

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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THE

KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Lack of Equipment Leads to Death of a Three Year Old Dr. Paragas: "With a CT Scan, we might have been able to save her."

By **BILL JAYNES**

The Kaselehlie Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei - On Thursday morning, December 14, 3 year old Nikkita Higgins was a happy, playful little girl riding piggy-back on her grandmother's back in the Ohmine neighborhood that she called home in Pohnpei. By Saturday morning at 8:20 she was dead.

Two weeks later the shell shocked family sat fifteen feet away from Nikkita's diminutive burial place telling the story. Marcy Higgins, Nikkita's grandmother said that she and Nikkita were playing as they often did. Marcy told Nikkita that she needed to get down but Nikkita wanted to stay on her grandmother's back. "She was always so playful", she said. Nikkita slipped and fell hitting her head on the floor.

Children have accidents like those all of the time but it was obvious to the family that this time things were different. Nikkita began, not long after the accident, to vomit and had trouble staying awake.

Grandfather, Raymond and mother, Noreen Jack Higgins took Nikkita to the Pohnpei State Hospital emergency room at approximately 1:00. As part of the procedure for head injuries an X-Ray was taken at the hospital. Though no fracture was found, Nikkita was admitted to a hospital ward for observation, another standard procedure at the hospital.

Nikkita's family said that the hospital did not administer an IV. IV's are used to intravenously supply nutrients, liquids, and medicines. Dr. Johnny



Hedson, Chief Surgeon at the hospital said that he didn't know whether or not an IV had been applied but that the information would be available in her chart.

According to the family, hospital staff told them that they were trying to locate a doctor, a specialist in the field to check into her case. Nikkita's symptoms continued at the hospital for the next four hours. According to the grieving family, other than the on duty doctor who first saw her only when she was admitted no doctor attended to her during that time.

The doctors at Pohnpei State Hospital all have cell phones and each also has a home phone. Dr. Hedson, whose office conducted an investigation into Nikkita's treatment said, "the staff told me that there may have been difficulty locating the specialist on that day...I admit that sometimes there is a delay in getting treatment."

He said the family checked Nikkita out of the hospital "against medical advice" at 5:30 in the evening. Raymond said, "No one was talking to us or telling us anything."

Dr. Myra Anne Trinos, Pediatrician at Genesis Family Clinic was on duty when Nikkita and the family came in. She ordered X-Rays and a full workup for the injured child. The X-Ray done at Genesis also showed no fracture in Nikkita's skull. The clinic administered an IV to restore fluids and also to apply two different medicines prescribed by Dr. Trinos, to reduce swelling that might have been going on in the brain.

See "Nikkita" on Page 10

AG Santos Claims Impeachment Law is Unconstitutional

The State's top prosecutor and the State's Legislative Council will argue again on January 16th.

KOLONIA, Pohnpei - The Impeachment Resolution against Attorney General (AG) Edwel Santos sits for

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlie Press

now at the Pohnpei State Judiciary as it waits for the *Edwel Santos versus 6th Pohnpei State Legislature* case to unfurl in all its power-struggling glory. Santos is technically still the state's AG but has been on administrative leave since his impeachment on the eve of Thanksgiving, less than two months ago.

Santos filed his own countersuit with the state's highest court on November 28. Santos is the second consecutive AG to be impeached by the Legislative branch. Although nothing formal has been introduced, the state's 6th legislative body - according to locally published sources - through the Committee on Judicial and Government Operations chaired by *Sokehs* Senator Peter Lohn, is also considering an impeachment of Pohnpei Governor Johnny David. The 6th PSL is currently in the midst of its first regular session of 2007.

Another impeachment attempt by the 6th Legislature would be historic. It would be the first impeachment of a Governor - in any FSM state - and it would also be the third high-level impeachment in a row by the Legislature. Santos' predecessor was also impeached (the Judiciary later nullified the impeachment attempt.)

Santos, representing himself in the case against the 6th PSL, makes two primary claims in his Injunction, both resting within the realm of civil rights. The first is that the law gives unequal power to the Legislature to impeach a government official. The second is that the impeachment law requires a "preponderance of the evidence" in order to successfully carry out an impeachment, as opposed to proving guilt "beyond a reasonable doubt," a much higher standard of proof.

According to Santos, the Legislature in 2003 amended the law from be-

yond reasonable doubt to preponderance of the evidence in order "to get out my predecessor." The law therefore, claims Santos, needs to be revisited.

Santos calmly reiterated in a brief interview at his residence the views made in his court filings that the impeachment law is heavily stacked in favor of the Legislature versus any potential impeached official. He calls it "unequal treatment between the LC and any impeached official."

"It's (the impeachment process) government funded. It should be fair," stated Santos, seated beneath a couple of parrots, or *Serehds*, the Pohnpei State Bird, as they ate remnants of a peanut butter sandwich.

"The impeachment law is unconstitutional because there is no due process," he added.

Meanwhile, the 6th PSL remains committed to the 16-count impeachment against the AG, filing a Motion to Dismiss the Santos Injunction on December 29th, arguing partially within the motion that the Trial Court is not the proper venue for an Impeachment, but rather that it should be moved in front of an Impeachment Panel to decide.

The Court ruled that it is in fact the proper venue and has set a date of January 16 as the next hearing date to determine the outcome of the present motion to dismiss the *Santos vs. Legislature* case. Should the Legislature prevail, the pending *Impeachment Resolution* will move forward with the appointment of a Special Prosecutor. If the AG prevails and his Injunction is not dismissed, then the case will move up to the appellate Court to argue the Constitutionality of the Impeachment Law.

"The question is," Santos said, speaking about recent meetings with Governor David on the impeachment issue, "who will be affected next? And when will it end?"

NEWS

State Reorganization Threatens To Defund PVB

Government's effort to gain control of Private Sector funds "a step backward," says PVB Chairman

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlle Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – A proposed reorganization of Pohnpei State Executive functions related to economic development could mean the end of the Pohnpei Visitor's Bureau in its current mold.

The PVB has been a chartered non-profit corporation – an NGO – since 1999, operating on government funding to carry out its functions over the last seven-plus years. The PVB is also the only organization within the state to receive any funding from the US Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) and the JEMCO for FY 2007. The organization asked for, and received, \$143,206 from the Compact's Private Sector grant for five (5) employees and its various projects.

Meanwhile, the State, specifically the Office of Economic Affairs, the Foreign Investment Board, the Economic Development Authority, the Court of Land Tenure, and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. were awarded a total of zero dollars by the OIA after requesting just short of \$1 million (\$881,291) for 48 state employees from the Private Sector grant. The State has had to pick up the financial slack for these offices for the first quarter of FY '07.

Pohnpei and the PVB under the Governorship of Del Pangelinan entered into a ten (10) year Memorandum of Understanding in '99 for the dual purposes of maintaining the Pohnpei Botanical Gardens, and to "provide the Pohnpei State Government with tourism and promotional services." PVB is one of the few private sector players in the

FSM that has been able to get a sum of Compact funding traditionally dominated by Government.

Edgar Santos, the Director of the PVB since August 2006, worries that the proposed reorganization could ultimately lead to the destruction of PVB as an NGO. He voices concern over the fact that the Private Sector funds that the PVB currently gets will be diverted to and controlled by the Office of Economic Affairs (OEA), which according to recent JEMCO actions has not performed or reported on accomplishments well.

"The PVB has proven itself, "It's a little difficult for me to swallow," and "It is better off without Government interference," are comments that Edgar made in a brief interview at the PVB office in the bucolic botanical gardens. Santos admits to being somewhat torn between supporting the decisions of Governor David, and his role in answering to the PVB Board, his voluntary bosses, and "the backbone of our operation."

The PVB Board members are Perdus Ehsa, Chairman, Dion Neth, Vice Chairman, Kent Ainslie, Director, Alloys Malfitani, Director, Waldis Clark, Director, and George Stevens, Director.

"We feel we want to maintain as we are. Because we will only get better," said Santos, referring to the proposal to take the Compact funds from the PVB and put it into a streamlined form of OEA, where there will be an Office of Tourism that will act as "an information desk."

In a letter sent last week to Governor David from Chairman Ehsa, the PVB states its need to operate with "autonomy to administer its funds...to operate at

a global business pace." Ehsa, owner of the Sea Breeze Hotel who just returned from a trip to Michigan State University in relation to the FSM becoming a World Park, outlined several reasons explaining the need to maintain the status quo. Perdus states that the current trend and mandate to privatize "agencies that are capable of managing themselves and are able to return...the dollar value of their expenses" must be considered.

"The PVB has also proven to be able to do just that. Changing the status of the PVB is a step backward."

Government sources say that the reorganization is not an attempt to do away with the PVB, an admittedly successful program, only to take control of the funds that support its operation.

"They are an independent organization," says Iuphert Yamada, Economic Advisor to Governor Johnny David. "We don't really have any say in whether they want to continue or not. That is completely up to them." Yamada otherwise referred the subject to Kikuo Apis, Administrator of the Office of Economic Affairs of the State, stating that the matter would be under Apis' purview.

"This doesn't mean we are pulling the PVB under us, just the funds," said Apis at his office in the sprawling Government Center atop Kolonia Town. "I am for PVB because they actually do most of the work of promotion and it really helps us. We should be very complimentary."

According to Apis, he would work to help PVB "look for money with the government," but that PVB, if the reorganization goes through the Legislature, "will have to seek other funding."

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NEWS

Foreign Investment Restricted to Protect Local Businesses

Pohnpei Business Association lauds the move by the Legislature to override Governor's Veto

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlie Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – The Legislature overrode Governor David's Veto of the amended foreign investment bill, placing more restrictions on the foreign investment scene in the biggest single island of the FSM.

The 16th Special Session saw a vote of 18 – 2 to override and pass the bill that the US Embassy as well as some of the foreign contingent have criticized as going against the grain of economic development. Senators Ausen Lambert of Sokehs, and Thomas Pablo of Kitti voted no on the override. Both Senator Berney Martin of Kitti and Speaker Nelson Pelep of Madolenihmw were off-island, with Senator Benjamin Ludwig of Nukuoro not present.

The law requires a filing fee of

\$250 and a \$50,000 minimum investment for any foreign investor. The law also transfers the promotion and marketing of the island from the Foreign Investment Board to the Office of Economic Affairs.

