

FSM sells off sea cucumbers harvested by Vietnamese alleged immigration violators

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

July 26, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—A substantial amount of sea cucumbers allegedly harvested by Vietnamese fishermen who were arrested for violation of immigration laws were put up for sale by the FSM Government.

FSM Secretary for the Department of Justice, Joses Gallen said that he authorized the sale. Information on the proceeds of the sale has been non-existent.

The FSM Public Defender who is defending the fishermen could not be reached for comment about the sale.

On July 4 the FSM Department of Justice

charged all of the men for violation of title 50 of the FSM code. Title 50 says, “It is unlawful for a person who is not a citizen of the FSM to unlawfully enter or attempt to enter the FSM without having been issued an appropriate entry permit.” The penalty for the charge is up to two years imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine.

All 33 fishermen are up on charges of that violation and some face two charges, one of whom was convicted and deported after a similar crime a year ago.

After the arrest, the Pohnpei State jail was bursting at the seams. The Vietnamese “fishermen” were released after one night and confined instead at the Dekehtik dock

See “Cucumber Sale” on page 5



Lt. Governor Oliver donates 40 percent of his salary to uninsured medical patients

By **Bill Jaynes**
 The Kaselehlie Press

July 22, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—True to the humble nature of the man, Lt. Governor Reed Oliver wasn’t there this morning when his wife and other family members presented \$10,000 of his annual salary of \$25,000 to the Pohnpei Department of Health. It’s 40 percent of his annual salary. He didn’t want the recognition. He still doesn’t, but such an example cannot simply be ignored and is not an example at all if only a few people know about it.

This morning the Lt. Governor’s family presented two checks, each in the amount of \$5000. \$5000 of the money is to be used for the cost of medicine for outpatients

See “Lt. Governor Donation” on page 5



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Guam's Attorney General would have advised Calvo to "proceed cautiously" on deportations

From an article in Pacific Daily News

August 2, 2016

Guam—According to an article by Guam's Pacific Daily News, Guam's elected Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson has raised concerns that Governor Eddie Calvo's actions to send three convicted migrants back to Chuuk could potentially raise "racial-bias" concerns.

PDN reports that she is putting together "legal guidelines for the agencies at the front line of the governor's actions, including the Department of Corrections and the local Customs and Quarantine Agency, to help them avoid potential civil-rights lawsuits.

She said that she wasn't consulted before the Governor signed the executive orders commutating the prisoners' sentences and using the word "deportation" in the text of the executive order.

"I would have said, Governor, proceed cautiously," Barrett-Anderson told the PDN.

According to a Question and Answer styled press release by the Governor's office, "At this point, removals are voluntary with the condition that the person never steps foot on Guam again...If a removed person returns, they could face serving the balance of their sentence at the point of commutation, or being sent home on the next flight out," the release said.

He claimed in his press release that his actions were a matter of Public Safety. "Those who are on Guam by virtue of visa or a treaty face the possibility of removal if they break Guam and U.S. laws."

The attorney general told PDN that in a

case appealed in the 9th Circuit Court, a trial judge's order for a convicted foreign criminal to depart and never return to the United States which would separate the inmate from his U.S.-based family was considered a form of judicial banishment of "draconian" proportions.

While the government of Guam is immune from civil-rights lawsuits, government officials and employees don't have the same legal shield, she told PDN.

She told PDN that she disagrees wholeheartedly with the Governor's claims that he has residual authority under the federal Organic Act to deport people.

She said that Governor Calvo quoted law from 64 years ago when the Federal Government appointed Guam's Governor.

On the other hand, Barrett-Anderson told PDN that the governor acted within his Organic Act authority to commute, or shorten the sentence of a convict, and to enter an agreement for that inmate to leave the island and never return.

In his Q&A press release, Governor Calvo said, "While public safety is the primary objective of this effort, there are economic benefits that cannot be ignored. The cost to house a non-U.S. citizen in Guam's prison system has been estimated by Department of Corrections officials \$119 a day or \$43,435 per year. This costs more than a one-way airline ticket; the most recent removals cost approximately \$400.

DOC officials estimate that there are approximately 200 non-U.S. citizens in Guam's prison system. At this rate, Guam taxpayers are spending an estimated \$8.6 million per year housing non-U.S. citizen inmates. These public funds would be better spent improving the quality of life in the areas of public health, education and

public safety." Guam's AG told PDN that the local government must solve the inmate-crowding problem the right way, she said.

"It has to be racially neutral," she said.

Foreigners, including those who are called "illegal aliens," have constitutional rights to due process, which means they have the right to a deportation hearing before they can be deported, the attorney general told PDN.

Calvo said in his Q&A press release that he has met with FSM officials who told him

that they are facing the same issue with foreign vessels illegally fishing in their waters. He claimed that FSM is dealing with those violators in the same way that Guam is dealing with FSM violators of their law—a one way ticket home.

It's a bit of an overstated representation of FSM's law enforcement problems for foreign violators of the law.

Calvo's press release says, "This process will continue as long as the safety of Guam's law-abiding U.S. and non-U.S. citizens are at risk and/or when the federal government begins prioritizing this matter."

Kolonia Public Market space still a matter of controversy

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 3, 2016

Kolonia, Pohnpei—Alleged "squatters" have occupied the space where Kolonia Town has a lease for a public market, precluding its intended use.

Several years ago, the space was actually used as a public market but at some point, alleged squatters took residence and built on the land. There currently really is no "public" market in Pohnpei.

The Public Market in Kolonia, Pohnpei has been the hot seat of controversy for quite some time now, pitting Nett traditional leaders against Kolonia Town and Pohnpei State Government officials.

In response to numerous social media accusations that the Kolonia Town Mayor was "dragging his feet" on enforcement of the

lease on the public market space, we asked for an interview with Kolonia Town Mayor about the status of the Public Market.

What we got was a response from Jack Jack, Administrative Assistant saying that the Mayor had said that he could not comment on the matter other than to say that Pohnpei State has issued the lease for the site to the Kolonia Town government. Jack said that Mayor San Nicolas instructed him to tell us that Kolonia has a renovation plan for the site and that funding is in place for that plan but that Kolonia has filed suit against the State Government regarding the site.

Mr. Jack could not provide details on the contents of the civil action but said that he would ask an attorney to call us about that the details.

The phone call never came and a message to that attorney was not returned.

The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Department of Education employee arrested

August 3, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—On August 3 Pohnpei Police Officers arrested Mr. Penny Jimmy, an employee at the Department of Education on six counts of ethics violations, three counts of use of outside employment for self financial interest and a further three counts of use of state property or information for self financial interest.

The arrest is the result of an investigation led by the Office of the Governor, the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor, and the Department of Public Safety.

Investigators are also looking into potential additional charges of forgery and cheating.

The investigation alleges that as part of his official duties, Jimmy may have funneled

over \$400,000 dollars worth of Department of Education purchasing contracts for supplies into a company that he owns.

The DPS investigation is also looking into the possibility that other employees at the Department of Education were involved and may have benefited from the arrangement.

“This investigation is part of a new directive from the Governor to investigate and prosecute all reports of fraud and abuse within the Pohnpei State Government in a timely and active manner,” a source close to the Governor’s office explained. “This is the sort of activity that the Government of Pohnpei is no longer going to allow of its employees.”

Formal charges are expected to be filed by the Attorney General’s Office later in the month.

Family of sea cucumber harvesters files suit against Nett and others

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 15, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—A family with permits to harvest sea cucumbers has filed suit against “Public Safety”, Nett District Government, and “Nett District Government John Does 1 to 10” after the family was stopped, under threat of arrest from harvesting sea cucumbers in Nett waters on July 13.

