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# Legislature implores the FSM government to return unused capital land to Pohnpei



By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 29, 2015

**Pohnpei, FSM**—The Pohnpei State Legislature (PSL) has passed a bill seeking to reclaim some of the land the State gave to the FSM National Government for construction of the National Government Complex that the FSM has not developed. How much it seeks to reclaim will be the subject of a land survey if Governor Marcelo Peterson signs the bill (LB. 425-15)

The bill says that the original amount of land that was given to the National Government was not to exceed 200 acres and that it was based on “active use” of the land Pohnpei provided to the FSM government. “[i]f after five years following the date of a transfer, it be found that active use has not commenced, or that there has been a cessation of active use,” the law (D.L. No. 4L-161-78) initially conveying the land to FSM said. “[T]hat segment of the transfer and any improvements

See “Capital land” on page 5

# PUC lights up Pohnpei with LED streetlights

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation

December 23, 2015

**Pohnpei, FSM**—With the approval of the PUC Board of Directors, PUC purchased 100 LED street light for just over \$42,000 that are already lighting up the causeway in Deketik and from Kolonia to Palikir. These lights will continue to be place all around the island of Pohnpei.



Bill Jaynes

PUC is fortunate that FSM Congressman Ferny Perman matched PUC's 100 units with another 100 streetlights for Election District #1. PUC looks forward to other contributions from government as well as the private sectors to light up the streets with these low power consumption LED lights that have a high impact on the safety and security of our communities.

The lights tie directly into PUCs grid and use a sensor to automatically come on at night and turn off in the morning. Estimated electricity used by one of these LED street lights is around \$7.22 a month. For all 200 street light, PUC will cover monthly expenses of \$1,444 and an annual expense of \$17,328 in electricity costs to run the lights.

The management and staff at Nauru Airlines wish you a Happy New Year!

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## New air links in the Northern Pacific

29 December, 2015

Nauru Airlines and Solomon Airlines have joined forces to promote new passenger and cargo links to the northern Pacific.

Effective 01 January 2016, Nauru Airlines northbound flights operating via Honiara every Friday will allow travellers seamless connections on 'same plane' services through to Nauru, Tarawa, Majuro, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk.

Southbound flights operational every Sunday will offer the same inter-island connections.

Nauru Airlines will operate a Boeing B737-300 aircraft on the new route.

Announcing the new flights in tandem with the appointment of Solomon Airlines as its new Honiara-based passenger and cargo sales agent, Nauru Airlines CEO, Geoffrey Bowmaker said the northern Pacific services offered immense benefit both from the perspective of passengers and cargo.

"Travellers around the north and central Pacific will benefit greatly by these new, direct links between the Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia," Mr Bowmaker said.

Solomon Airlines General Manager Operations & Commercial, Gus Kraus said both Nauru Airlines and the country of Nauru had long been associated with the Solomon Islands in various forms and as natural neighbours.

"We have continued to develop our association via such mediums as aviation partnerships and in this case, via enhanced economic benefits which will see Nauru consumers buying goods from Honiara to send to Nauru on these flights as well as offering a new seamless air link for travellers," Mr Kraus said.

Mr Kraus advised all passenger ticket and cargo enquiries are now being managed by Solomon Airlines Travel Centre in Hibiscus Street-Tongs Building, Honiara.

For further information contact Nauru Airlines CEO, Geoff Bowmaker, telephone + 61 7 3229 6455.

For all Honiara-based passenger and cargo enquiries please contact Solomon Airlines Travel centre, telephone + 677 20152.

## Eradication of Filariasis from the Pacific with a collaborative approach by DHSA and JICA

On December 11, 2015, the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs received 80 Immuno-Chromatographic Test (ICT) kits and medical supplies to support the Pacific Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (PacELF) in the FSM. One kit consists of 50 tests which bring to a total of 4,000 filariasis tests for the FSM. All equipment passed the inspection upon arrival by FSM Immunization program staff and Mr. Wiriel Dewey from FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs.

Organization (WHO), JICA has donated Diethyl Carbamazine (DEC) tablets and ICT filarial antigen Test kits to the FSM in support of PacELF program since 2001. The purpose of this program is to achieve the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis from the FSM. The test-kits are being utilized during campaigns and surveys in all the four states of FSM which has been contributing to healthy lives and wellness in the FSM. JICA recognizes the Health sector as a priority issue in the FSM and will continue to support in this area.

In collaboration with World Health



Ms. Mayuko Nakanishi, JICA Volunteer at DHSA, with ICT kits



Mr. Dewey from DHSA with medical supplies

### NEW JOB OPENINGS

- 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

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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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# Embassy of the People’s Republic of China presents \$130k in medical supplies and equipment to Pohnpei hospital

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 21, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—This morning the Government of the People’s Republic of China presented over \$130,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies to the Pohnpei State Department of Health Services.

The Embassy’s Charge d’Affaires ad interim Mrs. LI Cuiying and FSM’s Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert signed the paperwork turning over the equipment and supplies to Pohnpei’s Governor Marcelo Peterson.

“Medical and health care is one of the

major fields where China directs its foreign assistance, Mrs. Li said. “China helped recipient countries of Chinese medical teams to improve their medical and health services, raise their diseases control and prevention ability, and enhance their public health capacity by constructing hospitals, providing medicine and medical equipment, dispatching medical teams, training medical workers and conducting exchanges and cooperation on disease prevention and treatment with many developing countries in the Pacific, Africa, Asia and Latin America, and of course, in the FSM.”

She outlined the eleven construction projects China has completed since the beginning of diplomatic relations between

China and the FSM 26 years ago. She said that China had completed the China FSM Friendship Sports Center at the COM National Campus. They had built cargo and passenger ships for Chuuk and Yap, a Kosrae High School Building, the Pohnpei State Government Complex, the headquarters for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission on Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (Tuna Commission Building), and four Leaders Residences in Palikir. She mentioned that there had been at least four technical cooperation projects “like dispatching table tennis coaches, maintenance of electrical score board, and agricultural technical cooperation projects.”

She also mentioned cooperative cultural,

educational and training exchanges, scholarships and training courses in China every year, as well as several visits by art troupes from China to the FSM.

She said that the bilateral cooperation in the medical field began in 2009 with the “First Phase Medical Cooperation Project in Chuuk from August 2009 to August 2011.” The first medical team consisted of five medical doctors who served at the Chuuk State Hospital. The second phase medical cooperation project includes six doctors from China who are currently serving at the Pohnpei State Hospital and also includes the \$130,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies that she presented on Monday, December 21.



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## 2015 Budget And Finance Conference

FSM Information Services

Dec. 22, 2015

The Finance and Budget Conference opened on Monday, 14 December 2015 with an address from Honorable, Yosiwo George, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Representatives from all four states attended the five-day conference that focused on the modalities of improving financial performance and budget management. Among other items discussed were ways of enhancing accountability which guidelines provided a general overview for financial and budget management.

In his welcoming remarks, Vice President George encouraged participants to take the opportunity to learn and improve from the guidelines that aim to promote high standards and how to advance

accountability in a positive working environment.

“You will in effect become a trainer in your offices, and in the process become more valuable to lead by examples,” said Vice President George. “It takes courage and commitment but I am confident each of you will be willing to do the right thing for your offices to make it better.”

In part of taking responsible action between the levels of governments, Vice President George reiterated the importance of the National and State governments to take a comprehensive approach in working efficiently and effectively together to strengthen cooperation and development.