The law restricts a total of 11 more areas, from ownership, partnership, and operation in the wholesale and retail sale of goods to the commercial fishing of reef fish and other near-shore marine species. The law also limits foreign participation in many tourism related ventures, protecting for locals the occupations of tour guides, fishing guides, diving guides, "and any other form of water transportation services." Travel and tour agencies would be restricted to Micronesia entrepreneurs as well.

The Pohnpei Business Association

an unofficial affiliation of resident business owners, reportedly lobbied the Legislature in the days leading up to the vote, looking to protect small-scale businesses from the encroachment of outsiders, as has been the case in the sister nations – Palau and the Marshals – next to the FSM.

In a letter sent to 6th PSL Speaker Nelson Pelep, the PBA expressed its gratitude on the outcome of the bill, stating that this law will allow local businesses "to successfully withstand tomorrow's challenges for a vibrant economy," while allowing "our foreign friends to participate in our efforts to keep our private sector growing where those efforts have not quite matured, yet."

Governor David has taken a contrary view to that of the Legisla-

ture and the PBA in this instance, taking the *Laissez-faire* approach to the economy, calling for a hands-off approach by the State in allowing for as unfettered approach as possible to let the market move freely.

The Governor has said that the new law has the opposite effect of promoting the "economic preservation of (Pohnpei's) well being," a statement he made in his original Veto letter to Speaker Pelep in early November.

The Pohnpei Government made \$3.5 million dollars during fiscal year 2005 from foreign investors.

Governor David says the new law will be to the "economic disadvantage" of the state by closing the door, to a certain degree, on the foreign private sector base.

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Chinese Embassy Donates New Computer and Furniture to K-Press



K-Press Managing Editor, Bill Jaynes *Chinese Ambassador Her Excellency Liu Fei*

One surprise visit to The Kaselehlie Press office was all it took to convince Chinese Ambassador Liu Fei that the office needed help. By the end of the week she had facilitated the donation of a bookshelf, a computer desk, and a brand new Dell Pentium 4 computer with 256 Mb of memory and 80 Gb of disk space.

She said during her visit that she understood the importance of The Kaselehlie Press in getting important information out to the FSM.

The Kaselehlie Press would like to thank the Chinese Embassy and Ambassador Liu for the generosity of the donation. Managing Editor Bill Jaynes said that the donation would aid in creating an electronic database and archive for the paper.

Chinese Language Courses to Start at COM-FSM



Dr. LU Shihua, volunteer Chinese Language Instructor at COM-FSM

In accordance with the agreement between the Chinese Government and the FSM Government, and at the invitation of College of Micronesia-FSM, Mr. LU Shihua, the volunteer Chinese language instructor, arrived in Pohnpei on December 20, 2006 and will start the first Chinese language course in the FSM in the academic year of 2007.

Mr. LU (PhD), experienced in language instructing, started his teaching career 15 years ago. He got his doctor's degree on Chinese literature in the Institute of Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Science in 2005. Mr. LU is very enthusiastic in teaching in the FSM as a volunteer. He said he would like to make his best endeavor to introduce the Chinese language and culture to the FSM people, so as to further deepen the mutual understanding and friendship between the two Peoples.

Australia's response to concerns voiced by the Pacific Islands on Global Warming and Rising Sea-Levels

Australian Embassy

The Australian-funded South Pacific Sea Level Climate Monitoring Project (SPSLCMP) was developed in 1990 as a response to concerns voiced by Pacific Island countries (PICs) about the potential impacts of human-induced global warming on climate and sea levels in the Pacific region. The overall goal of the project is to provide an accurate continuous long-term record of sea level for partner countries and the international scientific community.

The SPSLCMP is succeeding in this goal, enabling PICs and the scientific community to use the data to effectively respond to and manage the related impacts of global warming.

Australia has contributed USD\$20 million over the first three phases of the project. The project has installed sea level/meteorological monitoring stations (SEAFRAMES) in twelve partner countries and a related network of ten Continuous Global Positioning Systems (CGPS) receivers to monitor land movements. The sea level monitoring equipment has been linked to global positioning satellites in order to deliver precise sea level data thereby removing uncertainty caused by possible vertical land movements.

Phase IV of the project, which was initiated this year, will build on the achievements of Phases I, II and III, and extend the CGPS to all participating PICs. It will

cost roughly USD\$6 million to implement Phase IV over the next 5 years.

The information generated from the Sea Level Climate Monitoring Project is used to assist PIC governments to make more informed decisions about managing their coastal environments and resources. It also provides information that helps people in the region understand climate change and climate variability issues.

For more information on the SPSLCMP, please contact the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei – (691) 320-5448 or at australia@mail.fm



The SPSLCMP pod which houses the climate data collection and storage system and which transmits the data for analysis

XXXXMAS fishing competition

By Andrew Jackson-Calway
Pohnpei Fishing Club

Christmas came early to some Pohnpei anglers with a special XXXXmas fishing tournament attracting a season record of 14 boats. The tournament was held in conjunction with the Pohnpei Fishing club who would like to thank the sponsors: XXXX beer, Williams Evfresh, Pohnpei L.P.Gas, ACE hardware and Caroline Island Enterprises. Rumors Bar contributed the venue for their event and we thank you for the hospitality.

Biggest Fish

1st Joel John – 57lb Yellowfin - \$55 cash, A\$50 Wellsys tackle certificate, \$25 Caroline Islands Enterprises certificate
2nd Welford Edmund – 47lb Yellowfin - \$35 cash, \$50 Ace hardware certificate
3rd Andy Musrasrik – 30lb Wahoo - \$15 cash, \$25 Caroline Islands Enterprises certificate

Boat Weight

1st Manta Ray 1 – 433lb - \$55cash, A\$50 Wellsys tackle certificate, \$25 Caroline Islands Enterprises certificate
2nd Manta Ray 2 – 291lb - \$35 cash, \$50 Ace hardware certificate
3rd. Boat – 262lb - \$15 cash, \$25 Caroline Islands Enterprises certificate

Lady Angler

1st Mary Trettoff – 20lb Wahoo - \$30cash, A\$50 Wellsys tackle certificate
2nd Benitor Paul – 14lb Yellowfin - \$15 cash, \$25 Ace hardware certificate
3rd Resina Mix – 12lb Giant Trevally - \$10 cash

Junior Angler

1st Alex Trettoff Jr – 16lb Giant Trevally - \$30 cash, A\$50 Wellsys tackle certificate
2nd Zachary Jackson-Calway – 6lb Barracuda - \$15 cash, \$25 Ace hardware certificate

Casting

1. Alex Trettoff Jr – 28lb Giant Trevally - \$30 cash, A\$50 Wellsys tackle certificate
2. Resina Mix – 10lb Giant Trevally – \$15 cash, \$50 Ace hardware certificate
3. Iggy Kenbaroy – 7lb Giant Trevally - \$10 cash, \$25 Caroline Island Enterprises certificate

Drop Stone

1. Joel John – 42lb Yellowfin - \$30 cash, A\$50 Wellsys tackle certificate, \$25 Ace Hardware voucher

The **Bonus lucky boat draw** went to Pohnpei Ocean Cruises who won a \$25 Caroline Island Enterprises certificate.



Each Angler got a prize



OPERATION CHRISTMAS DROP SPREADS SEASONAL CHEER TO MICRONESIA'S OUTER ISLANDS

**U.S. EMBASSY
KOLONIA, Pohnpei, FSM**

Three U.S. Air Force C-130s from the 374th Airlift Wing at Yakota Air Base in Japan helped ensure happy holidays this year for thousands of residents of dozens of outlying islands in Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap and Palau. From December 16-19, 2006, “Santa 1”, “Santa 2” and “Santa 3” flew 100% of their scheduled missions accomplishing 136 humanitarian bundle drops to 56 islands delivering 68,000 pounds of food, medical supplies, fishing supplies and toys. The drops were exciting to watch as the large aircraft arrived as suddenly and dramatically as their famous namesake making penetration descents to visual approaches to each island at 300-500 feet above sea level.

This year’s Christmas Drop broke all previous records with the most packages ever dropped by “Santa’s Helpers”. Operation Christmas Drop began in December of 1952 when a weather reconnaissance plane flew over Kapingamarangi Atoll. The aircrew spotted a group of waving islanders and was instantly filled

with the holiday spirit. Gathering up the food they had plus whatever other useful items they found on board, they stuffed it all into a container. Circling back around, the airmen dropped the box with a parachute as a makeshift Christmas present to the happy crowd below. Legend has it that the overjoyed recipients built a B-29 out of palm fronds to try to lure that first plane to return the following year.

Capt. Will Atkins, Mission Commander and Navigator on two of the flights shared the following comments afterwards: “This is the best part of what we do—getting to fly out to these islands that are hundreds of miles away and air-drop humanitarian aid to people who genuinely need it. These people depend on us, and we’re here to get the job done. The 374th Airlift Wing has performed these drops for 19 years, even through typhoons and tsunami relief, never missing a single year. This unblemished record of service is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our aircrew, maintainers, and riggers, without whom we couldn’t get this important job done.”

“Santa Kenny” Visits Village Schools

Kenny Omura of Pohnpei visited five public Schools this Christmas and handed out candy to each of the lucky children there. He visited Temwen, Enepein, Awak, Wone and ESDM Elementary Schools.

He said, my wife and I wanted to do something good for the children of Pohnpei.” The couple solicited donations by email and received \$1600 to support the

project. Donors included Mr. Jiro Miroshi of Osaka, Mr. Katsuhide Kawase from Hokkaido, Mr. Kurachi, Mr. Sasai, and Mr. Takano of Yokohama West Rotary Club. Mr. Masahide Morioka from Miyazaki, Mr. Masatoshi Uno from Joy Restaurant, Mr. Joseph Vitt of the FSM Line and Mrs. Ichiko Vitt.

He said “I will try my best to work hard...to expand [to] more Schools next year.”



BIRD FLU AND YOU

What is Avian Influenza?

Also known as Bird Flu, Avian influenza is an infection caused by avian (bird) influenza (flu) viruses. These influenza viruses occur naturally among birds. Wild birds worldwide carry the viruses in their intestines, but usually do not get sick from them. However, avian influenza is very contagious among birds and can make some domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys, very sick and kill them.

The first human cases were diagnosed on 1997. Since then, over 250 people have become sick with Avian Influenza and over half of them have died.

