

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

Bill Could Limit Business Ownership

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

The Pohnpei legislature convened for a special session April 11-20 to consider several measures, leaving pending a proposal that has many in the business and foreign investment community buzzing.

According to officials, L.B. 254-05, which seeks to create a more restrictive foreign investment climate in the state, would be taken up for consideration again during the regular session, which began May 8.

Notable provisions of the draft legislation include a "local ownership requirement" for a number of business activities including wholesale and retail sales, beauty and barber shops, bakeries, tour and diving guide services, travel agencies, import and export busi-

nesses, commercial fishing and others.

Not only does the bill propose to prohibit non-citizen ownership of such businesses but it also provides that "non-citizens currently holding business permits . . . shall be permitted to continue such business activities only for the current term . . . with no renewal thereof . . ."

The bill also proposes an expansion of the definition of "engaging in business" to include individuals with managerial or financial control of a local business activity. According to the standing committee report, this provision "is meant to address the situation where a foreign citizen is running a business through a Pohnpeian citizen."

"Presently," the report claims,

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Governor Urges Caution in Restricting Investments

Pohnpei State Information Services

Pohnpei Gov. Johnny P. David has urged the 6th Pohnpei Legislature to exercise caution in imposing restrictions on foreign investments, saying it was important to keep the rules clear so as not to confuse and drive away investors altogether.

In a May 3 letter to Sen. Sailas Henry, chairman of the Committee on Resources and Development, commenting on Legislature Bill No. 254-05, which intends to amend the Pohnpei Foreign Investor's Permit Act of 1986

(S.L. No. 1L-85-86), Gov. David said, "Some restraint should be enforced to sort out the negative foreign investment trends and at the same time boost our own capacity in the economic development." He noted that, "the conditions are quickly changing in Pohnpei and therefore... [regulations] need... continuous legal review and transformation." We need to "indicate up front where the restrictions are in foreign investment." "The idea is to prevent uncertainty. Investors generally appreciate it when they know their chances early on in the pro-

Continued on Page 5

PICS Debate Team Talks Their Way to the Top



Photo by Jessica Chapman

Pohnpei Island Central School (PICS) students debate the issue of dual citizenship with Madolenihmw High School students during the Pohnpei State Annual Debate on May 16. The PICS team won the event – receiving the most points overall of the four competing teams - and will advance to compete in FSM National Law Day July 11-12. Calvary Christian Academy won an earlier debate with the Seventh Day Adventist School. U.S. Ambassador Suzanne Hale moderated the event.

Pohnpei Student is First FSM Citizen to be Appointed to the US Naval Academy

United States Embassy

Byron Silbanuz, who graduated on May 21st of this year from Pohnpei Adventist School, has been selected for an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Byron is the oldest son of Bernard Mendis, Information System Manager for FSM Telecommunications Corporation, and Phyllis Silbanuz, IT Division Chairperson and Assistant Professor at the COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus.



Photo By Bill Jaynes

Ambassador Suzanne Hale presents the certificate of appointment to Byron Silbanuz

An outstanding scholar and student athlete, Silbanuz was nominated for consideration for this appointment by the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, with the approval of the U. S. Embassy. Twenty nations nominated 77 applicants for consideration for appointments to the institution; only 14 were selected. Silbanuz plans to study Aeronautical Engineering at the Naval Academy.

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NEWS

COM gets good news from accreditation team

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

The College of Micronesia (COM) received positive reviews during a recent visit by an accreditation team. Here to perform a progress visit, the three-member team focused on six major recommendations issued in 2004 to the six-site college system.

"The team recognized through the evidence it saw that you have made significant progress," said Dr. Marie Smith, the team's chair and a vice chancellor of the Los Rios Community College District in California.

Of particular note, the team applauded the swift progress on construction of new instructional facilities – a total of seven structures – in Chuuk. "You have truly made that site not only habitable but remarkably fine," said Smith.

COM, due in large part to the substandard condition of the Chuuk campus, was on warning status from 2004 - 2005.

Team member Floyd Takeuchi, who also sits on the 19-member accrediting commission, spent several days evaluating progress on the Chuuk campus prior to arriving in Pohnpei.

In a public statement on COM's website, college President Spensin James expressed gratitude to the college community for its efforts to prepare for the visit. Without accreditation, the college would lose, among other things, access to student financial aid sources.

COM is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) which is part of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior

Colleges. The WASC region also includes California, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Palau and the Marshall Islands.

The commission is responsible for accrediting public and private institutions that offer associates degrees within its jurisdiction. Colleges are subject to a full, comprehensive review by a 12-member team every six years.

While recognizing the difficulties of coordinating across six geographically-dispersed locations, the team encouraged further development of communication policy across campuses. The team also identified other ongoing goals for the college, including self-evaluation, integration of plans and training on student assessment

strategy.

Smith also commented on the need to secure the Chuuk campus on a permanent site. The campus currently leases its land.

"Overall we believe you have made significant progress in these recommendations and you should be proud of these accomplishments," Smith said.

The three-member team visited Pohnpei during the last week of April. It will present its findings in a report to the full commission in its June meeting.

Former COM President Susan Moses also serves on the accrediting commission.

COM annually enrolls approximately 1,800 students.

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FSM issues stamp honoring Petrus Tun

FSM Philatelic

A new stamp has been issued by the Federated States of Micronesia Philatelic Bureau in commemoration of the late Petrus Tun, the nation's First Vice President.

The 39-cent stamp featuring a black and white photo of the late Vice President was unveiled on April 20 at a ceremony held at the Yap State Legislature Chambers. Officials from Yap State, the National Government and the local community witnessed the launching of the

stamp.

Postmaster General, Bethwel Henry described the late Tun, as "truly one of the greatest leaders of our time" who contributed tremendously to FSM's political and educational development.

Petrus Tun held various leadership positions in Yap State Government including the position of Governor but he is perhaps best known throughout Micronesia as the nation's first Vice President.

He passed away in 1999 and left a lasting legacy as one of the "founding fathers" of the fledgling nation, The Federated States of Micronesia.

Pohnpeian Accepted at Oak Ridge National Laboratory

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei native Rachel Dyer has been accepted to a research program for the fall semester with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, Tenn. ORNL is a science and technology research laboratory affiliated with the U.S. Department of Energy. Dyer, who was born in Pohnpei and lived here until age 2, is the daughter of Mersihda – formerly of Pohnpei - and Thomas Dyer of Mt.



Pleasant, Iowa. She is pursuing a chemistry and biology major with a concentration in bio-molecular science at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. She plans to pursue a career in medicine. Dyer is the niece of FSM Secretary of Justice Marstella Jack.

Bush requests axe for TRIO programs

By **Heinrich Palik**
The Kaselehlie Press

After a significant amount of testimony from participants, parents, school administrators and alumni of the approximately 2,700 TRIO programs across the United States and its territories, President George W. Bush proposed the elimination of the \$836.5 million currently spent on TRIO programs as part of his 2006-07 budget package

TRIO programs were established by the Educational Reauthorization Act of 1965 to benefit students who are underprivileged, and whose family histories include few of those who have achieved

under-graduate or higher degrees.

The programs celebrated their 40th anniversary in 2005. Since their inception they have received bi-partisan support from both US legislative chambers.

