

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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PO Box 2222 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone 691-320-6547 Kpress@mail.fm www.kpress.info

International Women's Day in Pohnpei

"Connecting Girls Inspiring Futures"



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

March 14, 2012
Palikir, Pohnpei— For nearly 10 hours on March 8, The China Friendship Gym at the College of Micronesia FSM thundered with applause, cheers and dancing as an above capacity crowd gathered in the sticky heat

See "Women's Day" on page 9

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2012 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Fishing competition

Pohnpei Fishing Club

Saturday 25th of February saw the Pohnpei Fishing Club kick off the 2012 fishing calendar in style. Glenn Hurry from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Tuna Commission) rounded up some off-island support for the Tuna Commission Tournament. A generous prize pool of approximately \$4000 made up of cash prizes and fishing line and lures were donated by MRAG Asiapacific, Pacific Ocean Producers (POP), HALCO, TRIMARINE and the Parties the Nauru Agreement (PNA).

Such a large prize pool saw 22 boats enter chasing the generous prizes. Leading up to the tournament the weather had been ordinary at best with large swells and plenty of wind. The fishing Gods shone down on the fisherman during the tournament and made the conditions very fishable. The rain even held off until about 11:00am. There were a number of quality fish caught from all over Pohnpei and Ant Atoll. Three sailfish, wahoo, yellowfin and dog tooth tuna were all welcome catches. Mahi Mahi and skipjack were harder to come by with not many weighed in.

Despite the afternoon rain a great crowd turned up at Kumer's Dock to watch the weigh in. With a raffle, beers and bbq, and PFC t-shirts for sale the crowd was kept entertained as the boats lined up. The three sailfish were definitely crowd pleasers with their beautiful sails fully lit up and on display on the weigh-in dock. With prizes for the biggest fish, five different species, female and junior anglers and only one prize per fish there was a great chance that the prizes would be spread out among the competing club members. The results of the day are as follows:

- Biggest Fish:
 - 1st Konrad Englberger – 53.5lb Sailfish
 - 2nd Scott Campbell – 49.5lb Sailfish
- Biggest Wahoo
 - 1st Konrad Englberger – 33lb
 - 2nd Sam Taufao 31lb
- Biggest Tuna
 - 1st Jun David – 33lb (Dogtooth Tuna)
 - 2nd Mary Tretnoff – 31lb (Yellowfin Tuna)
- Biggest Skipjack
 - 1st Francisco Sohl – 15.5lb
 - 2nd Jula Porter – 13lb
- Biggest Mahi Mahi
 - 1st Mary Allan Manuel – 18.5lb
 - 2nd Scott Campbell – 16.5lb
- Biggest Barracuda
 - 1st Mary Tretnoff – 19lbs
 - 2nd Scott Campbell – 14.5lb
- Wahoo
 - Lady Angler Nada Weibacher – 23.5lb
- Junior Anger Kanon Sohl – 11.5lb
- Skipjack

Once again showing their commitment to the club were the ever-present volunteers at the weigh-in, without which the PFC Board and members couldn't run such a coordinated event. A big thanks goes out to Bob Spegal for managing the results, Paul Thomas and Bill Pendergraft on the dock performing the role of weighmasters and all of Kumer Panuelo's staff that assisted with setting up the dock and cooking the bbq.

A reminder for all boat captains to return the PFC Safety Bags prior to weighing your fish. Also please attempt to remain at the weigh-in; especially if you are a potential prize winner to allow some photos of you with our generous tournament sponsors and to collect your prize money. Don't forget to check out the Pohnpei Fishing Club page on Facebook for all the latest captures.

The next scheduled tournament is

the 'Do It Best' on 24 March, with registration occurring the Friday night before from 6-7pm at Pohnpei Surf Club. Club membership is still an extremely low \$15 so come on down and be a part of the Pohnpei Fishing Club in 2012.



The Kaselehlie Press

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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Nanpohnmal man stabbed in his home while sleeping

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

March 14, 2012
Nanpohnmal, Pohnpei—Sometime during last Sunday night Pidel Andon was stabbed inside his home while he lay sleeping on his couch. His wife, Lisa and two children were sleeping in another room at the time of the incident.

Police say that the report is that someone entered the victim's home and used one of their own kitchen knives to stab him. Their Public Information Officer said that the knife was found on the porch. They could not determine how the perpetrator entered the home in the middle of the night.

Mr. Andon is currently in the Pohnpei State Hospital for treatment of his wounds. At press time we could not get an answer regarding his condition.

The police department spokesperson was not able to say whether anything had been stolen from the home. He said only that he had not received any information from detectives about whether anything was missing from the home.

Police have not yet identified a suspect in the stabbing and have asked that anyone with any information on that night's violent crime to please call the Pohnpei State Police Detectives office at 320-3774.

Non-Project Grant Aid for provision of industrial products by the Government of Japan

FSM Information Services

March 07, 2012

Palikir, Pohnpei—A Note of Exchange was signed by Secretary Lorin S. Robert and Ambassador Eiichi Suzuki on behalf of their respective governments on February 22, 2012 in the afternoon. The signing of the Exchange Note signifies the agreement of both governments for the donation of an aggregate amount of Japanese Yen 250 million (around USD 3 Million) to the FSM for the procurement of industrial products and the acceptance of the latter of the products to be used for development purposes.

The donation from the Government of Japan is considered a Japan Non-Project Grant Assistance (JNPGA) which is the second time the FSM Government has benefited from this type of assistance. It has special historical significance in that the industrial products were produced in the Tohoku region of Japan which was devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and the signing of the agreement made FSM the first recipient of such assistance. The Government of Japan, as a donor country, expressed its intention that the equipment procured should be used for shoreline protection and national building as a priority.

In accepting the donation, Secretary Robert thanked the Japanese Government through Ambassador Suzuki and expressed the pride of his government in being the first recipient of such manufactured items from the Tohoku region, which signals the speedy recovery of the affected areas from the devastation caused by the earthquake. He also reiterated the continued sympathies and condolences of the FSM government and people for the tragic loss of lives and extensive damage to property. Secretary Robert went on to say that as an island-nation, coastal problems are an on-going problems for the FSM and the FSM will welcome the heavy equipments for the infrastructure construction such as roads to mitigate the negative effects by the coastal erosion.

Ambassador Suzuki responded by conveying the pleasure of his government to make FSM the first recipient of such assistance and also reiterated thankfulness for the expression of heartfelt sympathies from friends like the FSM for the untold loss experienced by Japan in the wake of the natural disaster. He also indicated his hope that the manufactured goods will be used for coastal protection and nation-building.

Witnessing the short signing ceremony were staff from Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Japan in Pohnpei.



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Founder Frank Lyon mapping the Trust Territories in 1975...

Mahalo!

LY★N

...for the privilege of "Improving Island Life" since 1961...



Australian Development Leadership Awards Scholarships

Scholarship opportunities for current and future leaders for Intake 2013

The 2013 intake of Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Scholarships is now open. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is pleased to invite applications for study at **Masters and PhD** levels in Australia.

The overarching goals of Australia's Development Awards are: to develop capacity and leadership skills so that individuals can contribute to development in their home country and to build people-to-people linkages at the individual, institutional and country levels.

ALA Scholarships are academically prestigious awards, offered to high achievers with the potential to assume leadership roles that can influence social and economic policy reform, development and governance in their home countries and region. The purpose of ALA scholarships is to develop leadership in the Asia Pacific region.

Priority areas for programs of study are:

disability, economic growth, education, health, environment, climate change, food security, gender, governance, human rights, energy, rural development and water & sanitation.

Note: To ensure equity and broad participation, AusAID encourages women, people with disability, ethnic minorities, people living in rural areas and members of socio-economically disadvantaged groups to apply.

Applications for the commencement of the 2013 academic year open on 1 Feb 2012 and will close on 30 April 2012.

