

The KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Market and International Youth Day in Pohnpei



Pohnpei Boxing Club gets a booster shot in the arm



Members of the Pohnpei Boxing Club and Senator David Panuelo pose with future world boxing champ, Josiah Welles on Monday evening August 19. Welles has not yet begun to train though he does enjoy playing in the dirt. Senator Panuelo visited the Boxing Club to present a \$1000 donation. He congratulated the boxers on their commitment to fitness in this day and age when non-Communicable Diseases are killing Micronesians in record numbers. Welles' father, Kenneth said that the club will use the donation to buy more protective gear for sparring in order to keep the boxers safe.



PICS Principal receives notification of demotion by letter

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

August 21, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—Before he was demoted last week from his position as the PICS High School Principal, Sohnster Edgar says that his boss didn't say anything to him about a demotion. He had no idea that the Director of the Department of Education, Joseph Villazon was considering such a move and had no indication that there was anything wrong. But Villazon wrote what amounted to a "Dear John" letter and then left island the next day for the meeting of the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) in Honolulu, Hawaii. Edgar was blindsided.

Since Villazon was in Hawaii for the JEMCO meeting he was not available for comment on his actions. Acting Director Reynold Albert said that he could not comment on behalf of the Department of Education because the initiative was entirely Villazon's own. He said that we should speak with him when he returns on the afternoon that this newspaper goes to press. Albert said he knew nothing about the situation other than that Villazon had removed Edgar as Principal of PICS. He said that he had not been consulted.

Villazon's letter instructed Edgar to return to classroom teaching and assigned Mayson Fredrick as the Acting Principal of PICS High School effective on August 19, the day that the PICS school year began.

The letter was dated August 12 but Edgar said that he did not receive it until one of the PICS bus drivers delivered it late on the afternoon of August 16, the Friday before PICS High School opened on Monday.

The Department of Education is approximately three blocks from the PICS Principal's office.

Villazon's letter laid the blame for three years of poor student performance on the COM-FSM Entrance Test (COMET) at Edgar's feet. The letter says that Edgar's "failure to execute and supervise the corrective 'Action Plan' as prepared and directed provides compelling evidence of insubordination. It is for those reasons, amongst others, that as Director of the Department of Education, I am forced by Oath of Office and Law of the State to ensure effective management and accountability of all units within the Department."

No one at the Department of Education could explain what "amongst others" means and Edgar has been consulting with Micronesia Legal Aid regarding the possibility of filing a law suit against the Department of Education. "I just want to clear my name," Edgar said. He expects that civil action will be filed soon.

Edgar says that he was appointed as Acting Principal of PICS High School in January of 2011, just a few months before students sat for the COMET. He was appointed as Principal in the middle of the summer of 2011.

He said that the "Action Plan" to which the Director referred was not even approved by the Director until April 17, 2013, after students had sat for the 2013 COMET and that he and his staff have fully implemented that plan. He provided a copy of the plan which seems to deal mainly with issues of student absence, tardiness, and disciplinary matters. There is very little, if anything in the plan other than controlling the classroom environment that deals with effective teaching.

Edgar says the argument that he is solely to blame for three years of poor student performance on the COMET doesn't make sense. He said that since the Director has been micro-managing PICS High School, if anything he should assume at least part of the blame himself.

As example, he pointed out that the director alone can authorize requests for leaves of absence and that last year he authorized three leaves for three teachers, all of whom teach Senior level English or Mathematics teachers. He said that the Department of Education also promoted a Senior level teacher to the position of Vice Principal. Edgar says that person was willing to continue teaching classes in addition to his new responsibilities but that the Department of Education said that he had to focus on his new duties and would not allow him to teach.

Edgar said that a further factor in the school's shortage of Senior level teachers, particularly in English, and Mathematics was the discovery that a WorldTeach volunteer who had been commissioned to teach an English course to Seniors at PICS had not felt comfortable teaching English and so took it upon himself to teach an Art course instead. That fact was not discovered until he announced that he was going to work for the College of Micronesia

in the middle of a semester.

Edgar said that he continually made requests of the Department of Education for more teachers but that his requests fell on deaf ears. The Department of Education does the hiring, not the Principal. He said that before Villazon gave his edict Edgar had already decided to teach Algebra to Seniors this year because of the teacher shortage. He said that he had already asked a Vice Principal to teach a class this year as well.

In further defense of himself, Edgar said that students across the FSM did not fare well on this year's COMET. It's a report that principals across the FSM have made. Many have complained about this year's revamped test.