Vice President George also discussed few policy changes for this administration; one policy change relates to management

and implementations of Compact funded infrastructure whereby roles of the national government has been redefined and greater bulk of responsible lies with the FSM States and the second policy change has to do with the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). Since 2012, Vice President George articulated that infrastructure projects have been frozen. “And we have accumulated some huge sum of money that has not been moved, accumulated to over \$100M, and the policy direction right now is to move these funds for both States and National governments. The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) and JEMCO demanded that that FSM update the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP), which National government with the States, updated the list through FSM appropriation or Congress approval. Part of the deal was to release the infrastructure fund in full. While there is no clear signal from the

OIA, the National government, explained Vice President George, is interested in moving forward with the implementation of the compact funded infrastructure. The challenge is with the FSM States now; the States must come with policies, laws, and regulations that would be acceptable to the JEMCO and align with the IDP Emergency Regulation.

At the end of his statement, Vice President George encouraged all participants to go back their respective governments and lead by putting into practice what the Conference had to offer and mentor those who work for them. He then declared the Conference open to all participants.

Vice President George was joined by Special Assistant Herman Semes, Jr. of the Office of the President and Secretary Sihna Lawrence of the FSM Department of Finance and Administration, representing the Government of the FSM.

## ...Capital land

Continued from front page

thereon found not to be actively used shall revert to the Public Lands Authority [now Board of Trustees] pursuant to [D.L. No. 4L-161-78] without cost or obligation to the [Public Lands Trust] or the [Pohnpei] State Government.”

The original quitclaim deed for approximately 543,000 meters was executed on May 17, 1985.

The bill on the Governor’s desk says that the FSM government’s request for the land was based on numerous capital infrastructure developments, “many of which have never materialized or were built but did not require the size of public land conveyed.”

It says that more than five years have passed since Pohnpei State gave the National Government the land and that the “inactive or unused portions” under the original agreement should be returned to the people of Pohnpei. “[W]ith the understanding that except for the area between the main access road and the existing Palikir Capital Complex of buildings, the outside of a setback of 100 feet from each FSM Government building shall be construed as unused or inactive use.”

There is no “definitions” section in the bill that specifically defines which road the “main access road” is. An opponent might argue that the “main access road” is the “circumferential road” since the developers of the National Government complex built the portion of the road that leads from Kolonia to the Palikir complex, and FSM maintains that portion of the road to this day.

It’s possible that there will be no opponents at the FSM government to the idea of giving back some of the land that

they are using though there would likely need to be some negotiations to work out details. The intention of the bill seems to be that it would not affect any of the land that the FSM Government is currently using for the nation’s capitol. At the same time the intention seems to be to help some families who have lived on the land for decades.

Former FSM Congress Speaker Dohsis Halbert, who currently serves as an advisor to President Peter Christian but who made it clear that he was not speaking for the President, said that he and several other people were vocally opposed to the size of the land that Pohnpei intended to grant to the FSM in 1985 but that after the highest traditional leadership in Sokehs gave their blessing on the deal they “sort of backed off”. Some of those people are currently in the position to make decisions regarding the possibility of giving back some of the land to Pohnpei State.

The FSM Government complex in Palikir is huge but the land that Pohnpei State deeded to the National Government extends far beyond the area that the buildings occupy.

Halbert says that his personal opinion is that some of the land should “definitely be returned”.

The PSL bill says that the Legislature is aware that the law initially granting land to the National Government requires the State to provide a one year notice of any legal action to reacquire unused land. But is also expresses a hope that the National Government will “recognize its moral and legal obligations to the people of Pohnpei” by returning the unused land to the people of Pohnpei without the State having to resort to legal action.

It directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources to survey the land that is not actively being used and to serve notice on the National Government for return of the land. It also requests the Governor and the Public Lands Trust

Board to use their persuasive powers to voluntarily surrender the land identified in the notice without legal action being required. If that doesn’t happen, it authorizes legal action to ensure return of the unused land.

The Committee on Land report on the public hearing on the bill says that Pohnpei State deeded the land to the FSM even though there were families that had been living on the property “way before these huge properties were deeded to the National Government.” The report said that those families had only ever lived on those properties where they built their homes and planted their crops to make their living and that they had buried their family members on those lands.

The committee report mentioned that late in the previous administration, an FSM Assistant Attorney General filed a complaint asking the FSM Supreme Court to evict the Pohnpeian citizens living on what the FSM said was their land.

The FSM Department of Justice did file eight separate trespass complaints at the FSM Supreme Court in late March against

people they claimed were living on land that belongs to the Federated States of Micronesia. They asked the court to issue an injunction, to evict the families, and to make them pay for the cost of the civil suit.

“This (complaint) is not a joke,” Salomon Saimon, Directing Attorney of Micronesia Legal Services Corporation told the committee according to its report. “This is real and we should act fast.”

He told the committee that Pohnpei long ago met the legal requirement of a one year notice before legal action. “He has this strong conviction that this requirement was already met, when he was an Assistant Attorney General working for the Office of the [Pohnpei State] Attorney General,” the report said of Saimon’s testimony.

The Committee recommended passing the bill but also agreed “that to show good faith, a notice be sent to the FSM National Government regarding the transaction.”

At press time the PSL bill had not yet left Governor Peterson’s office.



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# New classroom and library building underway for Nanpei Memorial High School

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 22, 2015

**Kitti, Pohnpei**—This morning officials gathered on the grounds of Nanpei Memorial High School for a groundbreaking ceremony. The two story classroom and library building is being built at a cost of \$2.485 million dollars. Infrastructure Sector Grant funding from the Compact of Free Association is being used to fund the project.

Nolensner Charley served as the Master of Ceremonies for the program which featured speeches from Kitti's Luhk en Menlap (Mayor) Tony Sarapio, Lt. Governor Joseph Saimon, former Speaker Dohsis Halbert on behalf of President Peter Christian, Senator McGarry Miguel, and U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen.

Ambassador Rosen told the small crowd that she began her career as a school teacher and that education had always been a high priority for her. She challenged the local community to take part in the education of their children. She said that a building is just a building unless it is used well.

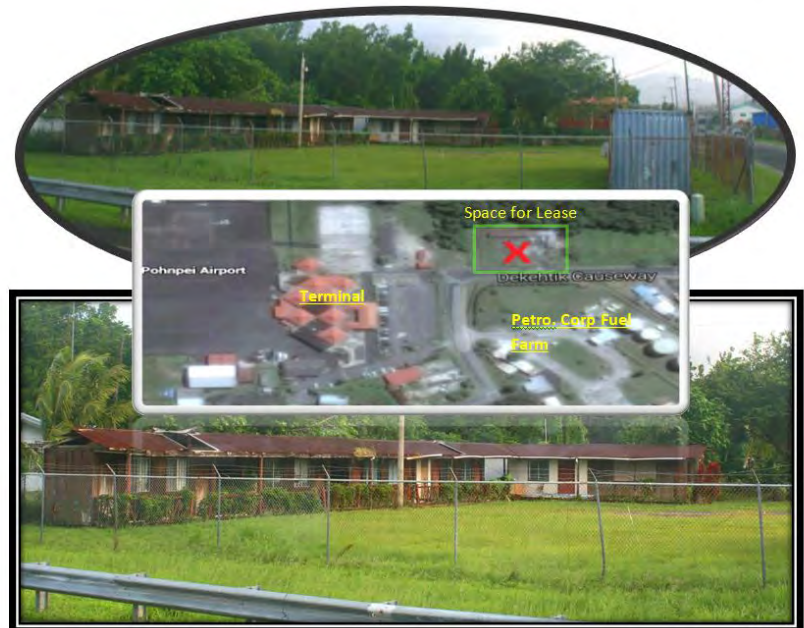
Lt. Governor Saimon thanked the efforts of the United States to help Pohnpei with its infrastructure needs saying that for a nation to succeed in development it needs infrastructure as just one of the many components. He said emphatically that the FSM has no greater friend than the United States.

He also thanked the contractors, Adams Brothers Construction (ABCOR), for leaving the ruins of the of historic Japanese classroom in place.