They are asking the court to award them \$50,000 from each of the named defendants, \$150,000 in punitive damages, and “reasonable attorney’s fees”.

The plaintiffs are Joseph Edward, Nini Edward, AJ Edward, and Dott Edward.

The complaint (PCA 206-16) says that the “John Doe” defendants are sued under fictitious names because their true names and capacities are unknown to the plaintiffs but that after those names become known, plaintiff will amend the complaint to add their true names and capacities.

Each of the plaintiffs was issued a permit by the Pohnpei Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture under State Law 8L-58-14. The complaint alleges that they were thereby permitted to harvest certain designated species of sea cucumbers. Based on the permits, the plaintiffs “went to the Auresei Reef facing John Rasa’s place in Nanimwin Sapw Ipwal Section in Sokehs municipality at about 8:30 a.m., and began harvesting the designated sea cucumbers.”

See “Cucumber Suit” on page 7

China provides funding for a Public Market in U—first outside of Kolonia

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 29, 2016

U, Pohnpei—Dignitaries from U, including His Majesty, the Nan Mwehrki and his wife, and the Iso Nahnken gathered on the grounds of the U Municipal government building to break ground on a dream that the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China has helped to make a reality.

Iso Nahnken Ihlen Joseph said that traditional leaders have been talking about establishing a public market in U for over 20 years but the problem has always been funding. That funding has now been provided and the Nan Mwehrki has donated the use of the perfect site on the grounds of the U Municipal Government.

Ms. Li Ciuying, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China spoke of China’s long history of support in the FSM and the continued

friendly relations between the two nations.

Dahker Abraham, Chief Minister of U expressed his gratitude for the project. “I would like to assure you and your Government that this project will be a beneficial one for the population of U as well as all from the nearby residence of U,” he said, addressing DCM Li. “This project will really help minimize the cost of transportation and time for the Farmers and the Fishermen of the entire residence of U and Madolenihmw to run down to Kolonia for the exchange of their

products with the population of Kolonia Town.” and his laborers during the construction period.

He said the project represents the first ever public market to be established outside of Kolonia Town.

He has already signed the contract for the construction of the public market with Contractor Paulus Kustin and has asked the people of U to give support and cooperation to the contractor

Lt. Governor Reed Oliver, Iso Nahnken Ihlen Joseph, Paulus Kustin, DCM Ms. Li, and the Nan Mwehrki of U turned the first shovels full of dirt over as the symbolic groundbreaking.

Reverend Henry Phillip gave the invocation for the ceremony. Speaker Estepan Primo gave opening remarks.



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Pohnpei hosts the 27th annual APIPA conference



APIPA delegates

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

July 29, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Meeting with the theme “Fishing Together for a Pacific Free of Corruption and Poverty”, the 27th Annual Conference of the Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors (APIPA) kicked off at the College of Micronesia-FSM in Palikir. Hundreds of people from all over the Pacific were present for the opening day ceremonies where Deputy Inspector General of the U. S. Department of the Interior, Ms. Mary L. Kendall, delivered the Keynote Address.

The opening session began with the entrance of the Principals from each represented country and territory preceded by their flags.

Pohnpei’s Governor Marcelo Peterson welcomed the delegates to Pohnpei and to their conference.

A program for the week of the APIPA Conference was developed in collaboration with the Graduate School USA’s PITI-VITI Program and offered continuing education



APIPA Principals

for participants in four tracks: Audit, Audit Supervisory, Finance, and Accounting & Management.

Instructors for the week were Mr. Frank Crawford, Mr. Bruce Crandlemire, Ms. Jeanne Yamamura, Mr. Dave Hancox and Ms. Diane Arakaki. Their impressive biographies can be found at apipa2016.org/instructors.php.

Courses under the Audit track were “Audit Analytics & Risk Assessment”, “Audit Evidence and Documentation”, “Internal Controls for Auditors”, and “Interviewing Techniques for Auditors”.

Courses offered under the Audit Supervisory Track were Assessing Risk in Your Audit Office, Auditing Standards Update, Finding and Reporting on Fraud, and How to

Implement Big Ideas in the Management of an Audit Oversight Office -- Large and Small.

Finance Officers and employees of government agencies who are not auditors were not excluded from the training at APIPA. Under the Finance track the courses offered were “Government Auditing for Non-Auditors: What Do You Do When the Public Auditor Comes Knocking?”, “How To Reduce Bias in Decision Making”, “Introduction to Governmental Accounting”, and “Managing Your Grant Successfully”.

For the Account and Management track the course were “Advanced Governmental Accounting Issues that Remain Perplexing to this Day”, “The Essentials of Project Management”, “GASB Update: Where Are We Going from Here?”, and “Internal Controls for Managers”.



APIPA delegates present

On the final day, representatives from the World Bank gave a presentation during the lunch hour.

The Iso Nahnken of U, Ihlen Joseph is the Pohnpei State Public Auditor. He was also the chair for the 27th Annual APIPA conference. On the opening day, he hosted a reception for the delegates. He said that all of the food and beverages were donated by local businesses and individuals.

On the last night of the conference, APIPA hosted a reception at Mangrove Bay Bar where certificate of completion were handed out to all of the participants who had successfully completed their course of studies.

Represented countries and territories at the conference in no particular order were American Samoa, FSM National Government, Chuuk State, Pohnpei State, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Yap State, Kiribati, and Kosrae State.



Agnès Tuiai-Aruwafu on the role of PASAI



World Bank presenter



Pohnpei Public Auditor and APIPA Chair



APIPA Delegates

Special Session confirms Associate Justice and ratifies Climate Agreement, among others

PALIKIR, POHNPEI. August 4, 2016 – The Fifth Special Session was adjourned sine-die on Wednesday - August 3, 2016, as scheduled, with the passage of numerous measures among which included the confirmation of an Associate Justice and the ratification of the Paris Agreement.

The Nineteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia has confirmed Larry Wentworth to serve as an Associate Justice for the FSM Supreme Court. With a stellar background and over 20 years of service to the FSM Supreme Court, Wentworth’s nomination

was confirmed through the adoption of Congressional Resolution (CR) 19-236.

Another highlight of the concluded session was the adoption of CR 19-23 to ratify the climate change treaty better known as the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement is a treaty within the United Nation’s Framework Convention on Climate Change which calls for a global effort to reduce the emissions of green house gases in order to limit global warming to under 2°C. It also calls for voluntary goals or “nationally determined contributions” (NCDs), which would eventually become

binding. And finally the Paris Agreement calls for commitment by the developed countries to assist the developing countries in their efforts.

Congress also passed Congressional Act (CA) 19-101 to place a certain restriction on the newly created entity, “the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning.” During its session in May 2016, Congress had passed an Act (now Public Law 19-85) to create a Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning to coordinate the Nation’s preparation efforts towards effective and smooth post Compact government in 2023. The newly passed Act

amends the new law to underscore that any contemplated or proposed negotiations with the US will be limited solely to Title Two - Financial Provisions.

In a similar vein, Congress had also during its May session passed an Act (now Public Law 19-90) to establish a National Scholarship Board comprising five members, one from the National Government and one from each of the four states. During the Special Session, the Body adopted the following resolution

...Lt. Governor Donation

Continued from front page

who have no medical insurance or are not covered by some other medical policy “such as farmers, fishermen, small infants, youths, and “etc., etc....,” the Lt. Governor wrote in an email that we received by accident.

