

The KASELEHLIE Press

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What Really Happened to Gayvy Ann Hallers?

Salomon Saimon: "The case is not closed!"

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FM – Sometime before 7:00 on the evening of Monday, August 27, Gayvy Ann Hallers left the home where she lived with her parents saying that she was going to have sakau with friends. Somehow she ended up on the causeway riding in the bed of a pickup truck at around 4:00 in the morning the next day, in the company of three young men one of whom she called her boyfriend.

At nearly 4:30 in the morning the next day, one of the young men woke the sister of Gayvy's mother with the disturbing news that Gayvy had been involved in an accident and that he didn't think that she would survive. The young man gave the sister no further information other than that Gayvy had been taken to the hospital.

The information that the unidentified young man gave was correct at least on one point. Nineteen year old Gayvy's life ended on Tuesday morning, August 28. How she came to have a mortal head wound is the subject of an

ongoing investigation.

Acting Attorney General Salomon Saimon said, "We have strong reasons to believe there was a crime. The case has not been closed." He also said that two of the men who were with Gayvy in her last moments had "left our jurisdiction." One went to China to continue his schooling and the other went to the United States. The circumstantial evidence gathered so far was not enough to have stopped them from leaving Pohnpei.

Magdalena and Simon Augustine Hallers, Gayvy's parents said that when they arrived at the hospital they expected that Gayvy's boyfriend would be there, worrying, maybe crying; but he wasn't. He wasn't even there. He left shortly after taking Gayvy to the emergency room. The driver of the light green pickup truck the four had been riding in had also already left the hospital.



The Hallers heard from unidentified sources that Gayvy had fallen out of the back of the pickup truck and hit the road on the causeway somewhere around the vicinity of the Senny's warehouse.

Magdalena said that it seemed strange to her that besides a mas-

sive head injury her daughter didn't have any scrapes like she thought someone who fell out of a pickup truck would have. She said that her daughter had been wearing a sleeveless top and that

See "Gayvy Ann" on Page 2

Pohnpei Supreme Court Rules: Single Voting is Out

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Peilapalap, Pohnpei – According to a judgment handed down by Pohnpei Supreme Court on October 5, the long practiced single vote is unconstitutional and cannot be practiced in the next election or any election in the future. Mr. Kolden E. Manuel, Pohnpei State Election Commissioner said that the idea is to make the election free and fair. He says that it has not been so in the past.

In Kitti, for example voters will be choosing four representatives to represent them in the legislature. The new judgment says that Kitti ballots containing votes for any fewer or any more than four candidates will be considered

spoiled ballots and will be void. Previously voters in Pohnpei could vote for any number of candidates up to the number of representatives for their municipality.

Mr. Manuel explained the importance of the new judgment. Without saying that it had ever happened before he said that the single vote system allowed candidates with large numbers of family members and friends to have an unfair election advantage no matter what the candidate's governmental views were. He said that under the old system friends and family members could vote for just their candidate which arti-

See "Single Vote" on Page 8

ONPA says Chuuk Personnel Office is Vulnerable to Pressure from Politicians

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei – What has been an opinion long held by many people in the FSM regarding the function of Chuuk State's Personnel Office has been formalized in an inspection by the Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) dated September 13 of this year.

"The Personnel Office's lack of leadership has resulted in a personnel system with no written policies and procedures and an office that is vulnerable to pressure from politicians and

department officials.

"The Personnel Office has inadvertently abandoned its fiduciary responsibilities as the administrator and protector of the CSPSS (Chuuk State Public Services

See "Chuuk Personnel" on Page 12

**Governor Simina Says
That Impeachment is an
Overused Solution**

See Letters to the
Editor on Page 13

...Gayvy Ann Hallers

continued from page 1

she had only a small scratch on her shoulder underneath the top but no abrasions anywhere else on her body. She said that the material of the top that covered the scratch on Gayvy's shoulder was not abraded.

Police have been hesitant to talk about the case. Police Chief Joe Roby has only said that there were certain inconsistencies in the reports of the three young men and that there may have been witnesses. He has been hesitant to divulge much more because the Police Department is still trying to find the facts in the case. For several weeks he told The Kaselehlie Press that the Department expected to make an arrest in the following week. They apparently were unable to gather enough information to make any arrests.

According to Saimon, the time of day and the visibility at that time on the nearly pitch black causeway to Dekehtik has made it difficult to find witnesses.

Saimon said during a phone conversation that he felt the police department needs help in es-

tablishing a case that is more solid than the circumstantial evidence they have been able to gather to date. They need eyewitnesses. Saimon is asking anyone who witnessed anything that occurred on the causeway in the early morning hours of Tuesday, August 28 to contact either the Police Department Detective Section at 320-3774 or his office at 320-2356.

Gayvy Ann Hallers had just started her second year at the College of Micronesia where she was majoring in Liberal Arts and had developed an interest in Computer Information Systems. Her parents described her as a happy girl who laughed often. They said that Gayvy had many friends. "Chuukese, Yapese, Kosraen, Pingalapese, people from all over the place...It didn't matter. Gayvy had plenty of friends."

Magdalena, when asked how they were dealing with it said, "we're just trying to cope one day at a time."

If you have any information on the death of Gayvy Ann Hallers you are urged to call one of the numbers above.

Message of Appreciation

In humble appreciation, my husband and I express our sincerest appreciation to all of you who kindly provided our family with the support, understanding, caring, comfort, and prayers in our time of grief and sorrow on the occasion of the loss of our beloved daughter, Gayvy Ann Hallers.



Special heartfelt thanks to Gayvy Ann's friends, classmates, brothers and sisters in Christ, our friends, colleagues, and relatives who shared their time during the difficult period of our life and great many thanks to all those who continuously grace us with your presence, your genuine words of comfort, and gifts of love throughout this period of bereavement.

Your kind deeds and generosity will forever be cherished and remembered in our hearts. Only the good Lord can reward you for all that you have done for us during this time of grief and sorrow.

Kalahngan, Kinisou Chapur, Kulo Mualalap, Kamagar, Thank You Very Much, and Kaselehlie Maingko,

Simon Augustine & Magdalena Hallers

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Misunderstanding, Miscommunication, and Misassumptions Contribute to Controversy Over Medical Referral Stipends

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FM - When Prayden James, grandson of Semes Samuel of Sokehs left Pohnpei on a Medical Referral from Pohnpei State Hospital to treat a birth defect that left him unable to walk he was given \$70 as a stipend which is the normal practice for the Hospital. When he and his grandmother left Honolulu they were given a check for \$132 to cover 11 days at \$7 a day for Prayden and \$5 a day for his grandmother who accompanied him, also standard practice under medical referrals from the Hospital.

What isn't standard practice was that the check issued by the Honolulu Medical Referral Coordinator, Justin David from the imprest fund held at the Central Pacific Bank in Honolulu, bounced. There were insufficient funds in the checking account to cover the check.

Semes Samuel was understandably angry and came to The Kaselehlie Press along with an interpreter to have us look into the situation. Not only did he think that his grandson was due \$30 a day while he was an outpatient at the Shriner's Hospital but the check for the lower amount had bounced.

Patients who come to Pohnpei State Hospital that need Medical Referral off island can sometimes qualify for a program out of Tripler Hospital in Honolulu that is US Federally funded. There is a similar program and a different US Federal fund at the Shriner's Hospital also in Honolulu. Both programs require pre-screening and agreement by the hospitals in Hawaii before patients are admitted under those plans. Those that are admitted under the scheme have their airfare and complete medical bills covered by the US Fund.

Patients who are insured by MiCare have their airfare and medical expenses covered by the insurance group including a \$30 stipend.

Some time ago, Pohnpei State Hospital also provided \$30 a day but that amount was reduced to \$5 a day and later raised to \$7 per day for uninsured patients admitted under the federally funded program. An attendant gets \$5 per day under the current system.

The stipend is given to patients under medical referral as a way to help them defray the cost of meals when they are under outpatient care while off island. That amount is supposed to cover 10 days at the Pohnpei House in Hono-

lulu where many Pohnpeian outpatients stay when they are on a medical referral. The stipend is not allotted for the time that patients are admitted to a Honolulu hospital since meals are provided by the hospital as part of the cost of treatment when a patient is admitted.

On September 14 Samuel hand delivered to Pohnpei Senator Ausen T. Lambert, Chairman of the Committee on Health and Social Services, a copy of a letter he had sent to Wincener David, Director of the Pohnpei Department of Health Services. Senator Lambert, on the same day sent a letter to Director David imploring him to look into not only the bounced check but verbal allegations made by Samuel who said that Justin David who is charged to be at the Pohnpei House when patients are present spends some weekends on neighboring Hawaiian Islands. Lambert asked in his letter, "What would happen if a patient got seriously ill and was in need of medical attention while he (Justin David) was away?"

Director David is currently on leave from the Hospital while he pursues a campaign to be one of Kitti's Legislators. To date none of

See "Stipend" on Page 8

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FSM Police Maritime Wing Achieves Outstanding Results In Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Operation

*Justice Department
Press Release*

Operation Big Eye 2007 which concluded on 28 September has been heralded as the largest multi-lateral Maritime Law Enforcement Operation in the region since the inception of these operations series in March 2002. This year, the operation involved ten nations, with nine patrol boats, a warship and seven aircraft in an operational area of approximately 5 million square nautical miles.

Participating Nations included the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Guam, Papua New Guinea and Kiribati. Whilst these operations are a Micronesian initiative, in recent years Papua New Guinea and Kiribati have become more regular participants.

The Australian Government, through the Pacific Patrol Boat Project has generously supported these operations both financially and with air surveillance aircraft and advisers. In recent years the United States of America has provided an increasing contribution through the support of the United States Navy (USN) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) air and surface surveillance assets and operations experts. The Royal



FSS Micronesia pursuing a fishing vessel in the FSM EEZ during Operation Big Eye 2007

New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) is also a regular contributor of air assets and this year the French Navy provided a frigate and its organic helicopter to assist in locating vessels within the area of operations.