Pastor Kidion Albert gave the invocation and the benediction. The Nan Mand Choir also sang several special musical selections.

Lt. Governor Saimon and Ambassador Rosen cut the ribbon before several of the dignitaries turned the symbolic first shovel of earth. In fact the ground was broken some time ago and much of the grading of the site has already concluded.

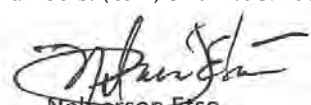
The building was designed by Leo Daly and is being built by ABCOR. Mr. Richie Adams represented ABCOR along with his construction crew members.



Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting proposals from businesses or individuals interested in leasing the above marked X area as it is across the Petro Corp fuel farm east side of the airport main road. The size of the area is 109 X 157 square feet or a total of 17,113 square feet. All proposals shall be accepted from January 4, 2016 to January 15, 2016 no later than 5:00pm.

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received in connection with the above subject proposing solicitation.

Additional information regarding this proposal can be obtained from the office of Pohnpei Port Authority, Marketing Manager located at Dekehtik main building, Pohnpei State, Federated State of Micronesia by contacting the following phone numbers: (691)-320-2793/2682 or email 1485sano1957@gmail.com.

  
Neljerson Etse  
General Manager  
Pohnpei Port Authority

## Pohnpei Governor declares January 22 as Anti-Human Trafficking Day

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

December 15, 2015

**Pohnpei, FSM**—On December 15, by Executive Proclamation, Pohnpei's Governor Marcelo Peterson has declared January 22, 2016 as Pohnpei Anti-Human Trafficking Day.

The complete text of the proclamation follows:

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a universal modern-day form of slavery that impacts local communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a crime against humanity that violates the most basic human rights and deprive victims of their freedom; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking occurs when person is recruited, harbored, obtained or exported through force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labor, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and other methods of slavery; and

WHEREAS, as the crossroad between north and south and east to west in the region, Pohnpei is at risk of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of Pohnpei State to ensure widespread awareness of human trafficking to ensure that no Pohnpeian becomes involved in human trafficking;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Marcelo K. Peterson, Governor of the State of Pohnpei, by the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby proclaim January 22, 2016 as "Anti-Human Trafficking Day" in the State,

FURTHERMORE, due to the unique and special role that the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA) plays in the area of human trafficking, especially as the "Gate Keeper" of all incoming and outgoing persons in the State, I hereby urge the PPA to work with all state agencies, the National Government, public and private corporations, local and regional NGOs and inter-governmental organizations to ensure that all awareness activities, including but not limited to sporting events, banner raising, community awareness, anti-human trafficking training and so forth, receive the full support of PPA and this administration both in resource and time;

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FINALLY, I hereby encourage and urge full and widespread participation of all Pohnpeians and Pohnpei residents in all awareness efforts that will take place to commemorate this issue of high significance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affix my signature hereto this 15th day of December 2015.

## Milestone hazard compliance for North Pacific food companies

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

4 December 2015

**Kosrae**—The Raimond Company and Wawa Chips have become the first two food producers in Federated States of Micronesia to open factories that comply with an international standard for hazard analysis and control.

Based in Kosrae State, the Raimond Company in Tafunsek which produces gluten free taro flour and Wawa Chips in Lelu which makes banana chips are businesses supported by the European Union's Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade (IACT) Project which is implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC).

The Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) compliance is an internationally recognized standard that emphasises hygienic food preparation and is crucial for opening up market access for companies, as consumers are more confident in the way their products are prepared.

SPC and the EU have assisted Raimond Company and Wawa Chips in building a factory, providing equipment, facility

improvement as well as designing and printing of packaging materials amounting to USD 91,000.

Technical assistance has also been provided through business management training, food safety programmes and processing methods to gain quality and safe products.

In addition to these two companies in Kosrae, the IACT project also assists an enterprise in the Marshall Islands – Tobolar Processing Facility - that has now also become compliant as well, making these the first three locally-owned HACCP compliant enterprises in the northern Pacific region.

Speaking at their factory opening, Wawa Chips Managing Director, George Youngstrom, said that this milestone achievement was the result of working together towards a common goal.

Youngstrom added that without a coordinated effort by various supporting agencies, this HACCP-compliant processing centre could not have been realised.

The HACCP compliance of the Kosraean companies boasts its positioning in import

substitution, utilising local produce such as taro, a gluten free product in the face of increasing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Pacific. Similarly, the production of banana chips is better alternative to imported salty snacks.

"We are today witnessing the results of hard work, commitment and dedication of both factory owners and their families. This successful output has been a collaborated

effort between them, the Department of Agriculture and Trade at Ministry of Resource and Economic Affairs, and the European Union supported IACT Project for the past 3 years," the Pacific Community's IACT Project Official, Apiame Cegumalua, said.

The Kosraean Director of Resources and Economic Affairs, Lyndon Cornelius, officiated at the opening ceremony.



# 2015 Christmas and Holiday Season Message



by

Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker

19th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia



**“Thanks be unto God for his indescribable gift.” 2 Corinthians 9.15**

**Vice Speaker Berney Martin, Floor Leader Florencio “Singkoro” Harper, members of the 19th Congress along with our families join me in extending our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you, the people of the Federated States of Micronesia.**

**Christmas is a time for us to acknowledge and praise, and be thankful to, our Heavenly Father for His indescribable Gift to the world. It’s a special time for everyone - families and friends - to break from work, to be joyful and merry, and to share those special moments and gifts. While our Holiday Seasons’ times and traditions are varied in celebration, they are all meant to exalt and glorify His name, and to celebrate a humble birth in Bethlehem long ago.**

**It’s an event that for millennia and until today remains a powerful testament of man’s hope for peace, prosperity, and a better world in general. It’s an event that today remains the greatest leveler in our society of varying cultures, languages and beliefs. As a Christian tradition, it is one of the powerful principles and unifying values of our Nation.**

**This year, we, the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia participated in and witnessed the elections of our new leaders - a new President and Vice President and members of the Nineteenth Congress. For some of us, we also elected new State and Municipal leaders. New leadership brings new styles of leadership; new leadership entails new policies; and new leadership brings unique challenges and continues important ones that will affect our lives in similar and different ways.**

**During this Holiday Season and beyond, we invite you, our FSM citizens, to appreciate and critique these new leadership styles, policies and challenges in constructive and respectful ways that will support and guide your leaders on your behalf. That’s one purpose of the indescribable Gift – to nurture understanding and peaceful public discourse and to teach humility and civility among us.**

**Therefore, as we rejoice and enjoy among families and friends, and as we reflect on the challenges and goodness of this year, and as we look forward with anticipation and hope to the coming year, let us take a moment to also embrace and appreciate the many and bountiful blessings that our Lord has bestowed upon us as citizens of a humble and grateful Nation.**

**My fellow senators and our beloved families join me, in wishing each and every one of you, a Happy Holidays full of good health, happiness, and lasting peace. May the blessings of the Indescribable Gift enrich your lives and your loved ones’ this Christmas and for the New Year.**

# Will Stinnett signs contract to play professional basketball

Will Stinnett, son of Bill & Kiki Stinnett signed a contract to play professional basketball with the Hawks Bay team in Napier, New Zealand, on his 30th birthday. He says it was a great birthday present and a dream come true.

His dream of playing pro ball started while attending Father Duenas High School where he played 4 years of varsity basketball helping the Friars win two Island Championships and along the way earned CO-MVP of the Championship Game his sophomore year, All Island 1st Team his junior year, and All Island MVP his senior year.

While still in high school he also played basketball with the Island Dragons in an outside league and with the Guam Jr. National Team. He attended basketball camps at Duke University in Durham, the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and a 5 Star basketball camp in Pennsylvania. By 18 years of age he was a member of the Guam National Men's Basketball Team and graduated from Adamson University in the Philippines on a basketball scholarship.