The FSM has TRIO Upward Bound (UB) programs in each of the four states, one Educational Talent Search Program (TSP) in Pohnpei and the Student Support Service (SSSP) at the National Campus of the College of Micronesia. The programs serve thousands of students annually. Approximately 95% of those student completed the programs and qualified for college.

The programs have strived to

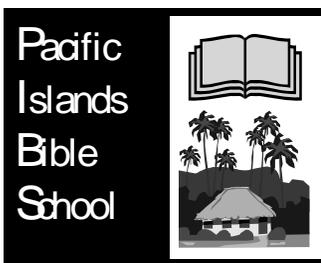
improve the educational standards of the nation by providing educational assistance. That assistance is provided during non-class times for interested and qualified students. Participants are not charged fees, but must have demonstrated the potential and desire to complete their education.

Senator Edward Kennedy introduced a bill to counter the President's proposal. The bill was defeated by a narrow margin with Vice President Cheney casting the deciding vote against Kennedy's bill.

U.S. Republicans have a budget proposal that includes TRIO funding that the Council for Op-

portunity in Education (COE), an organization that lobbies on behalf of the TRIO programs, believes that the U.S. Congress will restore funding by the end of June. Their funding package includes a \$100 million increase for the program.

If you have questions about any of the TRIO funded programs in your state you may contact the following TRIO personnel. Upward Bound (UB) Yap, Director Teresa Fillipe; UB Chuuk, Director Deliver Salle; UB Pohnpei, Director Churchill Edward; UB Kosrae, Director Morgan Jonas; SSSP National Campus, Director Morehna Santos, and TSP Pohnpei- Director Heinrich Palik.



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NEWS

US to spend \$10 billion moving Marines from Okinawa to Guam

Marianas Variety

The U.S. will use part of the \$10 billion price tag for the relocation of 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to build up the island's infrastructure.

This has been confirmed by Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo, who has met with senior U.S. officials instrumental in hammering out the cost sharing agreement with Japan on the relocation of the Marines to Guam.

"I can confirm that part of the development to support the Marine movement will be an investment in Guam's infrastructure outside the bases, such as improving highways. There will also be a significant expansion of utility capacity on-base that will be available for off-base needs as well," the congresswoman said.

Ms Bordallo met last week with U.S. Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Asia Pacific affairs

Richard Lawless, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations and Environment Phil Grone, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan J. Thomas Schieffer.

"I expressed to these senior leaders my appreciation for their hard work and perseverance in getting this difficult but important agreement done. We can now turn our attention from negotiations to the preparations and processes to prepare Guam to welcome home 8,000 U.S. Marines," Bordallo said.

During the meeting, Bordallo was briefed on the basics of the agreement including how the US\$10.27 billion will be spent on Guam necessary to host the Marines is likely to be apportioned.

The structure for on-base and off-base spending was also discussed, including the nature of Japanese grants and loans totalling US\$6.09 billion along with U.S. commitments totalling US \$4.18

billion.

Although no details were disclosed, Bordallo said the Guam projects will range from on-base utilities, to housing, barracks, and highway modifications.

She added that a significant portion of the projects will be military construction projects requir-

ing congressional authorization.

The congresswoman had already raised the issue of off-base infrastructure in previous discussions with Lawless and in a letter to the U.S. negotiating team, with Bordallo pressing for added utility capacities off-base.

Memorial Day in Pohnpei

US EMBASSY RESIDENCE - Speakers at the Memorial Day

observation included DCM Stephan Druzak, Senator Robert Nakasone, and Ambassador Suzanne Hale. Ambassador Hale said that beginning this year the wreaths placed during the ceremony will go to the families of veterans whodied the year before. This year the wreaths were presented to the family of Gene Ashby.



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PACIFIC JUDICIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME SERVICE PROVIDER

The Pacific Judicial Development Programme (PJDP) is a 5-year regional law and justice programme jointly funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAIID). The PJDP will support participating Pacific judiciaries to strengthen the rule of law and governance through enhancing the professional competence of their judicial officers and court officers, and the processes and systems that they use. The Programme's annual funding will be approximately A\$2 million. NZAIID is seeking a Service Provider to be responsible for the provision of administrative support to assist in the delivery of the Programme and for tendering, contracting, and deploying necessary technical assistance to deliver services. The Programme will be overseen by a governing body, known as the Programme Executive Committee (PEC), consisting of three Chief Justices, two representatives of lower levels of the judiciaries, and a representative each from AusAID and NZAIID. A Programme Director will be responsible for coordinating and managing the Programme and for overseeing the Service Provider. NZAIID is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably experienced contractors. This is not an employment opportunity. A full Terms of Reference and details on how to submit your Expression of Interest can be obtained from the NZAIID website www.nzaid.govt.nz/contracts/current-tenders.html The closing date for Expressions of Interest is **12 noon, Wednesday 14 June 2006**. For further information please contact Kirstin Price, Contracts Advisor by email kirstin.price@nzaid.govt.nz.



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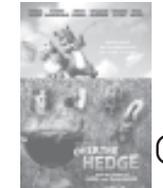
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Bill Could Limit Business Ownership

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“there is no foreign investment permit involved because the Pohnpeiian citizen doesn’t need one, and the foreign citizen claims not to be engaging in business.

L.B. 254-05 also raises the foreign investment application fee from \$25 to \$250 and it proposes striking from current law provisions pertaining to encouragement of foreign investment in the state’s economy.

The motivation for the legislation, according to the report, is “a more restricted economic area in which foreign investment could occur, and a higher threshold of investment before foreign investment could occur.”

“Oral and written testimony has revealed a lot of dissatisfaction with the present law and implementation thereof,” it says.

The potential effect of such legislation on the Pohnpei business community is unclear. “Investors may generally not like the idea, but procedurally we agree with the approach,” said Foreign Investment Board (FIB) Executive Director Quirino Loyola.

“We want the transparency to be in there,” he said.

Loyola acknowledged the distinct departure the legislation proposes but refrained from making any firm judgment of the provisions.

“In absence of more scientific exploration, it would be unfair to decide,” he said.

He does report, however, a significant plummet in approved foreign investment permits to 50 percent for FY05 down from a customary 80 percent or so in previous years suggesting the shifting sentiment of the local business community.

“At the end of the day it’s the consumers that are going to be affected,” he said.

Office of Economic Affairs Secretary Kikuo Apis who provided testimony to the committee, deferred questions to the FIB, say-

ing the two offices share the same views.

Foreign investment permit applications are approved or denied by the FIB, composed of five members appointed by the governor. The board, chaired by Kolonia Town Mayor Mike Peterson, meets approximately twice a month to consider applications and other matters. The other four members are Nelson Arnold, Akilina Soram, Albert Falcam and Ronald Etscheit.

The bill was introduced via the

Committee on Resources and Development, chaired by Senator Sailas Henry. Senator Henry was unavailable for comment.

Among measures adopted during the 10-day session were bills prohibiting the governor and lieutenant governor from being off island at the same time, provision for a litter control program and several other budgetary matters.

The session currently underway is approximately two-thirds of the way through its 60-day schedule.

Governor Urges Caution in Restricting Investments

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cess,” the Governor stressed. “They may not agree with the restrictions, but at least they will not have to waste valuable time and resources applying for an investment that has no chance at all and instead move on elsewhere. We, too, will no longer waste our meager resources on something that will not cause any beneficial return.”

The Governor agreed with the proposal to separate regulation of foreign investments from business and economic promotions and stressed the “need to focus more on the permit after-care duty so

businesses can prevail in the market after the permit and even expand as time goes on, to worth our efforts and resources.”

