 Tuition Scholarship Program, which supports low-income families sending their children to non-public schools.

Learn more online at www.habele.blogspot.com

The students of St. Mary's were shown

The Kaselehlie Press

Your Newspaper for Today and Tomorrow

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Congress addresses FY-2013 national budget

FSM Congress

PALIKIR, POHNPEI. May 8, 2012

The Fourth Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia convened yesterday to address among other issues, President Emanuel Mori's proposed national budget of 57,079,288 for fiscal year 2013.

President Mori submitted the proposed budget for the National Government on April 1 detailing the following:

- a. 43,054,800 (75.4%) to be funded from Domestic Revenue;
- b. 9,318,401 (16.3%) to be funded from Compact sectors & SEG; and
- c. 4,706,087 (8.2%) would be from US Federal Grants and other Grants.

Aside from the funding for general operations and functions of the National Government, the President highlighted several funding requests which he considered critical in FSM's future economic growth and those included:

- \$2 million plus for set-aside for the Compact Trust Fund and the FSM Trust Fund;
- \$1 million set-aside for FSM Development Bank to increase its capability to loan funds to businesses to support private sector growth;

- \$1.5 million to assist with the power emergency of Pohnpei State;
- Additional \$1 million in funding for outer island airport expansion;
- \$0.7 million from local revenues to fund what JEMCO has decided to reduce in funding for the College of Micronesia-FSM operations.

The President's letter also requested "as part of the ongoing efforts to assist the States," for Congress to consider the following measures:

- Tax reform measures and funding request;
- Operation budget for field trip ship;
- Outer islands airport expansion;
- Sekere bridge; and
- Local matching for FAA funded AIP projects.

Yesterday's session launched the national budget season where Congress calls in the Departments, offices and agencies of the National Government to explain their proposed budgets. The May sessions are traditionally referred to as Budget Sessions since it primarily focuses on the national government budget, especially those portion of the national budget funded through the amended Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the United States.

The Fourth Regular Session of the 17th Congress is scheduled for 20 days to end on May 26th unless extended or shortened through Congressional Resolution.

As usual, the sessions of Congress convene at 10am in the Congress Chambers in Palikir and are open to the interested public.

1st Annual GEAR UP Science Fair and Expo 2012

COM-FSM


KOLONIA, Pohnpei, April/May, 2012 — The GEAR UP-Pohnpei program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) housed at COM-FSM Pohnpei campus and addressing student academic outcomes announces that it will hold its 1st annual Science Fair and Expo 2012 at the Pohnpei Campus gymnasium on May 19, 2012, from 2-4pm.

The Science Fair and Expo 2012 is funded from the Direct Aid Program of the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei and allows over 360 8th graders from Saladak, Sekere, Awak, Nett, Kolonia, and Ohmine schools to participate in the science research project. Currently, students are doing literature and internet research during GEAR UP computer classes on Pohnpei campus on Saturdays and during its after-school program Mondays through Fridays. The Australian funded "Middle School Science Program and Expo" will allow the students "hands-on" research and to feel like "real scientists", as they will be able to test their theoretical hypothesis. Student groups will compete against their classmates


at the school science fair. They will present their projects and answer a variety of questions posed by two judges; their teacher and an outside volunteer judge. The top performing groups from each classroom will advance to the Expo. It is estimated that 100 students with the best research projects will compete in a science fair expo on May 19, 2012. At the expo event, judges will go from group to group posing questions and listening to remarks. Students will be judged according to their ability to effectively communicate and present their science projects. Once completed, the team of judges will determine the top three science projects. Students will receive a variety of awards and prizes.

Mark the date on your calendar and support the young Pohnpeian scientists!


GEAR UP program is funded by the US Department of Education and aims at preparing students to enter and succeed in the post-secondary education. If you would like to know more about GEAR UP program, please visit us at Pohnpei Campus or call at 320-3795.




KAMAGAR!




KINISOU CHAPUR!



KALAHNGAN!



KULO MA LULAP!



Founder Frank Lyon mapping the Trust Territories in 1975...

Mahalo!

LY ★ ★ ★ N

...for the privilege of "Improving Island Life" since 1961...

Two Xavier High School students named Gates Millennium Scholars

Two graduating seniors at Xavier High School in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia were named Gates Millennium Scholars by the Gates Millennium Scholars Program. The two members of Xavier's Class of 2012 are among 1,000 young scholars worldwide who have received the coveted award, which provides a full-cost scholarship for their entire undergraduate program at a college or university of their choice. The scholarship also can be extended for graduate studies.

This year's Gates Millennium Scholars at Xavier High School are Pearl Asugar of Weno, Chuuk and Honolulu, Hawaii; and Eleanor Titiml of Koror, Palau.

Ms. Asugar will attend St. Martin's University in Lacy, Washington, where she will major in civil engineering. Ms. Titiml will study marine biology at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

"We are extremely proud of Pearl and Eleanor. They have worked hard for this honor. Their Gates Millennium Scholarships will allow them to continue to excel in scholarship, leadership and service," said the Rev. R. Richard McAuliff, SJ, director of Xavier High School.

Ms. Asugar and Ms. Titiml are the latest Xavier High School students to be named Gates Millennium Scholars. Six other Xavier seniors since 2000 have received the honor. They are Ryan Edgar, Witmark Tokeak, Sheryl Yumiko Lomongo, Jonathan Thinsew, Kayviann Hallers, and Michael Kigimnang.

Ms. Asugar is the daughter of Jack Edward and Doreen Asugar. Her maternal grandparents, Henry and Maggie Asugar, also raised her. The late Mr. Asugar was a member of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia representing Chuuk, and before that was a long-time Clerk of the FSM Congress.

Ms. Titiml is the daughter of Serafina Titiml and the late Rudimch Titiml. Her grandparents, Salvador Rekisiwang and Theodosia Ebibei, and Isau Titiml and Renguul Klaulechad, are also deceased.

This year's class of Gates Millennium Scholars includes 1,000 students from 47 states in the United States of America; the District of Columbia; the Marshall Islands; the Federated States of Micronesia; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Puerto Rico; and, the U.S. Virgin Islands, according to the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



Pearl Asugar

The program announced that this year's scholarship recipients would attend 348 colleges and universities. Current Gates Scholars attend a total of 723 colleges and universities in the United States.

The Catholic Church's Society of Jesus founded Xavier High School on Weno, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, in 1952. It is a college preparatory boarding school for young men and women from across the Western Pacific in grades 9 through 12. Among its many distinguished graduates are presidents of the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, physicians, diplomats, lawyers, members of national Congresses and community and church leaders.



Eleanor Titiml

Xavier High School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

"Kizuna" in the Pacific that binds us all together

A friend in need is a friend indeed. This widely quoted but truthful proverb was most manifestly embodied by the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami last year. We will never forget the compassionate encouragement and assistance from the people of the Federated States of Micronesia and other PICs at the time of the unprecedented national crisis. Here again, on behalf of the people of Japan, I wish to express our deepest gratitude to everyone concerned.

On the 25th and 26th of this month, I am hosting the sixth Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM6), a triennial summit between Japan and PICs since 1997. It will take place in Okinawa, an island prefecture in southern Japan, which shares unique but similar characteristics with PICs. In PALM6, we will discuss five major issues for our further cooperation: response to natural disasters, environment and climate change, sustainable development based upon human security, people-to-people exchanges, and maritime issues. I look forward to having frank discussions with His Excellency President Mori and other PIC leaders. These issues are of vital importance to the well being of the people of our region and are areas where Japan and PICs can jointly contribute to the international community. I am determined to work with the PIC leaders to make this summit a true success.

Japan, as a development partner on an equal footing, has been working together with PICs in their nation building. We cannot deny that Japan is still faced with enormous challenges including reconstruction from the disaster. I intend to declare at PALM6, however, that we will never let this fact undermine our commitment to the region. Hardship at home should not be an excuse for drawing back from the engagement in the region. Rather, hardship taught us the importance of "kizuna," or the bond of friendship. The kizuna between Japan and PICs is deeply rooted in the fact that we share the same Pacific Ocean and the common spirits of islanders nurtured by this great Ocean. Your heartfelt support during our national crisis gave us the conviction that we should carry on.