Willie's first big basketball tournament was at age 15 when he played for Chuuk State in the Micronesian Games in Pohnpei. Since then he has played in basketball tournaments in Palau, Saipan, the Philippines, Samoa, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China, Australia and New Zealand, and most recently in Papua New Guinea at the XV South Pacific Games where, as Team Captain and playing point guard, Team Guam won the SPG Gold Medal.

It was at the 2015 South Pacific Games that he attracted the attention of a number of Pro Basketball Teams from New Zealand who contacted him and the Team Guam coach, E.J. Calvo, about the possibility of playing pro ball in New Zealand. That led to Willie and 3 of his Team Guam teammates entering a FIBA 3 on 3 tournament in Australia where they earned the Bronze medal behind Australia and New Zealand. After that tournament they travelled to a number of cities in New Zealand and worked out with various teams and eventually Willie and teammate Joe Blas were offered contracts to play with the Hawks Bay team in Napier, New Zealand.

Willie has been recognized by the Guam Legislature for his community service work with youth and the Chuukese community in Guam – most notably organizing the Matson sponsored Chuukese Basketball League consisting of 12 teams that took place in Yigo. He worked for the Guam Court as the Chuukese Interpreter and Alternate Sentencing Officer for the past 2 ½ years and just recently resigned to take advantage of this pro basketball opportunity.

He has to be in New Zealand before the end of January and his most immediate goal is to help his new team reach the Championship playoffs this year and along the way attract attention of an Australian Team that could put him in a more competitive pro basketball environment and from there . . . who knows. His longer term goal is to return to Chuuk and help the family operate their full service hotel and dive center and at the same time, work with youth,

the local community, help organize sports programs and promote facilities development to enhance athletic activities in the State.

In preparation for his new life, he's spending time in Chuuk with his young family and then travels to San Diego to visit family and friends there and expects to return to Guam around the second week in January 2016, then pack up for the big move south.



Willie, Derin & Will IV relaxing in Chuuk



*Thanks  
be unto God  
for His indescribable Gift.*

*2 Corinthians 9:15*

*May the blessings of Christmas be with you and your family always  
and*

*May peace and love surround you the New year through*

*Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker*

*Nineteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia*



*Christmas 2015*

Keipweni pahn kupwuren Eni-Lap, Keipweni pohn Ereko en Pohnpei Uh, Ei Tungoal wahu pahn kupwuren Nanken-ko, Nahn Alek-ko, Nahnken-ieiko Soumas en kousapw akan, Kepina, Speaker, oh Sounkopwung lapalap, Aramas akan en Wein Pohnpei, Kumwail ketin kupure sakarada wet.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen - Families and friends of the College graduates - 200 graduates

I am honored to be here for the 62nd Commencement Exercise, and I do thank you for inviting me to this important occasion. This really is an occasion to celebrate, and as my contribution to this celebration ...I promise to be brief.

You have chosen well for your theme, "Nil DESPERANDUM", a good Latin term which encourages persistence and perseverance in our endeavors. "Nil DESPERANDUM" is more than a simple encouragement; it commands that we do not despair or lose faith in our own abilities to overcome obstacles that stand between us and our goals. Sir Winston Churchill, of Great Britain travelled across the Atlantic Ocean to deliver the

## REMARKS

By

### President Peter M. Christian at the COM-FSM Commencement Exercise December 17, 2015

keynote address at one of America's most prominent schools.

I have memorized his full address and am happy to share this great speech with you today I quote, Sir Winston "Never Give Up! Never Give up! Never Give up!"

I won't be crossing a vast ocean, so I feel I could chance a slightly longer remark on this important day for you and your families. And I hope you do not mind. If, however, you choose to fall asleep during my remarks, I fully understand.

What I say today is not just for you. I say them to remind myself more.

I offer first my humble advice that we must seek not simply to finish a task, but must, at the end of each day, feel that we have accomplished something; something good and useful for us, for our families, our communities ....and in a larger sense for God and country.

We have a young nation in terms of years that we have been a political entity, self governing, and a voting member of the United Nations. But, as a culture, and as peoples of Micronesia, we have a long history, having settled these islands when our ancestors sailed in canoes and navigated by waves and stars. As man began to travel among stars, we challenged ourselves to the difficult task of building a nation from four distinct fibers of our culture, a more difficult task because we have dared to put together a unity from our diversity of cultures, languages, and traditional practices.

When we combine these wonderful differences with our embrace of freedom of speech and the desire to be simply different, those in charge and those observing become unable to define clearly whether a bottle is half-full or half-empty. This is where we summon up the great foundation of our community strength, our faith in our Christianity with all the good moral values that come with it, and reaffirm and maintain that "respect" is not just fundamental to our coexistence as good neighbors but also is the corner stone of our unity under a

constitutional government.

I join you today as the 8th person chosen by Congress to be our Nation's President. Like all who swore to an oath of faithfulness to duty, I, too, must remember to never give up, especially in the face of so many uncertainties that lurk beyond our political horizon, as well as in the face of expressions of lack of confidence by some citizens over my personal integrity and ability to carry out the functions expected of the office a president. It is times like these that I need your prayers and words of counsel for the will to Never Give Up.

As you must suspect, Nation building is not easy, but we must try within our means to remain true to our humble goals of improving the social well being of the people of Micronesia. As a nation which must lean on other countries for support, we must by demand, be practical; be prepared for compromises, to give this for that. In this modern age, interdependence of peoples, of communities, and of nations is essential to the economic survival of even the very rich and big, most especially for the small and poorly endowed.

As we move forward in life, let us not be afraid to pause; to examine our status, look back to where we have come from; where we are today; and whether we are on course to reach our individual or collective destinations tomorrow.

And let us keep in mind that Destiny is not always clearly defined nor simply attained; often we must make our own destiny.

And let us remember, that education is very important; but it is manners that makes the man.



COM Students ready to receive their diplomas  
(All photos by Juan Paulo Santos - Official Photographer for the College of Micronesia)



President Christian addresses COM graduates



Pamela Fredrick and Daryll Keller, shared the honors of valedictorian speakers, while Brittny Rose Esguerra addressed the audience as Salutatorian

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## Australia appoints Ambassador to the FSM

22 December 2015

**Canberra, Australia**— Julie Bishop, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, announced the appointment of Mr George Fraser as Australia's next Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Mr Fraser will also have non-resident accreditation to the Republics of the Marshall Islands and Palau.

"Australia shares close and friendly relations with these three countries of the North Pacific. Our ties have broadened and deepened over recent years to include cooperation on maritime surveillance, law enforcement, regional security, environment and marine resources management. Tourism, trade and people-to-people links are growing," she said in the press release announcing the appointment.

"Australia works with these North Pacific countries in multilateral forums such as the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum to address global challenges including climate change, the protection of marine resources, and economic and governance issues," she wrote.

Mr Fraser is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has previously served as Australian High Commissioner in Kiribati; Counsellor and Consul-General in Wellington; Australian High Commissioner in Nauru; Director, Consular and Administrative Affairs in Taipei; Head of Post and Consul in Bali; and Deputy Head of Mission in Vientiane.

In Canberra, Mr Fraser has served as Director within the Projects, Remuneration and Post Management Branch and Director, Passport Operations Section.

"I thank former Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Dr Terry Beven for his contribution in advancing Australia's interests in FSM since 2014," Bishop's press release concluded.

## FFA Explanatory Note on the Status of the Treaty between Pacific Island Countries and the United States of America

*Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency*

December 31, 2015

**Honiara, Solomon Islands**—In August 2015, the Parties to the Treaty reached an agreement regarding the conditions for access to Pacific Island Party (PIP) waters for 2016 and signed a "Statement of Intent" (SOI) that reflected this agreement. The SOI is an agreement between PIP Governments and the US Government, even though it describes obligations that fall to US vessel owners through the American Tunaboat Owners Association (ATA).