Applicants must:

- Be a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands or Republic of Palau.
- Have a record of high-level undergraduate or post-graduate academic achievement;
- If required by the university, have an IELTS score of 6.5 or above (with no individual band less than 6) – or the equivalent level of TOEFL - with the results no longer than two years by 25th August 2012.
- Not have held a foreign scholarship in the 24 months prior to application.
- Return to their country of origin for at least two years immediately upon completion of the scholarship.

Please email your request for a copy of the application form through: phpi.mail@dfat.gov.au
Please refer to the ALA Scholarships Handbook on the website below for **online application instructions**.

For detailed information on ALA Scholarships please visit: <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/ala.cfm>

Local contact: Leah Briones, AusAID Senior Program Manager, Australian Embassy, Kolonia, Pohnpei. FSM Phone (691) 320 5448.

A renewed determination for revitalization



*Yoshihiko Noda
Prime Minister of Japan*

March 11, 2012

March 11 is a date now etched in Japan's collective consciousness. On the first anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which triggered the starkest crisis our country has faced in a generation, we pause to commemorate all of those who suffered as a result of the tragedy. Our thoughts go out to all of the victims, and to people around the world whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters.

We will not forget the loved ones, friends and colleagues who were lost due to the disaster. Neither will we forget the outpouring of support and expressions of solidarity that Japan received from the international community. For this we feel deeply indebted and I take this opportunity to reiterate Japan's heartfelt appreciation.

Japan has made remarkable progress in responding to the disaster over the past twelve months. We renew our commitment to learn from the great difficulties we have faced. I firmly believe that this period of difficulty must, and indeed will, come to mark the start of a full-fledged revitalization of Japan.

In light of last year's tragedy, and the mood of national solidarity and sense of urgency that resulted, I am confident that we have the collective will to tackle our most pressing issues: reconstruction of areas affected by the March 11 earthquake, full decommissioning of the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station and decontamination of affected areas, and revitalization of the Japanese economy.

Among the many steps taken over the past twelve months in response to the disaster has been the establishment of a budgetary and legislative framework that laid out many of the strategic tools for reconstruction. This included the establishment of the Reconstruction Agency, which now acts as control tower for all reconstruction planning and serves to significantly streamline and expedite activities, including the establishment of reconstruction grants and special reconstruction zones. In addition, procedures for monitoring and testing food products have been further strengthened, while state funds in excess of 1 trillion yen have been provided for the decontamination of residential areas close to the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

We recognize that the issues of greatest concern among affected individuals, and for our nation as a whole, are the most fundamental; job security and a sustainable livelihood for their family. Through the creation of special reconstruction zones and other initiatives under the concept of "open reconstruction," these regions will stimulate new investment from Japan and overseas, creating jobs, driving the restoration of existing industries and enhancing innovation.

The creation of a number of "FutureCities" throughout Japan, including in the disaster-hit municipalities of Ofunato, Rikuzentakata and Higashimatsushima, is one such example. Through budgetary, tax and regulatory measures, support will be provided to develop an industry and social infrastructure linked with compact cities and decentralized environmentally-friendly energy production, utilizing smart grids and large scale solar and offshore wind farms. Japan is already a leader in the field of energy efficiency with a wealth of innovative technologies. Now is the time to put this expertise to use to create a new model for growth and sustainability that we can share with the world.

Another area where Japan can, and I believe must, lead the world and share its knowledge is in disaster risk reduction and response. We have learnt, in the harshest possible terms, that it is no longer acceptable to claim that events had been unforeseen. In order to build resilient communities and a

country that is able to withstand natural disasters and is sustainable, disaster management measures are undergoing a comprehensive review and will be dramatically strengthened.

Of course, Japan also faces challenges that were apparent before last year's earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster. Some, such as securing robust economic growth and rebuilding government finances, we have been tackling for a number of years. The longer these issues are left unresolved, the more serious they become.

Above all else, the promise that I have made to the Japanese people since becoming Prime Minister in September last year is that I will no longer tolerate the politics of indecision. A propensity to delay difficult and weighty decisions has been hurting our country, is detrimental to our economy, society and our future, and cannot be allowed to continue.

The many projects now underway for the reconstruction and revitalization of Japan constitute the first step toward the country's economic revival. With global economic uncertainty, historic appreciation of the yen and long-standing deflation, securing robust economic growth is a momentous challenge, but it is not insurmountable.

We must draw upon the unique strengths of the Japanese economy, seek an open and cooperative approach with our international partners, and intelligently exploit the promise of new growth areas. Sectors such as energy, the environment, health and nursing care hold significant potential as leading growth industries, where Japan can tap innovative ideas and investment from the private sector, including foreign direct investment, and play a leading role globally. We aim to create the conditions to support increased international interest and investment in Japan, not only from a business perspective, but also in the growth of tourism. As a prerequisite, we commit to providing timely and accurate information to the international community.

In recent history, Japan seized rapid economic expansion from the ashes and desolation of World War II, and built the most energy-efficient economy in the world in the aftermath of the oil shock. On the anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake we are reminded that we are now faced with a challenge of similar proportions. Our goal is not simply to reconstruct the Japan that existed before March 11, 2011, but to build a new Japan. This is an historic challenge and one that we are determined to overcome.

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Climate Change

Pohnpei received training on climate adaptation tools

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and its Micronesia Challenge (MC) partners are excited to launch several new tools to support community based climate adaptation in Micronesia. These tools were developed through a collaborative process with community members, resource managers, conservation practitioners and climate change experts in Micronesia. They reflect local needs to overcome challenges faced in adapting to regional climate change conditions. MCT is now coordinating trainings on how to effectively use the toolkit in three of the MC Jurisdictions, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

From January 23rd to 27th the Micronesia Conservation Trust coordinated a training activity in Pohnpei introducing these new tools. The AusAid Small Grants Scheme and US Department of State, Environmental Small Grants program provided funding support. Staff from MCT, The Natural Conservancy and members of the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community along with two independent consultants facilitated the training. Participants included representatives of and staff from the FSM National Government Department of Resources and Development, Pohnpei State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, International Organization for Migration, SPC/GTZ, Pohnpei State Forestry, Pohnpei Farmers Association, Micronesia Conservation Trust, The Nature Conservation, Community Conservation Officers, traditional leaders and PREL.



Using the communities of Dehpek in U, Metipw in Madolenihmw and Nanpil in Nett as examples, participants discussed in depth Climate Change (CC) concepts and practiced using the toolkit's flipchart and booklet components with the on-site community focus groups. Participants also developed a communications strategy, which included the best ways to communicate CC concepts to local communities in the Pohnpeian language. These discussions focused on how changes in weather patterns are affecting breadfruit and yam seasons and how this will have drastic effects on Pohnpeian livelihoods and traditional practices. Specifically, participants found that using the Pohnpei traditional calendar will help communities relate to the phenomenon of climate change. There are three main seasons in Pohnpei which includes Rekenleng- Breadfruit Season, when fish are also aggregating, spawning and in abundance, Rekenpwel – Yam Season and Isol-food, scarcity season, which is usually associated with the time between the end of the yam season and the breadfruit season. Pohnpeian communities learned how to survive year- in year- out by observing the seasons, weather patterns and adjusted their agricultural and cultural patterns and cycles accordingly. Communities have realized today that these seasons are changing, sometimes becoming shorter or longer, and coming earlier or later unpredictably. These changes in weather patterns will affect the already changing traditional seasons. Thus, such events could cause profound social and environmental impacts in Pohnpei. Pohnpei's communities should care about these changes because of their potential impacts on food security, culture, health and natural resources.

Following the training, participants formed the Climate Change Outreach Committee chaired by Mr. Valentine Martin-Dauk Sokehs. The committee has finalized its communication strategy and developed a plan to begin outreach in communities throughout Pohnpei. The first outreach activity will be held in Dehpek and Takaieu communities and will be lead by Mr. Pedrus Primo-Kehlahk Takaieu, who participated in the training. The committee will proceed to other communities immediately following the outreach work in Dehpek and Takaieu.