This "kizuna" of course extends to Fiji, too. Fiji's ongoing process to build a firmly based democracy is of great importance to the stability and prosperity of the region. Japan's message is clear and consistent. We are friends of the Fijian people as we are of other PICs. We hope that Fiji will continue to take concrete actions towards free and fair elections no later than 2014 and, to this end, we intend to maintain close dialogue with the Fiji Government. We look forward to further positive developments.

It is "kizuna" that binds us all together in the Pacific and motivates us to keep on working hand in hand towards the future. I sincerely hope that Japan and PICs, based upon long-lasting friendship and cooperation, will continue to act together to achieve peaceful and prosperous future of the Pacific.

Yoshihiko Noda
Prime Minister of Japan



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Ehsa reports on his first 100 days in a live press conference

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 7, 2012

Peilapalap, Pohnpei, FSM—This afternoon



Governor Ehsa gave his report on his first 100 days in office for his second term. The press conference was aired live on

State AM Radio V6AH and was conducted primarily in Pohnpeian unless questions were asked in English.

He said that he submitted eleven cabinet members to the Legislature for advice and consent. The legislature confirmed five nominees; the Directors of the Departments of Education, and Treasury and Administration, the Public Auditor, and the Administrators for the Offices of Economic Affairs, and Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The Legislature rejected three of his nominees; the Directors of the Departments of Public Safety, Health Services, and Land and Natural Resources. He said that resubmission of those nominees to the Legislature might be in order.

Pending in the Legislature are his nominees for the Offices of Social Affairs, and Election Commissioner, and the Pohnpei Transportation authority.

He announced that he is nominating Judah Johnny for the position of Attorney General.

His executive reorganization bill has so far stalled in the Legislature. He said that he called a special session of the Legislature specifically to deal with that issue but they did not act on it in the Special Session.

The Legislature still has not passed a tax reform bill. He said that last year the FSM Congress enacted the first piece of the tax reform package that all five governments worked on together. All four of the States needed to have passed their own enabling legislation by April 19, 2012 when the Unified Revenue Authority was scheduled to begin its operations. He said that Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae had already passed their enabling legislation and he submitted the bill in plenty of time to meet the April 19, 2012 deadline but the legislature still has not acted on it.

He said that he will continue to lobby for the passage of a bill that was defeated in 2011 for the purpose of purchasing a new field trip ship. He said the bill was previously defeated because the legislature had differing views regarding the manner and method of the financial aspect of the proposed legislation.

He said that he will submit to the legislature a comprehensive bill to fully implement the school lunch program. The school lunch program is in its 3rd year of service to the public elementary schools. Of the 31

elementary schools in Pohnpei 20 of them are being served a lunch at school. Additionally the program is active in three high schools, and 20 Early Childhood Education Centers. Of Pohnpei's school population 74 percent are currently participating in the school lunch program. Currently 7,835 students are being served a lunch at school.

He said that 90 percent of the school principals on the main island of Pohnpei support the school lunch program.

He said that on the outer islands of Pohnpei one elementary school of five is serving lunch.

He said that Sekere, Nett, Ohmine, Salapwuk, and Seinwar Schools do not participate in the program for any of a combination of the following reasons:

- 1) Lack of or an inadequate kitchen facility,
- 2) Lack of Parent Teacher Association and/or volunteer support,
- 3) No cafeteria,
- 4) The PTA reached a consensus not to participate in the program.

The Administration intends to eventually have all public pre-schools, elementary, and secondary schools included in the school lunch program.

From his printed materials we could not make his numbers reconcile in his report.

Governor Ehsa reported that he has re-activated the Economic Planning Commission. The core mission of the Economic Planning Commission is to focus on Pohnpei's fiscal situation at the key productive sectors of fisheries and aquaculture, agriculture, and tourism and on critical public infrastructure.

He spent a good deal of time talking about the details of the Commission.

Governor Ehsa also presented the summary of the findings of the Energy Task Force on the current power crisis in Pohnpei. Much of that summary was a reiteration of the interview we printed in the previous issue of The Kaselehlie Press but some of it was new.

He said that "the Nanpil Hydroelectric plant needs immediate rehabilitation and all seven generators in the Nanpohmmal power plant must be replaced with new generators without delay.

"Approximately 20.5 million dollars is needed for the overall recovery from the power crisis: \$7 million is needed immediately in order to stabilize the current power situation and \$13 million for a sustainable long power generation system.

"Outside assistance is definitely needed and fortunately several companies have indicated their interest to assist PUC with the power crisis but unfortunately the PUC enabling law must first be amended in order to allow independent power producers to participate in the recovery plan.

"Without the needed reform to the PUC law, the crisis will continue and a 'fatal accident

Former Chuuk Tuna Industry building burns in Weno

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 9, 2012

Weno, Chuuk—Concerned residents of Weno, Chuuk sent photos to the Kaselehlie Press this afternoon of the FSM Petroleum Corporation fuel tank farm engulfed in smoke. Their accompanying messages described loud explosions but no one seemed to know for certain what was burning.

But the fire this morning was not at the FSMPC tank farm but at the former Chuuk Tuna Industry building in Weno, which is now occupied by the Chuuk Department of Transportation.

Some Chuuk residents were concerned that the fire might jump across the space between the two properties. If it had done so the results would have been cataclysmic for Chuuk's fuel supply now and for a long time to come.

But Bill Stinnett who was for a time, Chuuk's Director of CDPS said that he was on the scene not too long after the fire broke out and that he had seen the efforts of the firefighters.

may happen any time."

We asked him if he was aware that Pohnpei State had sold its shares to Caroline Fisheries Corporation six years ago during the administration of Johnny David and asked if knowing that might change some of his answers to our questions during his interview from the last issue.

He said that nothing ever went through the legislature and to the best of his knowledge Pohnpei State still owns 49 percent of CFC.

We said that we had heard that at least one of the generators purchased by CFC had already been installed at the Nanpohmmal power plant and wondered if he could confirm that.

He spoke on the basis of rumors because he said PUC still is not keeping him informed about their actions. He said that the rumor was that the generator would not fit into the power plant and that new building would have to be built to house it. He added that last week a Korean engineer had a look at the "donated" CFC generators and said that they were so old they could not possibly run at more than 50 percent of their capacity.

We asked him at what point the Governor of the State would ever be able to speak on matters involving PUC without having to refer to rumors.

He smiled and said that if the Legislature would pass his PUC enabling act the days of rumors coming from the Governor's office about what is happening at PUC would be over.



"I went all the way to the fire when I first learned about it, gave my advice to the manager of Petro Corp, to the Public Utilities, and to the Police - which was basically 'get pumps and start fighting the fire and keeping the fuel storage tanks wet - if that becomes necessary'," he wrote.

In another email he wrote, "The airport ARFF trucks and personnel have responded and they are working well. I've seen firemen fighting the fire while standing between the fuel farm and the burning structure. The old Fisheries complex will certainly be completely destroyed but I believe this will be the only damage."

Chuuk Department of Public Safety personnel evacuated the areas in the vicinity of the fire and there were no casualties from the fire. At press time a CDPS spokesperson said that the fire had been contained.

Some communications with the newspaper while the fire raged said that the Bank of Guam was on fire. The Bank of Guam is across the street from the building that burned.

According to a person speaking on behalf of CDPS Director Kerson Rizal, no neighboring or adjacent properties were damaged. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined and CDPS inquiries are continuing.

Details are few and far between but as best we have been able to determine from witnesses to the event, at the time the fire broke out a plane was on the ground at Chuuk International Airport. Airport firefighters attended to their duties at the airport and then came to help fight the fire at the burning building.

Witnesses say that the airport's two striker firefighting vehicles were on the scene of the fire at least by noon and that by that time the Airport firefighters, dressed in full firefighting attire were standing alongside CDPS personnel to fight the fire.

Chuuk does not have its own fire truck.

"There was excellent inter-agency cooperation and support to CDPS during this incident including the Department of Public Works, Pacific International Incorporated, Chuuk Power and Utilities Corporation, FSM PetroCorp and local businesses," the CDPS spokesperson said.

Former CDPS Director Emilio and Detective John arrested

Charged with six counts related to beating tourist while in custody

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

May 9, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—Chuuk police have arrested their former boss, Jimmy Emilio, and Damian John, a fellow officer, on charges that they threatened and beat Theresa Price, a tourist, while she was in police custody last year.