President Joseph Daisy is also at the JEMCO meetings in Hawaii this week and was unavailable for comment. During previous conversations regarding the COMET he has stood behind the revamped test and continually states that the COMET was never intended to be an evaluation tool of the effectiveness of FSM's education system.

Edgar says that school discipline is important and addressed in the Action Plan established earlier this year. He said that the written DOE policy says that the Director of Education must make all decisions regarding student expulsions but that decisions on student suspensions are to be made by the Principal. But recently Villazon decided that he must be consulted regarding student suspensions as well. Edgar said that Villazon had overturned some student suspensions.

When asked if he knew of any insubordination on his part, Edgar said that he recently stands up for the school's employees and that might come off as insubordination.

Edgar has been a professional educator since 1986, initially in primary education. Previous Director of Education Cassiano Shoniber transferred him to secondary education in 2005 along with several other teachers who had Bachelor's degrees.

For now we have only the letter that Villazon wrote and an interview with Mr. Edgar that we initiated. We will further pursue the Department of Education's side of the story when Villazon returns from his travels.

Vice President Alik attends first Pacific Island Development Forum in Nadi, Fiji

FSM Information Services

August 21, 2013

Dept. Foreign Affairs - Vice President Alik L. Alik represented the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to the Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF) which was held in Nadi, Fiji from August 5-7, 2013. The PIDF is a successor of the Engaging with the Pacific Meetings held last year, in which the FSM was represented by Suva-based Ambassador Gerson Jackson. The Forum was chaired by Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste and was attended by leadership representatives from Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Tonga, and Papua New Guinea. Member of the civil societies, the business sector and donor partners were also in observance.

The PIDF considered a framework for bringing together governmental, business and civil society leaders to secure concrete commitments and mobilize action in support of the Green Economy. Among others, discussions also highlighted the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio +20) which endorsed the green economy concept as a tool for sustainable development in the region. The concept aims to promote economic, social and environmental sustainable future for present and future generations within the Pacific region.

After the Forum in Nadi, Vice President Alik traveled to Suva where he had meetings with the President/Vice Chancellor of the Fiji National University, Investment Fiji, which is an independent entity under the Department of Ministry of Industry & Trade, and the Land Management Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. He also toured a company in Fiji that is specialized in Mud (Mangrove) Crab Production.

The Vice President was accompanied by Secretary Marion Henry of the Department of Resources and Development, Ambassador Gerson Jackson of the FSM Embassy in Fiji and Mr. Carson Mongkeya from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Record tuna catch in 2012

Marianas Variety

August 22

Majuro — Tuna catches in the western Pacific hit record levels in 2012 and coincided with record global market prices that bumped the value of the fishery to an all-time high of over \$4 billion, according to a report presented to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's scientific committee that met in Pohnpei last week.

The total estimated tuna catch was 2,613,528 metric tons last year, "the highest on record, eclipsing the previous record in 2009 by 12,000 metric tons," said the report. This volume of tuna accounts for an estimated 60 percent of the total global catch of tuna, according to the report.

The eight member nations of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement are also seeing record levels of revenue this year from tuna caught in their waters. PNA revenues are up from \$60 million annually in 2010 to over \$240 million this year.

Marshall Islands fisheries Director Glen Joseph said fisheries revenue in the Marshalls has tripled. It's a success story for all PNA members, Joseph said. "All PNA countries have doubled or tripled their revenue under the vessel day scheme (or VDS)," he said. "With the new benchmark minimum VDS price of \$6,000 starting in January 2014, the sky is the limit."

But he cautioned, all of this PNA success is based on the unity the eight members

have been able to maintain. "If we don't stay together, we won't be able to keep benefiting," he said.

Last week's report, prepared by officials from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Forum Fisheries Agency, broke down the tuna catch in 2012:

- The yellow fin tuna catch set an all-time high of 655,668 metric tons, more than 70,000 tons higher than the previous record.
- The bigeye tuna catch of 161,679 metric tons was the highest since 2004, when a bigeye volume record was set.
- The albacore tuna catch of 131,872 metric tons was the second highest on record
- The skipjack catch came in as the third highest ever at 1,664,309 metric tons.

Purse seiner fishing boats drove the record tuna catch in 2012, accounting for nearly 70 percent of all tuna caught. This was largely due to a record number of purse seiners — 297 — operating in the western and central Pacific area during 2012.

The fleet of purse seiners registered in Pacific islands "has been clearly the highest producer in the tropical purse seiner fishery since 2003," the report said. And an increase in U.S.-flagged purse seiners fishing has resulted in a "sharp increase" in catch.