Most important[ly], Gov. David said, “We do not want to unduly disrupt present flows and progress in development.”

While he acknowledged the benefits to Pohnpei brought by foreign investments, such as direct capital, jobs and consumer protection, Gov. David stressed that, for businessmen, the major motivation for investing money is the profit motivation. “Without the opportunity

[that] profit is going to be made, even the most dependable profitable service will not stay in the market just to ensure our livelihood like a charity or faith-driven function would,” he stressed.

The Governor said there was nothing wrong with “preventing foreign investment where there is enough confidence in our own firms” but cautioned against putting “[on] the lid because of the competitive nature foreigners tend to bring in[to] the market.”

‘Midshipman’

Silbanuz

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Byron Silbanuz is only the second FSM citizen to be accepted by one of the United States Service Academies. The first was Okean Ehmes, who attended the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

FSM Citizens interested in applying for admission to one of the five U.S. Service Academies can contact the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs or the U.S. Embassy for additional information.



Pictured at the Botanical Garden a group from Japan takes a break from touring Pohnpei. They are the “WA no KAI” (peace group), a group of sketch artists led by their teacher Mr. Waki Takata. Mr. Takata teaches 100 artists at the Setagaya Museum in Tokyo, Japan. The group toured Pohnpei with Mr. Fujita san of Pohnpei Ocean Cruise stopping at scenic locations including Nan Madol, Kepirohi Falls, and Nahlap Island Resort to relax and to sketch. Mr. Takata will return with another group of student artists next year.

Squatters on Government Land Include Officials

Pohnpei State Information Services

Pohnpei State is currently experiencing difficulty in evicting squatters from land reserved for government use because a number of the trespassers are themselves government officials.

This was the gist of a May 3 letter from Gov. Johnny P. David to 6th Pohnpei Legislature Speaker Nelson N. Pelep to update him on the work of the Task Force set up to negotiate with squatters on public land trust reserved for the Education and Public Health Departments.

The Governor admitted that the Task Force "did experience great difficulty in trying to negotiate the removal of the squatters on a mutually agreed upon basis," particularly with those who pointed out that, "inasmuch as they know for sure that certain government leaders and their families are also squatters or trespassers on government reserved public trust lands, they rightfully argue that the application of the law should be equal upon all persons, govern-

ment leaders and ordinary people alike."

These people, he said, have taken the position that "so long as those government leaders are occupying, benefiting or making their livelihood on government reserved public trust lands, they should also be given the same privilege."

There were also squatters, said the Governor, who claimed "they were given some kind of authority by certain officers of Government who are no longer with the government and are hard to trace."

Gov. David said the Task Force reported the following current or former "government leaders who may be classified as squatters or trespassers on government reserved public trust lands":

1) Mr. Feliciano Perman of Sokehs on Parcel No. 024-A-202, Plat No. 025-A-21, Nanpohnmal, Nett. The parcel was designated for Civil Defense. Mr. Perman allegedly purchased a house from Silverino Damarlane and is residing on the land that government

approved.

2) Mr. Peter Lohn – Parcel No. 025-A-194, Plat No. 025-A-21, Nanpohnmal, Sokehs. The parcel was revised with a subdivision. Mr. Lohn and his family allegedly had constructed homes, farmed the land and are conducting business on this parcel. Mr. Lohn has proposed to the Board to exchange his Navy lease for the area.

3) Mrs. Magdalena Walter and family – Parcel No. 025-A-19, Plat No. 025-A-01, Dolonier, Nett. The parcel is designated for the Department of Education for high school. Mrs. Walter and family constructed residential home and cemetery on the land.

4) Mrs. Nancy Solomon (former member of the Legislature) – Parcel No. 031-B-08, Plat No. 031-B-01, Kepira, Sokehs. The parcel is designated for Nanmal Palikir Elementary School. Mrs. Salomon had constructed a home on this parcel and an access road to her home.

5) Mr. Desiwo Liwi (former member of the Legislature) – Parcel No. 025-A-194, Plat No. 025-A-21, Nanpohnmal, Sokehs. The area was proposed as road easement staked out by the state sur-

veyors. The family constructed dwelling homes on the parcel.

6) Mr. Quirino Mendiola – Parcel No. 028-A-12, Plat No. 028-A-01, Kahmar, Nett. The parcel was designated for Head Start School bus pool for summers. His apartment building is encroached on the parcel.

7) Mr. Valerio Hallens (former member of the Legislature) – Parcel No. 025-A-214, Plat No. 025-A-25, Nanpohnmal, Nett. The parcel was designated for Government Housing. He moved into one of the government apartments and stayed there till today while he subleased his own apartments in Nett.

While the Governor said the Task Force would continue to negotiate with the squatters, he stressed that, "it will be helpful that we, government leaders like those listed above, show the good example by removing ourselves first from those portions of the government reserved public trust lands so that the work can become easier for our Task Force to remove or evict those ordinary people/families who had been identified as squatters/trespassers on government reserved public trust lands."

Japan Kicks Up Aid Plans for Pacific

TOKYO (Pacnews) — Japan will boost development aid to Pacific Island nations by about a quarter to Y40 billion (US\$354 million) over the next three years, *The Australian* reports.

The additional spending will be the centrepiece of a "very forceful package of assistance" to be announced on Saturday (27 May) by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at a Japan-Pacific Islands leaders summit on Okinawa.

The aid boost follows China's offer last month of a 3 billion yuan (US\$374 million) cheap loans package. This was Beijing's first foray into region-wide development aid in the Pacific.

China's package has been widely viewed as intensifying its competition for influence in the Pacific, particularly against Taiwan, which has been controversially involved in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

China has forcefully contested Japan's "soft power" in East Asia and there is concern in Tokyo that

Beijing is now extending the contest to the South Pacific. However, a senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs official yesterday denied that Japan's new package was intended to counter the spread of China's influence.

"We very much welcome China playing an active and responsible role," said Hideki Asari, director of the ministry's Oceania division.

"We very much expect their involvement would be conducive to governance, democracy, transparency and well-being of Pacific countries."

Mr Asari said China's role in the Pacific region had been discussed at the March trilateral dialogue in Sydney between Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, Japan's Foreign Minister, Taro Aso, and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Mr Downer will represent Australia at the Okinawa meeting. The new Pacific assistance package will supersede the "Okinawa initiative" adopted in 2003 at the last

Japan-Pacific Islands summit.

Japan has outlaid about Y32 billion (US\$283 million) under that plan. Mr Asari declined to confirm the size of the new package, understood to entail about Y40 billion spending over the next three years, mainly in the form of grants and technical assistance.

However, he said Mr Koizumi would present "a very forceful package" that demonstrated Japanese commitment to developing a robust and prosperous Pacific region.

Though a major aid donor to the region, Japan currently spends less than 1 per cent of its official development assistance budget - Y786 billion (US\$6.9 billion) last year - on the mainly small and severely aid-dependent Pacific Island Forum countries.

They include Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, the Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Palau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Nauru, the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa and the Marshall Islands....