Police arrested the two men late on the afternoon of Friday, April 27 based on a warrant issued by Associate Justice Miday O. Aisek on Monday, April 23.

According to a press release from the Chuuk Department of Public Safety (CDPS) also suspended Detective Damian John.

Chuuk's Attorney General filed its case (097-2012) against Emilio and John on April 19 after a lengthy investigation by Chuuk's Department of Public Safety (CDPS) and after a further investigation by the AG's office. Their case accuses Emilio and John of two counts of "Misconduct in Office", one count of "Threats", one count of "Reckless Endangering", a count of "Assault and Battery", and a count of "Assault with a Dangerous Weapon".

In their court filing State prosecutors say that on the evening of March 18, 2011, Emilio and John, accompanied by other unnamed police officers responded to a complaint by Theresa Price. Sometime during the interview Emilio ordered her arrest and she was cuffed and forcibly placed in the back of the cab of a police truck.

The filing alleges that after their arrival at the police station Price, who was still handcuffed, was placed into a locked room alone with the two defendants who then beat her while she was incapable of escaping or defending herself.

It alleges that during that beating Emilio and John hit her with a police baton or other blunt object, punched her, removed her shoes and stomped on her toes with their boots and threw her against a cement floor, and against a cement wall, and choked her.

It alleges that during the beating the two threatened to kill her and made other threats.

The prosecutors accuse the two of then taking her to another room where they

continued to beat her and to verbally threaten her.

The counts against them carry a combine total maximum jail term of eight and a half years, or a total maximum fine of \$7450, or both jail and fines.

Every charged defendant has the right to have an initial appearance in court within 24 hours. Late on the afternoon of Saturday, April 28 Emilio and John appeared at the Chuuk Supreme Court in front of Associate Justice Repeat Samuel. Samuel pronounced in open court that he would be handling only the initial appearance because of conflicts of interest due to the fact that he is related to both of the defendants.

The initial appearance was not an arraignment. Neither defendant has yet been offered an opportunity to declare their guilt or innocence on any of the charges in an arraignment hearing.

The case has been assigned to Associate Justice Aisek and the defendants have been instructed to see the presiding justice for the scheduling of arraignment and other proceedings.

During the initial hearing Samuel signed an order for release from custody with conditions for both defendants. Under that order Emilio and John were released on their own recognizance. They must remain in Chuuk State and obey all of the laws wherever they reside in the State. They are not allowed to approach the victim, or Government witnesses except through counsel. They were required to surrender their travel documents and were ordered not to apply for an FSM passport. They may not consume any alcohol or drugs. They cannot possess any dangerous weapons.

If they violate any of the terms of their release they can be returned to custody.

In a press release dated today CDPS Director Kerson Rizal said, "This is a major step forward in this investigation and of course it is now a matter for the Court to determine and I will not go into the facts of the case. However, I am prepared to say that these arrests demonstrate that we in the DPS are determined to ensure that our community and our Government can be assured that we are committed to the highest standards of integrity with the Police. We will investigate our own where there are allegations of wrongdoing."



Australian Volunteers International (AVI) – Program Officer - North Pacific Office (Kolonia, Pohnpei)

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) is a leader in international development, with 60 years' experience sending skilled Australians to work in Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. With our head office in Melbourne, Australia, and country offices throughout the world, AVI offers a range of programs and technical assistance, which are funded by the Australian Government through AusAID, and managed together with other agencies.

KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE PROGRAM OFFICER

- Support the Country Manager in the delivery of the Volunteer Program across the North Pacific (RMI, FSM and Palau), providing a day to day point of contact for volunteers, employers and key stakeholders.
- Assist in volunteer arrival and orientation, assignment monitoring and evaluation and provide on-going support to volunteers in their placements.
- Support the Country Manager in the provision of 24 hour security cover and management of critical incidents.
- Assist the Country Manager in maintaining a high level of communication with program partners in the development and monitoring of assignments.
- Assist the Country Manager to develop and implement employer/partner preparedness workshops.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Strong interpersonal skills, including the capacity to maintain open and constructive communications with a wide range of stakeholders in an international context
- Possess a high level of understanding and knowledge of regional North Pacific issues, detailed knowledge of Palau and/or other FSM states would be considered an advantage
- Proven experience in the preparation of written reports.
- Sound administrative skills, including database, spreadsheet and word-processing software packages
- Proven people management skills, an empathic approach with maturity of judgement and problem solving capability.
- Understanding and commitment to AVI's vision and values
- Preference given to a Federated States of Micronesia national fluent in English (written and spoken)

The successful candidate will possess extensive experience in a similar role.

For a full outline of the position and a copy of the role profile please contact Annie Himmelsteib – Country Manager at northpacific@australianvolunteers.com or call 320-3890.

Application Procedure:

Please submit a current resume to Annie Himmelsteib at the above email. Applications close at midnight on Sunday, May 20th.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC AUDITOR

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Annual Audits of the Federated States of Micronesia (5 Governments)

Fiscal Year 2012-2014

The Office of the National Public Auditor for the Federated States of Micronesia invites interested professional accounting firms to submit written proposals to conduct the annual audits of the National and four State Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia for FY 2012, 2013, and 2014.

The audits will include financial and compliance audits of the Federated States of Micronesia pursuant to the Single Audit Act of 1984, as amended, OMB Circular A-133, and the Amended Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America, for FY 2012, 2013, and 2014.

The audits will cover each reporting entity of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia as defined by U.S. Public Law 99-239 TITLE FOUR, Article VI, Section 461 (d). The audits will be performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, provisions of the Amended Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America and its related agreement for Implementation of Economic Assistance Programs and Services, and Federal auditing standards in the United States; including the Government Auditing Standards, issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO); the Single Audit Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-502), as amended; and Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations, issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as amended.

In addition, the auditor will be expected to follow the recommendations of the AICPA State and Local Government Committee as set forth in the accounting guide, Audits of State and Local Governmental Units, Revised Edition.

Proposals must be post-marked no later than June 15, 2012, and received at the FSM Office of the National Public Auditor at the address below, no later than 4:30 p.m., Pohnpei local time, or June 29, 2012 if by postal delivery.

Mr. Haser Hainrick, National Public Auditor
Office of the National Public Auditor
Federated States of Micronesia
P.O. PS-05
Palikir, Pohnpei 96941
Phone: (691) 320-2862/2863
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E-mail: hhainrick@fsmopa.fm

A full version of the RFP document can be accessed at www.fsmopa.fm, or by contacting: →

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May 3, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—The recently released outcomes of the COMET, the College of Micronesia FSM Entrance Test have a sad story to tell about the state of FSM education.

“These test results represent not only a failing public school system but also ruined lives. Most of the 2012 graduates of the public schools are facing lifetimes of limited choice and opportunity. If this is not a national emergency, I don’t know what is,” exclaimed U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, Peter Prahar.

FSM working to improve education standards

Burnis Danis of the FSM Department of Education said that the FSM is working systematically on improving education in the FSM through its accreditation standards which have only recently begun to be implemented. He said that a great number of schools across the FSM do not meet accreditation standards. The accreditation reports will be a “great measure to determine which schools

“Every student has the right to a quality education.”
Burnis Danis,
FSM Department of Education

need help and what specific kind of help they need to improve their schools.”

He said that many of the schools that do not meet accreditation standards have system wide problems, from the administration

and the teachers, to the communities and the parents. He said that in some schools even the teachers lack high expectations for students. “They think they can only get to a certain level so that’s the way they teach,” he said.

He said that when it all comes right down to it the accreditation standards are all about the students. “Every student has the right to a quality education,” he exclaimed.

NMCT an early predictor

Danis said that the FSM each year administers a National Minimum Competency Test for students in sixth, eighth, and 10th grades. DOE has seen a correlation between the results of those tests and the results of the COMET tests. Both are used as tools by educators to gauge educational success in Primary and Secondary levels.

What is the COMET?

The COMET measures English writing skills, and Gates reading comprehension level. It also tests Mathematical competency but the Math result is only used to determine what level of Mathematics a student is prepared to study at the College. For admission to the college, the two most important scores are writing and reading comprehension.

For a student to be accepted into COM’s degree program they must achieve a score of 34 to 50 on a written essay. They must also have a reading comprehension

COMET scores paint a

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

level of 9th grade and up.