The report said the estimated "delivered value" of tuna caught in the western and central Pacific was over \$4 billion in 2012

Recovery loan repayment forgiven for Kosrae and Chuuk

FSM Information Services

August 21, 2013

President Manny Mori signed Congressional Acts No. 18-07 and 18-08 on August 15 with mixed feelings. The two Acts have become Public Law No. 18-08 and Public Law No. 18-09.

These legislations are similar in that they would absolve the State of Kosrae and the State of Chuuk from having to repay the remaining balances of the recovery loans extended to the State of Kosrae, through PL No. 14-140, and the State of Chuuk, through PL No. 10-31.

The President thanked Congress for passing the Acts. However, he observed with "disappointment" that no conditions were imposed to ensure that the respective States would fulfill the fiscal reform objectives that were to be achieved as quid pro quo conditions of the loans.

For Chuuk, part of the understanding established with the National Government was to return to a unicameral legislature, install a public auditor and hire special prosecutor within a specified timeframe. None of these has been achieved.

Similar financial reforms were required of the State of Kosrae. However, the cash flow problem has not improved and continues to haunt everyone.

"The two State's outstanding debts may be erased from their respective books through these acts, but the needed reforms will remain

without being resolved."

President Mori raised the fact that another loan had been extended to the State of Chuuk for FEMA reimbursement in the amount of \$978,860 through PL No. 17-68, for which the State has not indicated intention to repay. This loan could have been part of the absolution Act. All the States received FEMA reimbursement funds through the same public law (17-68) but only Chuuk State was required to work out a repayment plan with the President in an indefinite timeframe.

Also on the same day, President Mori also signed into law Congressional Act No. 18-10. The Act was made to correct an error in a previous appropriation which failed to designate allottee(s) of funds appropriated for the Election District No. 2 (Northern Namoneas Region) in Chuuk State.

The 8th Legislature appoints new Yap State public auditor

August 09, 2013

Yap State Resolution No. 8-82, which adopted by the Eight Legislature of the State of Yap, Third Regular Session, 2013 appointed Wilfred Oliver L. Dolosa as Public Auditor of the State of Yap. Dolosa has been with the Yap State Office of the Public Auditor for the past 5 years as the Audit Manager.

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A Coffee Industry for Pohnpei?

By John Ranahan

August, 2013

Kolonia, FSM – On May 29, 2013, a meeting hosted by Mr. Wilbur and Senator Magdalena Walter to discuss how they could use the coffee trees on their farm resulted in the ‘Pohnpei Buzz’ Coffee Pilot Project, a private sector initiative which can have a significant impact for increased income to the people of Pohnpei.

Wilbur Walter is most commonly associated with the Nihco Store and Marine Park. But few people know that he started planting 350 coffee trees four years ago. These trees are starting to produce fruit, and the first official harvest will begin next month.

“The seeds are from the coffee trees already on island from the Japanese era. I took the first fruits to Greenwell Farms in Hawaii earlier this year and their positive reaction to the taste and quality of the beans encouraged me to push forward with a business based on coffee,” explained Mr. Walter.

However, the Walters deep interest in the coffee business started long before this affirmation from a world-class coffee farm. “It is speculated that coffee is the second most valuable world commodity after oil. If Pohnpei can have just even a little slice of that, we will feel better about our children and grandchildren’s future. Like many others, we worry about the challenges after 2023 and I hope that a successful, sustainable coffee industry can be one way we can prepare our home, our state, to overcome the tough times ahead,” said Senator Walter.

The Pohnpei Buzz Coffee Pilot Project is, therefore, both a business and a blueprint for developing a coffee industry on Pohnpei. To assist them, the Walters requested the assistance of Dr Leah Briones, a development specialist who has lived and worked in Pohnpei the last two years. Dr Briones is Coordinator of

the project and has assisted with the development of the business and project work plans. “This is a little coffee project with big plans. The potential gains are as big as the challenges. In our planning, we’ve been careful to factor the lessons learned from the many enterprises that have succeeded on Pohnpei state and in the FSM, but also those that have failed,” said Dr Briones.

The Pohnpei Buzz team is working with the College of Micronesia extension service to apply for a feasibility study grant. If the study shows that there can be an economically and environmentally viable coffee industry here, the development impacts could be far-reaching. With a sizable population living in or connected to the rural areas through traditional obligations, the agricultural sector has the potential to employ the greatest number of workers in Pohnpei.