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and its Micronesia Challenge (MC) partners would like to thank the Pohnpei State Governors Office for its generous support in providing the venue for the training. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with Pohnpei state government as we work together to improve Pohnpei's resilience adaptability to Climate Change.

Gas prices and transportation costs in the region continue to rise

FSM PetroCorp will need to raise wholesale costs to meet the challenge.

FSM Petroleum Corporation

Pohnpei, FSM—Due to a direct impact of international oil markets, fuel prices will increase in the FSM between 25cpg to 35cpg (cents per gallon).

This price increase is the first in seven months. While the increase appears large, it pales in comparison to price movements observed by our neighbors Guam, Saipan and Palau.

“We have retained our wholesale prices at levels that have allowed consumers access to fuel pump prices at around \$5.00 per gallon for over seven months. This is a massive achievement. Prices in Guam are now \$4.97 per gallon and you can't ask for more cushioning than that. The sharp increase of over 40 cents in two months is more than we can absorb, and we need

to change our sales prices over the next two weeks so we can pay for future fuel cargos” says Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jared Morris.

Elsewhere in the region, Guam and Saipan have experienced volatility in pump prices, with Guam seeing an upward swing of over .80 cents since mid- January 2011. PetroCorp's relative price stability over that timeframe has also been highlighted when contrasted with fuel prices in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Rota and Tinian). Both the RMI and CNMI currently have pump prices as high as \$5.75 at some service stations.

Global oil prices are now over \$100 per barrel, the highest prices they have been since October 2008. At that time, the

FSM was hit hard with reports of gasoline reaching \$6.70 a gallon in some areas.

The wave of both actual and potential unrest and democratic change across the major oil-producing countries of the Middle East, including one of the world's largest oil producers, Saudi Arabia, have contributed to market prices increasing.

While oil production by the major oil-producing countries remains relatively steady, both the major developing economies of India and China, which are expected to have growth rates of 7.8 percent and 9.2 percent respectively in 2012, will continue to increase the demand for oil, and has the potential for step increases in price globally.

Recent EU and US sanctions against Iran, another oil-producing country, may also

cause global prices to trend upward in 2012, as that country has threatened to cut exports to certain western countries, and boasted of soaring the cost of oil per barrel by 50%.

“While oil prices have clearly moved around 40 cents per gallon, we are only increasing our prices around 30 cents. We are hopeful that markets will cool over the next month, but if they don't, we are left with no choice but to match these movements” says Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jared Morris.

FSM PetroCorp will be monitoring developments closely and utilizing the tools and capacity it has available to maintain consistency and affordability to its customers and the public at-large as best it can over the next 12 months.



JG Store Announces a brand new JG Store location opening up on April 1!



Look for the Brand new JG 3 located across from the FSM Development Bank and immigration office in China town!



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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT EO 2012-003



It is the policy of the FSM Development Bank that FSM citizens be given first priority for employment consideration with other Micronesians, U.S. citizens, and other nationals utilized in positions for which no qualified citizens are available.

POSITION & GRADE:	Human Resources & Facilities Manager
LOCATION:	FSM Development Bank, Corporate Office
SALARY:	\$21,361.60 per annum, higher salary may be considered depending upon qualification

SUMMARY: Responsible to the President/CEO for personnel, facility management and administrative services of the organization including but not limited to providing directions for the development of personnel and administrative policies and procedures including the development and maintenance of the bank's administrative manual, and ensures compliance to personnel rules and regulations, coordinates employment activities such as hiring, performance reviews and training. Oversee the overall upkeep and maintenance of the bank facilities and other duties as assigned.

GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Illustrative only): include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

1. Identifies legal requirements and regulations affecting Human Resources (HR) functions and ensures policies, procedures, and reporting in compliance at the Bank's various locations.
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12. Participate in budget preparations to ensure Human Resources operation needs are included in the overall Corporate budget.
13. Edits and publishes the Bank's Newsletter; Writes articles and edits those written by others. Ensures layouts are appropriate, information is correct, and that spellings are accurate.
14. Responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and all other matters relating to the bank's facilities including negotiates, develop, recommend and administers all service contracts relating to the upkeep and maintenance of the bank's facilities.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: NONE

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE: Must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in business and/or management or in any related field from a recognized College or University; and a minimum of 5 years of HR and Administrative work experience.

SKILLS: Must have excellent communication skills. Ability to speak and write English fluently, analyze and interpret in simple terms general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, policies or governmental regulations. Ability to write in concise manner business correspondence, required reports and procedure manuals. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from groups of managers, clients, customers, and the general public clearly. Must be a people oriented person with excellent listening skills.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications, curriculum vitae, and at least three letters of reference shall be completed and submitted to: The FSMDB Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei with

mailing address as follows:

FSM Development Bank
P.O. Box M
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM
96941

by fax to 320-2842

or in person at the FSM Development Bank's Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei on or before April 10, 2012.

Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) distributed items in Pohnlangas, Madolenihmw

Contributed by the Micronesia Red Cross Society

16 February 2012, Pohnpei: The Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) distributed items donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and Project Hand Clasp as part of the U.S. Pacific Partnership 2011 humanitarian assistance mission in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The items were distributed to approximately 82 less privileged families in Pohnlangas, Madolenihmw Municipality. According to MRCS Disaster Management Officer, Mr. Wayner Louis, "Madolenihmw communities are selected as beneficiaries because they are some of the most vulnerable community members in Pohnpei". The items include blankets, baby care items, baby toys, clothes, hygiene kits and other necessary items.

Staff and volunteers from MRCS managed the distribution of items with the assistance of officials from the Madolenihmw Municipality and local community elders. "We are here to ensure that the distribution process is fair and impartial so that each family gets items equally" Mr. Louis added. Since its establishment in 1998, The MRCS has upheld its commitment and dedication based on the seven Fundamental principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary service, Unity and Universality in providing humanitarian assistance with more than 1,200 beneficiaries in connection with disaster relief, blood donation, social welfare and HIV prevention.



Yapese Community of Pohnpei celebrates Yap Day

March 3, 2012

Pohnpei, FSM—The Yapese Community of Pohnpei gathered on March 3, for a day

of dancing food and fun at Misko's Beach to celebrate Yap Day. Yap Day is an annual event.

During the event the community also elected its new leaders:

Ganon Tareg was elected President. Ross Perkins was elected as Vice President. Vanessa Sigrah was elected to be the Secretary, and Charity Ileyagisiog was elected to the position of Treasurer.



COM-FSM receives generous gift from Friends of Micronesia

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (March 8, 2012) – The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) received a gift of \$4,644.66 toward its Endowment Fund from the Friends of Micronesia.

President Wayne Johnson of the Friends of Micronesia organization sent the donation to the College. In his letter to COM-FSM, President Johnson expressed his organization's "hope that this will be used in educating the young people of the islands we remember with great fondness."

The Friends of Micronesia was a group of returned Peace Corps volunteers who served in Micronesia, beginning in the late 1960s--when it was still the Trust Territory of the Pacific--to the present day. The purpose of the organization is to represent Micronesia volunteers in the National Peace Corps Association, and to help the work of the Peace Corps in Micronesia as well as the citizens of the FSM.

The organization was recently disbanded but it still had funds remaining in its treasury. It was decided that the funds should be donated to the College of Micronesia-FSM's Endowment Fund. According to President Johnson, it was felt that their decision to donate the fund to the College would benefit all of the citizens of Micronesia by helping educate young men and women from throughout the area. Johnson also noted that steps are underway to restart the group.

The College of Micronesia-FSM Endowment Fund was established by the College and is maintained for the purpose of providing support for the future needs of the College.

Groups or individuals wishing to contribute to the Endowment Fund are welcome to do so by contacting President Joseph M Daisy, EdD at:

College of Micronesia-FSM
P.O. Box 159
Pohnpei FM 96941

The office of Pohnpei State Social Affairs in collaboration with Pohnpei Women Advisory Council and the 2012 International Women's Day Host group, Otohi Birthday Club would like to announce their many gratitudes and thanks to the following embassies, offices, banks, agencies & etc for their kind contributions and sponsorship to the 2012 International Women's Day, Rahn en Lien Sampah.