If you come into contact with poultry/chickens in an affected area

Wash your hands with soap and water immediately
Remove shoes outside the house and clean them well
Check your temperature daily for at least 7 days, and call your doctor if your temperature is above 99.5F (37.5°C)

Currently there is no known bird flu in the FSM

How is infection in humans treated? Is there a vaccine?
Currently no vaccine has been approved to provide protection against bird flu in humans. Viruses change constantly and most experts believe it could take up to 6 months to have a vaccine available once there is human to human spread of bird flu. There are some anti-viral medications available. These are effective in many cases, but they are quite expensive and there are some problems with their use.

Annual flu vaccine will not protect you against bird flu.

Four Simple Things You Can Do to Protect Your Family

1. Cover your cough and sneeze

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue, then put the tissue in the trash and wash your hands. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands

2. Wash your hands

Wash hands with soap and water while counting slowly to 15. Wash your hands after you cough, sneeze, care for the sick, use the toilet or handle trash or animal waste

3. Keep living and working areas clean

Clean areas with soap, and a bleach solution (3/4 cup of Clorox to 1 gallon of water)

4. Keep your distance

Avoid crowds, limit your travel

For more information

Call FSM Department of HESA 320 2619
Pohnpei State Health Department 320-2217
Yap State Health Department 350-2214
Chuuk State Health Department 330-2577
Kosrae State Health Department 370-3006
FSM Quarantine 320-7523

Or check out these websites

www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/avian1/en/

www.hih.gov

www.panflu.gov

www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info

Precautions to take if you are in an area where there are birds infected with Avian Influenza

Avoid contact with chickens, ducks or other poultry and their waste.

Children are at higher risk; teach them to avoid contact with birds.

Do not keep birds as pets; this includes fighting roosters
Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after any contact with birds

Do not transport birds even if you think they are healthy
Don't prepare poultry from an infected area

Is it safe to eat chicken and eggs?

Yes, it is safe to eat properly cooked chicken and eggs. Cooking destroys germs including bird flu viruses. The FSM maintains trade restrictions on the importation of poultry and poultry products from countries where the highly pathogenic form of bird flu has been found.

Guidelines for the safe preparation of poultry include:

Wash hands before and after handling food

Keep raw poultry and their juices away from other foods

Keep hands, utensils and surfaces such as cutting boards clean
Cook poultry until the juices run clear and no red or pink meat can be seen

What is the risk to humans from bird flu?

Bird flu does not usually infect humans. However, in 1997 the first case of infection from a bird to a human was identified in Hong Kong. Since then cases have been found throughout Asia and in some African countries. Almost all cases to date have occurred in people who have had direct contact with an infected bird.

Signs and symptoms of bird flu in Humans

Symptoms of bird flu in humans have ranged from typical flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches) to eye infections, pneumonia, severe respiratory diseases and other severe and life threatening complications.

The most common symptoms include fever of greater than 100.4F (38°C) and a respiratory syndrome including a non productive cough and sore throat.

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NEWS

Traditional and Medicinal Plant Garden Opened at COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus

By **Jim Currie**
Cooperative Research and Extension

As a child did you ever have a toothache and your grandmother made up some local medicine to take the pain away? As an adult, did you ever have someone give you a foul-tasting brown drink and tell you it is good for your arthritis or many other ailments? Do you know what is in the concoctions? Most of our young island generations don't know. We are losing the knowledge of traditional medicines which saved and soothed older generations since people arrived on these islands. In fact, many of the plants that have medicinal qualities were brought with the earliest settlers. Losing knowledge means losing culture. COM-FSM is trying to stop this loss.

Have you passed by the COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus lately? Between the lower campus buildings and the Pohnpei Government Legislative buildings a new Traditional and Medicinal Plant Garden was opened December 06, 2006. The garden is a collaborative effort between the Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE) program of COM-FSM and the Ms. Penny Weilbacher, Director, Pohnpei Campus. CRE found the funding while Pohnpei Campus provided the land and much of the labor through the Maintenance, Security, Student Services and the Cooperative Extension Service. Funding for the project came from the US Department of Agriculture - Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant for the botanical garden and from the New Zealand government for the sign and brochures. This project is an effort to preserve some of the traditional knowledge involving local plants, provide a beautiful spot in the heart of Kolonia for citizens, students and tourists to visit and to proclaim indigenous rights to any commercial value of the plants or plant products.

Totoa Fetalai-Currie designed the landscape, paths, the amphitheater, hut and greenhouse, and trained local staff in transplanting and greenhouse techniques to preserve over 90 traditional plants. Two co-workers helped to clear and clean the area of non-native plants, trash and WWII spent shells. The agriculture agents of CES helped iden-

tify farmers who donated plants and other materials for the project. Local businesses pitched in with some needed equipment. The sign was painted by Mr. Rumpol Emwaul, a COM-FSM Arts student at National Campus.

Over 100 people including farmers and community leaders, COM-FSM administrators, staff and students, and religious dignitaries gathered on a gloriously sunny afternoon to celebrate the opening of the Traditional and Medicinal Plant Botanical Garden. The Master of Ceremonies of the event and Micronesian WSARE Coordinator, Mr. Jackson Philip greeted guests and conducted the agenda of the event. After the opening and blessing by Pastor Kalau of the PMF mission, greetings and thankful recognition of all support was given by Ms. Weilbacher, VP-CRE Jim Currie and Mrs. Fetalai-Currie. US Ambassador H.E. Susanne Hale was the keynote speaker representing the major donor agency USDA-WSARE. In her address she recounted her recognition of the importance of traditional medicines within the culture but also as a potential commercial resource for our farmers. Ambassador Hale recounted that she has begun making her own Noni juice and feeling much better for drinking some everyday. A ribbon-cutting ceremony by Ambassador Hale, COM-FSM Board of Regents Chair Joe Habuchmai, Campus Director Weilbacher and COM-FSM President Spensin James opened the garden and signaled the uncovering of the welcoming signs which now stand above the campus. Fr. Francis Hezel blessed the garden and led the guests on the initial tour. Many positive comments were heard from guests strolling through this tranquil setting, admiring designs or pointing out material that they had possibly donated. Plants were easily recognized by comparing the number tags on plants to the names on the brochure provided.

The tour was followed by local refreshments catered by a Kolonia Homemaker's group with blessing from Rev. Henry Wilson. The ceremony was brought to a close by COM-FSM President Spensin James who shared information concerning both the conservation efforts in Pohnpei and the initiative to designate FSM as a world park.



Ribbon Cutting (L to R) Penny Weilbacher, Joe Habuchmai, Spensin James, Ambassador Suzanne Hale, Fr. Frances Hezel



Handpainted sign by COM-FSM Arts Student Rumpol Emwaul

Rotary Club Of Truk Lagoon Fitness FairBy **LARRY BRUTON**

Fitness Fair 2006 was sponsored by Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon (RCTL) and its co-sponsor, Mobil Oil Micronesia, Inc., on the Island of Weno, Chuuk, December 9, 2006.

"Fitness as a Way of Life" was the theme of Fitness Fair 2006. According to Rotarian, Steve Winter, Chairman of the committee directing the project, "the motivation for the event is the belief that the residents of Chuuk should be paying a lot more attention to their physical fitness than they presently do. It was hoped that a public fitness competition would raise awareness of fitness while at the same time providing an event that was fun to watch as well as to participate in."

The Fitness Fair consisted of a series of four fitness tests; pull-ups (on a pull-up bar), push-ups, sit-ups, and a one kilometer run. Points were given as scores for each event and the participant with the most points won.



Competition was divided into age groups for both male and female participants.

Medals were presented to winners in all categories by club president, Perry Killion. Overall winner, 65 year old Rotarian, Steve Winter, took first place in all event categories except the

running event. Second and third place overall medals went to 16 year old high school student, Shawn Mori and 35 year old Kelemen Tom, respectively.

RCTL plans to make the Fitness Fair an annual event. Fitness Fair 2007 will be on a date to be determined later.

SPC Donates**\$500 to K-Press**

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Office for the North Pacific, which has its office in Kolonia in the Botanical Garden, donated US\$ 500.00 to join others in fund raising for the Kaselehlie Press. The SPC Officer In-Charge, Konrad Englberger, informed the KP Editor that SPC greatly supports the newspaper for its role in public awareness. Also Mr. Englberger pointed out that on February 6, 2007, SPC is celebrating its 60th. year of service to the people of the Pacific Islands region. The theme that SPC has selected for its anniversary is "Making a difference in the lives of Pacific Islanders." On that day, February 6, 2007, the Regional SPC Pohnpei Office will have an open house with seminars and an exhibition to which the public is invited. Further news on this event will be given in upcoming KP issues.



**Kalahngan
Ngei Peter M. Christian
Candidate**

Maing

Komw kupwure ei tungoal sakarada. I patowan wia kanded ong sehr en pahr 4, weliepen Pohnpei ong F.S.M. Congress.

Ei tungoal pekipek:

- 1) Sapwelimatail aramas me lelehr sounpar 18 ahpw saik kileledi, komw kupwure irail en ngongki oh kileldi.
- 2) Ni rahn en usuhs, March 6, 2007, kitail koaros en ketla iang usuhs.
- 3) Ei tungoal sakarada, pek sawas komwi en kupwurehkinie sapwelimomwi ushus.

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NEWS

...Nikkita

continued from page 1

The family settled in for a long night at the bedside of the only daughter that Noreen will ever have. Nurses, and the on duty doctor at Genesis monitored Nikkita throughout the night.

When Dr. Trinos, who like all Genesis staff doctors, lives on the premises, arrived to check on her patient at 8:00 in the morning the family pointed out swelling on the side of Nikkita's head. Although her vomiting had stopped, Nikkita was having a difficult time staying awake. When she was awake she seemed to be coherent and knew the names of the family members with her which, according to physicians at Genesis, is not an uncommon thing for patients with severe head injuries.

By midnight on Friday, Nikkita's condition had deteriorated significantly according to a level of consciousness scoring that physicians

use in head injury cases. Surgeon Dr. Rocco Paragas who had been consulting on Nikkita's case decided that the best course of action would be to perform surgery.

Genesis staff explained to the family that if surgery was not done Nikkita would almost certainly die but that there were risks involved with the surgery. She might die anyway.

The family decided to go forward with the dangerous surgery but Nikkita, whose blood type was "A", needed blood donors. Genesis physicians told the family that despite the difficulty of locating family members in the middle of the night surgery could not go forward until at least two quarts of blood of her type was available for the surgery. Nikkita's father, after being screened and cleared, gave a quart of blood which is all that can be safely taken from one donor. Surgery began with that one quart while family members frantically searched in the middle of the night for another donor which they did ultimately find.