In short, the SOI entails a total of 6,250 fishing days in the region, although this total is made up of several "pools" that relate to fishing in different areas. In return, the agreed industry payment, to be made through the ATA is USD 68,271,350. This total amount can be paid in quarterly instalments, with the first quarter due to be paid before the start of the year (1 January 2016).

The ATA payment is in addition to an annual US Government contribution for economic assistance to the PIPs of USD 21 million.

In November 2015, FFA as the administrator of the Treaty received advice from the US Government that US industry was unable to make the first quarterly payment. The reason provided has been that economic conditions within the fleet mean that some vessels no longer require or can afford the days that they committed to in August 2015. In that correspondence, the US Government proposed to revise the 2016 agreed SOI to reduce the number of fishing days by 1,930, with an associated reduction in the ATA payment of almost USD23 million.

PIPs had a number of very obvious concerns with the proposed revision to the agreed SOI. The principal issue being faced is the timing. Having made an agreement with the US in August 2015, most PIPs, and particularly those who participate in the Vessel Day Scheme (the Parties to the Nauru Agreement and Tokelau) have

entered into agreements with other vessels and flag States to sell their remaining fishing days. Most PIPs have completed their sales, so agreeing to reduce the US allocation by 1,930 days brings in certain risks that could result in substantially reduced fisheries revenue to some or all PIPs. Given that those PIPs are all developing States, and have already budgeted on the projected revenue from the agreed SOI, this is an untenable situation. As such, PIPs have determined that at this stage they cannot accept the revised proposal and as such, expect the US Government and the ATA to make good on the agreement that was reached and signed in good faith.

In the meantime, PIPs, particularly the VDS Participants are taking steps to test the market to determine the best way to mitigate the risk that the US has introduced. There is no doubt that some non-US vessels still require more days, but whether this is sufficient to cover the shortfall remains to be seen.

In implementing their decision to hold the US to the agreed SOI, PIP have advised the US Government that no Treaty licences will be issued on 1 January 2016 unless the complete expected quarterly payment (approximately USD 17 million) is received. It is actually a requirement in the Treaty that licences cannot enter into force until relevant payments have been made, so this is in no way a new condition being imposed by PIPs.

The FFA Secretariat has had several informal communications with both the US Government and the ATA. At this time it appears certain that no payment will be forthcoming. The US Government has not lodged any licence applications (another requirement of the Treaty), which further indicates that payment will not be forthcoming.

It is unclear how this situation arose on the part of the US industry. The main point of contention in the August 2015 negotiations was that the US fleet insisted on more days than the PIPs were willing to provide. After

several rounds of negotiation, PIPs were eventually able to allocate the number of days that the fleet was requesting. PIPs do not understand how the US delegation, and particularly the industry members, overestimated their required effort in the order of 30%, especially given that they were already complaining of being burdened with excess days for 2015 at the time. PIPs are also unable to comprehend how the US would expect them to accept such a substantial change to the agreed SOI some 3 months after it was signed and only 2 months before the fishing season commences.

The timing of this issue is doubly unfortunate as it comes on the back of a meeting of PIP Ministers held in Nadi in October 2015. At that meeting PIP Ministers reaffirmed their strong commitment to the Treaty and put in place a process for the development of a more sustainable and flexible model for US vessels to obtain access to PIP waters into the future. PIP Ministers made those decisions on the basis of the geo-political importance of the Treaty, and its ongoing potential to be a "game lifter" for the region.

PIPs will continue to develop options for achieving a more sustainable arrangement, but this impasse has raised many questions about the commitment of the US to the Treaty and doubts about the reliability of the fleet to live up to its commitments. Again, this is unfortunate given that the US fleet has long been regarded as a proactive partner, and the US Government as a responsible flag State.

The Treaty itself has been a backbone of regional solidarity and has undoubtedly provided all PIPs with benefits and advantages that they would not otherwise have had. PIPs will be seeking to get the relationship back on track to secure such benefits into the future. At the same time US vessels will not be able to fish in the region's most productive fishing grounds without the issuance of Treaty Licences so there is definitely a mutual benefit from finding a resolution.

## Japanese Ambassador's third official visit to Chuuk State

*Embassy of Japan in the FSM*

Dec. 10, 2015

**CHUUK, FSM** — Ambassador Sakai made the third official visit to Chuuk State from December 1 to 4.

Ambassador Sakai met Governor Mr. Elimo and House Speaker Mr. Oneisom and made an address titled "KIZUNA, Japan & the FSM" at the Senate Chamber. Governor and others expressed their sincere gratitude to Japan's development aids, which include a most recent provision of excavators and other equipment and a dispatch of volunteers to Chuuk State,

and their desire for Japan's further contribution to develop Chuuk State economy.

Ambassador Sakai visited Tonoas island, where he inspected a utilization of the excavator provide by Japan, held a KIZUNA speech at Sino Memorial Elementary School and Southern Nemoneas High School and exchanged opinions with principals with regard to current situation of education in remote areas and a way to improve it.

## One month left to apply for SBA disaster loans

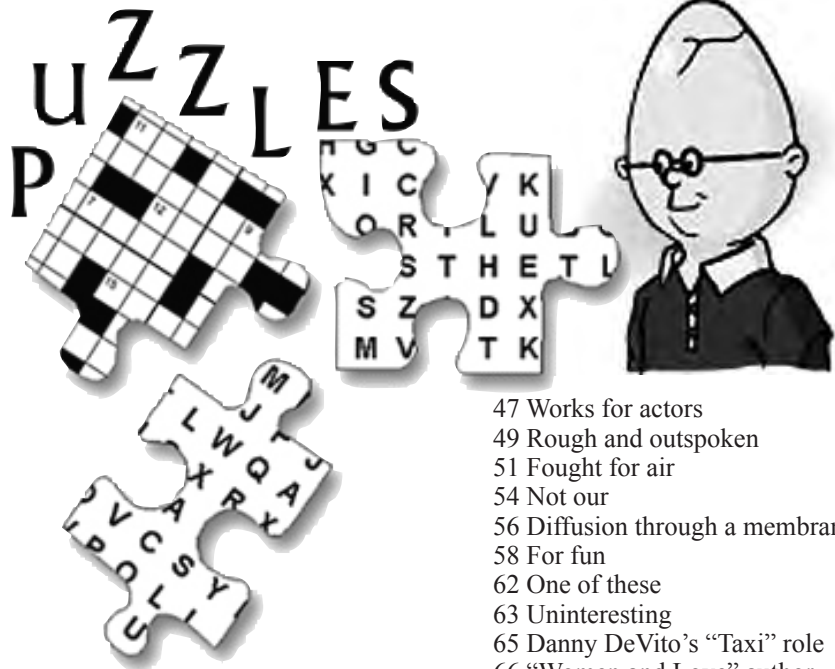
**HAWAII, United States (SBA, Dec. 28, 2015)** — District Director Jane Sawyer of the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Hawaii District office, [yesterday] reminded small businesses in the Federated States of Micronesia and States of Chuuk and Yap of the January 28, 2016, deadline to apply for an SBA federal disaster loan for economic injury caused by Super Typhoon Maysak that occurred March 29 - April 1, 2015.

According to Sawyer, small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. "EIDLs may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that cannot

be paid because of the disaster's impact. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the applicant suffered any property damage," Sawyer said.

The interest rate is 4 percent for businesses and 2.625 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.



