

Lawmakers feast, dance with Juneau's Filipino community

By Katie Moritz
Juneau Empire

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Juneau's Filipino community rolled out the proverbial red carpet for local and visiting lawmakers at its fifth annual legislative reception, and Filipino Community Inc. (FCI) did not disappoint with the food or entertainment.

Pounds and pounds of house-made pancit, lumpia, chicken, and beef were served at FCI Hall and the floor was cleared for performances by local talents — including one of Juneau's own assemblymen.

Senators and representatives, including Juneau's delegation — senator Kevin Meyer (R-Anchorage), senator John Coghill (R-North Pole), and representative Adam Wool (D-Fairbanks) — gathered with their families and staffs for a night away from the capitol and a shared meal away from the legislative lounge.

But first, there was serious business to tend to. FCI's board and new president, Josielind Ferrer, were inaugurated and sworn in by judge Richard Siangco. Ferrer said her goal as president for the coming year is to preserve the downtown FCI Hall and work toward future expansion.

"But that takes time and planning, and money," she said. "One step at a time, and we're moving forward."

She added during her brief speech that the FCI leaders before her have set the organization up for success.

"If it ain't broke, don't mess with it," she said to applause.

She gave a shoutout to FCI's first female president, Jenny Strickler, now an honorary consul-general of the Philippines to Alaska.

Oregon woman held in Japan for prescription drug released

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — An Oregon woman who was detained in Japan for 18 days after her mother shipped her a prescription drug for attention-deficit disorder (ADD) now plans to return home.

Carrie Russell takes Adderall, and a three-month refill of the drug containing amphetamine was sent to her in



FESTIVE FILIPINOS. Dancers perform a traditional Tinikling bamboo dance at the fifth annual legislative reception at the Filipino Community Inc. Hall in Juneau, Alaska. Juneau's Filipino community rolled out the proverbial red carpet for local and visiting lawmakers at its annual legislative reception, and Filipino Community Inc. did not disappoint with the food or entertainment. (AP Photo/Juneau Empire, Katie Moritz)

The celebration featured a traditional *Tinikling* bamboo dance performance by Raymond Bernaldo-Lujan, Andrea Nguyen, Aaron Abella, and Nicole Rodriguez.

Representatives Sam Kito (D-Juneau) and Cathy Muñoz (R-Juneau), and Wool all tried their hands, or feet, at the tricky dance, but decided to leave it to the professionals.

Local talent Abella was the standout of the night, opening the evening with a rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." He went on to star in the Broadway song-and-dance number "Brotherhood of Man" with a troupe of local dancers, including assemblyman Jesse Kiehl, much to the surprise and delight of the locals in the room.

Former FCI president Dante Reyes recognized former Juneau mayor Bruce Botelho and former governor

Sean Parnell's special counsel Randy Ruaro for their support of FCI while the organization was raising money for victims of Typhoon Haiyan (also known as Typhoon Yolanda) in 2013. The devastating natural disaster claimed the lives of at least 6,300 people in the Philippines.

Ruaro was also responsible for facilitating a large donation of Alaska salmon to victims of Typhoon Haiyan and getting the first-ever Alaska seafood festival in September, longtime FCI member Rafael Castaños said.

Castaños said the Filipino community welcomes the legislature each year because while they're at the capitol, "the telephone is ringing and they have to meet with lots of people."

The reception is a good time to get their ears. "While they're eating, the telephone is not ringing," he said.

Japan, where she planned to teach English. Japan has strict laws against amphetamine.

Russell was arrested February 20 and held in a women's detention center. Members of congress and U.S. ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy worked for her release. The family wrote an apology letter, saying she didn't intend to break the law.

Russell told *The Oregonian* she was shocked to be arrested, but the detention facility was "not anything terrifying." She says she had bento meals and did daily chores.

Chinese students at Purdue report credit card fraud

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — More than 30 Purdue University students from China say they are victims of credit card fraud that exceeds \$100,000.

Purdue Police detective Jared Baer told WLFI-TV that the reports date from October. He said similar cases have been reported across the country, including several at Boston University.

Investigators say they believe the problem originated in China and that there's little police here can do because it's an international crime.

Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Lt. Jason Huber said police are taking reports and working with Purdue's International Center to alert students to the fraud and instruct them on how to monitor their accounts for suspicious activity.

Chinese investors buying Myrtle Beach golf courses

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) — Records show that Chinese investors are buying a lot of golf courses and other properties in the Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina.

The *Sun News* of Myrtle Beach reported that investors from China have spent nearly \$50 million buying more than a dozen golf courses in the area in the past two years.

The newspaper said Chinese investors paid \$7.5 million to buy Waccamaw Pottery in 2011. They've also purchased an undeveloped section of Grande Dunes for \$5 million.

Relaxed Chinese government regulations on foreign investments have led to a number of purchases in Myrtle Beach and elsewhere around the country.

Myrtle Beach mayor John Rhodes said he would like to see a large high-rise hotel built to cater to Asian culture.

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TALKING STORY IN ASIAN AMERICA

■ Polo

Polo's "Talking Story" column will return soon.

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		8		4				
	9		1			6		7
		7						1
					2	7		
1	2						3	6
		4	3					
7						4		
6		2			9		8	
				3		2		

Difficulty level: Hard

#84916

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last week's puzzle

Puzzle #92728 (Medium)

All solutions available at www.sudoku.com.

4	9	1	8	2	6	3	7	5
7	6	5	4	1	3	8	2	9
3	2	8	7	9	5	1	6	4
6	8	9	2	3	1	4	5	7
1	4	3	6	5	7	2	9	8
5	7	2	9	4	8	6	3	1
2	1	6	5	7	4	9	8	3
9	3	7	1	8	2	5	4	6
8	5	4	3	6	9	7	1	2

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