URUSEMAL VETOES STILL IN QUESTION

by Jessica Chapman
The Kaselehlie Press

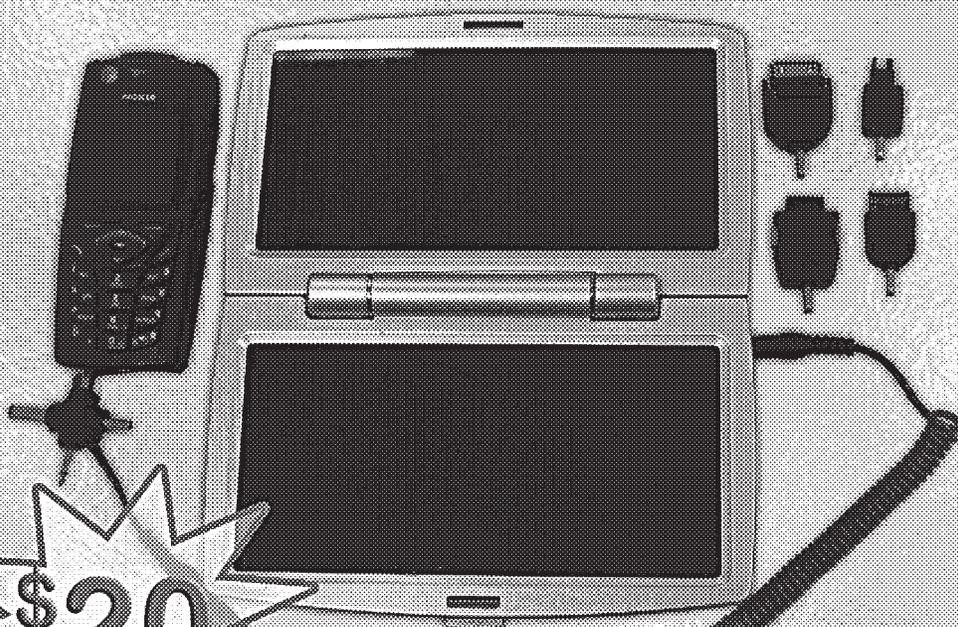
As *The Kaselehlie Press* went to press, a court date had not yet been set regarding the case filed in April by the FSM Congress contesting the validity of presidential vetoes issued after February's special session in Kosrae. At issue is the definition of a day.

The FSM Department of Justice - representing President Urusemal - filed a motion to dismiss the suit this month to which Congress filed an opposition as well as a motion for judgment with the FSM Supreme Court.

Urusemal vetoed six of the eight measures - among them an election law overhaul - passed during the special session, alleging violation of a constitutional provision

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News



Nearly 60 COM-FSM students belted out jazz standards such as "I'm Just a Lucky So-and-So," "Mack the Knife" and "Killing Me Softly With His Song" during a "Songs of Love & Murder" concert Wednesday, May 3 at the COM national campus in Palikir. COM music instructor Daniel Meyer accompanied the choir on keyboard.

Vetoes Still in Question

Continued from page 6

requiring first and second readings of proposed measures take place on separate days.

In communiqués notifying Congress of his vetoes, the president states his support for the intent of the bills and in each case affirms the "hope that this defect can be remedied in the next session."

"I hope that the veto of this leg-

islation does not erode the good will built that week," he concluded in each veto, "but that we continue to work together in upholding our Constitution."

Due to the pending legal issues, the measures were not reintroduced during the recently completed legislative sessions.

The president has 30 days from his receipt of a bill to sign or veto

it. However, according to congress According to the filing, Congress convened on Thursday, March 2, the fourth of its five-day duration, for only an hour before recessing to participate in recreational events organized by Utwe Municipality for the remainder of the day.

Congress continued on the morning of March 3 with the previous day's business, the filing states, within 24 hours of the March 2 adjournment. The body then proceeded to adjourn and reconvene for its final day of business. While the president contends as unconstitutional the measures Congress subsequently passed, Congress argues that March 3 may legally be considered two separate days.

It is unusual, Dang remarked, for the president to veto on legal grounds rather than policy grounds. He said he believes this is the first case of its kind in the country.

As a result, he said, the veto override option customarily avail-

able to Congress would be difficult to execute. Legislation passed into law - despite dispute over its legality - could make the laws vulnerable to lawsuits and risk public trust he said.

"We need some guidance from the court as to how to proceed," he said.

"They do what they have to do and we sit and wait," said National Election Commissioner Seberiano Barnabas.

The Kosrae special session met from Feb. 27 - March 3.

In related matters, Congress convened for a five-day special session May 4. The subsequent regular session concluded May 19.

Among measures adopted and forwarded to Urusemal for his review were bills regarding insurance regulation, approval of \$2.1 million in appropriations to the states for public projects and a resolution requesting a recall of FSM Ambassador to the United States, Jesse B. Marehalau.

Yap students Legdesog, Tharngan awarded

Gates Millenium Scholarship

Yap Department of Education

The WED Scholarship Office at Yap State R&D (in collaboration with the Yap State Department of Education) is pleased to announce the awarding of the Gates Millennium Scholarship to SDA Senior Chandra Legdesog and YHS Senior Julian Tharngan.

The GMS is a merit-based post-secondary scholarship emblematic of demonstrated academic excellence and expressed potential of the applicants to impact their respective communities in a socially responsible manner. Julian and Chandra represent the second batch of GMS scholars from Yap following 2005-06 GMS awardee Erica Falmngar, currently a freshman at the University of Guam.

The significance of the GMS awarding is indisputable and appreciably raises the profile of our State's secondary school students on a national and international level. The recognition of our local scholars by renowned programs such as the Gates Foundation, while being long overdue, should serve as an incentive for the entire state to redouble its efforts in terms of the provision of enhanced counseling, educational and workforce development opportunities to our potential-laden youth.

The importance of the GMS in terms of the future prospects of

these two outstanding students - and indeed the future of Yap State - cannot be overstated. A GMS award enables the academic and career aspirations of our students to come to fruition. As Yap strives for economic sustainability and a clearly defined political identity, students such as Julian and Chandra will be at the forefront occupying leadership roles. The insight and perspective these two will gain as students at Chaminade University will allow them to sig-

nificantly contribute to the elevation of the general welfare of the Yapese people. The GMS serves as an oasis of hope for our island's students who now dare to dream...to aspire... to pursue off-island post-secondary education in quality schools (with the real hope that there is indeed a possibility of them actually receiving a scholarship the magnitude of the GMS).

With Chandra and Julian being awarded this year, this genera-

tion of Yapese students now have role models to whom they can aspire to emulate. In fact, the 2005-06 and 06-07 GMS awards represent a watershed in terms of post-secondary career and college prep in Yap. More and more of our students are beginning to formulate their college plans as early as elementary school (which is quite unprecedented) and are beginning to explore the world of opportunity now being revealed to them. The Scholarship office encourages all of our State's students to begin planning for college early by joining our College Prep/Gates Scholarship Club wherein career counseling and financial aid options will be delved into. Please contact Scholarship Coordinator/Counselor Keith Sieg or DOE Counselor Clara Giltineg for more information!

Special thanks to the Gates Foundation, whose awarding of the GMS is an inspiration for our island and shows our students that anything is possible! This year, the Scholarship office assisted in the completion and subsequent submission of 18 GMS applications (22-page applications inclusive of nominee, nominator and recommender components). The competition for the GMS scholarships is also the start of a process -the culmination of which will result in greater equity of opportunity, industry and effort. Applications for 2007-08 awarding will be available this upcoming October.