Some regional and International agencies were invited to observe the Operations from the Joint Coordination Centre which was established at the Sea Patrol Base in Majuro, RMI. These included NMCC (NZ), MFAT (NZ), US PACOM Homeland Defence, PIRP Secretariat, Coastwatch (AUS) and IPDIV Representatives (AUS). This promoted a wider understanding of regional opera-

tions and demonstrated the capability of Pacific Island Countries in undertaking joint operations and the significant challenges they face in enforcing the rule of law at sea. FSM contributed three surveillance officers to the JCC to assist in managing intelligence and the Vessel Monitoring System.

During the nine-day operational phase a total of 534 vessels were scrutinized by Vessel Monitoring System managers, patrol boats and aircraft tasked in support of patrols by enforcement authorities. 67 vessels were boarded by patrol boat boarding parties at sea and by harbor inspection teams of which 53 were conducted by

FSM's two participating patrol boats Micronesia and Independence and the FSM dockside boarding team. Of these, 38 vessels were found to be non-compliant licensed vessels with two Illegal Unlicensed and Unregulated (IUU) vessels of which one was apprehended and charged.

During the operation, Air surveillance assets flew 15 flights totaling 187 hours of aerial surveillance support to patrol boats at sea. The Royal Australian Air force aircraft alone flew 5 Sorties (31 hours) and detected 99 vessels.

On Thursday 27, FSM Justice Department apprehended the Fishing Vessel Eastern Star, making the first arrest of the operation. This vessel, a Vanuatu Flagged Taiwanese Purse Seine vessel was arrested for VMS non-reporting and misreporting of her log sheet. The vessels owners settled this matter out of court for US\$200,000.00.

In another disturbing case, the USCGC Assateague located an unlicensed Taiwanese Long Liner engaged in fishing inside the FSM's Western EEZ border, how-

See "FSM Police" on Page 10

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Study Shows Watershed Management Is Critical To Coral Reef Health Palau, Guam And Pohnpei Take Steps To Manage Resources From Ridge To Reef

Press Release

Micronesia Conservation Trust

October 4, 2007 (Honolulu) – Clear-cutting, farming and development lead to erosion and runoff that kills corals, making it just as important to manage the land above reefs as it is to protect them from overfishing, a new study published in *BioScience* magazine concluded.

Over six years, scientists from Hawai'i to Australia studied the connection between watersheds and adjacent coral reefs on three different Micronesian islands—Palau, Guam, and Pohnpei – and found that sedimentation and runoff were among the biggest threats to nearby reefs and were slowing down the progress of other marine conservation efforts, such as no fishing zones.

The Watersheds and Coral Reefs study describes how multiple threats to reefs combine with lethal results. River runoff sends mud into the ocean, where it is compacted around reefs. Algae can outgrow corals to form a mat that traps the mud and prevents coral recruitment. When overfishing occurs, removal of plant-eating fish means algae growth can no longer be controlled, and the reefs are suffocated.

During the course of the study, the scientists recommended a set of scientifically based approaches for reversing the negative trends in reef health. Steps taken by the three Pacific island communities focused on managing the entire ecosystem and included relocating crops from upland rainforests to lowland areas, restoring vegetation in watershed areas to control erosion, halting the clearing of mangroves, and establishing a continuous protected area from the top of the watershed to the reef. One community is also considering a temporary ban on catches of plant-eating fish.

“It is clear that sustaining our coral reefs depends on how well we manage human impacts from the mountains to the sea,” said Willy Kostka, a co-author of the study and Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust. “The centuries-old way of managing reefs in Pacific islands recognizes that it is not the coral reefs and watersheds that can be managed, but rather the human activities affecting these ecosystems. If we provide care and respect to our reefs, they will provide for us.”

Fouha Bay, the study site in Guam,

is surrounded by steep hills that deer and pig hunters often burn to clear vegetation, which accelerates erosion rates. The bay has high levels of sedimentation that are suffocating the reefs. Data taken along the southern side of the bay in 1978 and

cline.

One of the paper's case studies focuses on the Enipein watershed on the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. The watershed was located above a marine

have been measures to reduce erosion and to protect coastal mangroves.

“Pohnpei, Palau and Guam boast some of the best examples of what can happen when local communi-

Table 2. Coral diversity versus distance from shore in Fouha Bay, Guam in 1978 and in 2003.

1978		2003	
Distance from shore (meters)	Number of coral species	Distance from shore (meters)	Number of coral species
0-25	3	0-40	0
0-75	40	45-90	3
0-125	89	100-275	41
0-200	104		

again in 2003 showed a clear loss of coral species and coral cover over time that was apparently due to watershed discharges. The study's conclusion that coral reefs and other coastal marine ecosystems effectively extend into adjacent watersheds leads the authors to the recommendation that they should be managed as an integrated unit. The paper explains, “Marine protected areas often will miss their targets of resource protection unless terrestrial protected areas are established and enforced.”

The authors state that traditional ways of managing human interactions with the reef are still effective in modern times, listing Palau's Marine Protection Act of 1994 as an example of new legislation for no-take areas based on traditional knowledge of spawning sites. As far as Western governments, the authors suggest that, in addition to a needed review of U.S. federal legislation, they follow the lead of traditional societies and consider granting near- and off-shore leases for community-based conservation, just as they do for fish cages and oil drilling. The authors say if coral reef resources are not better protected from land-based impacts, they will continue to de-

protected area that was struggling to recover coral and fish popula-

Many Pacific island cultures treat the land-sea interface as a continuum rather than a boundary, and this ridge-to-reef stewardship recognizes that upslope activities affect people and resources farther down a watershed and in the ocean. Traditional leadership, which still exists in many of these islands, is hereditary, with time horizons longer than the two- to four-year electoral cycles prevalent in Western democracies. This helps to prevent a problem, common in industrialized nations, in which stakeholders and policymakers neglect to consider the future ecological, social, and economic consequences of their present activities on natural resources.

From *Watersheds and Coral Reefs: Conservation Science, Policy, and Implementation*, *BioScience* magazine

tions because clearing of an upland rainforest for cash crops resulted in extensive erosion and sedimentation onto the reef.

The data from the Enipein watershed research was shared with local chiefs, who decided to create a continuous protected area that begins in the upland rainforest and extends through the mangroves and out to the reef. Efforts to switch from upland farming to lowland cultivation have been successful, as

ties understand their vested interest in nearshore ocean resources and take action to preserve them,” said lead author Dr. Robert H. Richmond of the University of Hawai'i's Kewalo Marine Laboratory in Honolulu. “Reefs are in decline worldwide, and the Pacific islands of Micronesia are showing us how modern science and traditional knowledge can be combined to reverse that trend.”

According to Noah Idechong, co-author of the Watersheds and Coral Reefs study and Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates for the 7th Palau National Congress, “From Pacific islands to the Western world, we know what is threatening our reefs and how to remedy those problems, but policy and political will are lagging behind available science. Policymakers often choose inactivity rather than subscribing to the precautionary principle. This approach undermines our ability to leave a sound environmental legacy for future generations.”

Hawai'i fisherman Isaac Harp, who was not an author of the study, comments, “When foreign land and natural resource management strategies replaced Hawai'i's indigenous strategies, rapid degradation of Hawai'i's inland and coastal environments began. As indigenous island peoples across Pasifika and beyond understand, when you mismanage your inland environments, negative effects will trickle down and degrade your coastal environments. Sometimes we need to move forward by going backward, in this case by recognizing the value of and adopting indigenous management strategies. A thousand years of knowledge is better than a hundred years of assumptions.”

Senator J. Kalani English Calls For Policy On Freely Associated Pacific States

HONOLULU – Hawai'i State Senator and Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Vice President J. Kalani English (D -Hana, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i and Kaho'olawe) is calling for support for a State policy on its relationship with the Freely Associated States in the Pacific region. These countries, The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Republic of Palau, have treaty rights for their citizens to live and work in the US as if they were US citizens. Senator English participated in the first of several planned meetings of the Compact of Free Association Task Force on September 25, 2007.

Senator English was very pleased that both FSM Deputy Consul General Danny Rescue and FSM Acting Attorney General Johnson Asher could attend this pressing meeting. "The Task Force meeting was a powerful event and produced encouraging results," Senator English said. "I am hopeful that the Task Force will provide the legislature with draft legislation that will spell out precisely what we hope to accomplish for the

community."

Acting Attorney General Asher added, "We are committed to working with the Task Force in Hawai'i to better the conditions of our citizens in this state."

Senator English has also provided practical advice on what legislators are looking for in the report the Task Force is preparing. The Task Force has an internal deadline for an interim report to the Legislature, which is December 15th. The final report is due to the 2008 Legislature by December 20th of that year.

Deputy Consul General Rescue said that he is "pleased to see so many organizations gathering to focus on this important issue." He noted that, "Hawai'i has been very gracious in welcoming our people to these islands. We will do our part to help."

The Task force, lead by James Walther, the Deputy Attorney General for Hawai'i, was created in response to Senate resolution 142 that was passed in the 2007 Legislative session (http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2007/Bills/SR142_SD1_.htm) to investigate and coordinate the provision of medical and social services to mi-



grants from Freely Associated States living in Hawai'i.

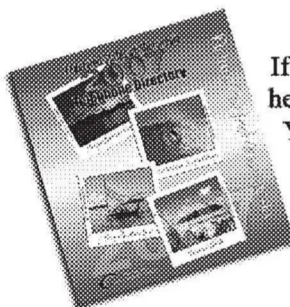
Over 50 people were in attendance and included foreign, federal and local government agencies, Universities, private entities, and constituents from the community. Many of the agencies are involved with the Micronesian community on a daily basis.

Senator English also raised important questions about the FAS census, "I would like to know if the National census' in the FSM, RMI and Palau will include their citizens living abroad in their count, and for the U.S. census, would the department of Interior

allow for a 'FAS Bubble' on the census forms to accurately count the migrants from FAS in Hawai'i and the US?"

The next Compact of Free Association Task Force meeting will be held on October 25th at 1pm at the DLIR (Department of Labor and Industrial Relations), Princess Ruth Ke'elikolani Bldg., 830 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 Conference room 313 & 314. For further information, contact James Walther and Carol Zenigami at (808) 587-3050.

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COM-FSM and University of Guam Team Up to Offer a Bachelor's Degree Program in Elementary Education

By **MERANDA AMOR**
Media Studies Student
The Kaselehlie Press

The University of Guam and the College of Micronesia-FSM have established a partnership Bachelor's degree program in Elementary Education to help students and in-service teachers improve their teaching skills.