Dr. Paragas found a long, thin fracture above Nikkita's right ear that no X-Ray would have found. Additionally, he found that both an artery, a blood vessel leading from the heart, and a vein, a blood vessel returning to the heart, had small tears in them which led to clotting and further pressure on her brain. The clotting and swelling resulted in what is known as a transtentorial herniation of her brain in which the brain tissue that controls respiration (breathing) gets choked off and stops functioning.

Nikkita's respiration stopped on Saturday morning, December 16 and at 8:20 she was pronounced dead.

Dr. Paragas said that "when a patient receives a serious blow to the head followed by unconsciousness they should receive a CT Scan".

which monitor the intricacies of brain activity cost in excess of a million dollars and there are none on Pohnpei.

"With a CT Scan, we might have been able to save her", Dr. Paragas said. When asked if delayed treatment at Pohnpei State Hospital hurt Nikkita's chances for survival, Dr. Paragas said that possibly with the presence of a specialist her chances might have increased infinitesimally but that he doubted even that.



Nikkita's diminutive final resting place

CT Scan machines

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Peren en Krismas oh parakapw mwahu!



✓ At-Large Senator
Resio S. Moses

Kalahngan en Komwi

KP-Perspective

Thank You!

Christmas is over and in some ways I'm happy about that. Traffic, dwindling stores, crowds and crowds of people jostling each other for a chance at the best stuff, all of those things can combine to suck every last drop of "Holiday Spirit" out of the most optimistic and upbeat of us. I live in Pohnpei and so I can only speak about this island and what I experienced this year.

You can probably tell from my "Center of the Universe" columns that I am somewhat cynical. No one has ever described me as phlegmatic. I don't let things roll off my shoulders. I'm intense and I know it. My own internal struggles with the foibles of humanity, tend to make my shopping experiences less than enjoyable even when there are only small crowds of people to deal with. Since I am the Center of the Universe I make the assumption that rudeness is on purpose and personally directed at me.

Although, as usual at this time of year, traffic and parking sucked dirt. Though the stores were still full of people many of whom seemed bent on causing me thrombosis by cutting in line and walking over the top of me while I was in the aisles. Though there were plenty of parents who allowed their children to do whatever they pleased wherever they pleased while they stood idly by. Even though all of those things happened, I expected them. What I never expected was customer service.

I never expect customer service because I've only rarely experienced it in Pohnpei. I don't know how it is in the other islands but it just hasn't happened here in my experience until this Christmas. I know I didn't experience this because I had a better attitude this year. I most certainly did not.

This year, with a few exceptions, checkers put my change in my hand instead of making me scrape it off of the counter. They didn't hand me a crumpled wad of bills and expect me to sort it out. Even those little things made shopping easier. Checkers spoke to me; paid attention to me; smiled instead of continuing to talk with their co-workers and treating me like an unwelcome interruption. In most cases they thanked me and

wished me a Merry Christmas. I nearly fell over the first time a swamped checker in a store crowded beyond capacity did this. When I walked out of the store it was with a shocked little smile and an internal warmth that didn't come from the humidity.

And how about the Post Office employees and the Customs Officials? Did that shock you too? My hat is off to you who worked at the Post Office right up through Christmas Eve. I knew you were going to be working but I didn't really expect you to be happy about it. I'm ashamed of myself for expecting the worst! The postal employee who on Sunday, Christmas Eve handed me the package my parents sent me was cheerful and attentive. The two customs officials in the back were great even though they were working on Christmas Eve. I'd like to thank you!

How about all of the Pohnpei State Police officers who were on the street directing traffic? I know that Chief Roby said for you to go do it but you all seemed happy to be doing it. How many parking spaces did I pull into with trepidation fearing I would never be able to get back out of them? You made it easier to get done what I needed to get done for Christmas this year. I for one and impressed and I appreciate it!

One day my wife and I spent an hour or more at one store trying to make a purchase decision. The item we wanted to purchase was missing a part on the showroom floor so we searched for someone who knew where there might be one in a box. It took a while but ultimately we found an employee who manhandled the unwieldy and desperately heavy box off of the third level in the stock room. He could have said, "You know I was hired to label stock," which he was, but he didn't say that. He was attentive for quite some time while my wife and I dug through the box to see if the missing part there. Ultimately, after opening two boxes we didn't find the part that was needed and we didn't make the purchase.

If I were that employee I would have been seething. "You mean you put me through all of that and

See "Thank You" on Page 18

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is It Legal? Is It Ethical?

I was saddened to find out that the Director of Department of Health Services; Mr. Wincener David has hired a lady to work at the Pohnpei State Hospital to be a nurse without proper credentials. I am concerned with this matter because this lady does not possess any educational background neither nor any experiences in the medical field. One must attend a nursing school and get her or his certificate/diploma in order to be qualified to be a nurse. A director cannot and must not hire persons to perform such duty out of his personal interest. This is poor decision making and it is truly unethical!

I humbly ask and urge the Governor, the Legislators, and your Legal Advisors to check this matter out. It should raise concern because this will affect every citizen of Pohnpei, especially those who seek medical help from Pohnpei State Hospital.

If you think that this is not a serious problem, let me ask you these questions:

- Would you like to have this nurse take care of your family members when they are in the hospital with a pressing medical need?
- Would you like that it becomes a practice that the director will hire anybody to work as a nurse or a doctor without proper credentials?
- How do you deal with conflict of interest?
- Is it ethical? Is it Legal?
- Is it not enough that our hospital already lacks the necessary medical equipments and supplies for the nurses and doctors to use

to perform their duties efficiently but the director had to hire unqualified personnel?

· Do we want a Director that would make decisions based on personnel interest or a Director that would truly act out of his knowledge and concern for the citizens of Pohnpei?

This type of practice is one of our greatest weaknesses here in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). We usually make decisions to hire workers and make other important decisions based on family and personal connections. We do not seem to apply the phrase, "conflict of interest" when we make decisions. It is what will benefit me and my family members, right?

It is time that we, as citizens of Pohnpei State wake up and not let those in such positions continually endanger our lives and our future. Let us apply the Gospels as we live our lives daily. There is nothing more beneficial and rewarding than to live honestly and with integrity. Remember, God's love for us is infinite and if we claim that we follow Him; we must and should not deceive any of His creators.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sister Anita Helgenberger, OSB
P.O. Box 1113
Nett, Pohnpei 96941
anitaosb@libertybenedictinesisters.org

More "Letters to the Editor" on Page 12

Letters to the Editor are not researched in the same manner as articles. They are simply the opinions and views of our readers. However, the policy of the paper is that we have your name, address and phone number in order to have it in print. The Editor has the right to edit Letters to the Editor. We still appreciate all tips and letters sent but just can't print them without a name.
Thank You. The Editor

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Next FSM President?

With the FSM congressional election a little more than two short months away that will elect a new Congress which, in turn, will select the next President of the FSM, it is perhaps fair to say that based on the evolving political landscape in the FSM today, the FSM would be better off with incumbent President Joseph Urusemal (Yap State) continuing in office as President.

Among the relevant (four-year term) candidates running for the Congress, President Urusemal, Vice President Redly Killion (Chuuk) and national speaker Peter Christian (Pohnpei) are the three that have publicly declared their interests in pursuing the Presidency. Unfortunately for Vice President Killion, and Speaker Christian, the current political landscape and some serious considerations about the FSM's national agenda are respectively working against their presidential ambitions.

Perhaps among the three presidential aspirants, Vice President Killion is the one whose election prospects for the office are the most doubtful because of the developing political landscape in his own state. In each of his campaign rallies in Guam, Honolulu and elsewhere in the FSM, Vice President Killion has repeatedly affirmed that the underlying purpose of his running is to become the next FSM President due to his concern for the nation's abysmal record on economic development. But the Vice President's pursuit of his presidential ambition through his part in perpetuating the divisive politics in his home state is part of what may make a bid for the presidency impossible for him.

It is now a part of the political thinking in Chuuk that almost one half of the electorate there believe the Vice President used the influence of his office to bring about the ongoing criminal prosecution of a number of the state's political leaders who also happened to be opposed to the Vice President. Some also believe that the Vice President's Office may have been behind the recent publication of a former FSM Public Auditor's letter which accused the current FSM Public Auditor of wrongdoing when the Auditor's Office's published an Audit Report showing that the Vice President's business breached a government contract to supply cement for the expansion

of the Ta Municipal Airport in the Mortlocks Islands.

Many also believe that Compact Funds misused by the current Chuuk State Government which temporarily caused a suspension of Compact funds disbursement by the Joint Economic Management Coordinating Office (JEMCO) and threatened the State's payroll during the Christmas holidays were in part used to fund Chuuk State Government's campaign efforts for the Vice President's re-election. Unfortunately for the Vice President, whether or not any of the above accusations are true, they have become part of the political landscape that is working against his presidential ambition.

Vice President Killion's declared goal for the Presidency could be further jeopardized by what many feel will be the composition of the next Chuuk State Delegation to the next Congress. The candidacy of incumbent congressman Roosevelt Kansou who many think will be re-elected along with congressman Moses Nelson, practically guarantees that Vice President Killion's own state delegation to the next Congress will be split again on the choice of Mr Killion for the Presidency. Both Congressmen Kansou and Nelson refused to support Vice President Killion for the Presidency in 2003. The reasons they may have for a refusal of Killion in the next Congress are even stronger today than they were in 2003 since the Congressmen's political supporters and relatives in those criminal cases were convicted in the legal actions the Vice President backed.

With such an ugly political atmosphere and because of the divisive political methods the Chuukese people have practiced, perhaps it is just as well that Chuuk should be denied the Presidency again despite the fact that Chuuk has the largest delegation to the Congress despite the fact that historic presidential election tradition did entitle Chuuk the Presidency following completion of Pohnpei's President Leo Falcam's term. If the Chuuk State Government, Chuuk's political and traditional leaders and Vice President Killion himself would be unable to rise above the state's political expediency and work for genuine unity and harmony, then perhaps it is better for the FSM's national interest that Chuuk State be kept from the Presidency so that they do not practice their divisive

and dirty politicking at the nation's expense.