1. Congressman David Panuelo
2. Senator Aurelio Joab
3. Mr and Mrs Ferny Perman
4. American Embassy, Kolonia
5. Australian Embassy
6. Embassy of the People's Republic of China
7. FSM Development Bank
8. Bank of the FSM
9. Mesenieng Credit Union
10. U Municipal Government
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25. Village Hotel
26. Nihco Store
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30. FSM Public Information Office

Yap celebrates 44th Annual Yap Day Celebrations

By **Arlyne Chugen**
The Kaselehlie Press

The first two days of March 2012 marked the 44th annual Yap Day. Yap Day celebration took on a unique turn this year as it was held in Colonia, and for the first time the Yap Living History Museum also located in Colonia served as the central venue for Yap Day.

This two-day event brought in people from around the island, guests from neighboring island nations, and visitors from around the world.

Like in previous years, this year's Yap Day celebrations included traditional and cultural activities, demonstrations of local food cooking, handicraft making, and lei-making.

Other cultural activities that were sponsored by the state's Department of Education included copra husking for boys and basket weaving for girls. Students from elementary schools participated in these competitions and won prizes.

Agricultural activities were also part of the celebration. The committee presented awards to the people who had the best produce and crops such as various types of yam and banana.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) essay contest winners were also recognized. Essay contests were sponsored by the office of Marine Resources to increase awareness of the importance of MPAs in Yapese waters.

Perhaps the highlight of this year's Yap Day, like every year, was the performances of Yapese traditional dances. This year was no exception as the crowd quickly gathered near the performing area or malal to see the

dances. While the dances often draw the Yapese audience, visiting folks from elsewhere enjoy this opportunity to take pictures of the most important part of the celebration.

The traditional dances on the two days were bamboo dances or gamel' from Weloy and Gilman municipalities, women's sitting dance from Maap and Kanifay municipalities, and men's dance or gaslaw from Tomil and Maap municipalities.

Yap Day celebrations this year also included Japanese and Filipino dance presentations. While these presentations were held at the community center rather than the museum site, a crowd still gathered to witness these performances. According to one Yap Day committee member, the inclusion of these foreign dances in the program was a result of the Japanese and Filipino requests to contribute to Yap Day celebrations.

Visitors who had come from afar said they enjoyed attending Yap Day celebrations.

One non-Yapese spectator who had attended Yap Day twice before said it would have been better if Yap Day had been held in the village because it looked more traditional that way.

Others commented on the convenience of the location, how it was easy to commute to the Yap Day site.

A member of the Yap Day committee said the event was "well-organized for a last minute thing." He added that aside from the traditional dance participants only a handful of Yapese dressed in their local attire.

Yap Day celebrations are held every year in the first day(s) of March, sometimes beginning in the last day(s) of February. This celebration of Yapese cultures and traditions has occurred for over four decades. The next one will be in 2013.





...Women's Day

Continued from front page

to celebrate International Women's Day. Many say that the crowd was the largest gathered for any event ever held at the gym; a claim that is likely to be true; even elbow room was hard to get. Whether or not it was the largest event ever held at the gym, organizers say that it certainly was the largest crowd ever assembled for the International Women's Day celebration.

Santos said that the record crowd was largely attributable to the increase in the number of women's groups in Pohnpei. "I think March 8th really excites everyone in the family," she wrote in an email. "From father to youngest child in the household, it's fun to go see mommy and sister dance their heart out on that one special day set aside for all women around the world."

The theme for this year's Women's Day, "Connecting Girls Inspiring Futures" was set by the United Nations and though Pohnpei was free to choose its own theme it chose to adopt the UN theme. In Pohnpei the events of the celebration did not seem to a casual observer to drive the theme home though there were an impressive number of groups this year that involved young people. Lululeen Santos who has been the Women's Interest Coordinator of Pohnpei's Office of Social Affairs since July of last year said that one might consider the event to have been a sort of kick off for activities under the stated theme; events that will happen during the rest of the year.

The celebration featured marathon dance performances by 26 women's groups listed on the program and one that was not. Even if the groups had limited their performances to ten minutes each and, even if performers were immediately ready to go when it was time to perform, neither of which was the case on Thursday, it would have taken four and a half hours just for the dancing performances. The crowd began to wane by mid-afternoon only to be replaced by hundreds of others; men, women, boys and girls; although the fact that men and boys were in attendance in large numbers seemed to have been forgotten by at least some of the women who commandeered the only men's restroom, forcing some of the not so fairer sex to take a hike into the surrounding foliage.

The social networking site, Facebook is crawling with photographs and videos taken by people who were present at the celebration and though most of the status postings we saw contained happy



congratulatory messages, some were a bit more cynical. Some postings expressed the sentiment that if women's groups would put as much effort into women's issues as they put into their dance routines they would be running the world by now.

But then the International Women's Day celebration is only the most visible activity of the women's groups; a gathering of all involved women at the same place at the same time. Santos said that the dancing is merely a celebration of the accomplishments of Pohnpei women over the course of the previous year and a time to fire up for the work they will do in the following year.

Last year saw the addition of new women's groups in Pohnpei, women who do far more than just dance, and this year the Pohnpei Women's Council is adding the Pohnpei Women's Disability Organization, and the Filipino Women's Community Organization. The latter group performed a cultural fan dance at Thursday's celebration that had not been listed on the program.

Santos said that for three years in a row the Pohnpei Women's Advisory Council has organized a beautification and cleaning project. "It really shows in each community," she wrote. "Men and women who aren't in a women's organization have gotten themselves involved with this cleaning project and that is what it's really about, involving all, not just women."

Though organizers decided not to judge this year's dance performances so that those performances would be just for fun, there was a competition amongst the 27 participating women's groups on the results of their cleaning campaigns. The

contest was judged, as it has been each year, by staff members of the Environmental Protection Agency. Santos said that the three winning groups for this year's competition were Lielehle PohnSapw of Pohnpei, Sapwafik in third place. Otoh Birthday Club of Awak, U came in second place for their efforts. Enipein Marine Park Women's Association from Enipein, Kittie earned the top prize.

"All of the women's groups participated and all of them cleaned up their own respective communities," Santos reminded.

But cleaning isn't all the women's groups are about.

In November of last year all the groups participated in the 16 day Action on Gender Violence activism program and there is currently pending legislation in Pohnpei that would be an opening foray to begin to curb the problem of gender based and domestic violence in Pohnpei.

Last month women's groups participated in trainings regarding leprosy. Santos said that this year each woman's group will be conducting trainings on the leprosy health matter in each of their communities.

In June there will be a Mother Daughter Weaving Competition. It's just one of the many activities that are being planned and several others are still on the drawing board.

Thursday's celebration was scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM sharp; "no Pohnpei time allowed," one of the organizers promised with a wink on the day before the event. But by as late as 10:00 some of the dignitaries still had not yet arrived.

The event got off to a soft start with a procession of the women, each group carrying a banner with the name of their group. By the time the women and girls were all assembled; jammed in on the floor like sardines in a can, there was very little room left and the gymnasium was nearly bursting at the seams.

Highlights of the opening included a performance of the State Anthem by 12 year old Jenna Panuelo followed by a lengthy but apparently very funny speech by Pohnpei Women's Advisory Council President Susanna Sohs. Lt. Governor Marcello Peterson, who was called that morning to substitute for Governor Ehsa who was not well, also gave a challenging and supportive speech. The women's group Lien Alem led the audience in a popular hymn before the first dancing group hit the floor.

"It was a long day! I didn't get home until almost 8:00," said one performer whose group was the 26th to perform. "Still, it was a lot of fun," she said with a twinkle in her eyes.

"I know that the people, the community and everyone else is finally understanding more and seeing that International Women's Day is not just about the dancing but about celebrating the accomplishment of the Pohnpeian women," Santos wrote.

