Marshalls mourn Kabua

President succumbs to heart, kidney complications In Hawaii

Queen's Hospital officials in Honolulu declined to provide details and family members were not available for comment.

Acting President Kunio Lemari issued a statement to the nation, broadly broadcast on the government radio station V7AB at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, announcing the passing of Kabua and calling on the people of the Marshalls to remain calm, firm and united, "however painful and profound our distress."

Lemari's short statement was laden with grief, saying that "our hearts are at an utter loss as we inform the people of the Marshall Islands and all our friends throughout the world that our beloved leader Amata Kabua died at 10:45 p.m. Friday (December 20) at Queen's Hospital in Honolulu."

The nation is grieving with the family of Kabua, who have been at his bedside in Honolulu for the past five weeks, Lemari said in the nationally broadcast message. Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials began issuing this morning diplomatic notes to heads of state in the region and to the more than 60 countries with which the Marshalls has diplomatic ties alerting them of the death of the president.

President's office staff indicated that a committee of both family members and government officials had been quickly formed and was meeting to prepare plans for a state funeral next week.

Kabua's body is expected to return home to the Marshalls by middle of this week, but arrangements remain to be made.

Continued on page 26

Indonesian seamen ‘jump ship’ onto Tinian; DOLI after them

Indonesian seamen who reportedly jumped ship and have taken refuge on Tinian.

Thomas O. Sablan, Secretary of the Department of Labor and Immigration said a team of DOLI agents have been sent over the weekend to form a dragnet on Tinian and arrest the foreigners.

He refused to give further details on the ongoing operation for fear of jeopardizing it.

"The operation is part of our relentless campaign against illegal aliens," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

The seamen were reportedly on board a cargo ship dropping its load in the CNMI last week.

DOLI sources said the vessel's captain, whom they failed to identify, reported the incident. There have been similar incidents in the past, the sources said.

"The CNMI's terrain is very favorable to 'jump ships.'" Seamen were even reported to have used life rafts to land on Rota or Tinian where the population is sparse.

Continued on page 31

Thai firm ready to ‘seize’ Hillblom’s Vietnam assets

By Ferdie de la Torre

A THAILAND-based construction firm is likely to seize some of the late millionaire Larry Hillblom’s assets in Vietnam.

Tony C. P. Ng, managing director for Bangkok Golf Course Construction Co., Ltd., told the Variety a Vietnam court would order the seizure if Hillblom’s company fails to pay losses incurred by their firm.

Ng said the court gave Hillblom’s Golf Course Co., Ltd., and Phan Thiet Club (P.T.C.) a 10-day notice from Dec. 16 to settle its "damages" to Bangplee.

The Appeals Court in Ho Chi Minh City thereby rejected an appeal of P.T.C. ordering the company to pay $1,048,740 in contract loss to Bangplee.

Ng said P.T.C. had requested to pay $100,000 in monthly installments, but such a request was reportedly denied.

Ng, who had just arrived from Vietnam, claimed that the court last October seized P.T.C.’s $250,000 account, and $243,000 of that amount was paid to Bangplee.

"We demanded for a balance ($805,740), but until now we received no payment," said the managing director.

According to Ng, he along with a Vietnam judge, their lawyer Pham Trung Hoi, and other members of the ‘official receiver,’ recently went to the project site and took photographs and records of the assets.

If P.T.C. fails to pay by the

Continued on page 31

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio with some of the William S. Reyes Elementary School students who visited him for Christmas caroling Thursday at the governor’s residence.

Photo courtesy of the Governor’s PIO.
Gingrich admits misconduct

Speaker confesses his ex-officio position to accommodate 36 detainees to "seek and follow" legal advice that would have prevented his use of tax-exempt operations.

He acknowledged his failure to "seek and follow" legal advice when he signed the "statement of alleged violation," which the House ethics committee determined to be "false statements by Gingrich that are subject to Gross Revenue Tax (GRT)."

"My actions did not reflect credit - personal by federal taxation."

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8 suspected prostitutes rounded up in Garapan

By Joely Babauta

The speaker should step down when the House of Representatives allows his colleagues in the majority party to name a speaker by 15 January, "as required by law."

The respondents, admitted, fulfilled three essential norms of self-regulation by the House: "The speaker should not use his office to abuse the trust of the House of Representatives and allow his colleagues in the majority party to name a speaker by 15 January, "as required by law."

The House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt said: "I'm very disturbed and outraged when the House itself is subjected to an unfair sanction."