He intends \$5000 of the money to go to help with off-island referrals from Pohnpei to the Philippines, “not for tickets as the amount is not big, but will be given in amounts that can help individuals and family members who are going to PI for medical referral to help cover other small expenses,” his email said.

“Knowing the Dollar value versus the Peso, I believe that amount can help a bit,” he wrote.

He said that he chose the 22nd of July to present his donation of part of his salary because it falls on his father’s (Bermin Oliver) birthday. “Without him I couldn’t be where I am today. He started all small things that have enabled me to go to school and (then to) come back and do the things I can do...”

The Lt. Governor’s wife, Estelle Oliver presented the checks to his sisters who in turn presented the checks to Governor Marcelo Peterson, who then presented the checks to Acting Director of Health Services, Dr. John Hedson.

Lt. Governor Oliver’s sense of stewardship is widely known. It is sometimes misunderstood.

Some members of the Legislature recently asked whether it is legal for the Lt. Governor to use his own personal vehicle while on official business. He doesn’t use the official vehicle and says that he has provided his own fuel for his own personal vehicle even while on official business.

...Cucumber Sale

Continued from front page

where they still reside.

According to FSM sources, Young Sun, was the buyer for all of the viable sea cucumbers that were aboard the vessels.

Young Sun is under a Temporary Restraining Order on their contract with Pohnpei State to manage a harvest of sea cucumbers in Pohnpei State waters. That restraining order did not restrict the company from buying allegedly ill gotten sea cucumbers from the FSM, obtained from the Vietnamese fishermen.

Anecdotal estimates of the sea cucumbers aboard the two vessels range from 10 to 20 thousand kilos.



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Sea Cucumber aquaculture project researches ways to make money from sustainable farming

By **Bill Jaynes**
August 2, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—On July 20, at the height of the full moon, five female sea cucumbers rose up like cobras and spewed out over 10 million eggs at the carefully and scientifically controlled aquaculture facility at Nett Point. Of those, 49 percent hatched after male sea cucumbers fertilized the eggs—just over 5 million hatches. It will be a long journey before any of those sea cucumbers, the kinds that Pohnpeians eat, will be ready for market. The vast majority of them will die before they ever reach that stage, despite the carefully controlled environment.

The program is culturing “sand fish”, locally known as “langon”, and curry fish. Both are species that are locally consumed.

On several visits to the NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) and USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) sponsored Land Grant Program at Nett Point in Pohnpei, Dr. Manoj R. Nair shined a flash light into the spawning pools to show me the sea cucumbers growing there in the first stage of their growth process. “Look at where the light is shining”, he said. “You’ll see tiny little creatures on the bottom.”

Each time I smiled and nodded, but I have to admit that I was shining him on. I couldn’t see them unless they were the things that looked like tiny little grains of sand on the bottom of the tanks. He assured me that there were hundreds of thousands in each tank.

He said that stage of growth is about the time that some sea cucumber “farmers” dump the larva into the ocean and say that they have “farmed millions of sea cucumbers” to support their intended harvest.

But Dr. Nair says it’s much more complicated than making sure that eggs have been fertilized. They still have to survive and it would be hard for the tiny, almost invisible larva to do in the wild.



Sea cucumbers are ready for harvest at about 350 to 400 grams, approximately two years from the time that they are spawned. It’s no small investment in time.

In the controlled environment of the aquaculture lab, larva are fed only after experts have determined that they are ready, and then only on carefully monitored Spirulina covered plates. The water in the tanks is changed on a regular basis and the larva are moved from tank to tank as they progress in their development. In that controlled environment, less than 5% will make it as far as a sea cucumber farm. Even after that point, more will be lost before they are ready for harvest.

Dr. Nair said that sea cucumbers must be at least 30 grams in size before being released to farms. The “farms” are also carefully controlled environments and must be checked constantly. In each farm, approximately 90 tiny sea cucumbers each are placed into nine net bags per farm with holes only 900 microns in size. Farmers must constantly check for predators like crabs and get rid of them when they are found.

But crabs are not the only predators of sea cucumbers. Dr. Nair said that they found a perfect site in Sekere for a sea cucumber farm that had the required sandy sea bottom. Farmed sea cucumbers will not survive in sea bottom of rubble. He said it was the perfect place but they can’t use it any more. In 2014 they planted approximately 1000 sea cucumbers off the shore of Sekere. Every single one of those sea cucumbers were at harvest size.

They haven’t returned a farm to that site, but they

have several others. The program currently has a farm at Nihco Marine Park and hopes to have another soon. They have a farm at Mhawi Peisi island that requires daily monitoring by staff members to eliminate crab populations that encroach on the farm. There is another farm on an island off of Palikir. Currently there is one farm at Nett Point but on the date of our last visit, trainees were setting up another adjacent farm. Dr. Nair said they had negotiated another farm not far away in Pali Powe which also has good sandy bottom for sea cucumber cultivation.

There are still more predators. Climate change may well be one of them. Dr. Nair said that Pohnpei experienced unusually low tides after Tropical Storm Dolphin in 2015. The program lost every single one of the sea cucumbers in every one of its farms as a result of that climactic event.

It’s the goal of the program to try to find a way to make money from the farmed cultivation of sea cucumbers and other marine animals but Nair is quick to point out that the program is hampered by more than just environmental matters.

In some ways it has been hampered by political matters.

The much talked about “Sea Cucumber law” of 2014 allowed the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) to generate a set of regulations. In those regulations, OFA requires any person who is pursuing an aquaculture project to pay \$25,000 a year to a Fisheries Development Fund before operational taxes. Dr. Nair says that regulation essentially eliminates most people from investing in aquaculture.

“Who can afford to pay \$25,000 a year,” he exclaimed. “How can anyone make money if they have to pay \$25,000 every year before they’ve invested a cent?”

Legislators in Yap recently considered a bill

that would have required a 100% closure of sea cucumber harvesting. That law would have effectively closed the Land Grant Sea Cucumber aquaculture project there. Yap already has a law on the books that bans sea cucumber except during open seasons which are to be announced by the government. They haven’t done so in quite some time. But after a local was arrested and charged with illegal sea cucumber harvesting, lawmakers were apparently concerned that the law wasn’t working and so sought to completely eliminate any and all sea cucumber harvesting.

An employee of the Land Grant Aquaculture project in Yap has been in Pohnpei training with Dr. Nair. Palau also sent trainees for their project. The trainee in Yap said that he is closely related to one of the Yap lawmakers who was behind the bill and was told that even though the aquaculture project is located right behind the legislative chambers, most of the Senators didn’t know about it. All they knew was that the law wasn’t working and so they wanted to pass a more stringent law.

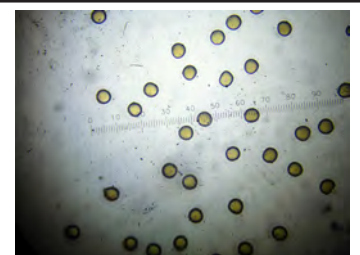
However, the problem with the old law wasn’t that it wasn’t strict enough; it was that Yap has very few resources to enforce it. Witnesses to the public hearing in Yap on that law pointed out that making a more stringent law wouldn’t solve that problem and would also kill the aquaculture project.

The law didn’t pass but we’re told that legislators are re-thinking the wording of the law, hopefully to allow for the aquaculture project to continue.

The Land Grant aquaculture program has full time staff members and also utilizes interns from the College of Micronesia FSM’s Marine Sciences program. Dr. Nair says that it’s really his job to work himself out of a job and to turn it over to locals to do. He feels confident that he’s definitely moving in that direction.