She said that besides the celebratory benefit of the day's celebrations there was also a side health benefit for the women who participated. "From the time women start practicing for March 8 events, they are promoting healthy lifestyles. Practicing the dances is real exercise," she wrote. "Some women don't even realize it but they actually became healthier. Exercise can be not so fun but dancing is real fun and these women would rather dance than exercise."

If one considers the events on International Women's Day for what they are, a celebration of women rather than the sum of all women's activities in the State, the event was successful beyond expectation. Now, if the women's groups do in fact, continue to put as much effort into women's issues as they did into their dance performances, the events of March 8, 2012 may be a harbinger of great positive changes for the circumstances of women in Pohnpei. Where women are healthy and respected the whole of society thrives.

Governor Ehsa swears in confirmed cabinet members



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

March 9, 2012

Peilapalap, Pohnpei, FSM—This morning Governor John Ehsa administered the oath of office to those of his cabinet members who were confirmed by the Pohnpei State Legislature.

Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez and Vice Speaker Fernando Scaliem represented the judiciary and legislative branches of the government at the swearing in ceremony.

The Governor's cabinet is not yet

complete. The Pohnpei State Legislature voted down the confirmation of Lucas Carlos, the Governor's incumbent nominee for Director of the Department of Public Safety. It also voted not to confirm the gubernatorial nominee for the position of Director of the Department of Land, Ernet Hadley.

Though the Governor's cabinet is not yet complete the Pohnpei State Legislature did confirm the Governor's nominees for six positions and those six people took the oath of office today.

Ihlen Joseph assumes the duties of the

Pohnpei State Auditor.

Thomas S. Pablo continues in the position of Director of Treasury and Administration.

Joseph Villazon continues as the Director of Education.

Kadalino Lorens also continues as the Administrator for the Office of Economic Affairs.

Frederico Primo assumes duties as the Administrator of the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Epert Mikel continues his duties as the Administrator of the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

After the swearing in ceremony, Governor Ehsa delivered an address to his new cabinet. Ihlen Joseph addressed the gathered crowd as the representative of the newly sworn officers.

Governor Ehsa signed the Certificates of Appointment and "cordially invited" his new cabinet members to a cabinet meeting set for 2:00 that afternoon; a command performance.

FSM fiduciaries earn Accredited Investment Fiduciary Designation from the Center for Fiduciary Studies

Fi360 Press Release

Bridgeville, Pennsylvania – Jack Yakana, Budget Officer for the FSM National Congress, and Danny Dumantay, Controller for the College of Micronesia - FSM have been awarded the Accredited Investment Fiduciary®



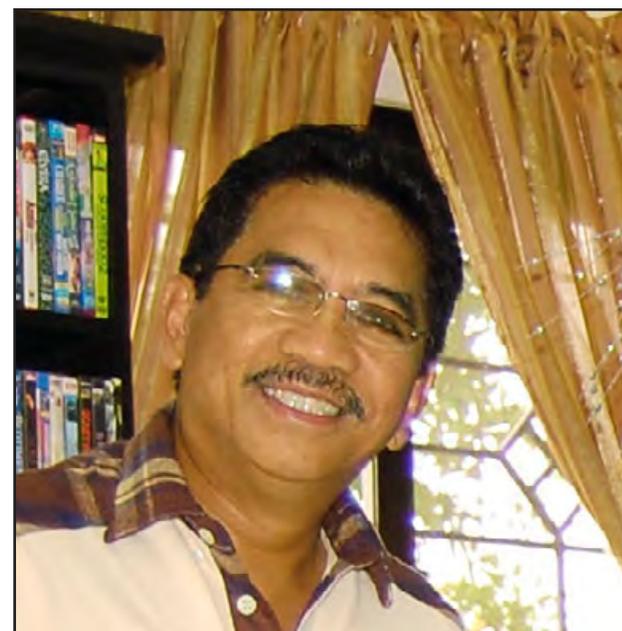
(AIF®) designation from the Center for Fiduciary Studies™ (the Center), the standards-setting body for fi3601. The AIF designation signifies specialized knowledge of fiduciary responsibility and the ability to implement policies and procedures that meet a defined standard of care. The designation is the culmination of a rigorous training program, which includes a comprehensive, closed-book final examination under the supervision of a proctor, and agreement to abide by the AIF Code of Ethics. On an ongoing basis, Designees are required to complete continuing education to maintain the AIF Designation.

Mr. Yakana and Mr. Dumantay attended the first ever Asia based Fi360 training, which was sponsored by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS), and held at APAFS's 11th Annual

Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila in October 2011. The training was attended by twenty five individuals from throughout Micronesia and the Philippines. Yakana is the first FSM citizen to hold the AIF designation, and Dumantay the first non-FSM citizen, residing in the FSM, to do so.

Fi360 will be holding the next Accredited Investment Fiduciary® training immediately prior to the 12th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila Philippines, being held on November 29 and 30, 2012. Gerard Cruz, APAFS chairman says "we are excited about once again hosting this prestigious, and badly needed, fiduciary training certification course once again. The response to the first course was truly overwhelming. Demand is already high for this year's training, and as we can only accommodate 25 participants, I would encourage interested individuals to email us immediately at executivedirector@apafs.org."

Fi360, based near Pittsburgh, Pa., is



the first full-time training and research facility for fiduciaries, and conducts training programs at universities throughout the United States and abroad. As part of fi360, the Center confers the AIF Designation as well as the Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst™ (AIFA®) Designation. AIFA Designees are the only recognized professionals trained to perform fiduciary assessments, which measure how well investment professionals are fulfilling the fiduciary duties required of them by the applicable investment legislation, case law, and regulatory opinion letters.

Scripps Regional Spelling Bee A Historical Event for Pohnpei and GEAR UP

GEAR UP

Mitchell Marino and Lonie Nicholas at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in Guam, March 3, 2012

History was made in Guam on March 3, 2012 when two Pohnpeian students, Lonie Nicholas, 7th grader from Kolonia Elementary, and Mitchell Marino, 8th grader from Saladak, represented their state for the first time in the regional Scripps Spelling Bee competition with 72 students from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The Spelling Bee was held in Guam at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort. Lonie and Mitchell competed against other GEAR UP schools in the Pohnpei State Scripps Spelling Bee on February 6, 2012 and advanced to the regional competition in Guam.

In Guam, the students were competing for a variety of prizes including: Champion: Round-trip fare to Washington, D.C for the winner and a chaperone, courtesy of United, hotel accommodations at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Guam, \$750 cash award, courtesy of the Pacific Daily News, Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged, courtesy of Merriam-Webster Inc, Samuel Louis Sugarman Award of \$100 U.S. Series EE Savings Bond, courtesy of Mr. Jay Sugarman, and one-year subscription to

Encyclopedia Britannica online.

Second place: \$500 U.S. Savings Bond, courtesy of the Pacific Daily News, \$50 Bestseller gift certificate, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Guam, \$20 Amazon.com gift certificate, courtesy of Scripps National Spelling Bee, and one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica online.

Third place: \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, courtesy of the Pacific Daily News, \$50 Bestseller gift certificate, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Guam, \$20 Amazon.com gift certificate, courtesy of Scripps National Spelling Bee, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, courtesy of Merriam-Webster, Inc, and one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica online.

Fourth to 10th place: Bestseller gift certificates courtesy of the Rotary Club of Guam.

The students along with their mothers, Lois Ludwig and Karlynn Marino, teacher/coach, Jimmy Gallen, 6th grade teacher from Kolonia Elementary, and GEAR UP Education Specialist, arrived on Guam the Thursday before the event. Their coach kept them focused as they studied several hours each day before the competition. The morning of the Bee was filled with much stress and nerves as the students were lead to the stage, overlooking the hundreds of observers including



Mitchell Marino and Lonie Nicholas at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in Guam, March 3, 2012

teachers, coaches, friends, and family members.

Lonie was the first of the two Pohnpeians and when asked to spell "Character" she said that her "heart fluttered" and she added an extra "h". Although she was out on the first round, she maintained her composure and assured all of Pohnpei that next year, she will do better.