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"The speaker should step down when the House of Representatives allows his colleagues in the majority party to name a speaker by 15 January, "as required by law."

By Pericles de la Torre

Pelegrino gets favorable ruling on tax law suits

Pericles de la Torre

The DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment has adopted the U.S. agriculture department's decision, acting on the CNMI meat growers who have accused the CNMI of allowing U.S. meat products to enter the market.

The CNMI meat growers have accused the U.S. agriculture department of allowing U.S. meat products to enter the market.

"We were being cut off. I think this is the only possible way they can (comply with the ban)," Sablan said. "We know the CNMI meat growers have asked the U.S. agriculture department to lift the sanctions."
Philippines vs. NMI Wages

In 1999, the average wage in the NMI was $35 per day. In Asia, for the large expatriate group in the NMI, much less than wages those expatriates were earning in their home countries. This gap created a moral issue, as wage issues are considered to be a loss of productivity.

In the Philippines, wages are different. The average NMI worker earns about $1.5 hour at $30 per month. This is considered to be a derisory living wage in the NMI without adding the benefits of free schooling and free transportation. Free medical care is a common.

The NMI government has been criticized for not addressing this issue. In recent years, the NMI government has increased the minimum wage. However, the increase has been slow and the gap remains wide.

Retaining the right by the Department of Commerce, Congress has made it clear that the minimum wage in the NMI should be increased to a minimum of $20 per hour. This is necessary to ensure that the minimum wage in the NMI is not a living wage but a reasonable wage.

In conclusion, the situation in the NMI is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. The government needs to take action to ensure that the minimum wage in the NMI is increased to a reasonable level.

Jack Anderson and Michael Benitez

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

House's Indiana oddball is broken up

WASHINGTON—One of the oddest friendships in the House of Representatives is breaking up.

Rep. Andrew Jacobs, D-Ind., returned this year after three years of gridlock in the House—and as one of his closest friends in a confident committee chairman.

The House Government Reform and Oversight Committee is expected to return next year by Dan Burton, R-Ind., the speaker of which is already falling out with the chair of the committee on the Commerce Committee.

It is not clear whether Jacobs will return to the panel after his term expires. Jacobs has been critical of Burton and the Commerce Committee in the past, as well as the leadership of the House.

But Jacobs, who leads the panel on telecommunications and emerging technologies, has said he will return to the panel. This is expected to be re-elected with a vote of 99 to 1, with 98 votes.

“Would I return to the panel? I will not say. I will not say what I will do. This is a very delicate situation.”

A bipartisan agreement was reached in the House to break up the oddball Jacobs-Burton friendship.

The deal was reached last month after a series of late night sessions in the House. Jacobs and Burton have been bitter rivals for years. They have not spoken to each other in years.

“Would I return to the panel? I will not say. I will not say what I will do. This is a very delicate situation.”

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said the deal was reached after months of negotiations. Hastert said the deal was reached after a series of meetings with Jacobs and Burton.

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Toys, books, Christmas gifts set for distribution

The 6th Annual Toys for Tots drive, in coordination with the Marianas Variety News and Views, has provided a list of children who will receive toys as Christmas gifts. The northern village of Ailao, Nauru, received gifts on Dec. 25. A total of 700 toys were passed out to children of the village. The toys were provided by the Variety News and Views, the Marianas Variety News and Views and the Northern Village Alliance.

PAIN & STRESS RELEASE VISIT

Fonner Roberto’s Holistic Therapist, a scalp therapy for memory enhancement, now offers scalp therapy sessions every Monday and Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The sessions are free for those over 60 years old.

Dear Ate Minda,

I wanted to say thank you for your advice. I followed your recommendations and took my advice. I felt changes throughout my body after only 5 treatments. I am now ready to have a baby again because I was 42 years old.

My sincere thanks to GOD and especially to you Ate Minda.

Cullen or Nenlng for appointments.

The toys, which were received at the Women’s Alliance Office in Ailao, were distributed on the weekend, and Fonner and distributor Shiela went to the village to distribute the toys to children ages 6-12 years.

On Dec. 25, Fonner Roberto’s Holistic Therapist provided scalp therapy sessions for memory enhancement.

REFLEXOLOGY

A new service now offered by Fonner Roberto’s Holistic Therapist, Reflexology, is available for those who wish to enhance their overall well-being.

Fonner Roberto’s Holistic Therapist offers Reflexology treatments to help many who are in need of help.

The staff of Fonner Roberto’s Holistic Therapist invites potential in-service providers to a special seminar on the benefits of Reflexology.