The program was submitted to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) by the University of Guam (UOG) and was approved in March 2007. The program is for the students who have completed their Third-Year Certificate programs at the National Campus and would like to pursue a BA in Elementary Education as well as to help those who need to further their training in the teaching profession.

The program provides needed services for FSM students and teach-

ers who are concerned about the quality of education in their own country and who have the qualifications to further their teaching profession. The education of elementary students will be greatly enhanced by the professionalizing of the art of teaching and education.

The program started at the COM-FSM, National Campus in Palikir in the 2007 summer semester with the following courses, ED 319 Children's Literature and Drama, ED351 Fine Arts Methods, ED473 Cognitive Abilities, and ED489 Evaluation.

The Program concerns itself with education in the country and the quality of the performance in the FSM elementary school classrooms and will greatly enhance FSM education by providing well-trained teachers for the classroom.



College administrators, staff, and faculty discussed the current enrollment trends at COM-FSM during the Programs Planning Retreat at the National Campus. The retreat included participants from all six COM-FSM campuses and from the public.

There currently is a shortage of highly qualified teachers in the FSM. The College of Micronesia – FSM hopes to help fill that gap through this partnership program.

Notice of Appreciation and Thanks

2007 Micronesian Public Safety Academy

On behalf of all FSM Chiefs of Police, the Micronesian Public Safety Academy Commander, Staff and Students, our sincerest thanks go to:

Community of Madolenihmw
Sacred Heart Parish
Businesses in Kolonia, Pohnpei
And various individual FSM citizens

Through your support and kind contributions, you each helped make the 2007 Micronesian Public Safety Academy a true success.

The Micronesia Public Safety Academy was held at the PATS facility in Madolenihmw between July 9 and September 28, 2007. Forty (40) police officers from each FSM State and National Police agency attended this intensive 12 week training course.

This Academy was the first recruit training academy which was designed, developed and delivered exclusively by Micronesian police personnel and which specifically addressed the training needs of Micronesian law enforcement officers.

Without your support – the Academy would not have been the success that it was.

Thank You!

Kisin lukou En Peren oh Kaping

2007 Micronesia Public Safety Program

Pwehn weliandi pahlih kan koaros, FSM Chiefs nan Pelien Police, Micronesia Public Safety Academy commander, tohn doadoahk oh tohn sukuhl kan koaros, mehleh pahn patolang palih kan me pahn sansal pah

Kousoan en Madolenimw
Mwomwohdiso en kupwur en Jesus tamworohi
Business koaros nan Kolonia, Pohnpei
Oh pali koaros oh emen- emen towe mehleh en wein FSM koaros

Sang ni sapwelimwomwail kupwur en sapan oh utuht sewesedah pweidahn oh doadoahk kesempwwal en Micronesia Public Safety academy wet en pahr 2007

Micronesia public safety academy wet pweidahr nan kousoan en PATs, lepweltik nan wein madolenimw sang July 9 lel septemeber 28, pahr 2007. Police de ohpiser pehk (40) sang nan state paieu (4) kan nan wein FSM oh ohpis lap sang pelien police me wiahier kaiahn idipek en wihk eisek riau (12)wet.

Academy de kasukuhl wet wia keieu en kaiahn en kasikuhl me wiawihda dokehki, oh kapwilipwil sang pwilidak en Micronesia palien sinsile meleilei en wehi pokon.

Ma sohte utuht sang rehmwail-doadoak kesempwwal wet en Academy pahr 2007 sohte pahn pweida nin duen eh sansalehr.

Kalangan en Kupwur Koaros

Debates for Governor and Lt. Governor Positions to be Held at COM Pohnpei Campus

All are welcome to attend a forum with the candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Hear their responses to issues relating to the State.

When: Thursday, October 25, 2007 (for Lt. Governor)
11:30-1:30 (in English)
6:00-8:00pm (in Pohnpeian)

Friday, October 26, 2007 (for Governor)
11:30-1:30 (in English)
6:00-8:00pm (in Pohnpeian)

Where: COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus Nahs

This service is made possible through the collaborative efforts of the College of Micronesia-FSM Pohnpei Campus Enrichment Committee, V6AH Radio, Kaselehlie Press, AM 1000, FM 104.1, FM 88.9, FM 100.3, and concerned citizens like you.

Weipokon ketin lukehng iang towehda patpatohpene ehu nan pwungen candidate kan en Kepina oh nan pwungen candidate kan en Keriaun Kepina. Patpatohpene wet pahn pidada mwekid kesempwal kan me Pohnpei ketin sohsohpai ih ansou pwukat.

Mwekid wet pahn wiawi nan nahs en sapwelimatail College of Micronesia-FSM, Pohnpei Campus me pato Kolonia

Patpatohpene nan pwungen candidate en Keriaun en Kepina kan pahn wiawi ni Epeng, October 25, 2007.

11:30am-1:30pm (ni pato en Wai)
6:30pm-8:00pm (ni mahsen en Pohnpei)

Patpatohpene nan pwungen candidate en Kepina kan pahn wiawi ni Epeng, October 26, 2007.

11:30am-1:30pm (ni pato en Wai)
6:30pm-8:00pm (ni mahsen en Pohnpei)

Sahpis wet pahn wiawi sang ni epwel sawas on miniminin en doadoahk nan pwungen COM-FSM, Pohnpei Campus Enrichment Committee, V6AH Radio, Kaselehlie Press, AM 1000, FM 104.1, FM 88.9, FM 100.3, oh koruhsie.

...Stipend

Continued from Page 3

those acting in his stead have responded to either Samuel's letter or the letter that Senator Lambert sent to him.

Acting Director Marcelle Gallen consented to an interview on the matter with The Kaselehlie Press at 3:00 on Tuesday, October 9. Dwight Edward, Chief of the Division of Administration for the Pohnpei State Department of Health Services figured prominently in the interview and had most of the answers.

Regarding the verbal accusations made by Semes Samuel to Senator Lambert on the absence of the Medical Referral Coordinator

...Single Vote

continued from page 1

cially inflated the number of votes for that candidate and deprived all other candidates of their vote. In the old system it was common to have huge numbers of votes for wildly popular candidates while all of the rest of the candidates languished neck and neck at the bottom of the vote pool.

The old system could have been considered to be not much more than a popularity contest. Mr. Manuel agreed that the new ruling will go a long way toward helping Pohnpeians to make quality choices for their representatives. Family members will still vote for their favorite candidate

from the Pohnpei House on some weekends while patients are present said that "unless we get complaints from patients about it we would never know. We've never had a complaint yet." He said that Justin David, a former US Marine Corps Medic was the best received Coordinator that he can remember. According to Edward, the Director of Tripler Hospital has written commendations regarding David and his work in Honolulu.

Edward said that the budget for the Medical Referral Coordinator's office is \$50,000 per year, an amount that is to cover all of the expenses of the office including stipends. Each month the MRC sends copies of the bank statement along with receipts for expenditures made from the account. The transactions are reviewed by the Department of Health Services, a process that takes "a couple of

but will also have to vote for candidates to fill the rest of the seats in their municipality. What basis will they rest their decision on when they do so? Mr. Manuel hopes that once the relative or friend factor is out of the way the voter's decision will be based on which candidate the voter thinks is most qualified to be their representative rather than the one who bought them the most sakau or some other standard having nothing to do with the candidate's qualifications.

When asked if the new ruling might make it more likely that there will be runoffs, Mr. Manuel said that it might indeed do that but that the goal of elections is to

days." The package is then sent along to Pohnpei State's Department of Finance of Administration. Edward said that if there is any delay in replenishing the fund, that is the Department where it happens. It takes sometimes over two weeks before a check is issued and sent to Hawaii.

He said that in the case of the check issued to Prayden by Justin David, the replenishment check had been deposited but since it is an FSM check it takes a while to clear. While David's bookkeeping showed that the check he wrote would clear, the bank was still clearing the check he'd deposited and so the check he wrote bounced.

As soon as Dwight Edward got notice from Semes Samuel that the check had bounced, he got on the phone and called Justin David. He instructed David to go to the bank

make them free and fair and to eliminate unfair advantages. If there are runoffs it will be because the elections under the new Supreme Court ruling have made the elections more fair.

To help voters make informed decisions now that they will be forced to under the new ruling at least two organizations will be staging debates in the coming weeks. The College of Micronesia is holding debates for candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor. This debate will do nothing to help voters make informed decisions for candidates for the legislature but will help them make informed choices for the executive branch.

and get cash from the account to cover the bounced check and to send it to Pohnpei via Western Union on the same day. David did what he was told and the money was in the hands of Prayden's family by the end of that day, September 11, several weeks before they came to the office of The Kaselehlie Press and just a few days before they went to Senator Lambert's office.

According to Acting Director Marcelle Gallen and Chief Edward, the Medical Referral fund for Honolulu is not in trouble, Justin David is highly commended by Tripler Hospital, and Prayden's family received exactly what they should have under the current policy.

Prayden James received the medical care he needed at no cost to his family and will soon be walking again.

The U Development Society is planning a series of debates for all 62 candidates. The debates are currently scheduled for Sunday afternoons on October 28, November 4 and November 11. More information on those debates will be forthcoming.

Mr. Manuel said that all 62 candidates that applied have been cleared and will appear on the ballot. Two candidates had previous felony convictions but received Governor's pardons for their crimes and are therefore eligible to run for office according to the Attorney General's office.

The Pohnpei State elections will be held on November 13.

Australian Team of Doctors Provide AUD\$130K Worth of Surgical Care to Pohnpei

Press Release
Australian Embassy

An Australian Orthopaedic team of two surgeons, one anaesthetist and two nurses were on hand at the Pohnpei State Hospital conducting life-changing surgeries under the AusAID funded Tertiary Health Service to the Pacific Island Countries program or "PIP" for short.

This Australian health initiative provides short term visits for a variety of medical specialties to 11 Pacific Island Countries. Medical specialties include cardiac surgery, ENT, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, paediatric surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, psychiatry, urology, radiology, and a diabetes training program.

The team consisted of Drs. Chris Roberts and Brendan Klar (surgeons), Dr. Kylie Stanton (anaesthetist) and Nurses Ms. Madeleine Smith and Mr. Paul Chicchio, who volunteered and were not paid for their time.