It is especially distressing to see the contrast between Yap's statesmanship compared to the lack of any statesmanship on the part of the Chuukese leaders. While Yap State leadership allows President Urusemal to seek re-election unopposed in their state, the Chuukese traditional and political leaders are themselves spearheading the division of the Chuukese people. The lack of any serious effort by Chuukese leaders to unify the Chuukese people simply confirms the observation publicly made by US Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior, David Cohen, that the FSM people's welfare and development are being undermined by the self-interests of their leaders.

There is never a bad time to pursue peace and unity. Since the Chuukese have repeatedly proven themselves incapable of peace and unity, they do not belong in the FSM's top offices since those offices are the very foundation of the FSM Federation. The Chuukese people now need to seriously consider the problems of Vice President Killion's declared goal of the Presidency and the unlikelihood that he will be able to achieve that goal. Returning the Vice Presi-

dent to his current position is not only an underutilization of his talent, but has may also be hampered by the constitution which discourages people from holding the same elective executive position beyond two consecutive terms.

The factors that stack up against Chuuk State ascendancy to the FSM Presidency in 2007 are different from the factors that stand against a Presidency for current Pohnpei State resident FSM Speaker Mr. Peter Christian. With all due respect to the Speaker, his family and the people of Pohnpei, the Speaker's own excesses during his tenure in public office lend themselves toward what some believe is a moral duty on the part of the Pohnpei electorate and the next FSM Congress to keep him from returning to public office.

One of qualifications Speaker Christian touts for public leadership in the FSM is his background in economic development in both the public and private sectors. Vice President Killion claims a similar background. Even so there is a groundswell of public curiosity given both candidates' long tenure in public office, as to why it is that their economic development backgrounds have only

See "President" on next page

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

...President?

continued from page 12

helped their own private businesses to develop but has never translated into tangible development for the rest of the people, those people who elected them.

The potential danger from the Speaker's use of his public position to advance his private business interests was recently highlighted in a recent US Department of the Interior Inspector General's Report on the management of the FSM's Infrastructure Development Fund through the Amended Compact of Free Association with the United States. The renegotiations of the Amended Compact were conducted by Speaker Christian as the FSM's Chief Negotiator. The result of Speaker Christian's renegotiation ended in the FSM losing a good number of economic benefits that were previously available to the FSM during the First Compact round. Among those losses were the loss of the Investment Development Fund for development of the FSM private sector, loss of duty-free status extended to FSM exports, loss of FSM students' eligibility for US post-secondary educational financial assistance and loss of US postal rates to the FSM. Yet in the management set up for the FSM Infrastructure Development Fund, the US DOI Report found the Speaker had used the influence of his office to inject personal interest into the management scheme, creating what the DOI Inspector General found to be a conflict of interest situation.

Speaker Christian's advancement of his personal interests through his public service career has involved undermining the other branches and agencies of government and, inevitably, the public interest. Under his leadership, the Speaker urged his colleagues in the Congress to refuse consideration of an executive branch proposal for the reorganization of the national government to minimize costs and improve management efficiency. At the same time he pressed for the creation of a new Compact Management Board within the national government where some say, the Speaker hoped to place some of his political patrons.

When Speaker Christian and his colleagues did not agree with the result of the 2003 national election, the Speaker and his faction

retaliated through their advice and consent prerogatives, rejecting the re-nomination of deserving government officials who were doing a noble job in their positions. When the Executive Branch joined the people's opposition to the Amnesty Bill and related issues that severely tested the nation's constitutional system, the Speaker and his colleagues reacted by creating a special investigation committee that conducted retaliatory investigations of members of the Executive Branch.

Since a goodly number of people seem to feel that senior FSM leaders like Vice President Killion and Speaker Christian have practiced political methods that are socially destructive and morally questionable and that they have advanced their private interests through their public careers, the implication is clear. There seems to be an erosion of public confidence in their leadership. Whatever the level of their respective popular support may be, the public good and the national interest strongly counsel for a reflective pause in their pursuits of the nation's highest offices especially when the preponderance of political thinking seems to be against them. Sacrificing one's immediate political ambition in the face of an unfavorable political reality is more than a political calculation; it is a principled course of action if it is taken toward preserving higher values like political unity and social stability. President Urusemal's ability to peacefully secure an unopposed candidacy for himself in his home state is one major reason he deserves to continue as the nation's President. Whenever current circumstances are such that the nation's unity and the national government's stability become forefront on the nation's agenda, Micronesian statesmanship is needed at the FSM Presidency. Amongst the three senior FSM leaders declaring their interests in the Presidency, President Urusemal has so far demonstrated sufficient statesmanship to merit re-election to the Office. In fact, throughout his first term in the Office, President Urusemal has demonstrated a level of statesmanship approaching that of some of the nation's founding fathers like President Nakayama, John Mangafel, the late President Olter, Luke Tman, and Ambilos Ieshy.

Although President Urusemal does leave something to be desired in his management of the nation's economic development effort, the

increasing public skepticism over Vice President Killion's and Speaker Christian's advancement of their respective business interests over the nation's overall economic development seems to indicate that a good number of people would rather accept President Urusemal's slower paced economic development than the Vice President's and the Speaker's self-interested economic development.

Perhaps then the most meaningful 2007 New Year's Resolution for the FSM people would be to allow President Urusemal to remain as President for the next four years.

The author, Sabino S. Asor, was a member of the 13th FSM Congress from Chuuk State from 2003-2005. In 2003, Mr Asor voted for current Vice President Killion to be President and for current President Urusemal for Speaker of the Congress. The FSM Constitution provides for members of the FSM Congress to elect the FSM President. Mr Asor disagreed with members of his State's congressional delegation by refusing to support his Delegation's Amnesty Bill that proposed to forgive criminal charges then pending against some members of the Delegation.

An Open Letter of Regret for Leaving the FSM

I must relate that part of my reason for leaving the FSM was due to professional and ethical reasons. I chose not to work further for Marstella Jack, the Attorney General and Secretary of the Department of Justice.

Briefly, I have serious questions in my mind, and it is my opinion only, regarding her professionalism and ethics.

There are three main issues: Marstella's refusal to support her staff in public, her work to discredit her office and her desire to fire me for insubordination.

First and most important is Marstella's actions involving her cooperation with GMP as they assembled a response to the Inspector General's report on the FSM's infrastructure issues. Specifically, GMP and Marstella questioned a

June 10, 2006 memo I provided to our client TC&I on GMP invoices for work for which they had not been properly authorized. (Ultimately the issue was resolved). It is clear that Marstella discussed many details of my work, my experience and the workings of our office with Andrea Hillyer. But, for the three months leading up to GMP's response Marstella had less than five minutes to discuss the memo with her own staff. She said "it's wrong - we'll discuss it later." Marstella made time to collaborate with Andrea so GMP could publicly state:

- the June 10 memo was issued incorrectly by our office;
- Marstella never saw it prior to its release;
- Marstella said it was unauthorized;
- I am "inexperienced in contract negotiations in the FSM" and "unfamiliar with FSM law";
- I had "specifically not been assigned to handle the Contract or the Contract amendment negotiations";
- Andrea went to former Assistant Attorney General Anthony Welch "with the consent of the FSM Department of Justice" as GMP puts it (that's Marstella) for his interpretation of the June 10 memo;
- Marstella said the June 10 memo was done outside the scope of my employment.

What a shame Marstella didn't confer with her staff on the work of her office, the memo's content, its legal analysis and conclusions and the process by which it was issued. Why didn't she retract it if it was incorrect or unauthorized?

Prior to GMP's letter, on advice and reflection I suppose, Marstella agreed with all aspects of the memo our office produced. Yet she never jumped on the phone to correct her prior statements and information given to GMP. So, all of these statements and snide comments about her own staff in GMP's letter were actually based on Marstella's refusal to correct her improper statements. She may now take a third position on the matter.

During this time, Marstella asked me for my resume - twice - "Oh I'm just curious...just want to see it." Later, when I saw GMP's response letter I became pretty sure Marstella shared my resume or its content with Andrea. When I confronted her on this she told me the "real" reason as she called it - "I doubted your abilities and wanted to see if you were a member of any bar association." Wow! Imagine

See "Regret" on page 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

...Regret

continued from page 13

how that was received by a thirteen year legal veteran, a former law firm managing partner, a US Fulbright Scholar in Law and a member or former member of the California, New York and International Bar associations.

Marstella collaborated with GMP against her own office and staff and called *my* professionalism into question. At the insistence of her staff Marstella agreed to send a letter to Andrea seeking a retraction of certain statements, correction of others and an apology to our office and me. I provided Marstella with a draft. Marstella read through the letter and agreed, "We need to do this", "I'll get to it"... "By the end of the week"... "Oh I want to get that out..." I stopped chasing her after a month. She never issued the letter calling for a correction of Andrea's and GMP's statements.

And in GMP's letter my actions are called "despicable" (page 35).

The friction between me and Marstella and Andrea started earlier when I started to review the Draft Infrastructure Development Plan Regulations GMP presented in late April 2006. I'll try to be brief. I was assigned this review for the AG's Office on April 18th. Andrea wrote on the transmittal, "Here is a pretty final draft for your good offices to review" and Marstella wrote to me "Have a quick look at these." I had nine working days to review, correct and comment on over three hundred pages of regulations – and share these with the States. It became very clear, very quickly that there were numerous issues, problems, corrections and inaccuracies with the draft. They were very far from "pretty final" and deserved much more than a "quick look". I (then) contested issues like:

1. The Contracting Officer was the PMU, not TC&I.
2. The awarding of Contracts was by the PMU – not TC&I.
3. There was no procedure for the submission of projects by the states, for their review, for rejection, for resubmission, for the states to be involved in each step of their projects. At GMP's presentation during the infrastructure conference in Chuuk they told of a complete process whereby the states would work with the PMU on each step of projects and collaborate to exer-

cise each option – or not.

4. The "conflict of interest section" mirrored the FSM law except that it would not be a conflict for "the PMU submitting a bid or proposal for a contract under the Infrastructure Development Plan."

This last point was unacceptable. GMP submitted regulations that made GMP the contracting officer who could award contracts to GMP. I quickly changed this (and corrected other problems). In my opinion, to propose regulations that circumvent the FSM conflict of interest laws is an unethical and legally questionable proposition.