Mitchell, from Saladak GEAR UP, was an amazing student to watch and listen to. The audience clapped at his successful delivery and professional demeanor on the stage. His first two words were "alligator" and "rhinoceros" then during the third round, when asked to spell "escargot" he forgot the silent "t". While many students left the stage with anger or disappointment on their faces, Mitchell walked away proudly with a smile across his face. Not only did he prove himself as a speller, but he also displayed an amazing ability to network, communicate, and meet new and interesting students.

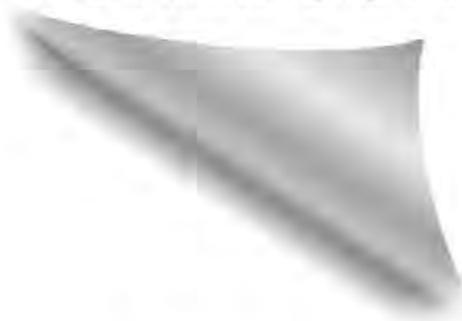
Not only did these students get to compete in the spelling bee but also both students had the opportunity to fly on their first airplane and step foot onto a US territory. "Everything is just so...big!" said Lonie when asked what she thought of visiting Guam for the first time. Mitchell's mother and family were there to support him and before the flight back to Pohnpei, his family took him to the University of Guam to show him the campus. He had pictures taken on the campus and said, "When I finish high school, I will come here for college." Now that is a student to watch in the future!

GEAR UP, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a US Department of Education funded grant that aims to prepare students to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP began last year when the students were in 7th grade and will continue to serve the same students until they graduate high school. GEAR UP Pohnpei currently serves 386 students from six schools who attend the GEAR UP after-school program Mondays through Fridays as well as other GEAR UP activities, such as computer classes on Saturdays, college awareness workshops and other educational events. Currently, GEAR UP students are also participating in the Australian funded "Middle school science program and expo".

GEAR UP also trains local teachers in curriculum development, lesson planning, and creating programming at the schools to increase student attendance, grades, and expose youth to enrichment activities.

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Conservation Corner

Economic Tools for Conservation in Micronesia

Willy Kostka

Conservation Strategy Fund's Economic Tools for Conservation training course will be offered at the College of Micronesia – FSM, from March 12-13, 2012 in Pohnpei, Micronesia. The course is being offered in partnership with the Micronesian Conservation Trust (MCT) and thanks to the generous grants from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, NZAID's Pacific Island Country Participation Fund and OneReef.

After Willy Kostka, Executive Director of the MCT, completed the course in 2010 at Stanford University, he invited the course to Micronesia and has since been working with Kim Bonine of CSF to make this happen. This course will be CSF's first, and hopefully not the last, in the Western Pacific region.

Instructors for the course include David Johnson of Harvard University, Padma Lal, a visiting scientist at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) of Australia, Nicholas Conner with the New South Whales Office of Environment and Heritage, Chris LaFranchi of OneReef, and Kim Bonine of CSF.

The training will support conservation of marine and forest resources in Micronesia by equipping conservation practitioners, natural resource managers and community leaders with the principles and tools of conservation economics.

The thousands of islands comprising Micronesia are characterized by rich natural resources from both land and sea. However, this natural wealth is threatened by a series of interlocking challenges. Integration of the once-isolated islands in the region with global markets has led to rapid development. Coupled with population growth, this transition is placing increasing pressures on natural resources. Pollution, deforestation, infrastructure development, invasive species, deep-sea mining and over-fishing all threaten the region's ecosystems and future natural and economic health. Outside pressures, including global warming and foreign exploitation of fishery resources, are additional serious concerns for these island nations. Participants will leave the course with new economic knowledge and skills to evaluate these and key issues affecting the environment on their islands.

The training will include sessions on economic fundamentals, natural resource economics, fisheries management, environmental policy, environmental valuation, cost-benefit analysis, conservation agreements and communication and negotiation techniques. A workshop component will also be included to help participants develop concrete applications of these economic tools to issues such as fisheries management policies, incentives for coastal area protection, assessing the costs and benefits of infrastructure or tourism development, and estimating the benefits of ecosystem services provided by mangrove forests and coral reefs. More than 15 participants will be drawn from the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

Immediately following the training, MCT and CSF will work with course participants to implement several programs/projects across Micronesia, using the newly acquired knowledge and tools from the course.

COM student musicians will participate in two concerts

COM-FSM News

Palikir, FSM—The National Campus will be hosting two music events this spring semester featuring the College's most talented musicians from the Introduction to Music classes taught by Dr Kitty Pappas.

According to Dr Pappas, the students have no previous formal training but are gifted with very acute musical ears, a love for music and the willingness to try.

The first event will take place on March 29, 2012, at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center from 4 – 6pm. Dr Pappas described the concert as "by students for students," where several students, who spend extra time practicing music have taught themselves to play ukulele, guitar or sing harmony, will perform a variety of popular and country music favorites as well as some of their own compositions.

The second event will take place on May 1, 2012, also at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center from 5 – 7 pm. According to Dr. Pappas, all the students from her Introduction to Music classes will share their own compositions created as their final project requirement. The student musicians will sing while using musical instruments like keyboards, harmonicas, ukuleles and guitars.

Both events are open to the public.

I would personally like to thank and point out as an example, the drivers of the large College of Micronesia buses. The buses are large. They are unwieldy on Pohnpei's roads but I have never on any occasion seen one of those drivers handling those vehicles in anything but a courteous and safe manner. Some other bus drivers could certainly learn some fine lessons from those drivers.

Whoever you are, thank you very much!

Bill Jaynes
A fellow driver

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- 2008 Hyundai R55-3 With Blade & 12 Inch Bucket, 2,745 Hrs. \$ 28,000

WHEEL LOADERS.

- 2009 Hyundai HL 740-7 2.8 Cubic Yard GP Bucket. \$ 88,000
- 2005 New Holland Skid Steer Loader LS 185, 85 HP, GP Bucket. \$ 19,500
- 2009 New Holland B95.B 4WD Backhoe GP Bucket. \$ 59,300

ROLLERS

- 2005 Bomag BW 100AD Ride-One 36 Inch Roller 2.5 Ton, 1650 Hrs. \$ 13,500
- 2008 Bomag BW 120AD Ride-One 42 Inch Roller 2.5 Ton, 950 Hrs. \$ 26,000

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- 60 KW, 3 Phase, 120/208 Volt, Cummins Onan Gen. Set. \$ 8,300
- 80 KW, 3 Phase, 120/208 Volt, Onan Gen. Set Weather Proof Encl. \$ 11,300
- 50 KW (New 2011), 3 Phase, 120/208 Volt, Kohler Gen. Set, Sound Proof & Weather Proof Aluminum Encl. \$ 22,300

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K Press Perspective

Kudos to Paradise!

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

I love it when events that seem destined not to work, work anyway and in stellar fashion! The "Music Box 2012" fundraising event last Saturday evening at the Rusty Anchor Pub and Grub, put on by Paradise Media which operates V6W1, FM 89.5 Paradise Radio was one of those types of events.

I admit freely and in my most shamefaced, "crow-eating" fashion, that I expected the event to fall flat on its face. I had questions:

- Music Box 2012" was an "all ages" event and was planned as the first annual Music Box event.
- Paradise Media Pohnpei is a registered non-profit corporation in Pohnpei State.
- The "Music Box" event raised over \$1200.
- The money will be used for Paradise Media to move into a new studio where it can expand radio coverage and programming. A recording studio will also be installed to help young Micronesian artists to pursue their dreams of recording music.
- Musicians that played at "Music Box 2012" received no remuneration.
- The 14 paradise staff members and volunteers for the event were also unpaid.
- Sponsors for the event included: The Village, PCR Nantehlik, Ace Office Supply, No No Yos Kitchen, Pohnpei Surf Club, Blue Nile, Panuelo Enterprises, Pohnpei LP Gas, Pohnpei Courtesy, and Rusty Anchor Pub and Grub.