During a period of nine days, a total of eighteen (18) surgeries and



The Australian Orthopaedic Team with medical staff at the Pohnpei State Hospital. During a period of nine days, a total of 18 surgeries and over 140 consultations were conducted by the team.

over 140 consultations were conducted by the surgical team.

Patients, who otherwise would not have been able to afford the trip to Hawaii or the Philippines to receive a similar level of treatment, were thankful of the team's visit. As one patient pointed out, she had been saving money for 3 years in order to take her daughter to Hawaii to see Orthopaedic

specialists but with no success as other financial obligations made saving the money difficult.

The success of the medical visit was a team effort, with the Australian medical supply company, Zimmer Australia, kindly donating AUD\$16,000 worth of the needed medical supplies and equipment. Johnson & Johnson, through the efforts of Stephanie Sherlock, were also extremely generous,

donating orthopaedic suture anchors and suture material also valued at AUD\$16,000. Synthes, another medical supplier, lent the team periarticular plates for use, and a selection of equipment which can be used again on future visits. With the assistance of Dr. Warren McDonald, the Brumbies rugby team, based out of Canberra, donated rugby jerseys and shorts that were handed out to the surgical patients and hospital staff. Lastly, Continental Micronesia Airlines provided their support and assistance in waiving the excess luggage weight fees and for allowing the Orthopaedic team to travel with the necessary surgical supplies.

Previous AusAID funded medical visits to the FSM include an ENT team to Yap (October 2006), a Laparoscopic Surgery training visit to the Pohnpei State Hospital (April 2006), ENT visit to the Pohnpei and Chuuk State Hospitals (November 2005) and a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery visit to the Pohnpei and Chuuk State Hospitals (July 2005).

For more information on AusAID's Tertiary Health Care Services Program, contact the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei – (691) 320-5448 or at australia@mail.fm

Library Receives a Technical Boost From Australia

Teaming up with the Australian Embassy, Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library upgraded the Library's technology by acquiring much needed equipment in order to support the various community programs and activities the Public Library coordinates.

Visitors to the Pohnpei Public Library will soon be seeing shorter lines for the computers in the Computer Lab as the upgrade will allow more visitors to conduct research on the internet.

The upgrade will also support the Bookmobile, a "traveling" library, which visits remote public schools and allows them to check out library materials, books and resources that are otherwise difficult to access.

This project is being funded by AusAID's Small Grants Scheme. For more information on this and other Australian development cooperation schemes, please contact the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei – (691) 320-5448 or at australia@mail.fm.



Pictured in the Pohnpei Public Library's fun and colorful children's section are Ms. Carmina Lihpai, Head Librarian; H.E. Corinne Tomkinson, Australian Ambassador; Ms. Penny Weilbacher, President of Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library; along with young library visitors.

Speaker And Members Of Congress Observe Operation Big Eye From The Air

Justice Department
Press Release

As part of Operation Big Eye, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) provided a P-3 Orion Maritime Patrol Aircraft to help locate and identify vessels in the FSM's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of participating nations.

The P-3 aircraft arrived in Pohnpei from its base in Adelaide, South Australia on 19 Sep and during a three day visit, provided support to FSM's two participating patrol boats FSS Micronesia and Independence. An invitation was extended to the Speaker and members of Congress through the Australian Ambassador to FSM, Her Excellency Ms Corinne Tomkinson, to observe the operation from the air in the RAAF aircraft. Government representatives including Speaker Isaac Figir, former President Congressman Joseph Urusemal, Congressman Roosevelt Kansou and Floor leader Congressman Joe Suka assembled for a briefing by the aircraft's captain at 8AM on 20 Sep in the VIP room at Pohnpei Airport. The Congressmen also received a brief on Operation Big Eye from the Australian Navy Maritime Surveillance Adviser, LCDR Mark Sorby prior to departure.

The aircraft was tasked to locate three vessels of interest in the south eastern portion of the FSM EEZ near Kapingamarangi Atoll. These vessels had been sighted by the aircraft the previous day during their flight into Pohnpei and it was confirmed by Maritime Wing officers that none of these vessels were reporting on the Vessel Moni-



Australian Ambassador, H.E. Corinne Tomkinson farewells Speaker Isaac Figir and Congressmen Joseph Urusemal, Joe Suka and Roosevelt Kansou with the crew of RAAF P-3 Orion prior to take-off to observe Operation Big Eye



toring System. This indicated that these vessels were either illegal vessels or non compliant licensed vessels.

The aircraft departed Pohnpei International Airport at 0900AM and 40 minutes later had re-located two of the three vessels and was able to direct FSS Micronesia to their positions. The VIPs were able to observe Micronesia taking enforcement action and hear the patrol boat Commanding Officer, LCDR Steward Peter, communicating with the aircraft's pilot in flight.

On return to Pohnpei, Congressman Figir hosted a dinner for the crew of the aircraft in appreciation for the important service they provided in support of operation Big Eye. They praised the operation and thanked the RAAF P-3 crew for the unique opportunity to observe this operation and remarked positively on the professionalism and capability of the FSM Maritime Wing Patrol Boat, FSS Micronesia at sea. They said that this experience has allowed them to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced in enforcing the law in FSM's huge maritime domain.

While in Pohnpei, the crew of the aircraft visited some of Pohnpei's tourist sites such as Nan Madol and Ahnd Atoll and the more adventurous among them tried game fishing and climbed Sokehs Rock.

The aircraft departed Pohnpei for Majuro on 23 Sept and provided aerial surveillance support to FSS Independence operating along the Northern FSM EEZ and enabled the patrol boat to locate 4 long line vessels operating in the area.

...FSM Police

continued from Page 4

ever despite there being Palau Law Enforcement officers onboard, the Niue Treaty could not be invoked to apprehend this vessel as it was determined that because the USCGC Assateague was operating under joint arrange-

ment of the Palau and US Governments and not FSM Government, they could not intervene in this situation. The USCG has undertaken to provide all video and film evidence upon return of the Assateague to her base in Guam.

The success of this Operation has highlighted the importance of multi-lateral operations in deterring illegal fishing, transnational

crime and security threats throughout the island states of Micronesia. With the vast area of sea, limited resources and growing number of fishing vessels to monitor, for the FSM and neighboring states, this is a major challenge which cannot be achieved without the assistance from regional powers such as Australia, the USA and New Zealand. The willingness of the French Navy to also assist is a very

encouraging sign and is very welcome.

The FSM Government sincerely thanks the Government of Australia and the United States of America, as well as the New Zealand and French Governments for their generous support and assistance in making this operation possible and a great success.

Pohnpei Campus – a New Image?

By **MERANDA AMOR**
Media Studies Student
The Kaselehlie Press

Misunderstandings about the nature of vocational education, and different program offerings at COM-FSM's National Campus and the State Campuses has affected enrollment at Pohnpei Campus, said Joe Saimon of COM-FSM. As Director of Development and Community Relations at the College of Micronesia - FSM, Saimon said that the prevailing opinion among some students and parents is that only students who can't enter into degree programs at the National Campus go to the State campuses.

At its Programs Planning Conference of August 30-31, administrators, faculty, and staff from the National Campus, the four State Campuses, and the Fisheries and Maritime Institute in Yap met at the National Campus and recognized through the information received that misunderstandings about the college has negatively impacted enrollment at the college.

As a part of the College of Micronesia - FSM, the COM-FSM, Pohnpei Campus along with the other state campuses are the only venues where the college is equipped to offer its vocational education programs. All the State Campuses offer either one or two degree programs while most of the other degree programs offered by the college are available at the National Campus where the college has the facilities, services and more instructors to offer more degree programs.

The College of Micronesia-FSM, Pohnpei Campus currently offers three Associate of Applied Science vocational degree programs and the Hotel and Tourism Management program. All programs and vocational certificates leading into vocational degree programs at all COM-FSM campuses are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and approved by the US Department of Labor. The fields studied are designed to meet the needs of the community workforce, said Saimon.

Vocational Education helps train students to meet the standards of workplaces with higher than average salaries. Students who attend Pohnpei Campus must be able to pay for tuition. Most potential students in the FSM qualify for the US funded Pell Grant which will cover their tuition needs when they take any of the college's certificate and degree programs.

Pohnpei Campus offers short-term non-credit certificate programs through its training institute where

community members can receive specialized training in many areas. This type of training is not covered through the Pell Grant program.

Saimon said that really, when you look at it closely any program whether a degree program or not is a vocational program in that they all prepare a student for their careers.

He said that many people view vocational education as a sort of "second class" education for those who cannot perform in an academic environment. Saimon says that's not true. Students who major in vocational degree programs also take some core courses to ensure their academic competency to take specialized vocational courses.

He says that information received from the Pohnpei Campus vocational education chair implied that the impact of the Pohnpei Agricultural and Technical School closure is being felt at the College. They are finding that more of the incoming vocational education students are lacking basic Math and English language skills since the school closed.

Some students are saying that the Pohnpei Campus is a place for second class students.

Saimon said that the Campus is making plans to correct the image problem of the School. He mentions several possible interventions and steps that they will be taking. One such step could be to change the name of the Vocational program to a Career program. Saimon said that Gardner Edgar, who chairs the Vocational Education division at Pohnpei Campus is contemplating plans to develop a program for job placements for students that can help them move quickly from school to the workforce. The College will also need to develop programs to help academically challenged students by improving their training methods, and by creating student clubs for students who are participating in like types of vocational education.

Saimon said that even amongst employees of the College there are misconceptions about Vocational education. They are beginning the process of image reconstruction with the college employees themselves, though they are also targeting new students as well as community members and villagers in the surrounding areas who have not had access to the needed information.

Saimon said, that the College wants to emphasize to the community that vocational education has a very important role to play in the community and is just as important as office work.

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...Chuuk Personnel

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System Act signed into law on April 29, 1981). This situation has cast serious doubt and eroded confidence in the credibility of the personnel system." (*ONPA Review of Chuuk State Office of Personnel - FY 2006-2007- Report No. 2007-11*)

The CSPSS is a systematic set of regulations put into place to insure that Chuuk State's personnel administration principles are fairly practiced in terms of how the employees are compensated and in terms of who and how hires will be made and under what rules. It established equal opportunity and impartial selection laws and regularized what processes would be used for salary increases and remuneration for various classes of employees.