For a student to be accepted into COM’s degree program with an ACE participation requirement a student must score between 28 and 33 points on the essay portion of the test and demonstrate a Gate Reading Comprehension level of 7th to 8th grade.

Students who qualify for a Vocational Certificate program achieve writing scores of 20 to 27 and Gates reading levels of 5th to 6th grade.

Students who score lower than 20 or who have a Gates reading comprehension level of less than 5th grade are not admitted to the College.

Joey Oducado of the College’s Admissions department said that there are cases of “score disconnect,” in which a student scores very high in writing but very poorly on reading comprehension. He said that in those rare cases, if the Mathematics score is also sufficiently high (a score of 96 to 100) there are alternate admissions criteria that can be applied.

FSM wide COMET results

This year 1609 people in the FSM opted to sit for the exam. The test is not limited to High School seniors. High School graduates and holders of General Education Diplomas (GEDs) can take the test at any COM campus whenever it is administered even if they have previously failed the examination.

Of the 1609 students who sat for the examination in 2012 across the FSM, including “walk-ins” at COM State campuses, only 362 students (24.84 percent) had a high enough score to be accepted into the degree program.

362 students (22.5 percent) had a score sufficient to be accepted on a degree track with a requirement that they also must participate in ACE by successfully completing an English as Second Language course, a remedial math course, or both. ACE stands for Achieving College Excellence.

482 students (29.96 percent) had a score sufficient to be accepted into a vocational education certificate program at the college.

406 students (25.23 percent) did not score high enough to be accepted into any program at the college.

The statistics above are percentages based on totals for all schools but in each category there is a large standard deviation which means that the percentage of students in each category

for any individual school can vary widely from the aggregated scores.

Percentages of students who scored sufficiently to be admitted to a degree program this year vary from 0 percent to 100 percent. Across the FSM there were eight schools in which none of the students scored high enough to be admitted to the degree program and only one that had 100 percent of its seniors admitted. Last year, two schools had 100 percent entry and only three schools had zero percent.

Percentages of students on a school by school basis who scored sufficiently to be admitted to a degree program with an ACE requirement vary from 0 to 44.83 percent.

Percentages of students that had scores that qualified them to be admitted to COM in a vocational certificate program vary from zero to 71.43 percent.

Large statistical variance

The startling statistic in the COMET results is the standard deviation in the aggregate percentage of students who failed the COMET.

On the whole, 25.23 percent of students failed the COMET but the standard deviation for individual school scores is 30.52 percent.

The worst rate of test failure was at the Southern Namoneas High School in Tonowas which had a 96.55 percent failure rate. Faichuk was next at 91.49 percent and Southern Namoneas HS in Fefan had an 84.09 percent rate of student failure on the test.

Kosrae High School this year had a failure rate of only 6.85 percent and a degree qualifying percentage of 35.62 percent. Kosrae is the only High School in the FSM at which college students can also take the test and their statistics are skewed by that fact. Last year 43.79 percent of their students qualified for admission into a degree program and only 5.23 percent failed the test. Paul Hadik who was Kosrae’s Director of Education last year said that excluding the college test takers 49 percent of Kosrae High School’s student scored high enough to be admitted to a COM degree program last year.

Private schools in the FSM fared better on the whole than public schools with a 9.9 percent “non-admit” rate amongst their 232 students...

Pohnpei’s worst performing school on the test was Madolenihmw High School and only 11.76 percent failed the test there. Yap’s worst test performer of only three schools was Outer Islands High School at 44.44 percent of its student

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bleak FSM educational portrait

who failed the exam.

FSM private schools fared better than public schools

Private schools in the FSM fared better on the whole than public schools with a 9.9 percent "non-admit" rate amongst their 232 students.

But some FSM private schools seemed only to differ from public schools because of the fact that they charge a fee for education. Mizpah High School had the seventh highest non-admit percentage on the COMET and Chuuk Seventh Day Adventist school had the ninth highest non-admit percentage. Berea High School immediately followed in 10th from the bottom position.

However, there were only six FSM schools in which no students failed the test and one in which only one failed the test. They were all private schools. Two of those schools also had no students admitted into a vocational certificate program. Four of them had no students admitted with a requirement for ACE. All of Yap Seventh Day Adventists' five students qualified for a degree program. 28 of Xavier's 29 students qualified. 81.82 percent of Calvary Christian Academy's student qualified and 60.98 of Pohnpei Seventh Day Adventist qualified for a degree program.

232 students in the FSM's 11 private schools took the COMET. Of them 103 (44.4 percent) qualified for a degree program; 49 (21.12 percent) qualified for ACE; 57 (24.57 percent) qualified for Certificate programs, and 23 (13.31 percent) did not pass the test.

FSM public school test scores

In the FSM's 14 public schools 1,199 students took the test. Of them 248 (20.68 percent) qualified for a degree program; 280 (23.35 percent) qualified for ACE; 354 (29.52) percent qualified for Certificate programs, and 317 (26.44 percent) did not pass the test.

"The wide disparity in learner outcomes between private and public schools underscores a point I have been making for over two years: There is nothing – nothing whatsoever – wrong with the students," Ambassador Prahar said. "There is, however, something seriously wrong with public schools that for whatever reason are failing to deliver well-structured, sequential programs in well-managed classes day in and day out for a minimum of 180 full days of academic instruction per grade so that the students learn the material and maintain learning momentum."

"Some (in leadership positions) resist educational reform efforts in order to keep their constituents employed even if they are not performing. I again ask everyone in a leadership position to put children first and get behind comprehensive, well-designed reform programs." United States Ambassador to the FSM Peter Prahar

Some students were intentionally excluded from taking the test

A spokesperson for the FSM Department of Education said that this year records show that there are 1610 registered seniors in all high schools across the nation. The COMET statistics show that 1609 students took the test this year. It also showed that 178 students took the COMET at State campuses in Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei. This means that at least 177 students registered as seniors in the FSM did not take the test.

Though the test is optional for seniors, apparently not every senior who wanted to sit for the exam was given that opportunity.

One of the concerns over the last few years has been the allegations that schools are turning away students on test days to improve the appearance of their scores. One example is a high school on Weno Island in Chuuk. According to COM data in 2010, that school had 76 seniors take the test. This year only 19 seniors took the test.

Oducado said that when he administered the test at that school this year he was really surprised at the small number of students who were there to take it.

The principal of another Weno school asked his colleague if he had sent students home on test day. His colleague told him that he had done so because those seniors, "were academically ineligible to take the test."

According to the administrative office at Weno High School 32 students are academically eligible to graduate.

The principal from the neighboring school said that when some of the students asked him if they could take the test at his school this year he welcomed and accommodated the students to sit for the exam even though they didn't attend "his" school.

Test results at the school that sent students home were worse than that school's test result last year. A higher percentage of students in that school failed outright this year than did last year.

A lower percentage of students were admitted with an ACE qualification, and a higher percentage of students were admitted to a certificate program. None of the seniors the principal allowed to take the test scored sufficiently to qualify for a degree program.

The person who was the principal of Weno High School at the time of the COMET this year was promoted and is now in charge of all elementary and secondary schools for the Northern Namoneas Region.

Resistance to educational reform

"Too many in leadership positions look on the education system as a jobs program and not as an education program. Some resist educational reform efforts in order to keep their constituents employed even if they are not performing. I again ask everyone in a leadership position to put children first and get behind comprehensive, well-designed reform programs," said U.S. Ambassador Prahar.

The Ambassador was not referring to a "jobs program" for students but to a "jobs program" for educators, administrators, and support staff.

He had particularly strong words to say regarding Chuuk's educational system:

"The failure of the public high schools in Chuuk is particularly striking and calls for serious remedial action," he said. "The performance of the seniors enrolled in Chuuk schools that offer little or no academic instruction was predictably catastrophic: Faichuuk (91% non-admit); Fefen (84% non-admit); Tonowas (97% non-admit); and Mortlock (77% non-admit). In other words, virtually every graduating senior from these schools had not reached the 5th grade level."

COM State Campus COMET results

At COM State Campuses the success rates were also poor leading some to make the assumption that after a year of remedial classes COM students come out of those programs knowing less than when they went in. 66 (37.08 percent) of COMET test takers at COM State Campuses failed the test.