Sea cucumber larvae settlement plates



Fertilized eggs under the microscope ready for stocking in black tanks

Crime drama series “Micronesian Blues” under consideration by Cinemax

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 2, 2016

Federated States of Micronesia—Cinemax is currently in negotiations with Shifting Gears to purchase a series entitled “Micronesian Blues” based on the non-fiction book with the same title by Bryan Vila and Cynthia Morris. Morris says that details won’t be known for at least a couple of weeks.

Cynthia Morris gifted KPress a copy of “Micronesian Blues” in June of 2013 for our review, but we were skeptical about how it would treat Micronesians and said so when I finally got around to it several months later. Once I did finally get around to it, I spent several sleepless nights turning pages compulsively. It was a compelling read full of characters I either knew about from Micronesian history or that I know personally.

I was pleasantly surprised to find out that it was really more about how the people of Micronesia changed an expat than it was about how an expat changed Micronesia.

...Cucumber Suit

Continued from page 3

The complaint says that while the family was harvesting the sea cucumbers, two Nett Police boats carrying a total of seven Police Officers in uniform approached them and asked them what they were doing. Joseph Edward spoke on behalf of his family and told them that they were harvesting sea cucumbers according to their State authorized permit.

The complaint says that the Nett police officers then demanded, “without any explanation” that the family put back all the sea cucumbers they had harvested. If they didn’t do so they would be arrested.

The complaint alleges that in order to avoid arrest, the family complied but they claim that compliance cost them plenty without due process of law.

Attorney Martin Jano is representing the plaintiffs.

The civil action didn’t mention the ordinance passed by Nett and by U municipal governments banning the harvest of sea cucumbers in their waters until after farming was done and an evaluation conducted. Those ordinances provided for criminal penalties for violators.

The Kaselehlie Press published a story on July 11 on those ordinances and that both municipalities had voted to enforce their ordinances.

The validity of those municipal ordinances has not been determined by any court yet.

“Regardless of what we are called here (‘mehn wai’, ‘ahset’, or something else) I think that ‘Micronesian Blues’ should be required reading for all of us expats before we step off the plane on any Micronesian island,” my review of the book said. I still think so.

I know what happens to books that I love once they hit the screen.

According to the website, TV Series Finale, “Johnathon Tropper is writing the Micronesian Blues ‘crime drama thriller,’ which will be directed by Greg Yaitanes.

They are executive producing with Dempsey and his producing partner and manager, Joannie Burstein. Justin Franklin is co-producing. The Micronesian Blues TV series is based on the non-fiction book of the same name by Bryan Vila and Cynthia Morris.”

TV Series Finale quotes from the “Deadline

Hollywood” site which provides a short synopsis of the story line that is being proposed: “Micronesian Blues, written by Tropper and to be directed by Yaitanes, is based on the true story of Los Angeles cop Bryan Vila, a former Marine who had served in Vietnam, who took a job training local police in Micronesia in the early 1990s, expecting a paid vacation. The series tells the story of a burned out LA cop who accepts a teaching job in Micronesia, only to find himself caught up in a bloody war between tribal gangsters, lawless mercenaries, and crooked CIA agents.”

With a description like that, I wonder if Micronesians will be pleased with the series. It remains to be seen. The authors of the respectful book certainly hope that the series will treat Micronesians with the same respect as they did.

A certain deal has not yet been made.



Ace Hardware sponsored “Kid’s fishing tournament” a success

Steve Finnen
Pohnpei Fishing Club

July 30, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The kids tournament was a big success with over thirty kids participating. They are our future anglers, so train them well.

We ended up having great weather for the tourney. Ace Hardware did a great job with the prizes and the barbecue.

All of the kids won prizes. There was a goody bag for each kid who participated, plus a raffle of toys.

The winners are listed below with their prizes.

- 1st - Jarrell James 5.1lb. Boy’s bicycle and \$50.00 Ace Hardware Gift Certificate
- 2nd - Ivarena 3.7lb. Inflatable boat and \$40.00 Ace Hardware Gift Certificate
- 3rd - A.D 2.9lb. Remote Control Helicopter and \$30.00 Ace Hardware Gift Certificate
- 4th - Jun Sohl 2.2lb. 6 piece dive set and \$20.00 Ace Hardware Gift Certificate
- 5th - Dino 2.0lb. Swim Mask and Snorkel and \$15.00 Ace Hardware Gift Certificate
- Most Fish: Girl: Diana 16pcs. \$25.00 Ace Hardware Gift Certificate
- Most Fish: Boys: Jun Sohl or Sean Michael Sohl \$25.00 Ace Hardware Gift Certificate
- Prettiest Fish: Nelson \$25.00 Ace Hardware Gift Certificate
- Ugliest Fish: Nathanat \$25.00 Ace Hardware Gift Certificate

Many thanks to Cel Mercado Perez and her friends for the barbecue, and to Dr. Hedson as the master weigher. A big thanks to Bill, Rich and the whole Ace Hardware staff for their support.

The kids all had a great time, and we are looking forward to next year.

Don’t forget the Matson tournament is on August 20.

Editor’s Note: Names are published as they were provided by the Pohnpei Fishing Club



Venice of the Pacific



By Donna Gallen

Through life, there must be things that prove to us Pohnpeians that we still have the strength and hope to overcome the challenges we face.

"Nan Madol is the point of intersection between heaven & Earth"

Nan Madol is a mighty ancient dynasty that once existed and it is now regarded as a sacred place and one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It will be up to us Pohnpeians to model respect for our sacred places and culture to other foreigners so they can demonstrate the same respect to our sacred places whenever they visit. It is our responsibility to value Nan Madol because we are the ones that other people will yell at if something goes wrong! And definitely we Pohnpeians don't want that!

MY TRIP TO NAN MADOL

This was my second trip to Nan Madol. It was windy and the sounds

of the birds made me realize how welcome we were.

Nan Madol has changed a little since my last visit—people constructed wooden bridges. Now it is safe to cross the rivers.

Along the way, I learned a lot and experienced a lot! My trip was awesome, I still can't get the sound of the waves out of my head. It's like crossing the Pacific Ocean!

Lots of things surprised me about Nan Madol but there were main two things that surprised me most during my trip. First of all, I was really shocked to see red sand there. I've never heard about any "red sand" being on this island before.

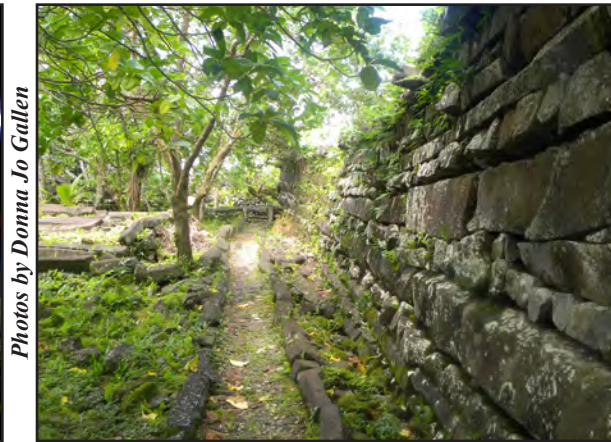
This trip was very interesting to me and being

there for the second time really helped me a lot. I got the chance to discover new elements and places that been a deep foothold for Pohnpeians for centuries.

Importance of Nan Madol to me as a Pohnpeian

Nan Madol is a very sacred place on Pohnpei. It is very important to me as a Pohnpeian to have knowledge about this place because it is becoming more and more popular everyday of each year.