The ONPA found that the CSPSS Act was not enforced by the Personnel Office. Though ONPA chose only random employee records of the Chuuk Department of Health Services (CDHS) they say that their findings can reasonably be expected to apply to the other departments of Chuuk.

"The Personnel Office," the cover letter of the inspection written by Haser Hainrick, National Public Auditor said, "had outdated policies and procedures and published an unauthorized list of exempt employees. Examples of non-compliance included employees hired before the approval of personnel actions, positions not properly classified, pay increases larger than authorized, promotions and re-allocations not merit based, and stand-by differentials paid to ineligible employees. This situation, Personnel's lack of policies and procedures as well as non-compliance, increased the risk of abuse of the system and resulted in increased personnel costs..."

Hainrick said in his letter that his office had discussed draft findings with Governor Simina, Chuuk State Governor, and officials from the Office of Personnel, Department of Health Services (CDHS),

Department of Administrative Service (CDAS), and the Compact Fund Control Commission (CFCC). He said that the representatives agreed with the findings.

As is the standard practice for audits and inspections, his office offered any or all of the representatives of those offices the opportunity to submit a response to the draft audit and set a date for reply seven days later. When ONPA had received no responses they notified the representatives that they would extend the deadline for response by a further week. Two days after the second deadline had expired there still had been no response from any of the departments so ONPA released the audit without any responses.

While the audit was taking place, Governor Simina signed into law a bill creating the Chuuk State Public Service Commission. The new entity will replace in its entirety, the current Personnel Office. The CSPSC is required by law to be completely independent of Chuuk State Government and will be overseen by a 5-member Commission "...who are not employees of the Chuuk State Government, appointed or elected public officials, or members of any (State) board, commission, or authority receiving funding from Chuuk State Government." Two members had been confirmed by the Chuuk State Senate at the time of the audit report release.

The recommendations of the ONPA were addressed to the new CSPSC "as a starting point for them to review and update policies, regulations and eventual implementation."

The inspection found that the Office of Personnel had not, since the passing of the CSPSS 26 years ago, established policies and procedures "required to ensure that uniform, complete and updated standards are in place to carryout the intended purpose of the CSPSS Act." The only policy the ONPA could find on file was a routing sched-

ule for Personnel Action forms to departments that no longer exist.

The Inspection found that the Personnel Office changed the list of authorized exempt employees from that legislated in the CSPSS. They added an additional 54 positions listed as exempt to the 28 positions listed in the original CSPSS Act. They did so without legislative authority.

Exempt employees are guaranteed eight hours of pay per day no matter how many hours they work. This does not necessarily mean that an exempt employee will work fewer hours, in fact, due to the importance of key exempt positions most diligent exempt employees will often work well beyond eight hours per day but they will not be compensated for the extra hours; neither will they be penalized for working fewer hours. If it takes a key exempt employee longer than eight hours a day to perform their duties they are required to do so without extra compensation. The audit pointed out that there are no time clocks for recording work hours at Chuuk State; a fact that in practice makes nearly every employee an exempt employee since work hours cannot be verified.

The State is allowed to give an employee who makes less than \$521.28bi-weekly a stand-by differential when an employee can be called to work during normal off-duty hours. The auditor points out that 21 CDHS were paid the differential even though they didn't qualify under the salary cap and they were exempt employees that didn't qualify. In two years more than \$200,000 of stand-by differential was paid to those 21 ineligible employees, an average of an extra \$5,000 per employee per year in their bi-weekly pay envelopes.

It seems from the inspection that nearly everything that the Personnel Office could have done wrong in handling personnel issues was done wrong. 15 of 16 sampled new hires were given effective dates ranging from 10 to 210 days prior to their actual approval dates. Approvals are to be executed before an employee begins work. 6 of 15 of the new hires were give ret-

roactive pay costing the government nearly \$7000. The number of employees and the expenditures would have been higher except that the CFCC turned down retroactive pay for the other 9. The Inspection says "not all newly hired employees were treated equally."

The Inspection said that 195 of 472 employee classifications reviewed did not comply with the provisions of the Position Classification Plan. Of the 195, 123 were assigned pay levels and grades higher than that specified in the Classification plan and the remaining 72 were given lower pay levels and grades. "These violations resulted in inappropriate and improper ranking, title and compensation of employees and a classification system that appears unjust and unfair."

Pay increases are supposed to be based on merit and increased only by one step in the appropriate level of the base salary schedule. "Of the 112 personnel actions involving pay increases we reviewed, none were limited to an increase of one step but all were based on the amount available in approved budget. The pay increases range from two steps to the equivalent of 12 step increases," the Inspection says.

Many promotions were given beyond what the CSPSS allows and were not given based on an objective evaluation. Many of the promotions were "put into effect without proper evaluation to determine whether such personnel actions were justified."

If high government officials are no longer able to influence promotions and pay raises for influential constituents perhaps they will not be pressured to try to do so if personnel actions are no longer so easily persuaded. The CSPSC is designed with just that intent in mind.

The ONPA has said that they will be performing a follow up audit in 6 to 9 months to check on the detailed recommendations they left for the new Commission, the Payroll Section, and the Department of Administrative Services.

Letters to the Editor

Impeachment: The Over Used "Solution"

Dear Mr. Jaynes,

I have read and reviewed the article you wrote in the September 5th issue of KP regarding the possible impeachment of myself as Governor of Chuuk State. I had indicated to you that I would like to make some general comments on your article.

It would be premature at this point in time for me to focus upon and address the substance of each of the allegations in the eight articles

Only 3 members of the 28-member House of Representatives introduced the resolution of impeachment. It does not represent the wish of even a substantial number of members of the House of Representatives but is simply the view of these 3 members. It is unclear at this time whether it will gain support in the House of Representatives or not. As I see it, it is basically a political ploy by these few members to gain attention for themselves and to distract us from the real works that the



That's it! Y'all just keep looking that way, I'm outta here!

of impeachment. I will do so late in time when the time is right. At this point though, I would like to make some general observations regarding the use of the impeachment power by the House of Representatives of the Chuuk State Legislature and the manner by which this particular resolution of impeachment against me was made and introduced in the House of Representatives.

In the past, the governors of Chuuk State had faced resolutions of impeachment by the Legislature. Governors Doone, Gouland and Walter were faced with impeachment. In a sense, the use of the impeachment power, which is an extraordinary power of last resort has been employed by members of the Chuuk Legislature as a "regular" means to address a wide range of issues facing Chuuk State or arising between the Executive and Legislative branches.

Chuuk leadership must undertake to address the ongoing financial problems being faced by Chuuk State. Each of the introducers seem to have different issues (personal and political) against me, so it did not surprise me that they would go as far as they did.

An investigating committee was purportedly created by the mere creation of the resolution, but after reviewing the resolution it is my view that the resolution as introduced, is improper and the committee was not properly created. The resolution of this fatal defect of the committee is internal to the House of Representatives. It is my hope that the resolution would be withdrawn and discarded by the House of Representatives, as a remedy. Moreover, once the committee begins to exercise the power of a special investigating committee, as created by rules and statute (such as issu-

ing subpoenas for documents or to employees of the State Government) I will challenge that in court to ensure that this improper and unlawful committee (if we can even call it that) does not usurp or misuse such powers reserved to a properly constituted committee of such an important constitutional duty.

Most members of the House of Representatives that I've talked to indicated that they are more interested in moving beyond this impeachment matter and are ready to work together with the entire leadership of Chuuk in our effort to tackle and solve the financial situation in Chuuk, which is the result of years of accumulated financial problems. It is thus my hope that reason would prevail

and that the House of Representatives would leave this impeachment behind so that Chuuk can move forward and make progress in these many reform efforts being implemented. This I believe would be the better way to move forward into the future and would be in the best interest of the people of Chuuk.

If you need anything further from me on these and other issues, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thank You,

Wesley W. Simina
Governor
State of Chuuk

More on the ONPA Audit on Passport Security

Dear Editor:

In my response to ONPA I expressed my equal disappointment in their failure to respond to the urgent need of an audit when I took over the new FSM Division of Immigration & Labor back in 1998.

My posting might appear defensive to some of us; however, given the negativity of the audit report I suddenly felt that I am in the forefront without the necessary tools to defend neither my office nor myself. It must be emphasized here that if my response to the audit report on September 12, 2007, had been posted in its entirety the allegations and insinuations directed at my office, in particular myself, would have been less inarguable. However that may be, I congratulate ONPA for their thoughtful reporting in the area of passport, which now has given rise to a new direction on how best to handle and safe guard our new passports.

Having a sense of care and responsibility to an undertaking such as passport handling, visa processing, etc., was a daunting task, even so, it was incumbent upon me then to first acquaint myself with the settings and procedures of the office and the complex and immense responsibility that came with it. I immediately requested that a physical audit of our passport be made so that I could know and understand what recommended policy guidelines should be installed in order to provide an effective security measure for these documents. At the same time, I wanted to know the status of the office, most especially passport, before implementing my own poli-

cies and procedures. That request was not taken seriously then until recently in 2007 when ONPA finally allocated time for us to be audited. That apparently came a couple of years too late, as we all know today.

I wish to underscore that what happened in Washington D.C. has no connection with what we do at the home office. If ONPA wants to cite laws that possibly have been violated it should address the specific issues on the fraudulent activities, tampering, falsification of travel document, theft of government property, and so forth, especially on the illegal acquisition of the specimen passports from American Bank Note Company. I also want to state on record that we never, and I mean never send blank booklets to our oversea offices since I took over this office in 1998.

The only agency of the FSM National Government authorized by law to issue passport is the FSM Immigration/Passport Section. So the assumption that we authorize the oversea offices to obtain passport booklets was misleading and not a true statement. In all honesty, no one from my office knew what was happening in D.C. at that time until we were advised. I think any one person can easily conclude what preventive measures could have been implemented if an audit was performed earlier on.

As to the statement made wherein we were found in violation of the law for sending passports to our overseas offices, I

See "Audit" on page 14

Letters to the Editor

...Audit

continued from Page 13

wonder in uncertainty what is the underpinning purpose of those offices. Are these overseas offices out there for a different purpose other than assisting our own citizens? And, what law did we violate as alluded to in the report? I have researched the law that prohibits FSM Immigration & Labor from sending passports to these offices and the only document found was a legal opinion that was sent to ONPA at their request.