Suicide awareness training held in Kosrae



More than 30 people attended a recent two-day training in Kosrae regarding youth suicide in the FSM. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the FSM Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs and the FSM National Youth Council and included support from the FSM Substance Abuse and Mental Health program. The training was called "A New Path: Participatory Problem Solving for Youth Suicide Prevention."

Photo courtesy of

NEWS

David concerned with inactivity on airport project

Pohnpei State Information Services

Pohnpei Gov. Johnny P. David has relayed his "grave concern" over inaction by the government of the Federated State of Micronesia that threatens to jeopardize completion of repairs to the Pohnpei International Airport.

In a May 3 letter to FSM Pres. Joseph J. Urusemal, Gov. David said his apprehensions about the national government's apparent lack of concern over the vital airport project were confirmed by

visiting officials of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) who "informed Pohnpei Port Authority that they have tried to bring their serious concerns to the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure on the matter, but were not able to do so due to the unavailability of the responsible official(s)."

He said the FAA officials wanted to warn the national government about the potential loss of Airport Improvement Program funds unless substantial progress

was made on the project. "The officials expected to see movements on the so-called 'quick-fix' to the runway and other projects, but there has been lack of action," Gov. David pointed out. "This is compounded by the lack of attention by the FSM National Government given to the project during the officials' visit." Worse, he added, "The officials indicated that the FAA offered to provide funding for needed personnel for the project if that is the problem, but there has been no progress in

this regard."

"I would like to sincerely request that all of us place the project to its top priority status and make a concerted effort to salvage it and bring it to where it should be," Gov. David asked Pres. Urusemal. He also proposed that "our two governments work together diligently in a concerted effort to complete our parts as soon as possible."



Employment Offers *Office Manager and Secretary/Receptionist*

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is an international body established by a Convention the objective of which is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean. WCPFC's secretariat is based in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia and is an equal opportunity employer. The WCPFC's website is at www.wcpfc.org.

Office Manager

WPCF is seeking to engage a multi-skilled administrator with a very good record of performance at a senior level and wide experience, preferably in the FSM, and gained through exposure to the public and private sectors in an international operating environment. The applicants should have good technical skills in relation to a range of functions including: finance; personnel/human resource management; procurement; asset management; office and property management services; staff travel support; meeting support and information management/record keeping. The criteria used to assess applications will include:

*The need for an excellent set of communication and interpersonal skills;

*A high level of relevant skills and wide experience in relation to the required range of functions;

*An emphasis will be placed on the ability to provide high-level support with limited supervision. There will be a particular focus on the aspects of transparency; value for money procurement of services and goods; appropriate information management; assistance with a range of meeting arrangements; attending to member country needs; and a responsive (general) office and property management services;

*An ability to work effectively with a small to medium size multi-disciplinary and multi-national team;

*A track record of initiative, timeliness in the completion of assigned tasks, and regular, punctual attendance;

Applicants should state their relevant qualifications. Tertiary level achievements will be expected. The names of at least two people who can provide references should be provided. The conditions of employment offered include a salary in the range of USD21,000-35,000 pa, annual leave, sick leave, and assistance with NPF obligations. It is expected that the successful candidate would start on the first level of the salary range. The successful candidate would be asked to commence as soon as practicable. Applications close on 9 June 2006.

Detailed applications that address the job requirements and criteria should be sent to the Finance & Administration Officer, WCPFC, Box 2356, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM, 96941 or by email to wcpfc@mail.fm.

Secretary/Receptionist

WCPFC is seeking to engage a skilled and experienced secretary/receptionist with a very good record of performance. The applicants should have highly developed communications skills, a good ability to filter and direct incoming calls and visitors, an excellent working knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite of applications as well as the operation of the range of office machines used by the secretariat. An ability to arrange cost effective travel itineraries and to liaise well with airlines, diplomatic embassies, National and State government agencies would be highly regarded. The criteria used to assess applications will include:

*An excellent set of communication and interpersonal skills;

*An ability to demonstrate relevant skills and experience in relation to the required range of functions;

*An ability to work effectively with a small to medium size multi-disciplinary and multi-national team;

*An track record of initiative, timeliness, and regular punctual attendance.

Applicants should state their relevant qualifications and the names of at least two people who can provide references should be provided. The conditions of employment offered include a salary in the range of USD6,698-13,832 pa, annual leave, sick leave, and assistance with NPF obligations. It is expected that the successful candidate would start on the first level of the salary range. The successful candidate would be asked to commence as soon as practicable. Applications close on 9 June 2006. Detailed applications addressing the job requirements and criteria should be sent to the Finance & Administration Officer, WCPFC, Box 2356, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM 96941 or by email to wcpfc@mail.fm. Inquiries about both positions may be made to Ken Smithson at kens@mail.fm or (691) 320-1992.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Goods need
quality control**

Dear Editor,

Reading the article "Reasonable business practice or 'hook or crook' cheating" in your letter to the editor section of your April 17, 2006 issue reminded me of something which happened to me just last night. It certainly was not like the hook or crook cheating mentioned in that article, but something I consider more serious than exchanging a candy or two in the "assumed" absence of a penny or two by taking advantage of the customer's goodwill. I bought a can of Diet Pepsi at a store in my village. That is kousapw Mwalok, in the municipality of Sokehs. I did not open it until I sat down for dinner at home. And it tasted so very bad I poured the whole can down the drain of my kitchen sink. I started turning the can

around to see if it had an expiration date on it. Sure enough, the date April 12, 2005 was on the bottom of the can. This can of Diet Pepsi had expired 378 days ago.

I do not know if there is a law against selling expired goods. If there is, some people are neglecting duties for which they are being paid. If there isn't such a law, businesses should at least have the courtesy of informing customers of expired goods. Palm Terrace does it all the time, and often at reduced prices. I guess the bottom line is with us customers. If we stop buying expired goods, at least not at their original prices, businesses will stop putting them up on the shelves.

Herson Anson

Letters to the Editor are not researched in the same manner as articles. They are simply 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

KP-Perspective**Turn and face the
strange...changes**

Everything changes and the Kaselehlie Press is no exception. Tom Burkindine has gone to pursue a Master's Degree and the K-Press has a new managing editor. Tom will be missed and we appreciate what he has tried to do during his time with us. His leaving comes at a time when newspapers throughout Micronesia are closing at an unprecedented rate. In the last few months we have several newspapers in Micronesia and it's quite sad really.

It's no great secret that newspapers and other media are difficult to support in places where the population is small. In most cases media operations in small markets are labors of love. The Kaselehlie Press is a non-profit newspaper. It exists solely to distribute factual information to the people of Pohnpei, and to Pohnpeians living elsewhere. The K-Press strives to be current, factual, and as much as is possible, entertaining.

The cover price of one dollar does not pay the printing cost, much less the other expenses that are so vital to operations; expenses like rent, utilities, and salaries. We rely on advertisers in addition to circulation income to cover the expenses of your paper and we rely on timely payments by our customers to meet printing deadlines and to cover our costs.

Unfortunately, at this time there is a huge backlog of receivables that date all the way back to 2002. Please, if you have a bill with the K-Press we would ask that you take care of this as soon as possible so that we can continue operation for the people of Pohnpei. We appreciate those of you who are owed money by the K-Press and the patience you have shown as we try to gather income in order to pay our debts. We're almost there.