I noted to Andrea and Marstella that "the proposed regs were rushed into being and had serious issues for the FSM." Marstella urged, in writing, "just pass them and we'll fix any problems later." Andrea was quick to write that I was the first "to see any serious issues" with the regulations. Well, it's the job of the AG's Office to work in the best interest of the FSM.

Afterwards, Marstella told me that she had considered firing me for insubordination for my June 10 memo. She had assigned herself all aspects of renegotiating the GMP contract. My opinion to her was that my memo involved the payment of invoices by our client, it was urgent, she was out of the country and my work was not part of "renegotiating the contract".

Well, that pretty much sealed the deal. I was despicable, had questionable legal skills and was insubordinate. I do not agree with Marstella's style of management, professionalism and ethics.

I cannot sit silent and let GMP's letter, Andrea's description of me as a professional and Marstella's treatment of her staff go unnoticed. This portrait of one of her lawyers and the work of our office was unopposed by Marstella and went to the President, and the US in Hawaii and Washington, D.C. I have very high professional standards and could never, and would never act in this manner. I admit that I may breach some ethical duties by revealing some of this information – but I do so in the hopes and capacity as a whistleblower on improper conduct and as a former public servant acting in the best interest of the FSM.

I trust the people of the FSM can see that I had no choice but to cease working for Marstella. I'm sorry if

this seems brutal or "not the Micronesian way" but I trust you'll understand.

Kind Regards,
Douglas Hastings
drhastings@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: Marstella Jack said regarding the above letter that "the contents are not true" Andrea Hillyer did not receive notice until after deadline time but would likely have a response in the next issue.

Trash and Tinted Windows

Dear Bill Jaynes,
I am responding to your KP Perspective on trash and tinted windows from your Center of the Universe column.

I would like to say Happy New Year or say something nice for the New Year but with the items you chose to end the Old Year, I doubt it is proper to say it now. I will hold it until maybe at the end of my letter.

Trash

Would you believe that it was the Americans who TRASHED OUR ISLAND? Here is an outline:

1. During WWII American fighter planes ripped the islands with bombs that exploded in our faces, killing some of us, destroying everything we used to have during the Japanese period. When the war ended, there was little clean up. Sunken boats and ships littered our shorelines. Thanks to the natural processes of corrosion and decay. The metal junks corroded away and the Japanese wooden fishing boats just rot away taking 20 to 30 years to finally sink in our lagoon waters and shorelines, taking the unsightly ugliness of the war beneath the waves.

2. The United States Naval Administration moved into Pohnpei and established their Campsite on my grandfather's land in Dolonier? My grandfather was Joseph Panuelo. His living son and grandchildren are Alex Panuelo and Ioanis and Lucy, to name a couple from the clan. The Navy Mess Hall was centrally located at the Campsite and utilized around ten or more walk-in freezers situated under the coconut trees. The cooks and kitchen helpers in and around the Mess Hall would throw tons of trash and garbage (empty beer cans, bottles, and kitchen garbage) right under the coconut trees on the Southside of the camp where the Panuelo apartments are located today. Flies and rats invaded the place like we had never seen before.

3. There was an additional new development. The Yasiring Dock, half sub-merged now, became the Navy's dumb site. Tons and tons of garbage from the Navy's warehouses, garage, Mess Hall were thrown at the end of the dock almost every day. Broken chasses from old trucks, bulldozers, road crater, tires, baskets of rotten American red apples and onions, all made their way to Yasiring Dock. I used to hold my breath, as I would paddle my small canoe to school and passed the dock in the morning and after school, five days a week. Trash that could float littered over the water. Some made it into the mangrove swamps and along the shorelines. Empty bottles landed on the rocky shorelines and with the beating of the waves, they cracked into sharp pieces that often cut bare feet.

4. When the Navy administration ended and was gone, so was the stench of their garbage in my grandfather's land. However, Yasiring Dock as a dumpsite continued to be the Government dumping spot until the opening of the Kaihsa dumping place (below South Park Hotel). As soon as the Causeway was completed, garbage dumping at Kaihsa was closed down, and the Public Dump of Nan Dekehtik opened.

5. Lagoons are still unclean. Take for instance the Chuuk Lagoon. How many Japanese ships did the Americans sink in the lagoons that are now beginning to spill their diesel and oil contents?

6. How many live bombs were buried a few feet in the grounds of the Dainy Baseball Field? Tons and tons were removed and sunk 12 miles away in the ocean. As you said, "What cannot be seen is not there", right? Wrong! Now there are tons and

see "Trash and Tint" on Page 18

The deadline for ads and news items for the next issue is January 19, 2006.

Earlier is better!

LAST Issue's Solution

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

CONSERVATION CORNER

Madolenihmw Cross-site Visit 2006

Conservation Society

Over the past 3 years the Conservation Society of Pohnpei in partnership with the Locally Managed Marine Areas Network (LMMA) started an annual gathering of Community Conservation Officers (CCO's); volunteers representing Pohnpei's Marine Protected Area (MPA) communities. The purpose of these gatherings is to exchange information between CCO's about their MPA's, create work plans for the coming year, and update each other on accomplishments and lessons learned over the past year. Providing them with active participation in management of the MPAs is vital for the success of the MPAs as well as their livelihoods.

On December 7-8, Madolenihmw municipality at the Sacred Heart Church Tamwoarohi hosted the 3rd annual cross-site visit. There were a total of 29 participants to the annual gathering. Invited guests were fishermen, teachers, youth and representatives from municipal government, state government and local chiefs. It was a 2 day event of active commu-

nity participation. It is the hope of CSP and its partner agencies to see these MPAs eventually become sustainable through MPA community participation.

Not long ago these CCOs only cared for their family's livelihood. But these days they are beginning to understand that their families livelihood depend on their part in conservation of the MPAs, which are the means of their survival. They do voluntary patrols within their MPAs and are very active with fish and coral monitoring programs that are spearheaded by their community's fishermen and youth. Other than just selling fish, betelenut and bananas as cash items they are now in joint collaboration with the Marine Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP). MERIP helps to create sustainable sponge and coral farms as another means of cash income for the CCOs. The transformation in the village life of a fisherman is dramatic. They no longer only tend to their families livelihood but are also the village spokespersons and ambassadors of the Marine Protected Ar-



eam. CSP believes that in order to protect biodiversity, you need to give local residents a stake in preserving it.

The end of the 2 day workshop was closed by Honorable Petrick Ringlen of Madolenihmw Municipal Government. He spoke about the need of having three important issues, religion, culture, and government, for a successful project to have in Pohnpei's communities. This year's host site

was unanimously voted by the CCOs to have it at Parem Island which is in between two MPAs, Sapwitik and Mwand. Parem holds the second most active fishing community after Kitti. This was found after a Fish Market Survey report done in 2006. CSP's presentations concerning what's happening with our marine resources helped the CCOs decide what is best for their livelihood and Pohnpei.

PEACE CORPS VACANCY

Peace Corps/Micronesia is seeking to fill the following fulltime, contracted position, based in Kolonia, Pohnpei. To apply, qualified persons must send a cover letter describing their qualifications for the position. They must also send a resume in English with work history, salary history, and names of work-related references.

Applications may be dropped off at the Peace Corps office in Kolonia, or faxed to 320-2658, or sent by email to techtrainer@fm.peacecorps.gov.

The deadline for receiving applications is Friday, February 16, 2007.

TECHNICAL TRAINER - EDUCATION

The primary responsibility of the Technical Trainer is to manage the design, delivery and evaluation of competency-based technical training that prepares Peace Corps Trainees for two years of volunteer service in FSM and Palau. The Technical Trainer will support education and education-related programming, including ESL instruction, community-school relationships and youth development activities outside of the classroom like after school programs, tutoring and summer camps. She/He will also provide support to Program staff and Volunteers in the field with technical issues. The position requires the ability to speak, read, and write English and work with Microsoft Word and Power Point. The Technical Trainer reports to the Programming and Training Officer (PTO).

Duties include:

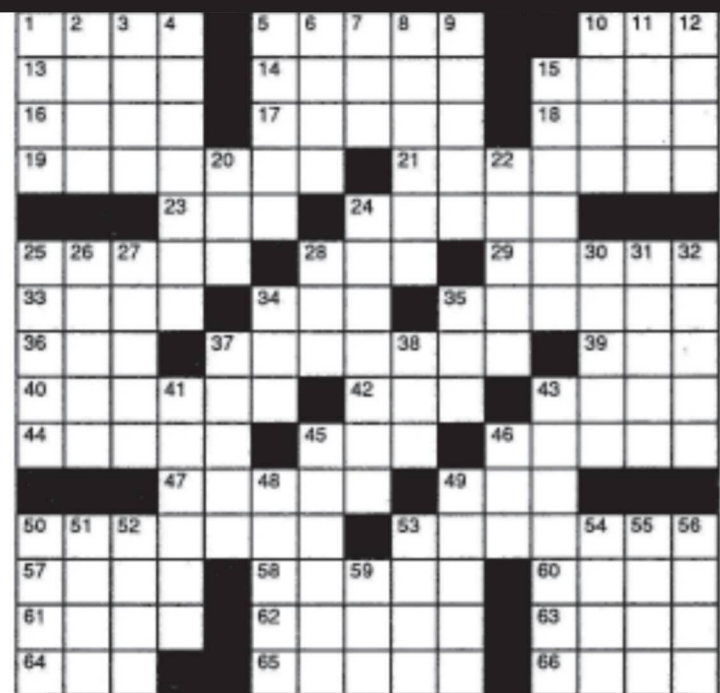
- Guides/implements training design, revision, evaluation, and monitoring for education-related competencies designed to prepare and support Peace Corps Trainees and Volunteers.
- Facilitates training activities, modeling a variety of education techniques in training delivery.
- Develops and presents information on factors affecting education including gender, parent involvement, school-community linkages, resources, the experiential learning cycle, etc. and provides recommendations for working successfully in the Micronesian environment
- Develops technical training documents/reports and shares these with key staff.
- Designs and delivers appropriate Training of Trainers sessions.
- Collaborates with PTO, Training Director and Program staff to design, revise, and implement training to improve Volunteer capabilities and project success.

Desired Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in education or 5 years of equivalent experience in education.
- Knowledge of and demonstrated skills in teaching methodologies, preferably as relates to teaching English as a Second Language.
- Experience designing, implementing and evaluating training.
- Experience working with an international organization and/or in a cross cultural environment.
- Experience working with PTAs and the Department of Education.
- Ability to investigate educational resources and develop/adapt training programs to reflect core principles.
- Self-motivated to investigate and take initiative in providing a competency-based and effective technical training program.