Joey Oducado of the admissions department explained that the statistics are misleading in the extreme. He explained that whenever the COMET is administered at the college campuses anyone can sit for the examination. A holder of a High School or General Education diploma can sit for the exam no matter how long it has been since they were in school. Former students of the College who have been absent from the school for some time can also sit for the exam.

No current college student is required to take the test no matter their qualification.

Students with an ACE requirement can opt to take the exam to try to advance

to a degree program without an ACE requirement. ACE students are required to take a final exam for their remedial classes. If they pass that exam they have met the requirement. If they fail it they have to take the class again. Those final exam scores are not reflected with the COMET test results. "Very few ACE students opt to sit for the COMET," he said.

"We made breakfast for the students. Then when they finished we had a BBQ waiting for them and everyone had fun." Paul Hadik, Consultant for Chuuk DOE

Students in a certificate program can opt to sit for the COMET in order to change their track to a degree track. Some students do sit for that exam and some fail it. If they fail they maintain

their "certificate status." There is no remedial education requirement for certificate students and their test results are reflected in the total of all COMET scores.

Statistics don't tell every story

Paul Hadik, a consultant for Chuuk DOE, assumed the running of Chuuk High School in October of last year said that last year 45 percent of students at CHS took the COMET. This year 90 percent of students took the test.

"We made breakfast for the students. Then when they finished we had a BBQ waiting for them and everyone had fun," Hadik said.

When he took over in October only 70 days were left to prepare for the test. In addition to the short time period the school was being renovated and had only 10 classrooms for 600 students until January, just three weeks before the COMET. CHS had to run a split schedule to accommodate all of the students in their limited facilities. While last year students had class for almost six hours a day during this school year class time was reduced to four hours a day for seniors; five classes for 45 minutes each.

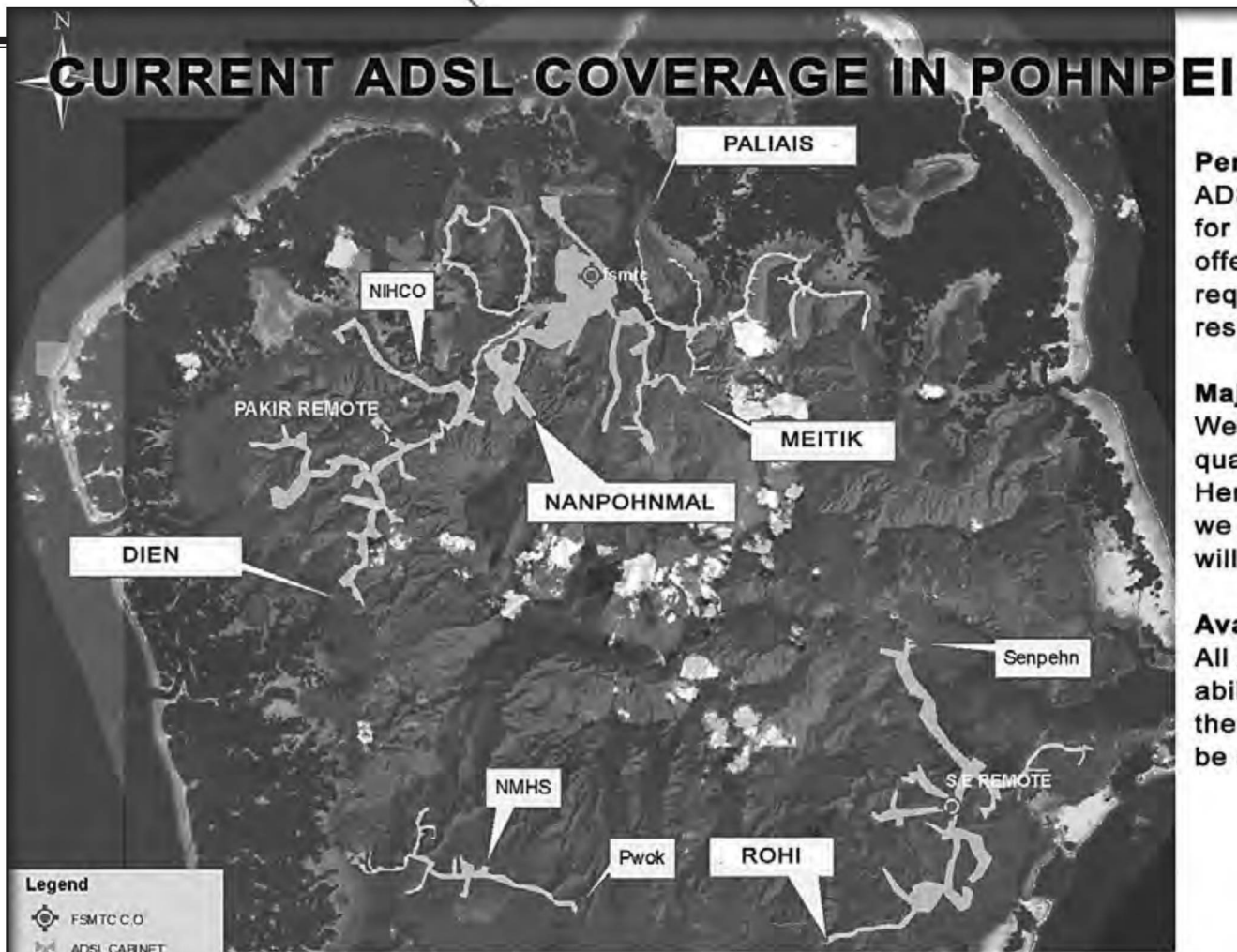
He said that in light of the short time for preparation he went through every senior transcript and decided the school "had a shot at maybe 70 kids."

So those 70 attended our College Prep classes and the other 100 or so were in our Vocational Program," he said. "Of the 70 in our College prep program, 9 made the degree program, 14 made the ACE program, and 42 made the certificate program, so almost 75 percent of the 70 got admitted into something," he said. "So while I wanted better I feel we are moving in the right direction."

Recently the Chuuk High School Debate team beat both Xavier and Saramen to win the Chuuk State Debate.

Statistics don't tell those stories. Where there is one good news story there are likely many more.

Still, there is a long way to go before all is well with FSM Education.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS FSM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Surveillance Coordinator

The Position:

A full-time surveillance officer is required to serve all FSM health services. The officer will be based at Pohnpei State Hospital. The Officer will be responsible for coordinating the collection of epidemiological data from state health services and presenting this in the form of hospital based active surveillance reports and sentinel site surveillance reports. The officer will also be responsible for training staff in health care centers on patient selection, collection and shipping of specimens for diseases under study. As well as ensuring there are sufficient stocks of supplies to conduct epidemiological investigations.

Qualifications:

The surveillance officer must have as a minimum an AS degree in health. Public health and Bio-Statistics studies are desirable.

The surveillance officer should have the following skills:

- Proficiency with computer programs such as Microsoft Office. Proficiency with Access and epidemiology software is desirable
- Effective verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to handle confidential and sensitive information in an appropriate manner.
- A high level of initiative.

Benefits:

Depending on availability of funds, this position will be on a special services contract. Depending on experience and education a salary ranges from \$9,000 - \$12,000 per year will be offered.

Epidemiologist

The Position:

A full time National Epidemiologist is required by the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs. The epidemiologist will be located at the DHSA Offices in Palikir. The epidemiologist will be required to identify causative agents or conditions resulting in adverse health effects, provide data and information concerning corrective actions or programs to alleviate adverse health effects, and propose practices or policies based on findings that will preserve or promote public health.

This is an experienced level position. The employee should employ a full range of professional epidemiological assignments. Considerable independent judgment is required to carry out assignments that have significant impact on services and programs.

Qualifications:

A medical degree and a Master of Public Health from a recognized, accredited tertiary institution.

Experience:

At least three years of professional experience carrying out a variety of surveys, investigations, tests, and analyses of human disease and chronic health conditions.

Benefits:

Depending on availability of funds, this position will be on a special services contract. Depending on experience and education a salary ranges from \$40,000 - \$50,000 per year will be offered. Housing and other benefits will be provided as applicable.