The seminar will be held on Dec. 25. For more information, please contact Fonner Roberto’s Holistic Therapist at 234-5584.

Varela upbeat on ‘food benefits’

Everyone looks forward to holiday lights and decorations. When stringing lights, follow these electrical safety rules to make sure your holiday is a happy one.

* Keep paper and tinsel away from hot lights.
* Keep lights away from water.
* Unplug lights before you go out or to bed.
* Ensure that cords are completely insulated.

Happy Holidays from your local, consumer-owned community utility.

The Staff Management & Board of Directors
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

CRM to tour schoolchildren to view coral reefs on site

A major agency working in the CNMI offers the opportunity for schoolchildren to tour the Coral Reef Foundation (CRF) and view the beautiful coral reefs in the CNMI.

By Nick Almeda

The CNMI Department of Education, in coordination with the Coral Reef Foundation (CRF), will offer tours of schoolchildren in grades seven and eight to the reef on Dec. 23. The tours will take place at 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.

The tours will provide an educational experience for the children, allowing them to learn about the importance of preserving the coral reefs.

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The Staff Management & Board of Directors
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
FREE ROASTING!!!
FOR MR. PURCHASE OF TURKEY OR HAM LEG, GET A FREE ROASTING COUPON FROM THE SUPERVISOR. OFFER GOOD UNTIL JANUARY 2.

FREE ROASTING COUPON FROM THE SUPERVISOR.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!

JOETEN SHOPPING CENTER
Best Quality, Best Savings and Unbeatable Customer Service

Your Low Price Leader On The Island!
Joeten's Store-Wide Sale

Christmas "Last Chance" Sale

December 23, 1996 - 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Susume Only - While Supplies Last

20% Off All Other Departments

Sale Items:
- 12-Cup Coffee Maker
  - Water Window
  - Removable Swing-Away Basket
  - Auto Pause 'N Serve
  - On/Off Switch
  - Auto Cord Storage
  - White
  - Reg. $24.99
  - Sale $19.99

- Whirlpool Washer
  - Large Capacity
  - Rotary
  - White
  - Reg. $629.99
  - Sale $479.99

Cash and Carry - Except Sale Items - No Rain Checks - Delivery Charge $10.00
US mediator defends role in ME peace talks

By MAHMUD BADAZIK

Gaza City, Gaza Strip: The United States has an important role to play in Middle East peace talks, and he hoped to strengthen the American role in the Oslo process by "closing" Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Ross, who met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Pakistani leader Yasser Arafat on December 23, 1996, is expected to strengthen the American role in the Oslo peace process. Ross' role was praised by the Israeli and Palestinian leaders to see what can be done to help energize the process, Ross said after a meeting with Arafat.

"The United States plays an instrumental role in the peace process for a long time, and I hope that the American role will go on only in our view of what is important about the Oslo process," he said.

Ross' visit comes at a time of growing tensions in the Middle East. On Tuesday, a fight between settlers and Palestinians led to a shootout in a residential complex of Israeli and Palestinian communities.

The fighting broke out along the main road between the settlement of Hefra and a Palestinian village. The settlers, who are mostly from the West Bank, and the Palestinians, who are mostly from the northern Israeli settlement of Hefra, have been living in close proximity for many years.

Several Palestinian youths threw stones and molotov cocktails at the settlers, who roughly pushed away some Palestinians while settled clashed and burned.

Negotiations over the status of the settlements, agreed to in the Oslo accords, have been deadlocked over Israeli demands to tighten security for the settlers.

Ross is expected to push for a resolution that would stop violence.

"Mr. Ross has to be an accurate mediator to be favorable to the side of the Israelis," Netanyahu said Friday. Ross' visit was seen by some as a direct challenge to Arafat, who has been negotiating with the Israelis on the future of the settlements.

"Ross' visit is expected to strengthen the American role in the Oslo peace process," Arafat said Friday.

Netanyahu has also criticized the Palestinians for their proposals on Jerusalem and the West Bank, which he called "constructive and fruitful." Arafat said the two had discussed how to push forward with the peace process, and that he hoped the sides would soon agree on a new negotiating team.

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As Singapore girls for elections

Party expects to retain power

By KENNETH LING, WRITING SINGAPORE (AP) — With opposition parties fragmented and divided, ruling People's Action Party paid tribute to Tuesday's election of its leader to parliament Monday, recognizing him as the country's potential next top leader.