Knowing the aspects of Nan Madol is important information for a Pohnpeian when somebody asks you: "How much do you know about this place?" As a Pohnpeian, it helps if I happen to know lots of knowledge about this place! Knowing Nan Madol history is like knowing my own culture.



Photos by Donna Jo Gallen

FSM consultations on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratification

Pacific Community

1 August 2016

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia – The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), through its Department of Health and Social Affairs, is conducting a consultation on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the capital Pohnpei this week, for relevant government representatives and civil society organisations.

The three-day consultation aims to develop the skills and knowledge of relevant stakeholders on the convention and is being supported by the Pacific Community's (SPC) Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) in collaboration with Australian Aid and the European Union.

"The training is a very timely event particularly

as the Department of Health and Social Affairs various legislature sittings.

is preparing to submit a resolution on the ratification of the CRPD to the 4th Regular Session of the 19th Congress Sitting of the FSM Government that will be held in September," National Policy on Disability Coordinator, Stuart Penias, said.

The FSM Government signed the CRPD in September, 2011 and is proceeding with plans for ratification this year. The main purpose of the CRPD is "to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities."

A resolution for ratification was submitted to congress in 2013 which was tabled to allow consultations with the states to get their input and support. Since then, each of the four FSM States - Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap - have passed CRPD ratification resolution during

According to Mr Penias, the FSM Government endorsed a National Policy on Disability which identifies priority areas for action to promote societal awareness, and inclusion of persons with disabilities, including identification of their needs and opportunities.

"It is very important that FSM joins the rest of world in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and to improve the livelihoods of persons with disabilities. FSM is also fortunate to get the assistance of SPC in this

See "Disabilities" on next page

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Pohnpeian Atlantis

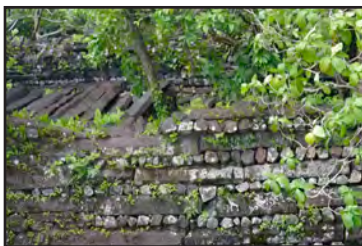


By Zachary Edward

As a child, I wanted to learn more about my native roots. Curiosity filled my mind and made me eager to listen to every story, legend, and myth known. I believed in most of them until Miller Benjamin, Pohnpeian historian, stated that “most stories were not true.” Superstition has it that if anyone who knows the truth about Nan Madol and shares it will fall very ill and eventually die. Perhaps this traditional belief played a major part in the reason why the formation of Nan Madol still lies a mystery today.

Although the facts of Nan Madol’s origins have been lost over time, as the lies used to confuse both the natives and foreigners intertwine with the truth, we can still find beauty within these mysteries.

As I entered its walkway, I felt the



cool breeze unceasingly coming through the trees that have started to grow on the megalithic structures. A variety of plants grew everywhere except for the path leading to the site. It took me about ten minutes from the parking area to reach the enormous structure that runs a kilometer and a half long and half a kilometer wide surrounding the structure called Nan Douwas. Half-way there I saw an eel desperately trying to breathe in the shallow water. This reminded me that even though the truth of this historical site has been diluted, there is still some truth living within the myths and legends.

Countless stops to admire even the smallest details and listen to stories from a local resident made me thirst more for knowledge. After centuries of wear, the basalt rocks used to build Nan Madol still stand strong to this very day.

“These walls show how strong traditional beliefs were among each municipality”, stated Miller Benjamin. Surprisingly, a prophecy was made for each municipality and today they have been fulfilled. Two of the four corners that surrounds Nan Douwas have trembled and it resembles the loss of culture and strong tradition for two municipalities.

Saudeleurs (or kings) began to become greedy over time—to the point where even a louse picked from the head was not to be killed

by commoners, without permission. The islanders grew weary and tired of the unreasonable dictators of their island. Nevertheless, they continued to show respect to their leaders because it was a declaration they all abided by, willingly. The level of respect that our ancestors held for the Saudeleurs was, astonishingly, a common virtue in the past—a virtue that is rarely for humanity today and lost for humanity tomorrow.

Exploring “the Venice of the Pacific” made me feel proud as an islander. Learning about my roots is a very important civic responsibility because it is how I claim my heritage and how I can identify as a true islander. Respect is not some abstraction in our culture; it is a virtue that binds our people together in unity.

(Editor’s note: In each issue of The Kaselehlie Press we will print at least one of the stories written by a student who participated in a training to tell the stories in a convincing way—The Pohnpei Storytellers. If you don’t want to wait for the next issue, you can find their stories at maptia.com/pohnpeistorytellers.)



Photos by Zachary Edward

...Disabilities

Continued from previous page

worthy endeavour,” Mr Penias said.

Topics that will be covered during the consultation include Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Non Discrimination and Equality including Reasonable Accommodation, Understanding the different articles of the CRPD, CRPD in practise and Monitoring and Implementation of the CRPD.

“While the Pacific Region is slow on human rights treaty ratification, the CRPD is one of the quickest ratified treaties in the Pacific with 10 Pacific Community members having either ratified or acceded to this Disability Convention after it was adopted in 2006 and came into force in 2008,” SPC Regional Rights Resource Team

Director, Mark Atterton said.

“SPC will continue to support the FSM Government as ratification of the CRPD is significant for FSM and its population with disabilities,” Mr Atterton added.

The President of Pohnpei Consumer Organisation, Nelbert Perez, stated that the ratification of the CRPD by Pacific Island countries shows the commitment of Pacific governments towards persons with disabilities in the region.

“Persons with disabilities in the Pacific face numerous challenges which hinder their full and effective participation in their various communities. The ratification of the CRPD allows our governments to take stock of provisions to safeguard rights and identify gaps in order to allow persons with disabilities access to the same opportunities as everyone else,” Mr Perez said.

The CRPD consultation concludes on 4 August.



GGF teams up with APIC for support of water security in Sapwuafik

The Micronesian Conservation Trust received funds from the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) (\$5,000) and the Japan Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) (\$10,000) to support their El Niño and drought recovery efforts on the island of Sapwuafik, Pohnpei FSM. Sapwuafik was selected by MCT and the two donor agencies because it is one of the most populated atolls in the FSM and needs much support. (FSM's 2010 Census lists the population of Sapwuafik at 456). Also, the Mayor of Sapwuafik, the Hon. Kapino Neior, is a very progressive leader and has been actively seeking assistance from various organizations to support the people on his island, so his efforts were rewarded with the funding of these grants.

The work of Mayor Neior shows that communities that are actively seeking assistance for projects to improve the quality of life in their communities have options for fulfilling their dreams. As the old US proverb go, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease", so we encourage communities with good projects in mind to seek assistance for them and help improve the quality of life for the residents of your community.

(APIC) is engaged in various development cooperation projects for the purpose of promoting international cooperation and deepening mutual understanding between Japan and various countries.

Specifically, APIC is engaged in these following activities.

1. Supporting development cooperation projects in the Pacific Island Region
2. Supporting development cooperation projects in the Caribbean Region
3. Organizing lecture meetings regarding global issues
4. Organizing social meetings regarding international cooperation
5. Training young generations interested in international cooperation

Global Greengrants Fund is a charitable foundation that makes small grants to grassroots environmental causes around the world. These funds are used to support community-based groups outside the United States and Western Europe working on issues of environmental justice, sustainability, and conservation. Since its establishment in 1993, Global Greengrants Fund has made over 5,000 grants in 129 countries, giving a total of over \$20 million.