Closing date:

When filled

To apply for either position, send resume by mail or email to:

FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs

PO Box PS 70, Palikir, Pohnpei

FM 96941

Phone: 320 8300

Email: health@fsmhealth.fm

Last FSM ARFF facility completed after four year struggle



By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 30, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—This afternoon a small crowd of spectators attended the dedication and turnover ceremony for the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Facility (ARFF) building. The state of the art ARFF facility had a \$12.15 million price tag and is the last of four ARFF facilities to have been completed in the FSM. Each of the airports in the FSM's four states now has a Federal Aviation Administration approved state of the art ARFF facility.

Nelson Etse, General Manager of the Pohnpei Port Authority said during his speech that the process of building Pohnpei's ARFF facility began four years ago in 2008. He said that since the airport is built on reclaimed land it was difficult to find land firm enough for such a large facility that would also be properly located according to FAA guidelines. The ARFF facility needed to be at approximately the mid way point next to the runway. Site engineering processes set the project back and drove up the price tag as well.

FSM's President Manny Mori spoke at the ceremony as well. He jokingly said that he wanted to beat US Ambassador Peter Prahar to the punch and speak about maintenance. He told a circuitous story about a little boy travelling with his father. The little boy had been excited to see the fire trucks in Majuro, Kosrae, and Pohnpei, but was disappointed when they couldn't land at the airport in Chuuk, their destination. They couldn't land because the fire trucks had no water.



President Mori told the firefighters that they must take care of the facility and be sure that the fire trucks never run out of water.

He was later assured that planners had worked to be certain that running out of water will not likely happen. The roof of the 16,000 square foot building also serves to collect rain water to keep the facilities huge water storage tanks filled to capacity. Even as the ceremony continued the water storage facilities were being topped off by, at times, torrential rains.

The summary in the printed program says, "The ARFF building is a two story structure with a total floor area of around 16,000 square feet. It has two main building: the office building and support building.

"The office building has two levels. The first level consists of two story high vehicle bays, sleeping quarter, dining and training room, kitchen, laundry, exercise room, storage areas, toilets, and showers with locker. The second level consists of the fire department office, AFIS room, conference room, a kitchenette, storage and toilet.

"The support building houses the generator, electrical room, mechanical room, workshop with storage, SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) room (where firefighter oxygen tanks are replenished), extractor storage, and ARFF storage.

"The majority of the spaces are ADA compliant (Americans with Disabilities Act). The office area is equipped with a lift to ensure accessibility to the second level."

The lift is sufficient to carry one person in a wheel chair to the second level.

The facility also has diesel storage tanks and its own 450 kilowatt generator that is more than sufficient to meet the entire power needs of the facility. To maintain the heavy fire fighting clothing it also has a very high capacity washing machine and a specialized drying closet for the suits which cannot simply be tumbled dry.

The vehicle bays house the two extractors (fire fighting vehicles). They are equipped with one 1.5 ton lift arm for heavy repairs on the extractors. The extractors are 1500-gallon capacity Oshkosh Striker aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicles which include accessories, auxiliary and radio equipment, tools and a three year maintenance warranty. The price tag for those two extractors which

have been on island for several years now was \$1.5 million.

US Ambassador Peter Prahar said that the building will also provide office space for the Aerodrome Flight Information System (AFIS), a system that provides pilots with information on the airport and weather conditions.

Airports in the FSM do not have air traffic control towers or operators.

Ambassador Prahar thanked the Contractor, Penta-Ocean Construction Company, Limited, and the engineering consultant, GMP Associates, for working through the challenges presented by the site.

"I also want to thank the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Congress for making the FAA Airport Improvement Project—here and throughout the FSM, possible," he said. "They understand that in the Pacific, the highways are in the sky. You might say that the flight routes among the four states of the FSM, in fact, are your version of the U.S. Interstate Highway system.

"They also understand that smaller commercial airports like Pohnpei International Airport and the other airports in the FSM do not have the passenger volume to generate sufficient revenue to fully fund the facilities, equipment, and specialized training needed," he continued. "So their foresight and concern for air safety has resulted in nearly \$130 million in U.S.-funded airport improvements here in the FSM alone in the last few years."

"As we stand here today, we reflect that we have just begun the second century of commercial aviation. None of us knows what wonders—and challenges—the future will bring to the aviation industry. But we all know that if we continue to work together to create safer, more efficient aviations systems, we will realize the full promise of a bright future for all the people of the FSM," he concluded.

Deacon Augustine Damarlane blessed the facility and sprinkled holy water throughout.

Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa accepted the building on behalf of Pohnpei saying that he hoped it would never have to be used.

He said that the state of the art building would only continue to be state of the art if the people who run and maintain it are also state of the art. He introduced the

firefighting team who are under the direction of Chief Paulino Samuel and praised them for being committed to constantly preparing and maintaining themselves as state of the art firefighters and rescue personnel.

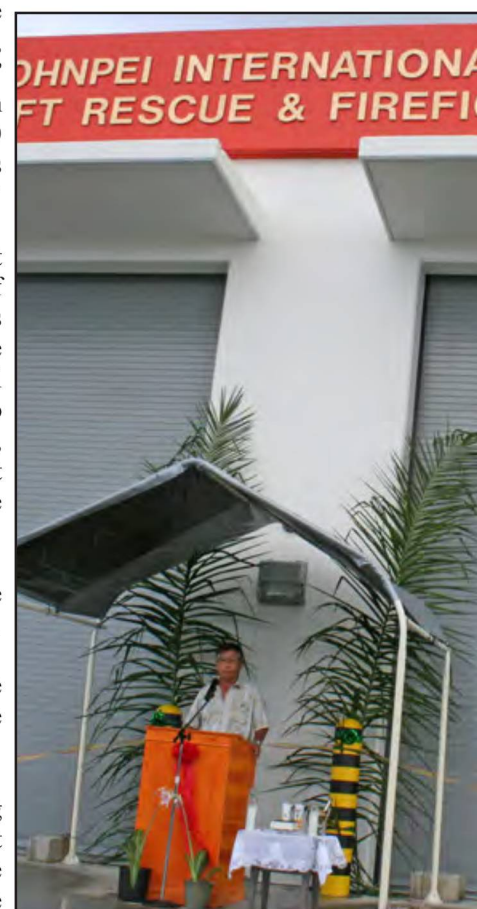
The Reverend Bender Endicar gave the invocation during the ceremony and the Reverend Godarro Lorrin provided the closing prayer. Melson M. Darra, Airport Manager for the Pohnpei Port Authority served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The program said that the FSM Department of TC&I assisted by Lyon Associates, Incorporated served as the implementing office for the project.

Funding sources were the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the Pohnpei Port Authority, and Pohnpei State.

GMP Hawaii, Incorporated served as a consultant for design and construction management.

ABCOR Engineering and Construction, Incorporated served as a subcontractor to contractor Penta-Ocean Construction Company, Limited.



Letter to the Editor

Guest Perspective

Dear Editor,

As a local retailer, I read the article about new environmental regulations with great interest. I had heard rumors regarding a forthcoming ban of plastic bags on Pohnpei, and here it is.

I find that it is very interesting that there are exclusions to the law. Why would certain retailers be excluded? It seems that fruit and vegetables could go in a paper bag, as well as baked goods, pharmacy items, potted plants, etc. And by the way, what are "small hardware items"? There's a gray area there.

If there is going to be a ban, it should be unconditional. No more plastic bags unless it is what the manufacturers put the product in. Period.

I have one last comment. For us a bundle of 500 paper bags costs almost 40 percent more than a bundle of 1000 plastic bags the same size. If it's the same for other island retailers, who is expected to absorb that? Guess.

Bill Pendergraft
Manager
Pohnpei Ace Hardware

MicSem should be saved from those letting it wither

Jason Aubuchon

Who am I to have an opinion on the state of MicSem? After two years of teaching English at PATS as a Jesuit Volunteer, I spent six years as the Assistant Director of Micronesian Seminar, working as deputy to Father Fran Hezel. At that time, Fran was in his mid-sixties, and the big question then regarded succession: What happens to MicSem without Fran?

Among Jesuit circles, and with Fran himself, it was generally agreed that MicSem was bigger than Fran as an individual. Whoever succeeded Fran would run a different MicSem, perhaps focusing less on publishing, which is Fran's strength, and working to their own strengths. Of paramount importance is MicSem's institutional mission: to assist the people of Micronesia in reflecting on life in their islands under the impact of change.