The K-Press will continue to strive to be on the cutting edge with stories that are important to you, and timely. We have a very small though excellent staff. You can help by calling, writing, or just stopping by the K-Press office with leads on stories that you want to hear about. We can't be everywhere and know everything, and we can't print anything if the facts don't stack up. We will, however, commit to properly investigate the facts, get the quotes right, check our grammar and spelling, be unbiased, and get the news to you as fast and as accurately as we possibly can.

Enjoy the Kaselehlie Press. It's yours!

Most respectfully,
Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

Enterprises

Ramen
15¢ pack
\$3.60 case

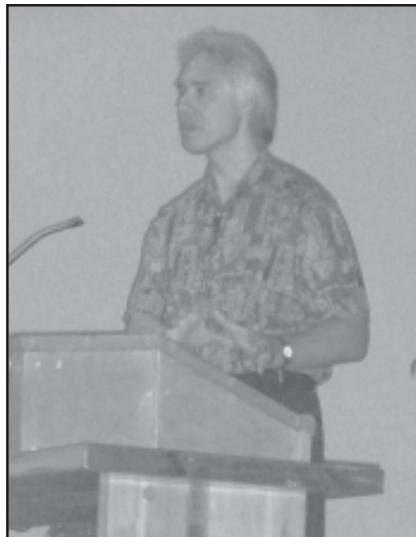
Pancake
Mix
99¢

Small
Towels
88¢

Cohen, “Think Beyond the Com- pact”

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) Chairman and Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Cohen met with Pohnpei residents May 25 for a question and answer session at Pacific Missionary Fellowship church. Attendees inquired about, amongst other things, the differences between Compact I and II and JEMCO's management style. During the exchange, Cohen stressed the importance of thinking beyond the Compact. "It's not good to have so much public revenue allocated by a committee like this," he said. He advised using Compact funds to assist the private sector. "It's important that local revenue increase



substantially," he said. Cohen also said he was pleased to note that Pohnpei State had submitted its single audit clean and on time. Cohen also met with national and state government officials during his brief visit. "I think everyone should be proud of how the FSM has developed a strong, stable democracy," he said. JEMCO oversees the country's Compact funding, distributing over \$79 million to the FSM each year. The amended Compact will last until 2023.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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 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 11:30-12:30 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.

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There was a young girl of Bavaria
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But the family doc
remarked to her shock,

"It is more in the mercurial area."

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HEALTH NOTES

Smokeless charcoal friendly to environment

By Amy Levendusky
Island Food Community

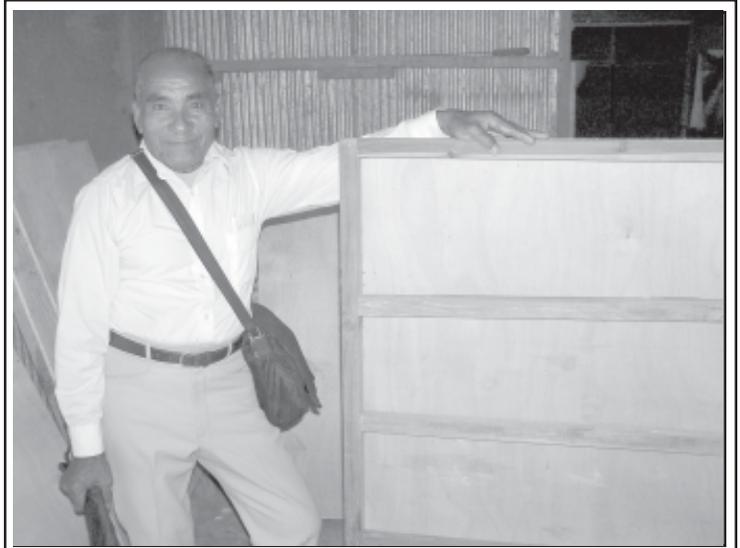
On April 27, 2006, Seis Solomon of Mand displayed his craftsmanship to the Mand community when he presented a smokeless charcoal oven that he built himself. Seis built the first charcoal oven as part of Phase II of the project entitled, "Pohnpeian Traditional Food for Health", sponsored by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei.

A total of 30 charcoal ovens will be built over the next year and a half in order to help Mand community members with the appropriate cooking technology to make cooking local foods easier and more convenient. Baking local foods in this oven also provides a healthy cooking option as opposed to the more common way of cooking, frying. These ovens will be good for the environment, decreasing emissions of open fires to the air. The wood used in these ovens will burn

more efficiently, thus it is likely that in the long run less trees will be needed for firewood.

It is hoped that the input of the charcoal ovens into the Mand community will ultimately increase the consumption of locally grown foods and decrease reliance on imported foods. Baseline data from Phase I of the Mand Project indicated that only 27% of the energy consumed by a random sample of the Mand community was from local foods (the rest from imported). It is also hoped that there will be an improved quality of life related to the convenience and smokeless nature of the charcoal ovens.

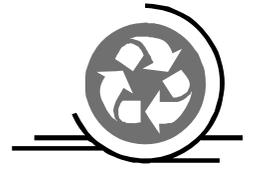
IFCP extends its appreciation to the New Zealand Government for funding this first oven and to the Global Environment Fund Small Grants Program for assisting in initiating this project. IFCP thanks the Mand community and our col-



Seis Solomon stands with the smokeless charcoal oven he built in Mand, Madolenihmw.

laborating partners and support agencies, including the Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, COM/FSM Land Grant, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Centre of Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment

(CINE), Pacific German Regional Forestry Project (PGRFP) and Sight and Life.



Locally grown foods used in new recipes

By AMY LEVENDUSKY
Island Food Community

On Thursday, April 27, 2006, members of the Mand Community Working Group met to discuss the progress of the on-going project titled, "Pohnpeian Traditional Food For Health", sponsored by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei. This project is focusing on promoting the production and

consumption of local foods in Mand. In order to help increase the production of local foods, training is given on the health values of local food, planting materials are distributed to interested community members, and instructions on planting are given. Trainings on healthy and delicious cooking using locally grown foods are also offered to interested com-

munity members to help increase their consumption of local foods on a daily basis.

A new recipe of fish soup mixed with green papaya was prepared by Maria Edward (see recipe box below). She used fresh tuna mixed with locally grown papaya and local spinach. Maria learned this recipe as a result of her participation in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) training provided by the College of Micronesia-FSM Cooperative Extension Service during March 2006. The training course focused on developing home gardens and

how to use locally grown vegetables and other local foods in new, innovative and healthy recipes.

The IFCP thanks the Mand community and our collaborating partners and support agencies, including the Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs, Departments of Health and Education, Department of Land and Natural Resources, COM/FSM Land Grant, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Centre of Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE), New Zealand Embassy, Pacific German Regional Forestry Project (PGRFP) and Sight and Life.



Maria Edwards and her daughter display her recipe for fish soup with green papaya.

Fish Soup with Green Papaya

Ingredients:

3 cups fish meat, cut into pieces
2 cups green or unripe papaya, grated
1 onion chopped
2 cups any green leafy vegetable, chopped
2 cups water
3 Tablespoons lemon or lime juice (*calamansi*)
pepper to taste

Method:

1. Saute onion with a little oil in a pot.
2. Add fish and stir until fish is almost cooked.
3. Add water and cover pot with a lid. Wait for water to boil.
4. As soon as the water comes to a boil, add green papaya, lime juice, and pepper.
5. Cook until papaya turns red, about 1-2 minutes.
6. Add green leaves, stir in. Serve.