Mayor Neior in front of tanks sponsored by the GGF and APIC

The project's aim is focused on water and food security. The municipal government has used some of the grant funds to buy 8 water tanks that will be placed in strategic areas around Sapwuafik Island to catch rainwater and ensure access by all the island's residents. The tanks have a singular capacity of 1500 gallons and a combined 12,000 gallons of water can now be stored. The municipal government will also use some of the funds to help them rehabilitate/improve some of the taro pits on Sapwuafik which were severely affected during the recent El Nino drought.

New JICA Volunteers to the FSM

Japan International Cooperation Agency

On 7th of July 2016, FSM Department of Foreign Affairs welcomed two new JICA Volunteers to the Federated States of Micronesia who arrived on the 6th of July from Japan. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been dispatching volunteers into the FSM since 1989. JICA volunteers have been assisting in priority sectors of Education, Health, Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism and other fields. Currently there are seventeen volunteers; 8 SV (Senior Volunteers) and 9 JOCVs

Mr. Brendy Carl Deputy Assistant Secretary from FSM Dept. of Foreign Affairs warmly welcomes JICA's New Senior Volunteers to the Federated States of Micronesia.



(Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer), are serving in the FSM including the two new volunteers. Most of them will serve two years in their respective posts. This program is one of JICA's principal activities as part of its

international cooperation carried out on behalf of the Japanese government which contributes to the social and economic development of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The new dispatched group consists of two senior volunteers are assigned to work in Pohnpei. SV Ms. Kimura Kumiko is assigned to College of Micronesia Division of Health and Science and Ms. Akahoshi Asuka to College of Micronesia CRE (Cooperative Research & Extension). The two new volunteers are ready to embark on their new journey in the FSM. Best wishes to all new volunteers as they help promote sharing of technical knowledge and skills, as well as mutual understanding and friendship between the FSM and Japan.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF
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Rotary Club of Pohnpei announces scholarship recipients

Rotary Club of Pohnpei

to 15 winners.

Pohnpei, FSM—The Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc. is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2016-2017 scholarship awards. The scholarships are awarded to FSM students attending university, and are to assist them in pursuing their dreams of a college education. With the assistance of Vital/Petrocorp, the club awarded a total of \$11,250.00 in scholarships

The winners selected are Jamilyn Lynnae Mooteb, Donna Pretrick, Dmetria Mtag, Richy Ropon, Annalyn Tareg, Shania Felix, Tyana Musrasrik, Zoya Goodwin, Armhel Pigao, Miranda Pugurwag, Mioni Samo, Marcy Kentun, Cheryll Ligo, Roxanna Lawichfeg and Ramon Saletalir

Of the 15 winners, 14 are attending off island universities and 1 is attending COM-FSM.

We received many very competitive applications. It was a difficult decision to select the winning scholars, and with so many great applications we tried to select as many winners as possible. We also had to turn down some excellent candidates and we encourage them to reapply next year.

The Rotary Club has been awarding these scholarships since the early 2000's and we are proud that it has built up to a sizeable amount being awarded each year. The money comes from some gracious support from Vital/Petrocorp, and our own fundraising. Support our Chook raffles and fun run. Plus mark on your calendar Saturday, November 5 at Cupid's Restaurant for our annual Quiz Night, known as the funnest night of the year by those who use bad grammar. The Rotary Club is also involved in many other community service projects, so your help from the public is always appreciated.

Good luck to all our scholars and we wish them every success in the coming school year.

Association of Pohnpei NGOs (APONGO)

July 27, 2016

Kolonia, Pohnpei-The First Pohnpei Civil Society Conference was held on July 15, 2016, at Pohnpei Administration Conference Facility. The conference was jointly organized and facilitated by FSM Alliance of NGOs (FANGO) and the Pohnpei State Office of Social Affairs.

Mr. Herman P. Semes, Sr. President of FANGO gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the conference, which was to create a Pohnpei State representative body, an umbrella organization, of the NGO community of Pohnpei, to serve as the focal point of contact between the NGO community and the Pohnpei State Government, and to help strengthen FANGO. The Pohnpei State umbrella organization would become the body to select the Pohnpei NGO board member to represent Pohnpei NGO community on the FANGO Board of Directors. FANGO is the FSM National NGO that represents FSM NGO community in the Regional NGOs.

Governor Peterson gave the welcoming remark, in which he expressed his appreciation for being invited to this historic conference of Pohnpei NGOs. He also took the occasion to welcome the Honorable Yosiwo George, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia who was the key note speaker at the conference. Governor Peterson emphasized the importance of Pohnpei civil society in the formulation of public policies and encouraged

the NGO community to organize and unify themselves to better represent the interest of the citizens.

In his remarks, Vice President Yosiwo George, a champion of strong civil society, thanked the organizers for inviting him to be the key note speaker at the NGO Conference. He expressed great appreciation for seeming representatives and participants from the government, non-government organizations, private sector and civil society groups.

In his statement, Vice President George said; "We need both national and states, the private sector, NGOs and civil society groups working side by side to make a difference in actions towards promoting human rights and our efforts towards growing our economy and creating jobs for our people. Without commitment, cooperation, and communication, initiatives or actions relating to human rights I not possible, cannot be fully achieved."

Vice President George encouraged FSM and States NGOs and civil society to take active role in the national, regional and international forums. He then mentioned about his meeting with the leaders of Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) during which he learned that FANGO has not participated in this regional NGO organization for a while. He personally took responsibility of making contacts with FANGO to revive itself and start

working with the States NGO communities and civil society organizations to work together to strengthen FANGO as the FSM NGO umbrella organization.

He also mentioned that he would not want to see any NGO outside of FSM representing FSM in regional and international forums.

Vice President George expressed his gratitude that Pohnpei is taking the lead and hoped that other States would follow.

Regarding the Theme of the conference: "Enhancing the capacity of NGOs to effectively promote human rights through collective citizen's actions", Vice President said:

"For me, it means we must stand together ready and enhance our capacity to offer assistance to all stakeholders not only to promote human rights but work together to resolve human rights issues. This means working together to promote gender equality, to discourse discrimination against women, and to address human rights issues through collective leadership."

I call on all NGOs and civil society groups in Pohnpei to engage with youth, women, elders, local and state governments, and our national government to work together to make a difference in our lives. I call on all of you to help people understand their stake in our

bold vision to promote and protect our human rights through collective efforts."

Vice President George ended his remarks by stating in its effort to support and assist activities of NGOs and civil society groups and the private sector, National Government has proposed financial resources in the FY17 National budget.

Based on information released by the Pohnpei State Registrar of Corporation, there are 418 State chartered NGOs in Pohnpei State, not counting those that are chartered by the FSM Government. With this many NGOs in Pohnpei, it is essential that a State umbrella organization is established under which all Pohnpei NGOs will become members.

As numbers of NGOs increase, it may become necessary for NGOs with similar mission and purpose to create their own umbrella organization to represent them under the Pohnpei State NGO umbrella organization. They would become the focal points for their group and would facilitate networking among the NGO community. As an example, Pohnpei Women's Council is the women umbrella organization for all women organizations in the municipalities. It is the focal point of contact for the women organizations.

Other special guest speakers were invited to

See "APONGO" on page 12

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FSM (TC)

Pohnpei State strengthens emergency operation centre management

18 July 2016

Kolonia, Pohnpei— Training to help improve the response to emergencies and natural disasters is underway in the Pohnpei State this week, with a focus on strengthening the management of the State Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and helping the state prepare and respond better to disasters such as strong winds and storm surges which frequently impact the coastlines.



Pohnpei State Lieutenant Governor Honorable Reed B. Oliver in opening the training encouraged the participants to take advantage of the presence of the regional trainers who are facilitating the training so that preparedness for response in Pohnpei can be enhanced and this training is timely as the EOC is being activated more often in response to increasingly frequent strong winds and storm surges events affecting the island.