# Crossword

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		
14						15					16					
17						18					19					
20						21			22		23					
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27	28	29					30	31								
32						33	34				35		36	37	38	
39						40					41			42		
43						44							46			
						47					49	50				
51	52	53							54	55						
56									57		58			59	60	61
62									63		64			65		
66									67					68		
69									70					71		

## Across

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

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

## Down

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

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

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

# Word Search

## - Sooner -

- Buffoonery
- Burlesque
- Clowning
- Comedy
- Drollery
- Farce
- Gags
- Japes
- Jests
- Jocularly
- Jokes
- Nonsense
- Parody
- Puns
- Raillery
- Satire
- Slapstick
- Wisecracks
- Witticism

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

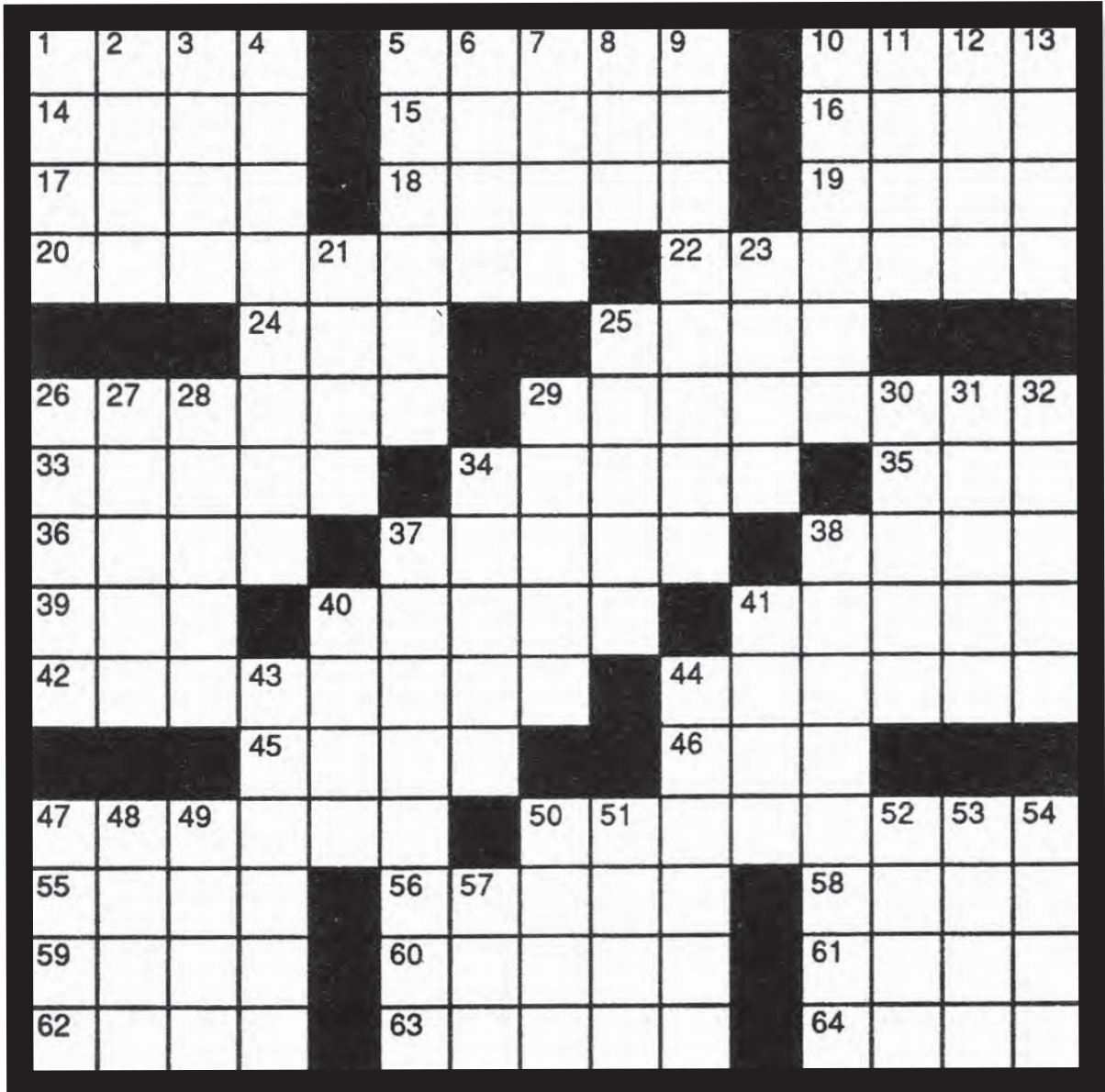
# Crossword

**ACROSS**

1. Dull
5. Board game
10. Breton or Highland Scot
14. Underdone
15. Wading bird
16. Notion
17. Grows old
18. Rub out
19. Tidy
20. Exposes to atmosphere
22. Revises
24. Rowing device
25. Remove from liquid's top
26. Makes a monarch
29. Moved up and down
33. Pits
34. Equals
35. \_\_\_ carte (2 wds.)
36. Among
37. Assigns position to
38. Mix with spoon
39. Increase motor speed (colloq.)
40. \_\_\_ for oneself; manages alone
41. Stockholm native
42. Small spaces for climbing
44. Steeples
45. Operatic solo
46. Fedora or derby
47. Moving masses
50. Burned surface
55. Back
56. Loathed
58. Healthy
59. Sea eagle
60. Oxlike antelope
61. Wicked
62. College head
63. Short simple song
64. Close completely

**DOWN**

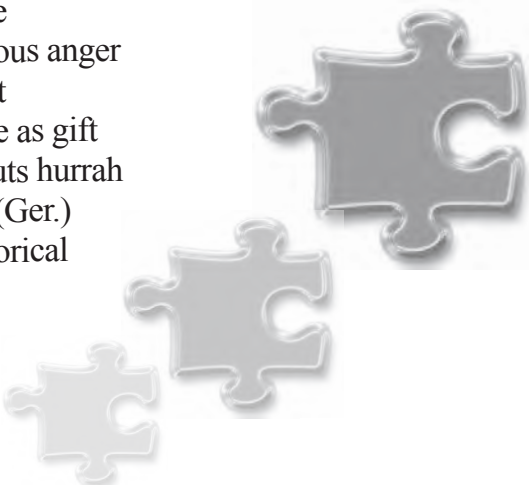
2. Furious anger
3. Tract
4. Gave as gift
5. Shouts hurrah
6. Mr. (Ger.)
7. Historical periods
8. Distress signal
9. Tennis shoes
10. The movies (British)
11. Paradise
12. Heavy metal
13. Makes lace
21. \_\_\_ Christian Andersen
23. Fail to hit
25. Looks for
26. Map
27. "\_\_\_ and Juliet"
28. \_\_\_ drab; camouflage color
29. Causes to go
30. Essential drink
31. Leave out
32. Challenges
34. Chinese bearlike animal
37. Enjoyed
38. Sticks for whipping
40. Shape
41. Box in exhibition
43. Become firm
44. Poorly done
47. Storage building
48. Telegram
49. "\_\_\_ Karenina"
50. Law (abbr.)
51. Penny
52. Possess
53. Writer-director Kazan
54. Small valley
57. Actress MacGraw