I always imagined one of two succession scenarios. The first involved a young Jesuit taking over as Executive Director of MicSem, while Fran gradually scaled back his own involvement, working from the back office to publish, to raise funds, and to continue supporting the institution. The alternative scenario, though more dramatic, involved Fran passing away unexpectedly, most likely while playing full-court basketball, as the Jesuits and the broader Micronesian community scrambled to continue the MicSem mission.

But here we are in a third, unanticipated scenario, in which MicSem is being allowed to wither under the guidance of the Jesuits of Micronesia, and without involving the willing hands of the broader Micronesian community. As someone who used to be deeply involved in the day-to-day operations of MicSem and who was nominally invited by the Jesuits to share my thoughts on the way forward, I can't help but see the scenario that's unfolding as a case study in institutional destruction. After all, how would the masters of an institution that has been thriving for thirty-five years bring it so quickly to near-ruination? Well, here's how they did it:

1. Remove the institution's Director. Tell Fran firstly that he'll only be gone three months, then extend that incrementally, first to seven months, then to a year, then until further notice.
2. When the public asks what's

happened to the Director, express vague and mostly fictional concerns about institutional finances and personal relationships, say you're focused on succession planning, and then call the Director's absence a "sabbatical," all the while assuring people that you're

committed to maintaining MicSem as an institution.

3. Fire six of your eight full-time employees, citing financial difficulties. Even though MicSem was fully financed for the 35 years it was managed by Fran, now that he's "on sabbatical" there are cashflow problems to be addressed, so people have to go.
4. Allow the institution languish for a year or two. Write no new articles, complete no new videos, cease monitoring the discussion forum and updating the website, allow existing grants to go uncollected, and seek no additional funding.
5. When the public continues complaining, even at the highest levels of government and civil society, commission a "feasibility study" to determine whether or not a 35-year institution is viable. Involve a reputable third-party institution that's loyal to the Jesuits; conduct stakeholder interviews; involve smart, credible people; ask the right questions...
6. ...then make sure the results of that study are never publicized.
7. Begin divesting the institution of its resources and making wholesale structural changes. Send the library to Xavier High School and the social research component to the University of San Francisco (allegedly.)
8. When people continue to express dismay, refer them to your press release, which says these decisions are "expansionary," and are being made "in light of the recommendations of the study."
9. Make doubly sure the results of the study (and the alleged link to the study's recommendations) are never publicized.
10. Rely on a vow of obedience to keep the other Jesuits quiet, and then rely on the community's trust in the Church to support decisions that remain unexplained and inexplicable.

It's not easy for me to be critical of the Jesuits, especially since they've been such a formative part of my life. Apart from eight years of Jesuit education and two years as a Jesuit Volunteer, I lived at the Jesuit House in Kolonia for five years, graciously welcomed as part of their community while working with MicSem.

When Fran was first sent away in August 2010, he asked me not to voice criticism. He insisted that I direct my anger and energy toward efforts to ensure the survival of MicSem. Since that time, I've respected Fran's wishes, but to my deep frustration I've been ineffective in influencing Jesuit decisions relating to MicSem. Sadly, in planning the future of MicSem, the Jesuits have taken a page from a very old playbook: make decisions in secret, then demand support in public as a matter of faith. This approach is especially galling because MicSem, as a Jesuit apostolate, has as its core mission the goal of engaging community discussion. And yet, when the future of MicSem itself is up for debate, discussion is quickly closed, and these very same communities are left uninformed and voiceless.

Just to be clear, when Fran was asked to leave MicSem, it was a fully funded and fully functioning institution. Fran was healthy and energetic, as he is now, and the MicSem staff were firmly committed to the institution. Is it possible that the Jesuits have failed to learn the secular lesson that "a village cannot be saved by destroying it?" By taking actions described as "expanding" the MicSem mission, the institution is being destroyed from within. Even today, eighteen months and two press releases later, no reason has been provided for the destruction of MicSem.

So with apologies to Fran, and writing as a private citizen, a former Jesuit Volunteer, a former MicSem Assistant Director, and with a remaining ray of hope that decisions affecting MicSem might still be reversed, I'd like to address this message to all those who have asked what can be done to rectify wrongs and to resurrect the broader MicSem mission.

Most importantly, what's needed now is for all those who care to speak up. Although ultimately MicSem decisions are made by Fr. John Hagileram as the Jesuit Superior, all of the Jesuits need to be aware of the impact of ruining MicSem. Clearly, MicSem is cherished among the communities of Micronesia, and the voices of these communities need to be heard. Make an effort to let the Jesuits know how you feel. Or better, make an effort to let everyone know how you feel by visiting www.savemicsem.org and posting your thoughts publicly.

Just as Micronesia needs the voice of a Micronesian Seminar, today, MicSem needs your voices, the voice of Micronesia. Please speak up.

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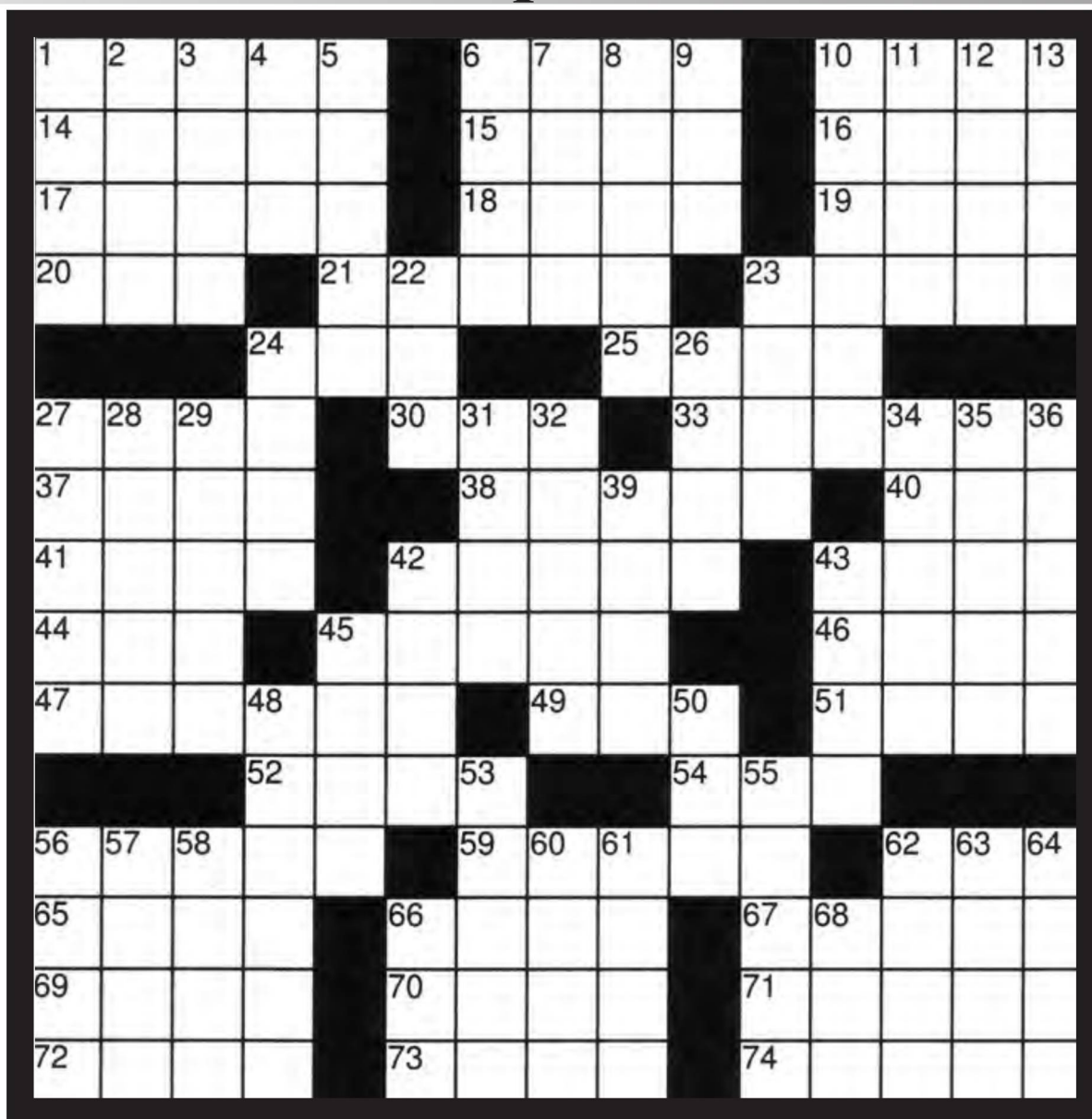
Crossword - The I's help it