Note: Chaya or tapioca leaves should be cooked for 10 minutes.

GOODWILL

Rotary Club donates ambulance

Rotary Club of Pohnpei

On Wednesday, April 12th, at the Pohnpei State Hospital, a delegation of six Rotarians from the Rotary International District 2750, Tokyo Seijo Shim Rotary Club, presented an ambulance in prime condition and fully equipped to Pohnpei State Government Department of Health Services Director Wincener David.

In attendance at the presentation ceremony were: Members of the Tokyo delegation: Mr. Motomi Tanaami, Mr. Toshio Motohashi, Mr. Tahashi Jinen, Mr. Eigoro Ebashi, Mr. Sapami Ogai and Mr. Hideo Sasakura; Japan Charges d' Affairs, Mr. Toshio Omura; Vida Ricafrente, Asst. District Governor of the R. I. District 2750 Pacific Basin Group (Pohnpei, Chuuk, Palau, Saipan and 4 clubs on Guam); members of the Rotary Club of Pohnpei, FSM: Freddie Ricafrente, Coordinator of the Ambulance Donation Project; Alison W. MacConnell, President;



The Pohnpei Club and the Rotary District International recently donated an ambulance to the Pohnpei State Department of Health.

Loren Peterson, President-Elect; Patti Limeri, Secretary-Elect; Scott Nicloy, Treasurer; Jim Tobin, Club Service, Chairman; Melner Isaac, Community Ser-

vice, Chairman; Steve Finnen, Vocational Service, Chairman; Jessica Chapman, and other government officials and members of the Pohnpei Hospital staff, recipi-

ents of the vehicle.

In addition to the ambulance and equipment, the presenting club also paid for the shipping costs from Japan to Pohnpei and all related fees.

MICSEM awarded grant to take on Youth Suicide in the FSM

Australian Embassy, Pohnpei

Micronesian Seminar recently received a grant for USD\$45,400 to tackle the growing issue of suicide among the youth of the FSM.

The suicide rate in Micronesia (FSM, Marshall Islands and Palau) has been increasing throughout the years - - losing about 45 to 50 people each year. The rate is two to three times higher than that of the current suicide rate in the USA and most of the developed countries in the Western world. The majority of the victims are young, with nearly three fourths between the ages of 15-29 years. Males outnumber females 12 to 1.

According to the Director of MICSEM, Father Francis Hezel, "Many Micronesian leaders say that 'our greatest resource is its young people.' If this is the case, we should do what we can to protect this precious resource."

Because it is believed that the parents are the first line of defense against youth suicide, the project will aim to develop a guidebook for structured conversations on parenting issues. The purpose of the guidebook is to facilitate discussion and reflection on concrete parenting practices.

The project will also aim to train facilitators on the use of the guidebook and on implementing parenting workshops in their communities. In order to reach as many parents as possible,

the project will seek to utilize already existing structures with deep roots into the local communities. These structures include churches, community organizations, Parent-Teacher associations, women's groups, etc.

Furthermore, the project will aim to re-establish a mechanism to collect and store data related to all suicide cases in order to track changes in the cultural patterns of suicide over time, launch a public campaign to deter youths from committing suicide, and most importantly, establish an on-going task force for suicide prevention to sustain the outcomes of this project.

Through the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei, MICSEM submitted their proposal titled, "Protecting Right to Life for the Young: A Program to Counter Suicide in Micronesia", for consideration under AusAID's Human Rights Small Grants

Scheme (HRSGS). Other recently funded HRSGS proposals from the region include the FSM Department of Justice's Juvenile Justice Project, addressing the rights of young people once they enter the justice system; and the Marshall Islands' Women United Together in the Marshall Islands' (WUTMI) "Protection of Women - Enhancing Human Rights (POWEHR)" project.

For more information on AusAID's Human Rights Small Grants Scheme, contact the Australian Embassy at 691-320-5448



The Australian Embassy presents a check for USD\$45,400 to MICSEM under AusAID's Human Rights Small Grants Scheme to address the issue of Youth Suicide in Micronesia. Pictured L to R: Ms. Elsa Veleso, Admin Officer for MICSEM; Australian Ambassador H.E. Corinne Tomkinson; Father Fran Hezel, Director of MICSEM; Ms. Eugenia Samuel, Coordinator for MICSEM.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Dart
- 5. Frighten
- 10. Iridescent stone
- 14. Halo
- 15. Freight vehicle
- 16. Stir up dregs
- 17. Fled in panic
- 19. Nips with the teeth
- 20. Decimal number
- 21. Lyric poems
- 22. Adjust beforehand
- 23. Worry
- 24. Broad smile
- 25. Whalebone
- 28. Opposes
- 32. Leaves out
- 33. Glowed
- 34. Fish eggs
- 35. Not any
- 36. Shut
- 37. Talk
- 38. Wildly
- 39. Before
- 40. Ascend
- 41. Founded
- 43. Deserter
- 44. Bread makers
- 45. Clinging plant

46. No more than

- 49. Conditional release
- 50. Portion of medicine
- 53. Lyricist Gershwin
- 54. Similar
- 55. Fences of stakes
- 56. Gallop
- 57. Ventilated
- 58. Open-hand blow
- 59. Untidy jumble
- 60. Thick
- 61. Cloth Edgings
- DOWN**
- 1. Moving quickly
- 2. Stringed instrument
- 3. Modern Persia
- 4. Scotch cap
- 5. Scandinavian country
- 6. Military student
- 7. Grows older
- 8. Fishing pole
- 9. Type measure
- 10. The east
- 11. Fruit stones
- 12. Toward shelter
- 13. For fear that
- 18. Gazes intently
- 19. Salty water
- 22. Dried plum
- 23. Lavish party
- 24. Web-footed bird
- 25. Dumb mistake
- 26. Love (Ital.)
- 27. Cloth of flax
- 28. Selected
- 29. Rub out
- 30. Wanderer
- 31. Plant kernels
- 33. Slip
- 36. Wading bird
- 37. Lawn tool
- 39. Nimble
- 40. Strips of cover
- 42. Summons forth
- 43. In comparison with
- 45. Burrowing animals
- 46. Coconut tree
- 47. Tropical lily
- 48. Tears
- 49. Mend socks
- 50. Not busy
- 51. Quantity of paper
- 52. Egyptian snakes
- 54. Crusted dessert
- 55. Fire residue
- 57. Sales notice

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Email: rep@mail.fm



THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

Bill Jaynes
MANAGING EDITOR

Tel: (691) 320-6547
Email: kpress@mail.fm

P.O. Box 2222
Pohnpei, FM 96941

To all,

This is to express our sincere appreciation, not only to each and everyone of you that came to our aid during our most difficult time, but also to those who have expressed their love and respect for Gene, both here and abroad. Gene would have been so proud to have known he is loved by so many people. He used to say that people were always kind to him. Our greatest appreciation to all that came to the memorial services to bid Gene a final farewell.

"From the outer edge of paradise," may his memory live on in all of our hearts. Thank you and God bless.

Asako Ashby

Word Search

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically, and diagonally in all eight directions. They're always in a straight line and never skip letters. You may use some of the letter more than once.