The opinion states that "With regard to the distribution of valid passports to citizens living abroad, it has been the general and longstanding practice of this Department to send these passports to the FSM Embassy or Consulate where the applications were submitted for pick up by the FSM citizen concerned, unless the FSM citizen specifies on the application that the passport should be mailed to his or her address. The distribution practice is consistent with the practices of the embassies and consulates of other nations. As a result of the recent passport incident at the FSM Embassy in Washington D.C., this Embassy no longer receives valid passports."

That is the only thinking in terms of a legal opinion that relates to the distribution of valid passports to the overseas offices. The opinion went on to say, "The Department of Justice is currently considering amendments to the Passport Regulations and/or internal directives that will formalize the procedures for distribution of valid passports by the FSM Embassies and Consulates."

The Final Hour

The clock is ticking. Decisions are to be made on the spur of the moment. Candidates are prowling the scenes to regain the confidence of past supporters. New candidates are thinking of strategies to air their political platforms for the very first time. Sakau bars are filled with opportunists waiting to get free drinks from campaign rounds.

One way or another, in one form or another, a lot of money is being spent to gain favor from one side or the other. Still, this is old business as everyone knows it, but there is always something uniquely different for every election. And this is no exception. For one thing, there are more can-

The overseas offices are the only avenues of assistance available to us that we can rely on in sending these valid passports. If we were to stop this long standing practice then what other avenue of assistance would be made available to us in assisting our own citizens. Is extending this availability of service to our citizens living abroad in direct violation of our law?

Your Office of Immigration & Labor is open Five (5) days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and I welcome you to visit us and observe what we do everyday. However, you must understand that certain areas within this office are restricted from visitors, but that alone should not discourage you from visiting an office that belongs to you.

On a last note, the audit was conducted at a time when the new office location, formerly occupied by ONPA, was under renovation. During this period as witnessed by ONPA staff we simply did not have the resources or other immediate means for a secure area to properly store the older version passports and other relevant passport documents.

Mohner Esiel

[Editor's Note: Mr. Esiel has, in this letter, made most of the same points he conveyed in his response to the audit itself. You can find a complete copy of the audit which also includes the full response of Mr. Esiel, by following the link (under the weblinks tab) to the FSM Office of the National Public Auditor on the K-Press website www.bild-art.de/kpress or by contacting ONPA directly.]

didates who have petitioned for the most coveted State position of governorship as well as the prestigious seats in the Legislative Chamber. More interestingly, there are five contenders from the Education Department alone. People always want change for the better. Perhaps, the sheer numbers of candidates running is an indication of that.

Apart from this political climate and frenzy, we, the voters must exercise a strong sense of temperance and discipline to clearly see the reality of the more pressing issues that we have in our own back yards. For instance, let us look at the public school system. Every year, the student population

is growing by leaps and bounds; thus, increasing the workload for teachers, which makes it more difficult to maintain the quality of instruction in the classrooms. Educating the masses is no easy task when there is little or no incentive to go on. Teachers in their professions very well know that they have made a lot of personal sacrifices that often go unnoticed or taken for granted because the public is a very hard customer to please.

Teachers work tirelessly around the clock; they even take their workload home. Piles of papers are corrected daily and lessons are thought out carefully for the next day.

Day in, day out... In the teaching profession, there is no time to leave your job. Your job is always with you. Teachers safeguard our children from morning to evening. During the course of a year, they teach, counsel, protect, and guide our children. For students, teachers are their parents away from home, filling in their shoes at best, always looking out for what is best for them. In hindsight, teachers take on the roles of a parent, guardian, counselor, policeman, judge, and a friend. A lot of patience, effort, energy, love, and stress are expended at no cost. Of course, many of these responsibilities transgress their job descriptions.

Teachers are a unique and a special breed for many more reasons; therefore, they should be treated as such. They must be compensated well for what they do. The public demand for education is quality education. Few do not pause to recall that quality does not always come easily nor is it cheap. Teachers are the beacons that impart light and knowledge to our children. Without teachers, we would not have achieved the success that we are presently enjoy-

ing.

A tribute is long overdue exclusively for people like teachers, who wake up everyday to make Pohnpei what it is today. Teachers need a raise in salary. In fact, it is about time for everyone to get a raise. Raising the minimum wage from \$1.35 to \$2.00 should be a great start! Imagine Economics from the consumer's point of view. It would take more than an hourly wage to purchase a bar of soap so that you can take a cool and clean shower.

The cost of living keeps on rising with no tax breaks either. Fuel is costlier at the pump. Cheap electricity and water are things of the past for all of us. So what are we to do about it? The answer lies in the votes that you cast and the candidates of your free choice. Besides strengthening the democratic process and the checks and balance system through our participation in the elections, the voters should be mindful that we must elect representatives that always have the people's interests close at heart. Representatives who would find real solutions to the problems we have all around us. Representatives who are committed to making positive changes for special interest groups like teachers. Above all, no one should be left out of the equation, most especially those stratified at the lower levels of the social, educational, and economic strata.

We need new leadership that would be focused on improving the quality of life for Pohnpei's citizenry. So yes, the clock is ticking away and it is once again in the hands of, we, the voters to decide who will be worthy of leading this beautiful State of ours, Pohnpei.

With all due respect,

Mario S. Abello

Lehn Paipohn, Been There, Done That

Dear Editor:

Your column really hit me in the gut and forced a hard laugh. Your experience was identical to one out of four of my trips to the same place. I know the road, I know the turn, the church on the corner, the narrow secondary road up, the serpentine twist in the muddy road, one water buffalo and the mango tree beside the rise in the road, that is the last hard dry spot to park what should have been your 4x4 or at minimum pick

up with good traction.

Four times at least I have made this fantastic trek. Three times were perfect involving a terrific leap and swim below. Friends that I have shown the way thought I was gifted. However, my last trip of four was a dead end. I entered the trail head off of the secondary road and began down the well beaten trail through the trees underneath the jungle canopy. I crossed one or two small streams. But, for reasons I do not know,

See "Been There" on Page 15

Rhinoceros Beetle Pest Found in Guam and Saipan



On September 12, 2007, a large beetle was found near the old Fujita Hotel site near the beach at Tumon Bay in Guam. The beetle was identified by entomologist Dr Aubrey Moore of the University of Guam as the coconut rhinoceros beetle, *Oryctes rhinoceros*. During a delimiting survey, about 50 trees were found with adult CRB feeding damage and grubs were found at three sites. All damaged trees and breeding sites were within the Tumon Bay and Faifai Beach areas, totaling about 500 hectares. A year ago, in September 2006, a single CRB adult was caught in a warehouse at the seaport on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Surveys prompted by the interception did not find any CRB feeding damage. The four states of the Federated States of Micronesia, and Marshall Islands and Kiribati are still free from the beetle.

The rhinoceros beetle is a serious pest of coconut and other palms including betel nut. Coconut, also called 'the tree of life' is a very important crop in Micronesia and it is therefore vital to prevent the introduction of the beetle.

The rhinoceros beetle is very robust, shiny black and measures 3.5–5 centimetres or 1.5–2 inches long. The male bears a long horn on the head, giving it a rhinoceros-like appearance. The female has only a short horn. The larva or grubs of the beetle are light yellowish in colour, grow to a length of 10–12 cm or 4–5 inches and have a strongly built head and mouthparts.

The adult beetle lives in the crown of palm trees. The female lays eggs in decaying organic matter such as the rotten wood of coconut trunks and dead standing palms, rubbish heaps, or piles of compost and sawdust. The larvae take 4 to 5 months to reach full maturity.

The young adult beetle remains at the breeding site for 3 more weeks before flying to the nearest coconut palm to feed. The adult beetle, which lives for at least 5 months, is capable of flying long distances and may infest isolated coconut trees several kilometres from the breeding site.

It is the adult beetles that cause damage. They burrow into the crowns of palms and feed on the soft unfurled palm leaves inside. When the leaves unfold, they show typical large 'V-shaped' cuts on the sides of the leaves. Sometimes, the tips of the leaves are completely cut off. Damage caused by the rhinoceros beetle weakens palm trees and can reduce nut production. Severe attacks may result in the death of the trees.

In the South Pacific where the rhinoceros beetle is well established, a virus disease and a fungus have been introduced for biological control. Ensuring good field sanitation by removing dead standing palm trees and other breeding sites is most important.

Officials from the Guam Department of Agriculture and entomologists from the University of Guam have begun work to eradicate the rhinoceros beetle. Guam is planning to control larvae (grubs) by eliminating breeding sites such as coconut stumps and rotten vegetation from the Tumon Bay area. At the same time, pheromone traps will be used to catch adult beetles.

In countries where the beetle is not present, and in Guam where an eradication program is being carried out, people should report the sighting of V-shaped cuts on palm fronds, and adult beetles, to one of the following addresses:

Guam: Plant Inspection Station, phone (1 671) 475 1426;

Dr Aubrey Moore, UOG, phone (1 671) 735 2086

Marshall Islands: Mr Henry Cabelle, R&D,

phone (692) 625 3206

Pohnpei: Mr John Wichep, R&D, phone (691) 320 5133/2646

Yap: Mr Andrew Fogolur, phone (691) 350 2116

Kosrae: Mr Palikkun Tulenna, phone (691) 370 3017

Chuuk: Mr Sabrina Roberts, phone (691) 330 3720

CNMI: Dr Joaquin (Jack) Tenorio, Northern Marianas

College phone 1-670-234-5498 ext. 1432

SPC Pohnpei Office: Konrad Englberger,

phone (691) 320 7523

Communications of pest and disease incidents of interest to the Pacific region should be sent to: LRD - Plant Health Group, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands. Tel: (+679) 3370733; Fax: (+679) 3370021; E-mail: lrdplanhealth@spc.int

...Been There

continued from page 14

the waterfall overlook and epic river basin below escaped me. My German companions who were with me shared the same disappointment, but not my embarrassment and hurt pride. Nehi sohte men Pohnpei.

It is with some irony I note your string of bad luck when you reported on the high waterfall trip above Salapuk. Enjoyed that piece too.