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said he will introduce the policy, along with a broader series of economic and social measures, to Parliament once the election is over. The next Parlia

mment will be elected by mid-1998, and the PAP has promised to introduce a series of measures to address the problems of inflation, unemployment and crime.

Goh said he would work towards improving relations with neighboring countries, particularly Malaysia and Thailand, to reduce the threat of instability and conflict in the region.

The PAP's success in winning a majority of seats in Parliament is seen as a significant victory for the party, which has been in power for 30 years.

The PAP's strategy for the next election will focus on maintaining its base while appealing to younger voters, who are increasingly disillusioned with the system.

The PAP has promised to introduce measures to address the problems of inflation, unemployment and crime, as well as to improve relations with neighboring countries, particularly Malaysia and Thailand, to reduce the threat of instability and conflict in the region.

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This month receive a $25 Credit on your long distance calls when you switch to PCI.
Japan's bullet train gets better

A newly-designed bullet train type 500, only, eight cars over a speed of 100 after the arrival at the Tokyo Station for the first time for trial runs last week. The new type, named Turnip (Rig), is developed at 300 kilometers (188 miles) an hour during regular operations which scheduled to begin in March next year.
GM to discontinue use of Geo brand

Geo to become Chevys by the year 1998

By BRIAN E. AAREN

WASHINGTON—Auto makers' desire to pare costs and offer consumers a greater variety of models has led to the discontinuation of the Geo brand.

Garapan, Beach Road 236-7133

THE SHOE GALLERY

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CHAMPION

Aerobic Wear
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JANSPORT

Backpacks & Bags
25% OFF

THE SHOE GALLERY

Beach Road, Susupe
Christmas Hours
Dec. 23 and 24 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Survey calls Iraq, North Korea, Cuba and Sudan most repressive nations

By GEORGE ODELL
Washington (AP) - Iraq, North Korea, Cuba and Sudan were named the world's most repressive countries in an annual ranking by Human Rights Watch. The annual report released Tuesday in Washington, based on a survey of nearly 10,000 people, met liberal critics who rely on "The Nutcracker" as a major revenue producer. But fate intervened. Petipa followed a series of different Russian choreographers after the 1892 premiere, diversified it throughout the United States, and today it is a fixture of nearly every major American and community theater groups. The story is about good triumphing over evil, and the dancing is beautiful. The children are the stars, and it is their delight and the thrill of the Nutcracker that is the Christmas theme at the Hartford Ballet during the 1996-97 holiday season. This year, "The Nutcracker" was a dismal failure when it first was performed by the Ballet Russe de Hollywood.
Storm dumps snow, thousands stranded

Apple's co-founder returns to stay

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), is pleased to inform the general public that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved $52,000 for the FY 96 HOME Program. The HOME funds will be used for eligible rehabilitation and repair activities on residential dwelling units owned and occupied by very low-income families.

Eligible rehabilitation and repair activities include, but not limited to, the following: Construction or repair of sanitary water tanks and sewage disposal systems; alteration of interior and/or exterior of unit to provide greater accessibility for disabled and/or senior residents; electrical systems; construction of additional, indoor bathrooms; and repair activities necessary to preserve the dwelling in a safe, decent, and sanitary condition.

Financial assistance will be made available to eligible homeowners primarily through low-interest (3%) loans, with maximum loan terms of up to 30 years. Deferred rehabilitation loans will be available, but only in situations where the applicant(s) demonstrates a critical need for financial assistance.

The following requirements must be met, as a minimum, to be eligible for HOME Program financial assistance:

1. The homeowner must not be older than 65 years.
2. The homeowner must have no more than $2,500 in resources.
3. The homeowner must be an eligible member of a very low-income family.
4. The homeowner must have a legal, long-term lease or purchase agreement for the property.
5. The homeowner must not be able to obtain financial assistance elsewhere.

Interested homeowners should contact: Ms. Marie S. Marquart, HUD Designee/Manager, NMHC, 100 Martin Johnson Drive, Saipan, CNMI 96950.

Contact: Laurie 288-0042

Used Cars Christmas Blowout!

All vehicles are in good condition and come with warranty. Contact: Laurie 288-0042
New York (AP) - Stand back, pop aficionados. Madonna's much anticipated film version of "Evita" headlined its New York premiere Monday, eight days ahead of its Christmas Day nationwide release.

The movie is sung-through with a predictable story line of promise and betrayal, love and retribution, revolution and sacrifice. Streep as Eva Peron channels much of the charisma that made her an international star in the 1950s, and Banderas, he looks more high-powered and less颠颇 persuasively dashing as Evita's husband, President Juan Peron. The only thing that seems to be missing in the story is that there would have been more than one character and more than one plot thread.