Salary Range: \$12,000 – 16,000 depending on prior experience and salary history.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Appealed earnestly
- 5. Nimble
- 10. Spider's creation
- 13. Be a passenger
- 14. Sound
- 15. Facility
- 16. Tent maker
- 17. Find the answer to
- 18. Poker stake
- 19. Injured
- 21. Implore
- 23. — King Cole
- 24. Fire crime
- 25. Finger ornaments
- 28. Soar
- 29. Cries
- 33. Medicinal herb
- 34. Long fish
- 35. Vend
- 36. Pen tip
- 37. Slumberer
- 39. — Fleming, 007 author
- 40. Dutch flowers
- 42. Republican party (abbr.)
- 43. Elevator inventor
- 44. Odor
- 45. Scarlet
- 46. Undue speed
- 47. Dwelled

- 22. Lofty structure
- 24. Declared
- 49. Favorite
- 50. Yelled
- 53. Agricultural workers
- 57. Snake sound
- 58. Raises
- 60. — the Red
- 61. Inactive
- 62. Bargain events
- 63. Verdi opera
- 64. New (pref.)
- 65. Make proud
- 66. For fear that
- 25. Raves
- 26. Hipbone
- 27. Of lofty character
- 28. Service charge
- 30. Prepares copy
- 31. Braid
- 32. Feel
- 34. Overhead trains
- 35. Energy
- 37. Halve
- 38. Pea container
- 41. Improper treatment (comp. wd.)
- 43. Hot cereal
- 45. Distribute cards again
- 46. That woman
- 48. Poem part
- 49. Out-dated
- 50. Shank
- 51. Conceal
- 52. Norway capital
- 53. Worry
- 54. Great Lake
- 55. Frees
- 56. Begone
- 59. According to (2 wds.)

DOWN

- 1. Poke
- 2. City in Peru
- 3. Dutch cheese
- 4. Make insane
- 5. Thing of value
- 6. Virtuous
- 7. Sick
- 8. Chauffeur's dress
- 9. Paradises
- 10. Decrease
- 11. This (Sp.)
- 12. Red vegetable
- 15. Worked for
- 20. Vapor

Word Search - Have We Met?

New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art features collections of ancient, Eastern, and European art, as well as American and modern art displays. Take a cultural tour of the world as you explore the Met via this Word Seek.

- AMERICAN Wing
- ASIAN art
- CEZANNE
- CHINESE art
- DRAWINGS
- EL GRECO
- EUROPEAN paintings
- GALLERIES
- GAUGUIN
- GIFT shop
- GREEK art
- ISLAMIC art
- JAPANESE art
- LARGE
- LECTURES
- LIBRARY
- MANET



- MONET
- MUSEUM
- MUSICAL instruments
- NEW YORK City
- PAINTINGS
- PHOTOGRAPHS
- PICASSO
- REMBRANDT
- ROBERT Lehman Collection
- ROMAN art
- ROOF garden
- RUBENS
- SCULPTURE
- VAN GOGH
- VERMEER

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The True Joy Of Christmas

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ, our Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in the manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rest” Disciple Luke tells us in the Scripture Luke 2:11 – 13.**

My fellow brothers and sisters, regardless of who you are, I kindly asked that we give a moment to this baby who is visiting us this Christmas time. What is he here for? Some people like the Jews were waiting for a savior to deliver them from Roman rule; others hoped the Christ would deliver them from physical ailments. Still some people think that it is time to go partying; others think that it is time to ex-

change gifts or go to church once a year at Christmas time. The list can go on and on and on. But the child Jesus, who is almighty in everything had laid down His life, His kingship, His superiority, His wealth and His everything because you and I. His works is more far-reaching than anyone could imagine.

Christ paid the price for sin and opened the way to peace with God. He offers us new hearts that will last for eternity. If you only wish to have someone give you a gift for Christmas, please know that the gift is out there for you already, it is only a matter of you accepting it. Have a new heart! Make Him as your Lord and Savior now and you will forever have received the true Joy of Christmas that will last all the days of the year around till eternity.

God tells us in the Bible that He created—made out of nothing—the heavens and the earth. The vast, wide universe—the far-flung stars, our sun and moon, and our own beautiful earth with its rivers, mountains, oceans, trees, flowers, and animals—all this is the creation of our wise, loving, and holy God. God made the earth for man to enjoy, glorifying the Creator in the highest, means everything to God first then to us. He made in His own image the man from the chemicals of the earth. God made man to be very different from the animals, for He made man in His own image and gave him an immortal soul that would live forever somewhere. What does “his own image” mean?

God made man, including you and me, in three parts. We have a body—that’s the part of us that eats, breathes, jumps, works, and play. We have a soul—the part of us that

thinks, laughs, cries, dream, and enjoy the company of others. We also have a very important third part of us called the spirit. Our spirit is the part of us that can know and love God. Because Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, did wrong by disobeying God, all the human beings that have been born into the world since their time have also done wrong we have inherited a human nature that sins. When Adam sinned, one part of him – his spirit, the part of him that could know God died. God knew that all the people born since Adam would be born spiritually dead, unable to know and love God. But God wants man to know Him and to love Him, so He made a way for man to come to God. As Adam and Eve left the Garden, God promised that He would send Someone special to earth to take the punishment for sin. So the people who lived thousands of years ago began looking for Someone special to come to earth. And he is Baby Jesus, that born to us at the Christmas time as Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Deep in our heart we should glorified God in the highest because He has freed us from the spiritual dead and gives us the permanent peace that begin now and will last in our next life. Jesus loves you regardless of the color of your skin and the condition you are in right

now, just tell Him that you love Him and that you have a place in your heart for Him

Let us spend the rest of the paper by talking about what is the true joy that Baby Jesus brings for those of us who gives our life to Him. For us to enjoy the real joy we must first know that is true joy that will last that we receive from Baby Jesus but not the temporary joy that the world gives us.

Joy is integral part of our Salvation in Christ. Joy emotion evoked by well-being, success or good fortune, gladness or delight. Joy is a inner peace and delight in God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and the blessing that flows our relationship with them (2 Co 13: 13). Scripture teaching: Joy includes 1) Joy is associated with Salvation. God provides us in Christ (Isa.35:10). 2)With God’s word (John 15:16) “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to bear fruit- fruit that will last, Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

Joy flows from as one aspect of the Spirit’s fruit. This come to us by experiencing as we maintain a relationship with Christ.

Our joy become greater when Spirit mediates a deep sense of God’s presence and nearness in our lives. Jesus taught that the fullness of joy is inseparably connected to our remaining in His word, loving others, obeying His commands and being separated from the world (John 17: 13-17).

Joy as a delight in God’s nearness and His redemptive permanent and true Christmas gifts to us that cannot be destroyed by pain, suffering, weakness and difficult circumstances. Now it is our turn, what are we going to give Baby Jesus as our gift in exchange of what he gives us? Don’t you like to welcome Him into your heart to live in your life? Just say this simple prayer “Lord, Jesus, I repent all my sins, and truly welcome you into my heart to be my God and Savior from now and forever.” You have to have Baby Jesus for you to live after death and live with God the Father in the next live. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all..

Pastor Yasuo. I. Yamada

Tide Table January 10 - January 23, 2007				
	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	10 06:00AM 0.7 09:20AM 0.5 04:06PM 1.4 11:37PM 0.1	17 01:39PM 2.2 10:17PM -0.6	10 06:00AM 0.7 09:20AM 0.5 04:06PM 1.4 11:37PM 0.1	17 01:39PM 2.2 10:17PM -0.6
Thursday	11 06:50AM 0.8 09:45AM 0.7 03:45PM 1.2 11:19PM 0.1	18 02:12PM 2.4 10:33PM -0.6	11 06:50AM 0.8 09:45AM 0.7 03:45PM 1.2 11:19PM 0.1	18 02:12PM 2.4 10:33PM -0.6
Friday	12 02:37PM 1.1 11:04PM 0.0	19 02:45PM 2.5 10:53PM -0.6	12 02:37PM 1.1 11:04PM 0.0	19 02:45PM 2.5 10:53PM -0.6
Saturday	13 11:53AM 1.2 10:48PM -0.1	20 04:47AM 0.2 07:07AM 0.1 03:16PM 2.5 11:12PM -0.5	13 11:53AM 1.2 10:48PM -0.1	20 04:47AM 0.2 07:07AM 0.1 03:16PM 2.5 11:12PM -0.5
Sunday	14 12:02PM 1.5 10:30PM -0.3	21 04:54AM 0.3 07:51AM 0.1 03:44PM 2.3 11:29PM -0.3	14 12:02PM 1.5 10:30PM -0.3	21 04:54AM 0.3 07:51AM 0.1 03:44PM 2.3 11:29PM -0.3
Monday	15 12:32PM 1.7 10:14PM -0.4	22 05:06AM 0.4 08:31AM 0.2 04:07PM 2.1 11:37PM -0.1	15 12:32PM 1.7 10:14PM -0.4	22 05:06AM 0.4 08:31AM 0.2 04:07PM 2.1 11:37PM -0.1
Tuesday	16 01:05PM 2.0 10:09PM -0.5	23 05:22AM 0.6 09:09AM 0.4 04:21PM 1.7 11:35PM 0.0	16 01:05PM 2.0 10:09PM -0.5	23 05:22AM 0.6 09:09AM 0.4 04:21PM 1.7 11:35PM 0.0

...Thank You!

continued from page 11

you're just going to walk away! What about the mess you made? And now you want me to tape this up and kill myself getting it back on the shelf? What is your problem?" And those would have been valid questions, but he didn't ask them. He said instead, "No problem. I'll take care of it."

I'm not in his head so I don't know what he was thinking but he treated us well and I appreciate that! We did come back later that night and buy one of the items he put himself out to help us with.

It was as if this year all of the retail business owners got together with their employees and explained the concept of customer service and satisfaction and, for the possibly the first time the message got through. If you are a courteous store employee or public official I'd like to thank you for easing the pain of Christmas shopping and business this year!

*Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor*

...Trash and Tint

continued from page 11

tons of bombs in the ocean out there. And our Micronesian Nations' leaders had just completed a meeting in Palau where they agreed that Tourism and Fisheries are going to be very viable industries in Micronesia.

Do you still want to talk about the little Pohnpeians throwing empty soda pops and chewing gum wrappers on the roadside?