SCHOOL REUNIONS Solution: 10 letters

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Anecdotes | Greeting | Names | Stories |
| Bittersweet | Grins | Nostalgia | Tale |
| Bonds | Habit | Occasion | Tears |
| Classes | Handshakes | Pals | Terms |
| Cozy | Hugs | Parties | Time |
| Emotional | Image | Past | Trust |
| Faces | Jokes | Prank | Warmth |
| Fate | Laughs | Questions | Yearbooks |
| Fest | Life | Remembering | |
| Friends | Looks | Smiles | |
| Gladness | Memories | Songs | |



NEWS

State to Strictly Enforce Vehicle Law

Pohnpei State Information Services

Pohnpei Gov. Johnny P. David said the State government will strictly enforce the vehicle law following reports of government officials not exempted from coverage of the statute have nevertheless been taking government vehicles home.

“The Department of Public Safety is enforcing the law for the Pohnpei State Government and they will periodically stop government vehicles, except those specifically exempted by law, on the public roads to check for vehicle permit,” Gov. David informed 6th Pohnpei Legislature Speaker Nelson N. Pelep and Pohnpei State Supreme Court Chief Justice

Juda C. Johnny in separate letters May 2nd.

He also asked the two officials to “please notify all personnel operating government vehicles of this enforcement of the vehicle law” despite what he called “challenges in the enforcement of the subject law” faced by the Executive Branch.

Under the law, only the Governor, Chief Justice, Speaker and Lt. Governor are exempt from bringing their government-assigned vehicles home. However, Gov. David said, “We have received complaints and reports from the public concerning vehicles in other branches.”

He cited reports that the Vice Speaker of the Pohnpei Legislature and Associate Justices of the Pohnpei Supreme Court were taking their assigned vehicles home “like they are exempted by the vehicle law.”

The Governor reminded the Speaker and Chief Justice that, “except for the exempted vehicles, all other government vehicles are required to have a vehicle permit when they are used for government purpose(s) after regular working hours and weekends” and stressed that the vehicle law is “for the entire Pohnpei State Government.”

VA Representative Visits Pohnpei

United States Embassy Kolonia

Mr. Cris Reyes, Office Manager of the Guam Vet Center, visited Pohnpei last week to share information on services and benefits provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). On May 18th, Mr. Reyes met with over 20 local Micronesian and American veterans, answering questions regarding their entitlements and documentation required to initiate benefits. He also assisted those present in registering with the VA for future services.

During his stay, Reyes also met with Vets individually to assist

them with specific claims issues. Veterans who did not meet with Mr. Reyes during his visit can contact him at the Guam Vet Center: Phone (671) 472-7161; Fax (671) 472-7162; Email: cristobal.reyes@va.gov.

Reyes explained that he came to Pohnpei to ensure that both Veterans and their families were fully aware of all available entitlements. He remarked, “I am doing this not only as a job, but primarily because I care about Veterans and what happens to them after they leave the service.”

A three-tour Vietnam era combat veteran, Reyes retired in 1984 after 24 years of service in the United States Army. He specializes in Readjustment Counseling for Veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), but has over 12 years of experience assisting Veterans with a wide variety of benefits and claims.

This was Mr. Reyes’ second trip to Pohnpei: he first visited in 1958 as a Sea Scout.

All Veterans living in Pohnpei are encouraged to contact Mr. Reyes or the U.S. Embassy for assistance in obtaining VA benefits.

TIDE TABLE June 2 – June 15, 2006

| | POHNPEI | | CHUUK | | KOSRAE | |
|-----------|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Thursday | 2 12:07AM 1.7 6:27AM 3.3 1:30PM 1.0 7:58PM 2.6 | 9 1:51AM 3.9 9:08AM 0.7 2:43PM 2.1 7:36PM 1.1 | 2 6:23AM 3.6 2:11PM 1.3 8:30PM 2.2 11:39PM 2.0 | 9 1:32AM 3.9 8:21AM 1.1 1:47PM 2.5 7:15PM 1.1 | 2 12:07AM 1.7 6:27AM 3.3 1:30PM 1.0 7:58PM 2.6 | 9 1:51AM 3.9 9:08AM 0.7 2:43PM 2.1 7:36PM 1.1 |
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POLICE

State Police Brief

Pohnpei State Police

Mwoakilloa Chief Magistrate Frelent Obed was found guilty May 20 of assault with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct charges brought against him after an April 24 incident. According to police, Obed assaulted Mwoakilloa Police Chief Clyde Ben with a machete on April 24. An investigation led to Obed's arrest in Mwoakilloa two days later, on April 26. Obed was sentenced to one year of probation.

Pohnpei resident Raminder Ezekias currently awaits trial on homicide charges leveled against him after a fight with another resident on February 19. Marston "Benancio" Alfons of Nett died February 24 from head injuries sustained during the assault. Ezekias, 29, of Kolonia Town, has pled not guilty to the charge and has been released on bail pending trial. He has already pled guilty to assault charges brought shortly after the incident and awaits sentencing on that count. Alfons was 45.

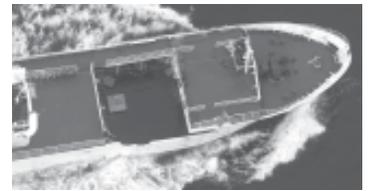
National Police Brief

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlle Press

The FSM National Police Maritime Wing began May 19 what officials report to be the biggest multilateral surveillance operation ever to occur in the South Pacific region. "Operation Island Chief," scheduled to continue through June 2, has involved the assistance of five ships and four aircraft from eight different countries in a joint effort to enforce fisheries laws and to deter illegal fishing activities.

Officials have uniformly expressed satisfaction with the operation's results and crew efforts. "We're very serious about enforcement of fisheries laws,"

Operation Island Chief



said FSM National Police Chief Pius Chotailug, who served as joint operations coordinator for Operation Island Chief. He expressed on behalf of FSM Maritime Law Enforcement his gratitude for the ongoing assistance of the Australian Defence Force, the increasing involvement of the United States in operations, and to the New Zealand government for their aerial surveillance support.

At press time, a number of arrests had been reported. Both FSM patrol boats deployed on the operation netted an arrest within two days. A third vessel was released after a brief detention and an out-of-court settlement in Pohnpei.

The operation also involved a search and rescue mission for a fisherman reported overboard from a Japanese vessel in Chuuk waters. Officials say Kiribati and RMI patrol boats each boarded

several vessels.

Kiribati and Papua New Guinea joined forces with the FSM, RMI and Palau on the annual operation for the first time this year. New Zealand, Australia and the United States also offered assistance to the operation, which covered the exclusive economic zones (EEZ's) of all participating countries. Pohnpei was the site this year of a 24-hour joint coordination center overseeing the operation.

Operation Island Chief was funded by the Australian Defence Force and participating countries. The Forum Fisheries Agency also contributed, conducting a training of joint coordinating center staff just prior to the operation. Observers from the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Center out of Suva, Fiji were also present for a portion of the operation.

Auditors Curb Terrorism

SAIPAN (Pacnews) - Auditors from across the Pacific, attending a regional conference in the Northern Marianas capital, Saipan, have vowed to try to improve government accountability and curb international terrorism.

Auditors and officials from American Samoa, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Kiribati, New Zealand, the Northern Marianas, Vanuatu and Tonga are taking part in the five-day conference of the South Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions.

China and the Manila-based Asian Development Bank also sent their representatives to the conference.

Radio Australia correspondent in the Northern Marianas said the delegates had agreed to strengthen cooperation across the Pacific, in a bid to detect and disrupt terrorist operations from channelling funds for their operations overseas.