Participants are from the Pohnpei State Government Departments, Offices, and Agencies such as Public Safety, Agriculture, Health, Education, Transportation Authority, Environment Protection Agency, Radio Station, Public Affairs Office.. Two participants are from the FSM Office of Environment and Emergency

Management as well as one from the Republic of Palau's National Emergency Management Office.

The training is facilitated by regional trainers who are also staff of the Geoscience Division of SPC, Mr. Anthony Blake and Mr Noa Tokavou.

Following the training, SPC will provide support to Pohnpei State Government to develop Standard Operating Procedures for the EOC which will complement the training and provide a foundation for response to future emergencies.

The EOC training, supported by the European Union funded, SPC implemented Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project, is a capacity building initiative to improve the preparedness and response capability to natural disasters.

The training will conclude on Friday 22nd July with a simulation table top exercise and is held at the Governor's Conference room.

...APONGO

Continued from page 11

speak at the conference. They Included Ms. Evelyn Adolph, UN Development Specialist, UN Joint Presence Office; Mr. Ricky Carl, TNC; Dr. Lucille Apis-Overhoff, Consultant and Mr. Patterson Shed, GEF-Small Grant Program.

The Conference moved to establish a Pohnpei NGO representative body called Association of Pohnpei Non-Government Organizations (APONGO) with a 5 member board of directors elected by NGO representatives at the Conference. The first board and officers of APONGO are as follows:

- Herman P. Semes, Sr. ----- President
- Adelino Lorens ----- Vice President
- Stephanie Edward ----- Secretary
- Maria Donre ----- Treasurer
- Heinrick Stevenson ----- Member

In organizing the conference, organizers made public radio announcements and sent individual invitation letters to active NGOs about the conference. More than twenty active NGOs were present which included youth, senior citizens, farmers, business community, environment, women, good governance, and civil society organizations.

Organizers of the conference would like to extend sincere appreciation and thanks to all those who participated in the conference; the NGOs, government officials, special guest speakers, and members of Pohnpei Chamber of Commerce. Specific kalahngan extended to Ambros & Co., Inc., 7 Stars and Foodland Farm for providing refreshments and lunch to this event.

...Congress

Continued from page 4

for nominations to the National Scholarship Board:

- CR 19-241, for Lourdes F. Roboman to serve as the representative of the State of Yap;
- CR 19-244, for Pressler Martin to serve as the representative of the State of Pohnpei; and
- CR 19-257, for Kemsy A. Sigrah to serve as the representative of the State of Kosrae.

Members of two other national boards were also confirmed during the special session, and they included:

- Arthy G. Nena who was confirmed through CR 19-260 to serve as the State of Kosrae's Representative on the FSM MiCare Board of Directors; and
- Nakama Sana, who was through CR 19-201 confirmed to serve as the Chuuk State Representative on the FSM Social Security Board of Directors.

While there are numerous other measures from the Fifth Special Session of the 19th Congress, the measures noted above were compiled as highlights from the session to be included in this week's issue of the Kaselehlie Press. The remaining measures will be disseminated through the regular channels of press releases from the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. If you wish to receive press releases from the FSM Congress, you can subscribe through cpio@congress.gov.fm



Most of the FSM Olympians have arrived in Rio de Janeiro for the Olympic games. Press releases from the games are expected to begin to flow at any time now.



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Across

- 1. Gem units
- 7. Revolutionary Guevara
- 10. Sea creature that moves sideways
- 14. Common recipe amount
- 15. Actor Holbrook
- 16. Turner of Hollywood
- 17. Masonry work that may be smoothed with a trowel
- 19. Grace finisher
- 20. Deadly snake
- 21. Shoving away, football-style
- 23. Director Bob who won a Tony, Oscar and Emmy all in the same year
- 24. Evicts
- 25. Quester for the Golden Fleece
- 28. Hen's place
- 30. "It's a sin to tell ___"
- 31. Goes 80, say
- 34. Fellow

- 37. More rain and less light, e.g., to a pilot
- 40. Sault ___ Marie
- 41. Ill-___ gains
- 42. Hitchhiker's need
- 43. Tabbies
- 44. Person whose name appears on a museum plaque, e.g.
- 45. Zorro's weapon
- 48. Colorado resort
- 51. Some memorization in arithmetic class
- 54. Airport overseer: Abbr.
- 57. Director Kazan
- 58. Earlier ... or a hint to the words circled in 17-, 21-, 37- and 51-Across
- 60. Book after John
- 61. Coach Parseghian
- 62. White fur
- 63. Two tablets every six hours, e.g.

- 64. Thieve
- 65. Target and J. C. Penney

Down

- 1. ___ Nostra
- 2. Six-legged intruders
- 3. Sign on, as for another tour of duty
- 4. N.C. State's group
- 5. University of Arizona's home
- 6. Leopard markings
- 7. Rub raw
- 8. .5
- 9. Singer Fitzgerald
- 10. Zip one's lip
- 11. Harold who directed "Groundhog Day"
- 12. Concerning
- 13. Hair over the forehead

- 18. State known for its cheese: Abbr.
- 22. Hen's place
- 23. Enemies
- 25. 1975 thriller that took a big bite at the box office
- 26. Very much
- 27. Father
- 28. Give
- 29. Chief Norse god
- 31. Many a person whose name starts Mac
- 32. Flower holders
- 33. Suffix with differ
- 34. Enter
- 35. Ruin
- 36. Belgian river to the North Sea
- 38. "Zounds!"
- 39. Laundry implement that might make a 43-Down

- 43. See 39-Down
- 44. Gobi or Mojave
- 45. Lieu
- 46. Radio word after "Roger"
- 47. Skips
- 48. Popular BBC import, for short
- 49. ___-mo replay
- 50. Israel's Shimon
- 52. Skier's transport
- 53. Prefix with -nautic
- 54. Light-skinned
- 55. Actress Heche
- 56. Citrus coolers
- 59. M.D.'s group

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I write this letter to you and a copy to our Public Information Officer in the hopes that it clarifies some of the misleading issues circulating in Pohnpei and on the internet regarding the so called sea cucumber harvest. This is a heated issue triggering several protests in the Capital and elsewhere in Pohnpei. And as the event of the sea cucumber commenced, a temporary restraining order (TRO) was filed at the FSM Supreme Court and ultimately was granted. It was extremely unprecedented for the two to happen simultaneously.

The uproar led to the posting on the internet of the tallied sheet form used by the Legislative Clerk Division showing the actual vote made by each senator on the subject of sea cucumber. This was the bill on sea cucumber that senators voted upon making it became a law. What the general public and readers did not understand was the intent and purpose of the law thereby making misleading conversations and comments.

The perception by the community in general towards sea cucumber is nothing more than a few of the species of sea cucumber is part of the local diet. Several years back, our communities became aware of the monetary values when foreign businessmen came to buy these sea creatures. Yes, of course, it assisted a lot of Pohnpeians to make ends meet and at the same time contributing to our tax base and the overall economy of Pohnpei. On the other hand, sea cucumbers feed on unwanted sediments and detritus (debris) to make our ocean alive and healthy. For this important reason, we could not overlook the ecological

functions that sea cucumbers provide to our environment mainly to our ocean. If we did not do anything about it, it would have an undesirable consequence to the future generations of Pohnpei--our children and their children and on and on.