"Evita" plays out in a straightforward and engaging fashion. The movie is sung-through with very little dialogue, and most moments are not sung, which makes for less characterization and less emotional impact than you might expect from a film of its style and genre. What you do get is a film that has the same kind of emotional depth as the stage version, but without the same kind of emotional range.

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**FOR SALE**

*201t MacGregor Sail Boat W/Trailer*

Tel. 234-7213/333-0736

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PC Optimum Inc. (Mailing for the following positions):

CHIP HANSEN has an opening for the following positions:

**FOR RENT**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF DEFAULT**

For the Sum of $178,206.78 Na principal, interest and fees.

**NOTICE OF DEFAULT**

For the Sum of $178,206.78 Na principal, interest and fees.

**NOTICIAS DELGUINCENTES**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIA_N ISLANDS**

**IN THE NAME OF NATHAN T. LAM**

**DEFENDANT**

**Plaintiff**

*(name and address)

NOTICE OF HEARING

**FOR SALE**

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

**WANTED**

**LEGAL SECRETARY**

Must have experience in CMH. U.S. Citizen only. Must have been licensed in Maryland and have excellent secretarial and legal skills. Accounting skills would be a plus. If you don’t have the above, please do not apply.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUTOR**

To teach Russian students. Phone the name and number.

**JAPANESE LANGUAGE TUTOR**

**WANTED**

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**MARIANAS Variety Classified Ads Section**

**JOF VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**World Commodities Ports Authority**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is seeking applicants for the following positions at the Salinar International Airport.

**ONE (1) GARDENER/OPERATOR I**

To perform various tasks associated with the maintenance of landscaping and grounds which include but are not limited to:

- Watering and fertilizing the grounds
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To apply, please submit your resume to:

RANDEL FENNELL
Attorney at Law

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

**FOR SALE**

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**
MONTEZ WINS CHESS ‘BLITZ’

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Pol Monteze scored six points in seven rounds yesterday to win the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Chess Association’s (CCA) yearending Blitz Chess Tournament afternoon at Rambo’s Restaurant.

Monteze beat six opponents to nip second placer Lou Piliwale by half a point for the crown. Piliwale won five matches, lost one and drew the other for a 5.5 output. Piliwale’s only loss came at the hands of Monteze.

Winston Abarca finished third. Abarca racked five wins, against two losses. He was the only player to beat Monteze.

Junnal Lomantas tallied a total of four points on an account of four victories for the fourth slot.

Ray Villamin round the top five finishers with three points.

A total of eight players joined the unique chess blitz which gives a player ten minutes to win.

Montez, for his efforts, won 50% of the cash prize raised for the tournament.

Piliwale and Abarca also won consolation cash prizes.

In a related event, the winners of the Veterans and Novice divisions of the CCA 1996 Budweiser Cup Individual Chess Championships received their trophies in a simple awarding ceremonies held after the blitz tournament.

Rogelio Villamin successfully defended his title while Ely G. Buenaventura finished second. Blitz champion Pol Monteze placed third.

Juan P. Fernandez won the novice crown with George Bejarano and Jun Ramos finishing in second and third respectively.

4 TEAMS CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOTS

By Ray Palatocs

MGD 11, Che’lus 5

The MGD behind Mike Walsh’s three rbi won their 18th game in the 22 outings with an 11-5 victory against the Saipan Stevedore Che’lus. The win moved MGD over a win from clinching a playoff berth.

DFS 7, Man Hoben 0

The T.C & Man Hoben became the second team to leave the Saipan Softball Men’s 1996 slowpitch league after committing their fourth forfeit loss of the season. The DFS Rockies was awarded a 7-0 win after Man Hoben failed to show up for game.

Red Torch 12, Starters 8

The M.T.C. Red Torch bagged a slot in the “B” Division playoff after winning their 15th game of the season, a 12-8 victory over the Santos Acres Starters.

Servistar 26, DFS Amigos 4

The Y.C.O Servistar moved a game closer to a playoff berth in the “A” Division after slipping the DFS Amigos in five innings, 26-4. Greg Camacho, Tony Luzama and Elmer Sablan went for 4-4 to lead Servistar.

Nick Guerrero hit three home runs and knocked in eight runs in eight innings, 6-3. Greg Camacho, Tony Luzama and Elmer Sablan went for 4-4 to lead Servistar.

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