How would "Paradise" attract a reasonably sized crowd given that the time for promotion between completion of venue negotiations and the event itself was extremely short; only about two weeks?

Second, I, as a cantankerous middle aged man, wondered how the organizers who were mostly "twenty somethings" (one of whom was my son) could pull off the large scale event they envisioned. (I must admit and I do so, freely now, that I completely forgot that all of my childhood rock star heroes were "twenty somethings," and that I organized my first large scale event when I was a "twenty something." Now just how embarrassing is that for an old man to admit?)

Third, if a large crowd did show up at the event how would the organizers keep the irascible (violently inclined) few from causing a disaster of epic proportions at Rusty Anchor, the one venue where my band, "Wetter than Seattle" frequently and almost exclusively performs and, what would such a disaster mean for the future of the radio station?

I had many other questions and though I knew that the organizers met nearly every night for weeks to make the event work, even before they knew where it would be, I just wasn't convinced that it would work until the event itself was well under way.

My fears that no one would show were unfounded as were most of my other fears. Rusty Anchor Pub and Grub was jam packed inside and out with fans ranging in age from teenagers to self proclaimed, "Old fogies."

The event wasn't scheduled to start until 8:00 and for the first hour it was just going to be a bit of music to keep the crowd happy before the first artist performed at 9:00. At 7:15 there was already a line at the door.

One of my fears was that there would be under-aged drinking and that problem might be a huge legal ordeal for the owners of Rusty Anchor—didn't happen. I was even more

afraid that underage (or even legal age) drinking, or perhaps clashes of generations or cultures might spark fights—also, didn't happen.

Maybe the security pat downs at the entrance set the tone, I don't know, but those in attendance, even the young ones who were not allowed into the bar without parental guidance seemed to know what was expected.

Some parents did accompany their teen aged children to the event. The bass guitar player for "Wetter than Seattle" later commented that it must have been every daughter's nightmare to go on her first date, which happened on that Saturday night, and have her dad be a member of "the band." I would bet she was actually proud to have such a "cool" dad. ("Wetter than Seattle" performed a set of classic and alternative rock at the event and the hip hop crowd was not only accepting, they gave us a rock star type reception for which this old man was grateful. I must admit that this old rocker felt a lot like I imagine Jimi Hendrix felt every time he opened for "The Monkees" early in his career.)

Any parent at any time could have gathered their teenaged offspring and ditched "Rusty" if things got out of hand but not one parent did. Most stayed far longer than I thought they might have done.

Was "Music Box 2012" rowdy? It was that. Was it loud? Uh huh. Did crowds nearly freak out when Nanpohnmal's break dance crew, "No Mercy" tore up the concrete dance floor? Yep, they did that. Did they go into a frenzy when the Mapusi Dance crew performed heart stopping flips and other acrobatics? That too, in spades. Did DJizzle, while performing four songs including his "hit" single, "Serepein Masamwahu" get a little carried away and rip his shirt off? Yep, he did that. Did the crowd "go off" when Blaze and Young Ryda performed three songs they recorded just



last week with DJ Bliz playing backups on the turntables? Uh huh. Did they cheer Young Ryda to a free style rap victory over the shirtless and more than a little profane DJizzle? Check-o-lah...

Was Music Box 2012 "off the hook?" It was that.

Was it ever out of control? Not once!!!

Even the police who came at about 1:30 seemed to be impressed by how orderly the evening was going. Unfortunately the law requires that a venue like Rusty Anchor, which is not enclosed as is the night club down the street, must be vacated even by staff members by 2:00 in the morning.

The closing time thing was one thing the organizers seemed not to have taken seriously or not to have completely understood. As a result the ever popular and "booked through June" touring, island and reggae band, "PNI Nation" was only able to perform half of its set. DJ Bliz, who had worked hard on his set and who was the principal organizer of the Music

Box 2012 event never got to perform.

Despite their disappointment at what was perceived to be an "early closing," the exodus of Music Box partiers after the police visit was orderly and not one fight occurred in the parking lot as has been known to happen at some events.

Personally, I couldn't have been prouder to be associated with this event. I'd participate again without nearly the misgivings I had for this one if they'd only have the old man back!

Kudos to Paradise!

Letter to the Editor

What goes around comes around

Here in Hawaii, we (the poor Micronesians) are stigmatized as the harbinger of all the social, political and economical ills that befall this wonderful state. Yes! Blame it on the new immigrants--the Micros. They're the reason Hawaii is in the dumps. They're the reason the not-so-local Hawaiians are struggling with homelessness, drug abuses, and corruptions. They needed a scapegoat and they've found one in the stupid Micros. There is so much negative stereotypes that people here in Hawaii are projecting to the hapless and seemingly ignorant Micronesians. Even the second and third generation immigrants from other foreign countries follow suit and blame everything on us.

Ironically, while little flak is directed towards us from the true indigenous Hawaiians, we're getting hard hits on all fronts by the modern day bourgeois: descendants of the Portuguese cowhands, the Japanese, Okinawan and Chinese fishermen and laborers, the Ilocano plantation workers, and the tough Polynesian warriors and football players from American Samoa.

As new arrivals, we will try our best to be strong and to persevere. It is only natural that we endure the same hardship and face the same challenges that each of the ethnic minority groups went through as they tried to establish a foothold in this new community. We will run the gauntlet of ridicule and letdowns; we will go through the FOB hazing and finger-pointing; we will bear the brunt of Island 98.5 Micro-jokes and we will swallow our pride just for a while longer.

We've come a long way and, short of a mass deportation back to our country on large ships, we will remain here. The fact of the matter is, we didn't ask to be here. We were invited. Uncle Sam decided to show his might by hydrogen-bombing our islands rendering them uninhabitable, used us as guinea pigs, made us pathetically depended on him, and then invited us to come to America. So, here we are! Whether you like it or not, that is your problem.

Itoshy Ruben

 <p>Australian Government AusAID</p>	<p>Assistant Program Manager, AusAID</p>
<p>Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of Assistant Program Manager for AusAID's Development Co-operation program located at the Australian Embassy, Pohnpei. The AusAID Development Co-operation program is implemented across the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.</p>	
<p>The Assistant Program Manager will work with, and under the direction of the Senior Program Manager, AusAID Pohnpei. The Assistant Program Manager is responsible for administering AusAID scholarships, the Micronesia Small Grants Scheme, and other development assistance activities as endorsed by AusAID.</p>	
<p>The person that we are seeking will have experience in program or project management and implementation, with strong organisational, time management and administrative skills. He/she will use initiative and be able to work with minimal supervision. A high-level of communication and writing skills as well as sound computer skills are required.</p>	
<p>Relevant tertiary qualifications, experience in working in a multicultural environment as well as experience in development programs or projects will be highly regarded.</p>	
<p>Salary: Negotiable salary of USD 16,000 to USD20,000 per annum, commensurate with qualifications and experience.</p>	
<p>Application process: Interested applicants need to submit a resume/CV and address the Selection Criteria. The Information Pack which contains the Selection Criteria and Duty Statement may be obtained from http://www.fsm.embassy.gov.au/phpi/home.html or by contacting Erin Magee at erin.magee@ausaid.gov.au</p>	
<p>Once complete, please email your application addressing the Selection Criteria, together with your resume/CV to erin.magee@ausaid.gov.au.</p>	
<p>Closing date for applications is close of business on 30 March 2012.</p>	

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Kia's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
- Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service Invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the kids too! Call: 320-2496

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There was a young lady called Maris
Whom no one could ever embarrass
'Til the bath salts, one day
In the tub where she lay
Turned out to be plaster of Paris.

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Join the Island Food Community of Pohnpei and keep going local!

By *Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP)*

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) has started its Membership Campaign for 2012 and would like to invite you to join.

IFCP's overall work is for the promotion of Local Food for their "CHEEF" benefits: Culture, Health, Environment, Economics and Food security. This is embodied in our slogan "LET'S GO LOCAL."