K Press Puzzle Pleasure

**DOWN**

1. A tie
2. Furious anger
3. Tract
4. Gave as gift
5. Shouts hurrah
6. Mr. (Ger.)
7. Historical



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 <b>52% off</b> Ref.21575 <b>PRICE:\$2,750</b> TOYOTA SPACIO Year 2003 AT 1,790cc PETROL Mileage 49,000km Color White	 <b>49% off</b> Ref.21965 <b>PRICE:\$2,460</b> HONDA STREAM Year 2002 AT 1,990cc PETROL Mileage 74,000km Color Dark Blue	 <b>36% off</b> Ref.21928 <b>PRICE:\$3,320</b> ISUZU WIZARD Year 2000 AT 3,160cc PETROL Mileage 107,000km Color White
 <b>12% off</b> Ref.22451 <b>PRICE:\$3,000</b> NISSAN CUBE Year 2006 AT 1,490cc PETROL Mileage 85,000km Color Blue	 <b>24% off</b> Ref.22252 <b>PRICE:\$2,540</b> MITSUBISHI COLT Year 2006 AT 1,330cc PETROL Mileage 66,000km Color Light Blue	 <b>55% off</b> Ref.21465 <b>PRICE:\$2,710</b> TOYOTA MARK II Year 2003 AT 1,980cc PETROL Mileage 85,000km Color Pearl
 <b>28% off</b> Ref.22246 <b>PRICE:\$2,500</b> NISSAN PRIMERA Year 2003 AT 2,000cc PETROL Mileage 91,000km Color Silver	 <b>17% off</b> Ref.22138 <b>PRICE:\$2,510</b> TOYOTA OPA Year 2000 AT 1,990cc PETROL Mileage 59,000km Color Silver	 <b>47% off</b> Ref.21828 <b>PRICE:\$2,960</b> TOYOTA VEROSSA Year 2002 AT 1,980cc PETROL Mileage 52,000km Color Silver

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## FSM Students Join the Embassy in Celebrating Christmas in Beijing

**December 25, 2015 (FSM Embassy, Beijing)** On Christmas day, the Embassy of the FSM in Beijing hosted a Christmas dinner for staff, families, and students who lived in Beijing. This is part of the on-going efforts of the Embassy to conduct its Citizens Outreach Activities Programs (COAP). As host for the evening, Ambassador Carlson D. Apis took the opportunity to extend his holiday greetings and best wishes to everyone and continued to reiterate his message of 'responsible citizens of the FSM' while living abroad in another country. He specifically addressed the students that are studying in Beijing and through-out China to remain 'true representatives of FSM' and ambassadors of our people in another foreign land. Ambassador Apis also took on the opportunity to review with the students the outcomes of his recent meeting with the China Scholarship Council earlier on December 15, 2015.



For further information, contact the FSM Embassy in Beijing at Ph: (86)1065324708 or e-mail address: [embassy@fsmembassy.cn](mailto:embassy@fsmembassy.cn)

## New FSM Deputy Chief of Mission takes oath

**December 21, 2015 (Palikir, Pohnpei)** – During an Oath of Office ceremony in the President's Conference Room in Palikir, Mr. KS Vincent Sivas was sworn in as the Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) of the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Beijing, China. President Peter Christian administered the oath of office and congratulated the newly appointed Deputy Chief of Mission. Responding to the congratulatory remarks by President Christian, DCM Sivas thanked President Christian for his trust and confidence to appoint him to serve in the deputy post capacity.

DCM Sivas had served as First Secretary at the Beijing Mission since 2008. Prior to that, he had served in

various capacities at the Department of Foreign Affairs including his last post at Capital as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asian Affairs. He began his career at the FSM National Government in 2003. He is currently married to the former Mickina Micky of Lemad, Sokehs and they have a son, Vinceki Sivas.

DCM Sivas has been with the Embassy in Beijing for six years now. His only long extended absence from Beijing was during the school year 2013 to 2014 when Mr. Sivas moved to Canberra to attend the Australian National University. Mr. Sivas successfully completed his studies in Australia and returned to Beijing with a Masters in Strategic Studies.

As DCM, Mr. Sivas replaces Mr. Jackson T. Soram who had previously occupied the position since 2013. Mr. Soram will be returning back to Palikir to take up a senior position in the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs. Present at the ceremony were the Honorable Mr. Lukner Weilbacher, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure; the Honorable Mr. Marion Henry, Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development; and the Honorable Mr. Samson Pretrick, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs along with other senior government officials.

For further information, contact the FSM Embassy in Beijing at Ph: (86)1065324708 or e-mail address: [embassy@fsmembassy.cn](mailto:embassy@fsmembassy.cn)



President Christian, DCM Sivas, Madame Sivas and their son Vinceki

## PUC signs agreement with VERGNET to install UAE solar power farm in Pohnlanghas

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation  
December 23, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—On October 29th, the General Manager of PUC, Mr. Marcelino Actouka, and VERGNET's representative, Ms. Camille Note, signed a contract that will see the construction of a 600kW grid connected solar PV array in Pohnlanghas, Madolenihmw. The solar farm will be constructed adjacent to the Pohnlanghas Chinese farm on PUC land. VERGNET, a company based in France, has completed several solar and wind farm projects in the Pacific, including on the islands of Kiribati, Samoa and Fiji.

This solar project is funded by the UAE Pacific Partnership Fund and developed by Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company Masdar. This project is part of the UAE's support for economic and social development of the Pacific island nations.

Work will commence in January and the solar farm should be completed and commissioned by early in the second quarter of 2016. VERGNET will bring in 4 technicians and hire upwards of 30 local laborers to complete the project. The system will be a "turn-key system" with 2400 solar panels arranged in 24 arrays and connected to the main PUC power lines. The plan will be designed so that the site is scalable and can be upgraded to Pohnpei State's renewable energy target of a 10MW solar farm in the future.

The system will be monitored remotely by technicians at the Nahnpolmal Power Station via the internet. In the future, PUC plans on opening a sub-station in Pohnlanghas once the system is completed.

## Opinion Editorial Landmark climate agreement reached in Paris

*Embassy of the United States of America*

2015 will be remembered as the year the world came together in Paris to create an ambitious, durable, and truly universal climate regime, sending a powerful signal that all countries are committed to taking real action to combat global climate change.

The agreement reached on December 12, 2015, with representatives from almost 200 nations, establishes a long term, global framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance climate resilience. All countries have committed to putting forward ambitious climate targets and reporting on their progress towards those targets using a rigorous, standardized process of review. Countries have also agreed to renew or strengthen those targets every five years, striving to be more and more ambitious over time.

First round emissions reduction targets pledged at the conference range from China's goal to stop its growth in carbon emissions by 2030 to Palau's pledge to make 45 percent of its energy renewable in the next 10 years. The United States has committed to reduce its emissions by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. The FSM has made the same 28% reduction pledge, with a reduction of 35% conditioned on additional financial and technical support from

the international community.

Stop for a moment and consider the significance. Practically every nation on earth, large and small, rich and poor, inland and coastal, has recognized the impact of climate change and the risks it poses to human life, today and in the future. These nations have said clearly and with a common voice that the time to act is now. Human actions have contributed to a nearly one degree Celsius increase in average global temperatures since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution. The impacts of climate change can be seen around the world – rising sea levels, worsening droughts, and increasing bouts of extreme weather. The Paris Agreement's goal is to limit the rise of global temperatures to "well below" two degrees Celsius and sets an ambitious vision to go even farther than that.

Since President Obama took office, the United States has reduced carbon emissions to their lowest levels in two decades, tripled wind energy production, and increased solar power twenty fold. We did this even as our economy expanded to new highs, proving that it is possible to grow your economy and create jobs while cutting carbon pollution. The President's Clean Power Plan, the most significant domestic climate action the U.S. has taken, will further reduce carbon emissions from the U.S. energy sector by more than 30 percent by 2030.

As part of the Paris Climate Agreement, all countries will communicate their climate targets every five years, starting in 2020. Targets must be submitted 9-12 months before they are finalized, creating time for other countries and civil society to seek clarity about the targets submitted. Each target should reflect progress from the prior one. This durable, long term framework will drive greater climate ambition as technologies improve and circumstances change.

The Paris Agreement is designed to build trust and get results. It includes binding transparency requirements to ensure each country lives up to its commitments. The Agreement also includes important provisions about adaptation to build resilience to climate change and provisions on sustainable land use and forest protection.

Another critical piece to this global transformation is climate finance. In the Agreement, developed country Parties committed to continue to take the lead in mobilizing climate finance as part of a global effort. The United States joins other nations in extending financial support to developing countries to assist with climate adaptation and low-carbon development.