The waterfalls are all there; and all worth the time and trek. Take a guide for your first time to the remote interior places of Kitt.

I always did. I should have kept bringing the guides.

Kaselel,
Dan Berman

Dear Editor:

I particularly enjoyed your article on Lehn Paipohn, since I shared a similar experience last year. I lived in Pohnpei from 1991 to 1995 and had great memories of trips to Lehn Paipohn, and wanted to take my wife and young son to see the beautiful waterfall and swimming pool of my memories. We were working in Pohnpei in October and November 2006, and one Saturday we headed out - I remembered the cement bus

stop, and headed up the road as far as our car would go. But from that point on, my memory failed me - and we never saw one person on the trails that day. They probably would have thought we were crazy (uhdahn pweipwei mehnwai) to be walking around the jungle with our 4 month old son. And after our 3rd trail ended up only at the river, I was thinking I was crazy to have taken my family out on this adventure as well. But at least it wasn't raining until we started to head back to the car. Fortunately, both my wife and son enjoyed the whole experience.

The next weekend we had a local guide who has family in the area, and it helped me not feel as bad that he

couldn't find the waterfall either! We went further up the road than the previous weekend, but still only found river. But I was disappointed not to get back to Lehn Paipohn. I hope you make it someday.

I attached 2 pictures from our recent attempt to find Lehn Paipohn, and 2 that I scanned from a visit there in 1994. The blurry one is me jumping to the large pool below - about a 40 foot drop! You can also climb along the side and get behind the waterfall. It is a beautiful spot.

Thanks for helping me keep in touch with Pohnpei.

Kasalel,
Alex Smith

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13					14			
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38	39	40			41					42	43	44	45
46					47					48			
49					50					51			
52					53					54			

SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Study at the last minute
- 5. Implore
- 9. Strawberry seed
- 12. Ace in the
- 13. Easter animal?
- 14. Mesozoic, e.g.
- 15. Foal food
- 16. Listen up!
- 17. Comes before la
- 18. Search for gold
- 20. Sole
- 21. Highly trafficked place
- 23. Sermon spots
- 27. Peruse again
- 31. Bosc and Anjou
- 32. Pageant topper
- 33. Closer to pushing the envelope
- 35. Holy
- 36. Shrimp dish
- 38. Zits
- 41. Disobeyed
- 46. Cow's comment

Search for gold

- 47. Ticklish color
 - 48. Trendy tea drink
 - 49. Explorer's need
 - 50. "... but just this
 - 51. Word on a towel
 - 52. Cry at a bullfight
 - 53. High school attendee
 - 54. Desires
- DOWN
- 1. Use a knife in the kitchen
 - 2. Noise from the crowd
 - 3. Low female voice
 - 4. Predicament
 - 5. Theater workers
 - 6. Do a double take
 - 7. Hose holder
 - 8. Large deer
 - 9. Coin for Carlos
 - 10. It might rust
 - 11. Imported ale
 - 19. Astronomer's unit
 - 20. Songlike
 - 22. Not wholesale
 - 23. King Kong, for one
 - 24. Was CEO for
 - 25. Chasing game
 - 26. End one's slumber
 - 28. Carol Burnett's thing to tug
 - 29. "We the World"
 - 30. Mom's mate
 - 34. Canyon
 - 35. "Wiser words were never
 - 37. No-no for words
 - 38. Armory stash
 - 39. Santa's "Sorry!"
 - 40. Not yup
 - 42. Twinging
 - 43. "My Country 'Tis of
 - 44. Get via hard work
 - 45. Badmouth
 - 47. Cauldron

Word Search - "Cocoon"

Residents of a Florida retirement home find their swimming pool a veritable fountain of youth in the 1985 film "Cocoon." Unfortunately, the rejuvenative properties stem from alien cocoons stored under the water—and the aliens want them back!

- ACADEMY Awards
- ALIENS
- ALMA
- AMECHE, Don
- ART
- BEN
- BERNIE
- BRIMLEY, Wilford
- CRONYN, Hume
- DENNEHY, Brian
- FANTASY
- FLORIDA
- FOUNTAIN of youth
- GILFORD, Jack
- GUTTENBERG, Steve
- HARRISON, Linda
- HOWARD, Ron
(director)

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

- KITTY
- MARY
- MOVIE
- OLIVER, Barret
- SCENES
- SCIENCE fiction
- SENIOR citizens
- JACK
- JOE
- STAPLETON, Maureen
- SWIMMING pool
- TANDY, Jessica
- VERDON, Gwen
- WALTER
- WARE, Herta
- WELCH, Tahnee
- SENTIMENTAL
- SEQUEL

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God Made It. Isn't the Earth Worthy of Our Respect?

Educating ourselves about serious issues that need to be addressed in our day is one thing; but once we know how important the issues are, motivating ourselves and others to do something about them is another. Education is relatively easy. Motivation is more difficult, although greater success can be expected in taking concrete action when we apply our Christian faith to the problems we face.

Take our conservation issues for example: the need to delineate the boundaries of the watershed, the need to eliminate over-fishing in our lagoon, the need to move our pig pens away from streams, the need to protect our bio-diversity for future generations, the need to properly dispose of our waste (just to name a few). How can

our Christian faith be brought to bear on these matters?

Perhaps we could begin with our Christian fundamentals – the two commandments of Jesus Christ: to love God above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves. If we believe this, really take it to heart, then we act on it. If we love God, then we respect God's gifts and respect God's will for creation. If we love our neighbor, then we act with justice which prohibits the selfish destruction of the environment without regard for those in need today or for the needs of future generations. Christ's saving mission includes the redemption of all creation, not just us creatures who are sinners. In short, all people are called by our Creator and Redeemer to be stewards of creation with wisdom

and love.

One would think that making a small effort to dispose of a piece of trash in a proper receptacle in order to keep Pohnpei clean and beautiful would not be so difficult, but for many of us it is. From the perspective of our faith, however, we know that such a small action when done out of love and respect for the Creator and Lord of the universe whose beauty and wisdom is reflected in the natural beauty of Pohnpei, touches God's heart, and surely does not go without its reward all out of proportion to the deed done. If all the hairs on our heads are counted, then surely the Lord notices joyfully even our smallest efforts to clean up our environment. Such small acts of reverence for God's creation are offerings which the Lord himself brings before his heavenly Father and results in many graces for us – the forgiveness of our sins, growth in goodness and virtue, conversion of hearts to name a few. God so appreciates our efforts to keep Creation (i.e. Pohnpei) clean, beautiful, and sustainable in its ability to meet our needs and the needs of our children's children's children.

As the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote in their pastoral letter entitled *Renewing the Earth*: "Reverence for the Creator present and active in nature may serve as grounds for environmental responsibility. For the very plants and animals, mountains and oceans, which in their loveliness and sublimity left our minds to God, by their fragility and perishing likewise cry out 'We have

not made ourselves.' God brings them into being and sustains them in existence. It is to the Creator of the universe, then, that we are accountable for what we do or fail to do to preserve and care for the Earth and all its creatures. For 'the LORD'S are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it' (Ps 24:1). Dwelling in the presence of God, we begin to experience ourselves as part of creation, as stewards within it, not separate from it.... The wonderful variety of the natural world is, therefore, part of the divine plan and, as such, invites our respect. Accordingly, it is appropriate that we treat other creatures and the natural world not just as means to human fulfillment but also as God's creatures, possessing an independent value, worthy of our respect and care."

David Andrus, SJ

Tide Table October 17-30, 2007				
	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	17 Wed 12:01AM 1.8 04:51AM 2.6 10:16AM 1.5 05:35PM 4.1	24 Wed 01:38AM 4.1 07:51AM 1.0 02:07PM 4.4 08:18PM 1.1	17 Wed 01:53AM 0.5 07:45AM -0.1 04:09PM 2.0	24 Wed 12:58AM 1.5 07:16AM 0.1 01:50PM 1.7 08:06PM 0.3
Thursday	18 Thu 01:02AM 2.0 05:01AM 2.3 10:12AM 1.7 06:16PM 3.8	25 Thu 02:16AM 4.2 08:17AM 0.9 02:35PM 4.8 08:56PM 0.8	18 Thu 07:42AM -0.2 04:36PM 1.8	25 Thu 01:37AM 1.3 07:18AM 0.2 01:59PM 2.0 08:50PM 0.1
Friday	19 Fri 08:38AM 1.9 07:52PM 3.5	26 Fri 02:51AM 4.0 08:43AM 0.9 03:06PM 5.0 09:36PM 0.7	19 Fri 07:36AM -0.2 05:07PM 1.6	26 Fri 02:12AM 1.0 07:17AM 0.2 02:15PM 2.2 09:37PM -0.1
Saturday	20 Sat 06:29AM 1.8 10:55PM 3.5	27 Sat 03:26AM 3.8 09:09AM 0.9 03:38PM 5.1 10:16PM 0.7	20 Sat 07:26AM -0.2 09:53PM 1.5	27 Sat 02:43AM 0.7 07:13AM 0.1 02:36PM 2.4 10:31PM -0.1
Sunday	21 Sun 06:41AM 1.5 01:20PM 3.1 06:07PM 2.4	28 Sun 04:01AM 3.5 09:34AM 1.0 04:12PM 5.1 11:00PM 0.9	21 Sun 07:17AM -0.2 03:21PM 1.2 06:04PM 1.1 11:24PM 1.5	28 Sun 03:03AM 0.3 07:05AM 0.0 03:00PM 2.5 11:41PM -0.1
Monday	22 Mon 12:10AM 3.8 07:02AM 1.3 01:23PM 3.5 06:58PM 1.9	29 Mon 04:35AM 3.1 09:58AM 1.2 04:47PM 4.9 11:48PM 1.2	22 Mon 07:13AM -0.1 02:17PM 1.2 06:44PM 0.8	29 Mon 02:54AM 0.0 06:52AM -0.2 03:25PM 2.5
Tuesday	23 Tue 12:58AM 4.0 07:25AM 1.1 01:42PM 4.0 07:39PM 1.5	30 Tue 05:10AM 2.7 10:18AM 1.4 05:25PM 4.6	23 Tue 12:15AM 1.6 07:14AM 0.0 01:53PM 1.4 07:24PM 0.5	30 Tue 06:44AM -0.4 03:50PM 2.3

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Funny Exam Answers

Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained.