To clarify the issue so it becomes plainly understandable and crystal clear to the public and internet users, the intent and purpose of the law on sea cucumber which the tallied sheet showed the vote of a particular senator prohibited or banned sea cucumber harvesting in the waters of Pohnpei state. Those voted "yes" wanted the closure. The only exception provided in the law is when a comprehensive study or assessment is made indicating it is sustainable to do so.

The reason for the protests and the filing of the TRO with the current sea cucumber harvest was that an assessment recently conducted by a professor of the University of Guam reveals that sea cucumber harvesting is not recommended to take place at this time.

I still stand firm in the action of the Pohnpei Legislature as its action helps to balance the social, economic and ecosystem of fisheries so that the future generations can also have what their ocean during their time provides to them. I hope this letter clarifies the misleading issues.

Sincerely,
Ausen T. Lambert
Xc: Mr. Salter Lohn, Public Information Officer

Man Charged for Imprisoning and Sexually Assaulting Girlfriend

Posted on August 2, 2016 by Oceania TV News

The Attorney General's Office filed criminal charges against a Palauan man on July 21, 2016 for allegedly imprisoning his girlfriend against her will.

Anfon Ridep, who has been confined in Koror Jail since his arrest, is being accused of sexually assaulting, threatening and imprisoning his girlfriend.

The victim identified in court documents as Larinda R. Dick told investigators that Ridep forced her to engage in sexual intercourse presumably while she was imprisoned.

The victim told investigators that the most recent incident began on July 16th to the 19th. Ridep allegedly threatened her with a grass reaper and stuck underwear in her mouth and taped it shut to keep her from screaming or yelling.

In the affidavit of probable cause filed in court, Ridep admitted to imprisoning Dick,

tying her up, grabbing her and leaving marks on her body, threatening her with the grass reaper to "frighten her" as well as stuffing underwear in her mouth to keep her from yelling.

Although he also admitted to tying her up for sexual intercourse he states it was consensual.

Ridep is facing three criminal charges of unlawful imprisonment in the first degree, terroristic threatening in the first degree and sexual assault in the second degree. The charges are Class C felony punishable by 1-5 years in jail and a fine up to \$10,000 with the exception of sexual assault, which is a Class B felony crime punishable by 1-10 years and an optional fine of up to \$25,000.

In his first court appearance on July 22, Ridep entered a not guilty plea. The court ordered bail for \$2,500 cash or \$5,000 surety. He is to remain in jail until bail is posted.

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Habele offers Leadership, Exchange, and Academic Development program



Habele

July 20, 2016
Yap, FSM—Habele’s “LEAD,” or Leadership, Exchange, and Academic Development, is an intensive summer program for Habele scholars with strong potential for future leadership.



Based on the traditional “host family” model, this innovative program fosters cultural, social and intellectual exchanges between Micronesian students and their American peers. The novel, multilateral approach to developing mutual understanding and cooperation imbues participating scholars with increased perspective and capacity to drive sustainable regional development in Micronesia.

Bertha Hathomar, the 2016 LEAD scholar, is a native to a remote, underserved community in the Outer Islands of Yap State, Micronesia. Following the destruction wrought by Super Typhoon Maysak in 2015, the educationally displaced student received a Habele Tuition Scholarship to attend a prestigious private school in the district capital of Yap. While living with a Yapese host family, Bertha demonstrated tremendous academic focus and ability, earning high marks in all courses of study.

That Habele Tuition Scholarship provided an initial springboard for Bertha’s pursuit of greater social and academic horizons. Through LEAD, she accessed studies and cultural exchanges rarely available to socially vulnerable Outer Island women, spending two months living in the American state of South Carolina.

Formal instruction included courses in filmmaking and cooking and nutrition at the Honors College of the University of South Carolina. Further academic enterprises included preparation for college entrance exams, and visits to local colleges and universities. Additionally, Bertha enrolled in a variety of arts and crafts workshops provided by the Columbia Museum of Art. While maintaining a full schedule of classes, Bertha made time for guitar lessons, karate classes, and even a dog-training course.

Artistic and cultural exchange played a prominent role in the



experience, with the Habele scholar attending a variety of musical concerts, community theater productions, and visiting some of the nation’s premiere museums. These opportunities were complemented by regular participation in the day-to-day lives and social activities of a diverse group of American families.

Leadership development was a consistent theme of the LEAD program. Bertha interacted with local and national leaders, including Katrina Shealy, an accomplished female State Senator from South Carolina who consistently advocates for vulnerable communities. She also met Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, American Samoa’s delegate to the United States Congress, and a voice for the international development of democratic institutions. During a trip to Washington, DC, Bertha visited the Federated States of Micronesia’s Embassy, meeting with officials from her national government.

Established by former Peace Corps volunteers, Habele is a US based nonprofit, advancing educational access and accomplishment in Micronesian communities since 2006. In addition to tuition scholarships and exchange programs, Habele provides targeted support for schools, libraries and innovative extracurricular programs.



Filipino organization crowns Little Miss KBP and runners up



By Janice Warren

July 31, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The search for Little Miss KBP Pohnpei culminated in the coronation of Little Miss KBP Pohnpei 2016 during the Grand Coronation Night pageant held at the Our Lady of Mercy gymnasium on Sunday night, July 31, 2016. The program was open to the public and was well attended by Filipino and other members of the Pohnpei community.

KBP stands for “Katilingbang Bisaya sa Pohnpei”, which is a non- governmental and a Filipino regional organization based in Pohnpei composed of Visayan- speaking Filipinos who come from the Southern part of the Philippines. KBP coordinates regular community events. The Little Miss KBP event supports fund raising for medical

outreach programs to the different communities in the State of Pohnpei.

Five local female residents aged between 5 and 10 years old were selected for the pageant and sold tickets to the event. Sponsors for the event included Genesis Hospital and Pharmacy, Western Union, Caroline Fisheries Corporation (CFC), Black Sand Techtronics, XIX Store Kolonia and Awak, Pohnpei Transfer & Storage (PT&S), FSMTC, Angie’s, Pohnpei Electronic Outlet, Etscheit Enterprises, MJ Tailoring, Jenny’s Salon, RJ Electrical Services, 7Stars Hotel, Arnold’s Pizza, PLEC, Grace Special Bakery, Carolines Dental and Pharmaceutical Center, Mr. Manny San Jose and Mr. Jojo Pulmano.

During the night's festivities, a raffle was held for those who purchased tickets. A portion of the funds raised was used for the raffle and for awarding to the pageant participants. The remainder was allocated to the KBP fund for medical missions in Pohnpei.

The pageant contestants each performed a talent and did a photo shoot during the pageant and engaged in singing and dancing routines. The gymnasium was elegantly decorated for the event, which was thematically tied by the selection of music for the event and its "coronation" activities to the movie "Frozen."

At the end of the night, Mary Joy A. Serrano was crowned by a panel of local judges as Little Miss KBP Pohnpei 2016. Gabriella S. Gallen was awarded 1st Runner Up and also received the Photogenic Award. Charlyne R. Pabon was 2nd Runner Up. Sharsi G. Ruth Inding was 3rd Runner Up and awarded as Miss Personality. Audrey G. Leparto won 4th Runner Up and also took home the best talent award and Miss Little Facebook Award.

The intended Medical outreach will be composed of volunteered doctors, nurses and other Medical Teams to give free consultation and medicines for the patients. The medical outreach to be conducted with proceeds from this event will fulfill the KBP’s mission to provide support to the local government and community.



This fundraising event is not just all about money. Apart from the noble purpose which is the medical mission, KBP envision to give life and energy to children by empowering them to live a full and active lifestyle by harnessing their potential abilities and talents towards a promising future.



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