The Paris Agreement is a foundation for ambitious action. We as a global community must continue to work together to address the urgent threat of climate change. Future generations will recognize this as the moment when we took a major step forward to address climate change.

## Letter to the Editor

### Pohnpei Exporters need more options

Dear Editor,

In regards to the article in KPress on the Pohnpei Exporters Association, I would like to add my congratulations and expressions of appreciation to PEA and all of the other entities and individuals involved in getting the first container "off the ground" so to speak. As an exporter of handicrafts, this alternate and affordable shipping option, and particularly the timing with regard to the Christmas holiday, was good for overseas buyers of handicrafts.

That being said, I must convey my concerns about the future and some other issues.

One question is about the next container, or the regularity and reliability that exporters can anticipate from this service. I, for one, do not have the financial resources to purchase a year's worth of handicrafts and store them in my office until the next shipping opportunity. I can't expect the handicraft weavers and carvers in Pohnrakied and other villages to wait as long as a year before being paid either. I can't speak for other dry goods exporters, but obviously this schedule would not work for fresh produce exporters. Can we expect the generosity of Matson and FSM R&D and the efforts of all those other offices and persons listed in the article on a more

frequent basis, perhaps once a quarter? If so, great! But then, will exporters be able to fill a container that often? Maybe that could happen if we could work our schedules to fit this level of frequency? I don't know. It may take a few tries. I really hope that we can make this thing work!

My other thoughts are focused more on why the shipping restrictions have suddenly appeared at the FSM's Post Offices? If the restrictions are a part of the "Compact II" bilateral agreement between the FSM and US, why are they showing up in mid-2015? Why not when this revised agreement between the two nations actually went into effect?

A couple of years ago the Post Office posted a letter proclaiming similar restrictions to the ones that are currently posted. That letter had less detailed information on the banned and restricted items. The announcement that is presently affixed to the Post Office door is so unofficial looking and unreasonable in some of its details that I wonder if it is really a part of the Compact II content. Who would consider going to all the effort required to send one pound of sakau in the mail?

In the current restriction announcement, the term "protection" is used. Who or what is being protected? The term "monetary gain" was used in the previous restrictions letter. What is the purpose, the mission, of the postal services? Just birthday cards

and love letters? When I receive an invoice or pay a bill by mail, is this not monetary gain for someone? Why can I send a black pearl, worth a thousand dollars in a tiny package, but I can't send \$250 worth of woven stars in a box that is compliant with the weight and size of the postal regulations and that represents badly needed income for a Kapinga or Nukuoran weaver? What about the many boxes of merchandise that I see received at the post office? Do they represent monetary gain for someone? At least my meager efforts to send Pohnpeian products to buyers overseas brings money into the state. Can someone explain the differences here?

Before PEA's effort, I sent a box of handicrafts via a local courier service, after the Post Office refused to accept it. This box would have cost less than \$25 to mail. I paid \$162.50! Since my overseas buyer had already made promises to her customers, I was instructed to go ahead and pay the extra, but I also received a warning that future orders may need to go to the Philippines, as the high shipping costs made the profit margin not worth buying products from the FSM. If this happens, I'm out of the handicraft business and feel so sorry for the Kapinga or Nukuoran families needing to pay for kerosene or cash power.

Once again, congratulations to PEA. I sincerely hope we can make this work.

*Robert Spegal*

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# Education Corner: Richard Womack, Ed.D

## The C-word

Last edition I wrote about the R-word-Respect. I wondered out loud about the difference between having respect (in one's heart) and showing respect (by one's actions). I was speaking about what we in the U S might call manners or social etiquette. By the end of the EC column I noted I was happy a Pohnpei Studies Program was being introduced next year and I am sure our Pohnpeian experts in Pohnpeian Culture will handle the R-word just fine. It is the C-word-Culture that is a good topic for the year's final EC. It's good because it comes with two other C-words-Confusion and Change. These are very good C-words as well. Culture is social studies with standards and benchmarks to be learned by students. And it is confusing as it is taught in an environment of cultural change. No one can stop change we can only make decisions how we will manage or cope with the change. We have already mentioned language. Language is a group's primary cultural marker—the language in the FSM is English this shows you the first major change. A look at Trust Territory education gives us three other drivers of change.

### American Schools—Trust Territory Times (1945-1986, taken from Micronesian Seminar) and directly from An Introduction to Professional Teaching and Student Learning

The educational thrust of the American administration for 40-plus years is difficult to summarize in a few sentences. Early policies, established under the Navy and

the first decade of the Civil Administration in the Trust Territory, were later reversed during the 1960s, as hundreds of classrooms were built, expatriate teachers hired on, and English made the official medium of instruction in the schools. Additional educational programs for those outside of schools were implemented, largely through U.S. federal programs. The handicapped, the aged, unemployed, school dropouts, teachers with previous classroom experience, and others have been the target of these programs.

It is not easy to find a clear statement of the educational goals of the American administration, particularly one that is adequate to encompass the various kinds of educational activities that the U.S. has undertaken. There were, however, certain implicit goals that seem to underlie the direction (that education in Micronesia has) taken during the past ten years. In the first place, education was aimed at preparing young and old to participate in a democratic society, one in which their own choices are of great consequence. Hence, the school system aimed at providing the kind of information and mental enlightenment that would enable future voters to understand a democratic government and to make wise and constructive choices in the future. It should be noted that this is the same basic aim that education experts have ascribed to the public school system in the United States. Understandably enough, American education has been charged with the task of preparing the young for insertion into a democracy; and when American education travels abroad, it is likely to retain the same

fundamental goal—even in those overseas possessions without a democratic cultural tradition.

Second, education in the Trust Territory seemed to be about directing Micronesians towards the larger world beyond their islands. In principle, at least, education was to prepare Micronesians to adapt to the inevitable changes that will be brought here in the future, as well as to adjust to new surroundings elsewhere if they choose to leave the islands. This goal was reflected in the orientation our college age students to the curriculum of the "great world beyond". This resulted in the push to send as many young people as possible to colleges outside of Micronesia. The very decision to use English as the medium of instruction in the schools was partially based on the reasoning that it would provide an effective communication link with the outside world.

Third, education was geared to encourage people to fully enter the money economy. The young Micronesian, it was expected, would move directly from school into wage employment. One of the major concerns of education in recent years, in fact, has been furnishing suitable enough skill training in school so that the student will be able to find a job after his/her graduation (if he/she is not lucky enough to be able to attend still another school). At times, it began to appear as if the real purpose of school was to equip the young for future employment.

There are, no doubt, a number of other important characteristics of present-day education in Micronesia that could be

added. These three, however, are enough to illustrate the fact that the major goals of education—and of political and economic development as well—have a distinctively American (U S) flavor to them. Democratic participation in society, an openness to the world-at-large, and entrance into the dollar economy imply certain values that are fundamental to a people. And it is these values—especially the one of freedom of choice—that underpins American education. These are new values and when adopted by education force us into an environment of cultural change. Just look around—change is all around us.

Finally, what do you think is the purpose of education in Micronesia today? Is it for employment or for skills to emigrate if there are no jobs? Perhaps it is. But to many educators the task of education is to help society cope with change. We cannot stop change but perhaps it can be managed a bit. As a student once told the author many years ago—"I am here at CCM to learn the new ways and my brother was left home to learn the old ways. I know that a lot of what I will learn about the new ways may not be good and that I will have to give up some of the old ways. The whole thing frightens me." This gentleman is soon to retire with 30 years in the U S military and still greets Micronesians in Hawaii reminding them of their pride and the changes they are about to find. The brother who stayed home to learn the old ways learned of navigation from his uncle Pius "Mau" Pailug. Teaching and learning culture is not as easy as we might wish it were as these two brothers from Satawal taught me.

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