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves by signing the Emasculation Proclamation. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assinator was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German half Italian and half English. He was very large.

31 Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbis. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the Organ of the Species. Madman Curie discovered radio. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

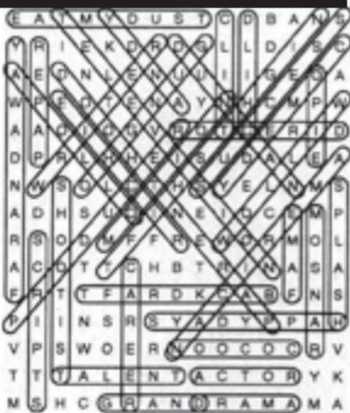
The First World War, caused by the assignation of the Arch-Duck by an anahist, ushered in a new error in the anals of human history.

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The deadline for ads and news items for the next issue is October 26

LAST Issue's Solution



LAST Issue's Solution



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office at 7:00pm. Public welcome. For details, call 320-2123.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30pm. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15p.m at PCR/Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant VIP Room. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press

P. O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941
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 email to: kpress@mail.fm

ANOTHER CLASSIC LIMERICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY TRASHBUSTERS

There once was a sculptor named Phideous
Whose sculptures by most were thought hideous
He carved Aphrodite
Without even a nightie
Which shocked all the fussy fastidious

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SERVICE IN KOLONIA, U, NETT, & SOKEHS
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Lukop Youth to Youth Plant Rare Bananas

By Dr. Lois Englberger
Pohnpei Island Food Community

Class Six of Lukop Elementary School recently joined the Youth to Youth Conservation of Rare Pohnpei Bananas project, an activity of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP). The first session was held on 18 September 2007.

Shovels and machete and rare banana suckers were the main tools needed for this class, which featured a planting lesson, taught by Engly Ioanis of the College of Micronesia (COM)-FSM Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Pohnpei. A sucker is the term for a young banana plant. Two varieties were planted, three suckers of *Utin Iap*, the unique Fe'i banana having erect bunches and very orange-fleshed fruit, and two suckers of *Akadahn Weitahta*.

Students dug energetically in the soil, loosening it, and gathered organic wastes to put in the planting hole as compost, to give strength to the new growing plant. In addition to the planting lesson, a quiz was held. Students were asked to write down all the names of Pohnpei bananas that they knew. Three students, Michael Saimon, Leevaughn Kalio, and Stephanie Joseph, knew as many as eleven varieties, winning IFCP t-shirts with the motto "Grow and Eat Yellow Varieties for

Health and Wealth".

Sylvia Nennis and Dr. Lois Englberger of IFCP gave a short explanation on the Pohnpei Bananas Poster, reminding the students that some of these bananas have now become rare and that it is important to take care of them so that all can enjoy the good taste and special characteristics of each unique variety.

For example, *Karat*, the State Banana of Pohnpei, was once grown by most families, but now has become rare. Four of the Lukop students said that they had not yet tasted *Karat*.

They were happy to try *Karat* fruit as part of the lesson.

Recipe of the Week Banana Bud Salad

2 banana buds
¼ onion, chopped
½ cup soy sauce
¼ cup oil
½ cup vinegar
Chili pepper, or sele (pepper)
4-5 cups water
Pepper to taste

Method:

1. Remove the peel from the banana bud until you come to the white portion.
2. Chop finely.
3. Fill a basin with 2 cups of water and 1 tablespoon of salt.
4. Place the chopped buds into the water. Squeeze the buds in the water until there is no more sap.
5. Drain the water.
6. Add 2-3 cups of water to a pot. Wait until it boils. Add the buds to the pot and cook for 10 minutes.
7. Drain the water, remove from the heat, and let cool.
8. Mix the soy, oil, vinegar, chili pepper, onion, and pepper together. Add the mixture to the buds and stir. It is ready to serve!

Note: A pinch of salt is optional, but for health reasons it is best to avoid adding salt. This recipe uses salt for taking out the bitterness from the banana bud (also called flower) which provides salt seasoning as well.

Thanks to Welsihter Hagilmai and Meriam Prens, COM-CES for this recipe!



Engly Ioanis and Class 6 school children of Lukop Elementary School plant rare bananas.

Also bunches and fruit of four other varieties of bananas were displayed and provided for tasting, including *Daiwang*, *Akadahn Weitahta*, *Iemwahn*, and *Utin Menihle*. The yellow flesh of the ripe *Daiwang* was compared to the white flesh of the *Utin Menihle* and the health benefits of the yellow-fleshed carotenoid-rich varieties

were explained.

Thanks are given to Wailer Olter, Lukop Elementary School Principal; Waltin Harry, Class 6 teacher; Ben Namakin, Program Manager for Education, CSP; Engly Ioanis, COM-FSM CES Pohnpei; and Adelino Lorens for providing suckers of the rare *Utin Iap* banana.

Dollar Up Enterprises



Bleach
~ \$2.45 ~



Select Coffee
~ \$1.99 ~



Foam Cups
8 ounce
~ \$1.75 ~

Nine Acts and 11 Resolutions Adopted During Second Regular Session

Congress Public Information Office

PALIKIR, Pohnpei - October 12, 2007 – The recent 2nd Regular Session of the 15th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia held September 12–27, 2007 adjourned with adoption of nine Congressional Acts and 11 Congressional Resolutions.

Along with **Congressional Act No. 15-19**, the National Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2008 the FSM Congress passed the following legislations:

Congressional Act No. 15-15, to amend PL.14-84 for Kosrae State public projects.

CA 15-16, to amend PL.14-107 to change the use of funds previously appropriated for a certain project in Pohnpei's Election District No.1 to apply instead towards the Likie Road Paving

CA 15-17, to amend PL.14-53 to change the use of funds previously appropriated for certain projects in Yap State to apply instead towards purchase of musical instruments and sporting equipment for Outer Islands Youth Development

CA 15-18, to amend PL 14-67 to allow certain changes in Chuuk's state wide public projects to include Public Lavatory Toilet facilities, sea wall and taro patch projects, Seedling and Planting project, Youth programs, Assistance for Disabled Persons and towards operations of the delegation office.;

CA 15-20, to allow the outright purchase of the school site for Pattiw Jr. High;

CA 15-21, to appropriate the FY-2004 carryover funds from the Education Sector Funds to allow funding of national government educational support activities;

CA 15-22, to appropriate 2.1 million to fund public projects and social programs in each state, to be apportioned at \$200,000 per member of Congress; and

CA 15-23, to amend PL. 13-57 to authorize the use of \$500,000 from the 1st tranche of the FSM National Government's portion of the Private Sector Development Program Loan and from the Asian Development Bank to fund tax reform efforts and related needs as required for the Private Sector Develop program.

Along with the Congressional Bills, the 2nd Regular Session also adopted 11 Congressional Resolutions. In addition to the Resolutions confirming the nominations of Andrew Yatilman (CR. 15-18) and Fabian Nimea (CR. 15-12) for the two new offices at the Executive Branch, the remaining Resolutions are:

Congressional Resolution No. 15-37, confirmed the nomination of Mrs. Mary Bergun Figir to be a member of the COM-FSM Board of Regents;

CR. 15-38, thanked and welcomed the delegation from the National People's Congress of the

People's Republic of China to the Federated States of Micronesia;

CR. 15-39, approved the terms of supply and purchase agreements with Mobil Oil Micronesia, Inc. (MOMI);

CR. 15-43, expressed the gratitude of the Congress and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia to the Honorable Redley Killion for his many years of dedicated service as a member of Congress and as Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia;

CR. 15-46, expressed the gratitude of the Congress and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia to the Honorable Joseph J. Urusemal for his many years of dedicated service as a member of Congress and his year of services as the President of the Federated States of Micronesia;

CR. 15-47, set the ceiling of the total funds estimated to be available for appropriation from the General Fund of the Federated States of Micronesia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008;

CR. 15-48, authorized the President to resubmit the nomination of Mr. Lyndon L. Cornelius to be Kosrae State representative or member on the Board of Regents of College of Micronesia;

CR. 15-50, denied approval of the Foreign Fishing Agreement between the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority and

Pacific Foods and Services Incorporated; and

CR. 15-52, congratulated the nine athletes who represented the Federated States of Micronesia at the 2007 South Pacific Games in Samoa for their outstanding performances. Team FSM was comprised of 9 athletes, 2 coaches, 2 referees and 1 Chief de Mission.

The Resolution noted that despite being the second smallest delegation in number to the games, the FSM team of athletes finished in 8th place in the final overall Games tally with: six gold medals, six silver medals and one bronze.

Leading the FSM athletes was Manuel Miningfel who, in addition to gold medals, set 19 regional and South Pacific Games records in the 56kg men's weightlifting category and also won the Sinclair Award as the overall strongest male weightlifter in all weight categories.

The other athletes on Team FSM were: Dundy Dosalia (Pohnpei), Marcel Yatilman (Yap), Keitani Graham (Chuuk), Larry Uwelur (Yap) and Kun Killin (Kosrae) in Wrestling; Jack Howard and Maria Ikelap both from Chuuk in Track and Field; and finally Debra Daniel (Pohnpei) in the Swimming category.

Their participation at the 2007 South Pacific Games is, according to the Resolution, "a source of great pride and inspiration" for the people of the FSM.

Pohnpei Fishing Club Presents All Mic Trophy to Continental



Pohnpei Fishing Club presenting Art Day with the First Place Trophy from the All Micronesia Fishing Tournament that was held in Majuro last month.

Art Day, Regional Manager for Continental Micronesia Inc. Noel Boylan, Continental - Pohnpei Fishing Club Team Captain, Steve Finnen, Pohnpei Fishing Club President



Rotary Club of Pohnpei
"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"



QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday, November 17, 2007
7:00 PM

PCR Restaurant/Nantehlek
(Cash Bar Available)

Come and test your knowledge!
Tickets are only \$10
Prizes for everyone!

Continental Airline
tickets available for auction!

Proceeds will benefit the Rotary Club Scholarship Fund and other community projects

For ticket information contact:
Steve Finnen at 320-2871
or Noel Boylan at 320-7497

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT ROTARY? JOIN US THURSDAYS, 12:15 PM @ PCR RESTAURANT