Pohnpeians drink coconuts and chew sugarcane. When an empty coconut is thrown on the roadside it becomes part of the soil because it is biodegradable. So are the chewed sugarcane fibers. We used to serve our food during parties in rounded breadfruit leaves. How are these being transformed today? Coconuts = soda pops, sugarcane = bubblegum, and its plastic wrap, rounded breadfruit leaves = paper plates. So let me ask you a very simple question: Who brought these influences to us? Isn't

it YOU, THE PRETTY AMERICAN TRYING TO LOOK EVEN PRETTIER UNDER PRETENTIOUS COVER-UPS?

Tinted Windows

And for your concern over the nuisance of tinted windows on cars, remember, when it cannot be seen it is not there? The tinted material is not made in Pohnpei. So if you want to stop the islanders from using it, may I suggest

that you go straight to the manufacturers and tell them personally that you hate tinted materials especially when it is placed on SOMEBODY ELSE'S CAR.

Well, stick around in Pohnpei. We may learn to like each other.

May you have a BLISTERING BUT RATHER PLEASANT AND HAPPY NEW YEAR?

Thank you,

John Panuelo Rosario

The Bioterrorism and Disaster Preparedness Program of the FSM Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs is seeking bids to 'Lease to Buy' a car. The vehicle should be new or near-new. A twin cab pickup truck with petrol (gasoline) engine is preferred. The bid should include the length of the lease, any mileage restrictions, and who will have the responsibility for repairs and maintenance on the vehicle. The bid should specify the repayment options, the monthly lease cost and the final payout options and terms.

Please send proposals to:

*Secretary,
Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs
PO Box PS 70
Palikir, Pohnpei 96941*

or hand deliver proposals to the Bioterrorism Office located across the road from the FSM Development Bank.

For further information please contact Lisa Kohler or Moses Pretrick, phone 320 8300.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantor 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 Namiki 2nd Floor Restaurant at 6:30pm. Public Welcome.



The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei State meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantor Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.



FSM Veterans Association meets the first Friday of every month at 6pm at The Rusty Anchor.



Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Baha'i Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.



Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meeting 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.

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



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TRASHBUSTERS

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Attempting to tame the beast's rage.
The creature awoke,
The chair quickly broke,
And the man stopped increasing in age.**

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SERVICE IN KOLONIA, U, NETT, & SOKEHS**

PLEASE HELP KEEP POHNPEI ISLAND
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HEALTH & NUTRITION

Breastfeeding Club Opens in Mand

By **AMY LEVENDUSKY**
Pohnpei Island Food Community

On October 9, 2006, the Mand Breastfeeding Club held its first session. The club was initiated as part of the project, "Traditional Pohnpeian Food for Health" and is sponsored by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei.

A total of 18 mothers are members of the Mand Breastfeeding Club. The purpose of the club is to encourage young mothers in Mand to breastfeed their babies for the many benefits that go along with breastfeeding. The club also provides mothers with a forum to discuss the challenges of breastfeeding and to ask any questions they might have on breastfeeding. Dr. Lois Englberger, IFCP, Ms. Welsihter Hagilmai, COM-FSM Land Grant, Ms. Yumiko Paul, Pohnpei Public Health and Ms. Pelihna Moses of Mand help to facilitate club meetings.

The club meets twice a month. A short quiz is given at the beginning of each session and a prize goes to the person who answers the question correctly. Aneleen Robonei, Resleen Edward and Lihna Aia have won prizes up to this date.

The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) along with the United Nations' Children Fund and the World Health Organization recommend exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months, meaning only breastmilk, not even water, should be given for the first 6 months. Giving your baby any other liquids or solid food before 6 months increases their risk of infection. It is also advised to continue breastfeeding to two years and beyond.



Happy children and mothers of the Mand Breastfeeding Club pose for the camera

Human milk provides all the nutrients a baby needs in exactly the right proportions. Breastfed babies are healthier than formula-fed babies because they are less likely to contract respiratory, gastrointestinal diseases, and allergies. When breastfed babies do get sick, their symptoms are milder than those of formula-fed babies.

Researchers have shown that human milk also protects your baby against cancer well into childhood and even into adulthood. An article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* published in May 2002 con-

firmed that breastfed babies are smarter and have higher Intelligence Quotas than babies that were not breastfed. Breastfeeding also has health benefits for the mother, helping her lose weight after pregnancy and protecting her later against breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and urinary tract infection.

Breastfeeding saves money. It costs much less to feed a breastfeeding mother with healthy food than it does to purchase special food for her baby. Breastfeeding is good for the environment as no tins or fuel for bringing the imported milk are required.

The benefits of breastfeeding go far beyond the physical, with emotional benefits as well.

Nursing is a source of great comfort and security for babies. Nursing enhances the loving bond between the mother and her baby. What a great food, breastfeeding is truly best!

Thanks are warmly extended to Judy Mieger and the Cottage Grove, Oregon, La Leche League Group for information materials on breastfeeding and to the GEF Small Grant Program for funding support.

Dollar Up Enterprises

3 pair of Kids Shoes
\$1.00!!!

Rice Cookers
Special Sale!
\$13.99

Chicken Lunch
Meat
\$1.00 a can!

BCOPS CROWNED B-BALL CHAMPIONS

By **JIM TOBIN**

BCOPS (Basketball Club of Pohnpei Stars), coached by Heinrich Palik, finished undefeated in both boy's and girl's divisions, and were crowned champions of the 2006 FSM High School Basketball Tournament. In the championship games played the evening of Saturday, December 23rd, BCOPS boys defeated the SDA Pohnpei boys team 52-46 and the BCOPS girls defeated the SDA Pohnpei girls team by a score of 76-37. Michael Mallarme and Meagan Yamaguchi, both from BCOPS and the leading scorers of the tournament, were named Most Valuable Players.

Pohnpei hosted the 2006 FSM High School Basketball Tournament at the COM-FSM national campus gymnasium from December 23-30, with over 40 games played over a 7 day period. Fourteen high school teams and clubs from Chuuk and Pohnpei participated including Xavier, Saramen Chuuk, PICS, PICS - International, SDA, Madolenihmw, Ohwa Christian high schools and BCOPS and IBC (Islanders Basketball Club). The teams were welcomed to the tournament at the Opening Ceremony on Saturday morning, December 23rd by guest speaker FSM President Joseph Urusemal.

The first three days of the tournament were pool play with two pools for the boy's division and one pool of the girl's division. The top 4 teams in each pool advanced to double elimination playoffs (two losses and you're out) to decide the tournament champions. The pool games used a running clock which stopped on free throws and the final 5 minutes of the 4th quarter. In boy's division FSM Pool, SDA finished undefeated with 4 wins and no losses, with wins over Madolenihmw 51-35, Xavier 51-33, Saramen Chuuk 87-33 and IBC 47-40. Also qualifying for the playoffs in the FSM Pool were IBC with a record of 3 wins and 1 loss, Xavier (2-2) and Madolenihmw (1-3). In the boy's division TTPI Pool, BCOPS finished undefeated with 3 wins and 0 losses, with wins over PICS 41-31,

Ohwa Christian 55-33 and PICS International 47-37. Also qualifying for the playoffs in the TTPI Pool were PICS with a record of 2 wins and 1 loss, Ohwa Christian (1-2) and PICS - International (0-3). In the Girls Pool, BCOPS finished undefeated with 3 wins and no losses with wins over PICS 54-20, SDA 54-25 and Xavier 57-16. Also qualifying for the playoffs in the Girls Pool were PICS with a record of 2 wins and 1 loss, Xavier (1-2) and SDA (0-3).

On Wednesday, December 27 the Double Elimination Playoffs began with 6 regulation games played each day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. BCOPS boys were undefeated beating Madolenihmw 73-52, IBC 87-62 and Xavier 72-39 to reach the championship game, with SDA boys defeating Xavier 57-54 to qualify for the championships. BCOPS girls also ran the table reaching the girl's championship game, with SDA girls reaching the final with a victory over PICS 61-48.

The Closing Ceremony was held immediately after the championship games. The guest speaker was Heinrich Palik, FSM Basketball Association President. He stated that more primary and secondary school basketball competitions need to be held in the FSM, with a goal of beating Guam in the next 5 years. He also announced that the FSM Basketball Association and FSM National Olympic Committee hope to make the tournament an annual event, with the continued support of the FSM National Government and local businesses, and hopefully Yap and Kosrae will participate next year. All athletes, coaches and officials received souvenir tournament t-shirts donated by Mobil Oil Micronesia, bags from Western Union and CTSI and cases of Pepsi products from Pepsi Cola Bottling (Guam). Twenty trophies, donated by the Bank of the FSM, were awarded to the following: All Tournament Team (boys): Dwayne Anafel (Xavier), Troy Yaingelou (SDA), Ryan Yamada (BCOPS), Kelly Tobin (BCOPS) and Willy Bahingai (BCOPS); All Tournament Team (girls): Benrida Micky

(PICS), Lua Kikuo (Xavier), Roxie Moya (Xavier), Miura Kerson (BCOPS) and Romalinda Souwelian (BCOPS); Most Valuable Players Michael Mallarme and Meagan Yamaguchi; Team Sportsmanship - Xavier (girls) and Ohwa Christian (boys); Third Place Team - PICS (girls) and Xavier (boys); Second Place Team - SDA (girls) and SDA (boys) and Champions Team - BCOPS (boys) and BCOPS (girls). Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the sponsors, referees and bench officials, with special recognition to Castro Joab (Tournament Director), Ramsie Joab (Referee Supervisor) and Bollie Ludwig (Bench Officials Coordinator) and Joe Villazon, Chief of Secondary Schools, Pohnpei State Department of Education.

The organizing committee would like to thank the following sponsors for their great support: Bank of the FSM, Mobil Oil Micronesia, Western Union, CTSI, Office of the President, FSM National Government, FSM Congress, FSM National Olympic Committee, Hornet Sporting Goods (Guam), Pepsi Cola Bottling (Guam), Asia Pacific Airlines, Palm Terrace Shopping Center, Seven Star Store, INS, The Neime Store, Ace Hardware, Truk Trading Company, Pohnpei Arts and Crafts, Ace Commercial, Leo's Store, Continental Airlines, FSM Development Bank, College of Micronesia-FSM, Pohnpei State Government Department of Education, Pohnpei Basketball Association and FSM Basketball Association.