ACROSS

1. Slip
6. Swing
10. Sting
14. Twirling
15. Clip
16. Fix
17. Skirmish
18. Flight bd. list-ings
19. Bits
20. Dig in
21. Wrists
23. Ski sticks
24. JFK listing
25. Dip
27. Kill
30. .001 inch
33. Pitch in
37. Knitting rib
38. Filmic 007
40. ___-fi
41. Limits
42. Micki & ___ (film)
43. Split
44. Scrimp
45. Insist
46. Split
47. Split
49. Till
51. This: Sp.
52. Chills
54. Ships hdg.
56. Tilt
59. Sing
62. Tint
65. Rip
66. ___ Night
67. Insipid
69. British pic digs
70. Split
71. Risk
72. Mimic
73. Bid first
74. Hits

DOWN

1. Limping
2. District
3. Hit
4. Visit
5. Pick
6. Fight
7. Twist
8. Stinging
9. Right!
10. Digs
11. Twist
12. "Vissi d' ___"
13. Plight
22. Mil. bigwig
23. Sit
24. Iris districts
26. Pink
27. Whisk
28. Sri ___
29. Birch's kin
31. "Wish ___, wish ..."
32. Nit
34. British ___
35. Whiff
36. Link
39. Whiff
42. Did
43. Drifting
45. Schism
48. Kindling
50. This: Sp.
53. GI's bills
55. Clips
56. Sp. Miss
57. Spring
58. Kick in
60. Drift
61. Sign
62. ___-kiri
63. GI gp.
64. Fish Dish
66. Siding with
68. Mint



MOVIES

The Apollo 13 space mission came to the big screen in the 1995 film *Apollo 13*, starring Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, Bill Paxton, and Gary Sinise as astronauts involved with the ill-fated flight. This film won Oscars for Film Editing and Sound. After you've circled all the words, the unused letters, when read from left to right, starting at the top, will spell out the titles of three other movies starring Tom Hanks.

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

BAD PLACE (The)
 BEASTCHILD
 BLOOD RISK
 BRUNO
 CHASE
 COLD FIRE
 COSMIC SIN
 CRIMSON
 WITCH
 DARKFALL
 DEMON SEED
 DRAGONFLY
 FUNHOUSE (The)
 GRAYWORLD
 HARDSHELL
 HIDEAWAY
 ICEBOUND
 INTENSITY
 INVASION

LIGHTNING
 MASK (The)
 MR. MURDER
 ODDKINS
 PHANTOMS
 SHADOWFIRES
 SHAMBOLAIN
 SNATCHER
 STARBLOOD
 STRANGERS
 SURROUNDED
 TRAPPED
 TWILIGHT EYES
 UNDERCITY (The)
 VISION (The)
 WATCHERS
 WHISPERS
 WINTER MOON

Let's go local! Campaign during the FUN RUNS

By Chizuru Seki (JICA)
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) is a strong supporter of FUN RUN/WALKS.

FUN RUN/WALK is becoming more popular. In April, there were the 8th annual FSM NOC Women and Sport 5k (April 14th) and PSMA First Fun Run/Walk Event promoting NCD Prevention (April 21st). In May, the 16th annual COM FSM FUN RUN WALK was held on May 5th. During the Pohnpei State Nurses Week, Fun-Walk/Run will be held on the FSM-Constitution Day Holiday.

Every FUN RUN/WALK, IFCP gives a short presentation to remind FUN RUN/WALK participants to "Go Local" for its many benefits.

For regular FUN RUN/WALK participants, IFCP Go Local talk must get stuck in their head; and it is hard to get rid of. That is because the IFCP Go Local talk has been told them over and over due to its important and indispensable messages.

"FSM is in the health crisis!"

IFCP brings up the problem on which people in FSM must take actions immediately.

"1 in 3 adults of FSM has diabetes. Cancer and heart diseases are also putting FSM people in pain. Over 50 % of children under five years of age are vitamin A deficient..."

Then, IFCP reveals the reasons for this health crisis.

"Change in diet, heavy shifting toward imported unhealthy food from healthy traditional local food, and change in lifestyle, living with luxuries and lacking in physical activities."

IFCP tells the solution to the health crisis in FSM.

"Let's Go Local! What does it mean? It means by planting, growing, maintaining, harvesting, cooking and eating more local food, you will get enough exercise and good nutrients that your body desires."

IFCP supports FUN RUN/WALK because it is a good way to gain enough exercise for a day.

Yellow- orange- flesh bananas that are high in Beta Carotene (provitamin A) are always available at FUN RUNS.

IFCP also provide planting materials: papaya, citrus and yellow- orange- flesh banana suckers, encouraging participants to do some planting over the weekend to gain the benefit from "going local."

IFCP would like to thank NOC and FUN RUN sponsors for their partnerships and the SPC CePaCT, Australian Government, SPC Healthy Life-Style, Division of Public Health of the Pohnpei Department of Health Services and Japan International Cooperation Agency for their funding support.



16th annual COM FSM FUN RUN WALK



Lepen moar (Tadasy Yamaguchi),
Madolenihmw at PSMA First Fun
Run/Walk



High school let's go local awareness education

By Chizuru Seki (JICA), Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) conducted Go Local awareness educations at Madolenihmw High School (April 24th and 25th) and Nanpei Memorial High School in Kitti (April 30).

IFCP visits schools all over Pohnpei to educate the students on why they should eat local food.

The benefits and importance of local food: CHEEF benefits (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food Security) are one of the main focuses of IFCP's educational awareness.

IFCP tells people to go local to fight against the health crisis in FSM, 1 in 3 adults has diabetes, caused by change in diet and lifestyle.

What we can/need to do (ex. policy making) and the consequences of our actions are also presented by IFCP staff.

From the visits, IFCP found out that only six students out of seventy four students ate local protective food for the day in all the three high schools.

The traditional meal of Pohnpei is a two course meal (staple food and meat). Dr. Lois Englberger's study on our local foods showed that our foods including bananas, giant swamp taro, Pandanus, were very rich in beta carotene. Therefore, by eating a two course meal of local food and fish, the local food supplies the protection and energy while the fish supplies nutrients needed for body building.

Mrs. Johnson had an impression that some students thought we eat just to fulfill our hunger rather than to protect/strengthen our body.

It is crucial to clarify the students' understanding on why we should eat local food in order to help them appreciate our healthy traditional local food.

Even though the work of IFCP started to be better known in Pohnpei and other three states of FSM, IFCP staff strongly felt the need of more awareness education in school through these visits.

IFCP deeply seek more supports from Department of Education and school teachers for conducting educational health awareness focusing on going local.

IFCP would like to thank Madolenihmw High School and Nanpei Memorial High School for the invitation to the classrooms.

Special thanks are given to the SPC CePaCT, Australian Government, SPC Healthy Life-Style, Division of Public Health of the Pohnpei Department of Health Services and Japan International Cooperation Agency for their funding support.



Nanpei Memorial High School Home Economic Class



College of Micronesia-FSM

Invites you to:

Community Meeting with COM-FSM Board of Regents & Administration

Where: Pohnpei Campus Gymnasium

When: May 24, 2012 (Thursday)

Time: 4:00pm

We are inviting parents, CCM and COM-FSM alumni, employers of our graduates, government, church, community, business and NGO leaders to attend the community meeting.

Professional Training Technology Inc.

Will be conducting 16 Hour
General Industry Safety Course

DATES:

MAY 29-30, 2012

Start time: 8:00 AM

MAY 31-June 01, 2012

Start time: 8:00 AM

Location:

- Pohnpei Small Business Development Center Class Rm #1

- College of Micronesia-FSM, Pohnpei Campus

Cost:

\$225.00 per person

Pls. make payment payable to:



Professional Training Technology Inc.

Payment will be collected on day of class.

Email us full name of participants.

Contact us:

Email: dobyptt@netpci.com (671)969-7302

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