Last year, 46 people joined for regular annual individual and student memberships. Nine institutes became annual members, and we received five new life-time memberships.

The benefits of membership include the opportunity to help fight against the present health crisis, the epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCD), such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Now one in three Pohnpei adults is diabetic (WHO STEP 2002), which can lead to

other serious health problems, amputations of toes, feet and legs, kidney failure and even death.

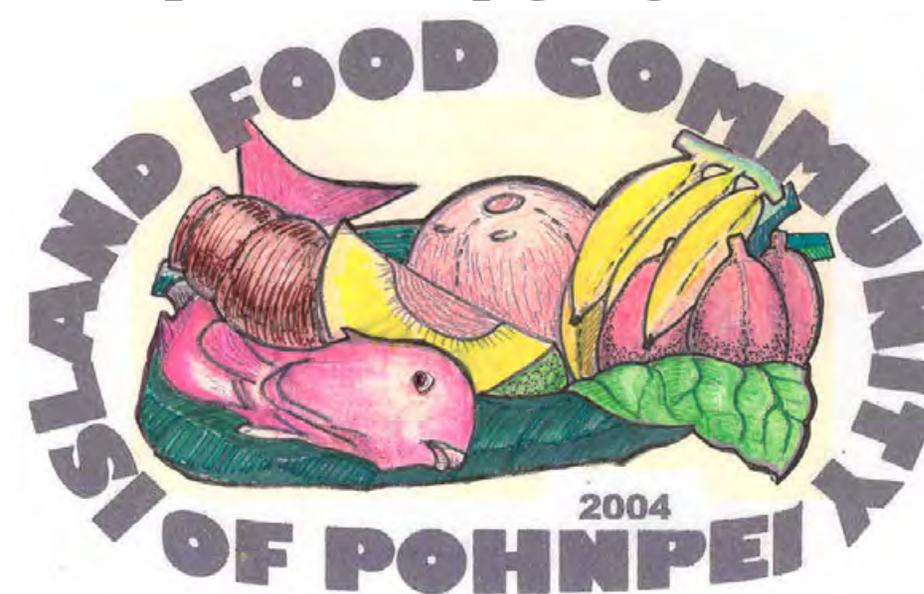
The other benefits of membership are:

- Subscription to the current IFCP Newsletter and past issues, if of interest
- Information on benefits of Pohnpei's local food: scientific findings on nutrient content and relationships between nutrient content and health, recipes, crop varieties information and other available materials
- Invitation to IFCP annual general meeting (if member is on-island)
- Update emails from the "go local" email network

The membership fees are:

- Student (annual) \$5
- Regular individual (annual) \$10
- Institutional (annual) \$100
- Lifetime membership \$1000

The IFCP does not receive money from the



government and survives by grants from outside agencies, along with incoming funds from memberships and sales of some island food promotional materials.

Please help the overall movement to preserve and protect island foods, thereby

protecting Micronesia's culture, health, environment, economics, and food security.

For more information, call IFCP at 691(320)3259 or email at info@islandfood.org.

Karat and Pandanus supported the FUN runners and walkers

By *Chizuru Seki (JICA)*
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

The first FUN RUN/WALK in 2012 was held on February 18, 2012. Over 150 participants took part in Pohnpei Fitness 5K Run Walk Pohnpei Rotary Club Scholarship Fundraiser sponsored by BUD LIGHT ®

and National Olympic Committee (NOC) at Palm Terrace parking lot in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) provided yellow flesh local fruits: Karat, Pohnpei State Banana, and Pandanus.

Yellow flesh local fruits and crops such as banana, pandanus, taro, and breadfruits are high in beta carotene, provitamin A. Beta carotene turns into vitamin A inside the body.

High contents of beta carotene as well as total carotenoid, other vitamins, minerals and fiber in local food can help people fight against diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, vitamin A deficiency and anemia.

IFCP believes that health crisis in FSM, one in three adult has diabetes, is due to changes in diet (consuming more imported unhealthy food rather than healthy own local food) and lack of exercise. Going local (planting, growing, maintaining, harvesting, cooking and eating local food) will nourish you well and provide enough

exercise, thus make you healthy.

Fun Run/Walk is a good opportunity to start daily exercise. Come and join FUN Run/Walk once a month and gradually make it as your weekly or daily routine.

Next Fun Run/Walk, Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick

Memorial Scholarship 5k Run, will be held at 7am at Palm Terrace on Saturday, March 17, 2012.

IFCP would like to thank NOC for its partnership and the SPC CePaCT, Australian Government, SPC Healthy Life-Style for their funding support.

Kaselehlie

Dental Clinic

located, ground floor of the Namiki Building

FSM Health Insurance is accepted

Dr. Than Tun Kyaw (B.D.S.) **Dr. Hnin Thida Kyu (B.D.S.)**

Clinic opens Monday through Saturday 9 AM to 6 PM

For additional information or appointments, Please call (691) 320-4250



Yellow flesh Pohnpei State banana, Karat, nourished Fun Run/Walk participant



Australian Government
AusAID

AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (ARDS) INTAKE YEAR 2013

Opening Date: 22 February 2012
Closing Date: 30 March 2012

Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2013 for full time undergraduate and post-graduate study in Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa. Awards cover tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Have completed an Associate Degree or equivalent, or due to complete by June 2012 with minimum GPA of 2.8, OR
- Be over 25 years with High School GPA 2.8 or above and have a minimum of 5 years work experience related to the field of study.

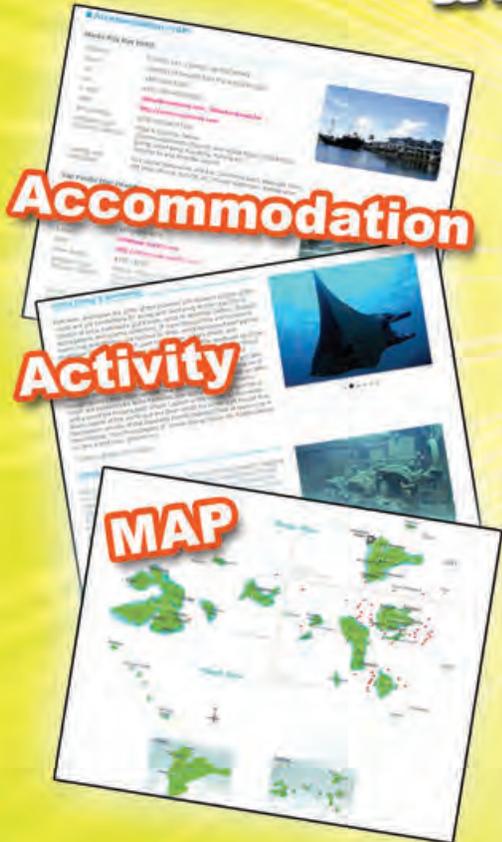
Students just finishing High School are NOT eligible.

Expression of Interest Forms are available at:
the Australian Embassy website www.fsm.embassy.gov.au
the FSM National Scholarship Office
Pohnpei Dept of Education, Scholarship Office,
Kosrae: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office,
Yap: Dept of Resources & Dev, Scholarship Office,
Chuuk: Dept of Education, Scholarship Office,
the COM Financial Aid Office, Pohnpei
the Australian Embassy, HE Building (next to Sea Breeze Hotel)

All completed Expression of Interest Forms should be submitted to the appropriate Scholarship Boards office above by **30 March 2012**.

Check Out FSM

Newly redesigned tourism website!!! www.visit-micronesia.fm/



2nd FSM / 29th POHNPEI CULTURAL DAY

March 30-31, 2012
at Botanical Garden in Kolonia

EXPERIENCE THE TASTE OF FSM CULTURE AND TRADITION !



We are looking for volunteers and donations for the event. contact Kester James at Pohnpei State Social Affairs Tel: 320-2650 /5142

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Tourism Unit

Tel : 320 - 5133

E-mail : visitfsm@gmail.com

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