“Mature coffee industries in other pacific countries have seen increased incomes translated into better access to education and health services. In Papua New Guinea, for example, the coffee industry earns around \$147 million annually of which 60 – 70% goes straight to growers’ households. Significantly, the industry enables women’s formal participation in the economy which has resulted in growers’ communities thriving in places like Tanna in Vanuatu,” said Dr Briones.

The pilot project is financed by Mr. Walter. While he has invested in growing, processing, and marketing materials, others have provided technical assistance on an unpaid basis. Mr. Walter added, “I know that this project is worthwhile because of the amazing amount and quality of volunteer assistance. People are willing to invest their time and expertise because they believe in and are excited by the possible gains for the people of our island. And I can even tell you that not all are coffee lovers!” Other expertise and support provided to the project so far includes James Hollyer from the University of Hawaii, Shawn Steiman of Coffea Consulting, Jim Currie from the College of Micronesia, Adelino Lorens of Pohnpei State Office of Agriculture, USDA and the US Embassy.

Subject to harvest yields, Pohnpei Buzz roasted coffee is scheduled to go on sale around October at the earliest and July next year, at the latest.



Changes to Australian visa arrangements



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Australian Embassy to the FSM

Pohnpei - The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has changed the visa processing system, making it quicker and easier to apply for many Australian visas.

Persons who wish to travel to Australia will no longer need to apply for visas through the Australian Embassy, instead they can liaise directly with the decision makers in Suva, Fiji. This change will improve efficiency of visa lodgements and communication for specific visa applications.

DIAC is also pleased to advise that the Federated States of Micronesia is the first Pacific Island Country to be included in the online visa program. Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) citizens who hold a valid FSM passport can apply for a visa, and submit all necessary documentation, online removing the need to send paperwork to Suva.

For all visa related queries contact TT Services in Suva on +679 331-1300 or visit www.immi.gov.au and www.ttsaustralia.com.

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PACC Program Manager says misrepresentation not intentional

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press
August 14, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—On July 15, The Kaselehlie Press published a news article entitled “Kosrae PACC a shining example of climate change adaptation measures”. The article discussed the continuing success of the FSM’s pilot PACC (Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change) project in Kosrae. It also gave examples of continuing international interest in the program as evidenced by opportunities for the program’s manager, Simpson Abraham to present the program in regional and international fora.

Though the importance of the program for the people of Kosrae is unquestionable, there was a misrepresentation in the article of one of the examples that Mr. Abraham gave. He told us that he had received an invitation to present the program to the Association of Pacific Island Legislators (APIL) but had to turn it down because of a conflict in schedules.

“Although the work of Mr. Simpson is important to our communities, such factual misrepresentation in the article needs to be corrected,” wrote Walden Weilbacher of APIL in an email that arrived this morning. “Mr. Abraham was never invited to participate in the APIL General Assembly. He asked for an invitation, but I informed Mr. Abraham that we cannot extend the invitation to him because we were maxed out with

presenters.”

The interview with Abraham on which the news story was based took place over lunch in Fiji in a crowded dining room during the Joint Meeting of the 2013 Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable. Abraham says that the miscommunication may have been a result of the noisy interview environment and it was not an intentional misrepresentation.

Though there was clearly an error made regarding Mr. Abraham’s request to present at APIL, the fact remains that the program remains a high profile success story of Pacific adaptation measures in response to Climate Change.

After a long break Pohnpei begins issuing Foreign Investment permits

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

August 21, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—In March of 2011, Pohnpei replaced a foreign investment law that prohibited most types of foreign investment in the State with a law that would allow any foreign investor’s application for a permit to at least be considered.

Nothing happened.

Pohnpei’s registrar of corporations received very few applications, even fewer than the disbanded Foreign Investment Board received while the previous restrictive foreign investment law was in place.

Foreign investors didn’t beat down the doors to enter Pohnpei’s market much to the chagrin of business owners who converged on legislative chambers on December 14, 2010 to protest the proposed foreign investment bill. Business owners claimed that the legislature

was selling them out. Protestors carried signs that said exactly that, “Don’t sell us out”.

Pohnpei’s business owners seemed certain that they would be driven out of business by the surge of foreign investors that would overrun Pohnpei.

Their protests were not in vain. The bill the legislature was considering called for five members of the Executive Branch to form Pohnpei’s foreign investment panel. After further hearings the legislature changed the bill to allow for two members of the business community and two consumer members to sit on the panel that would review applications for foreign investment, each nominated by the governor and approved by the legislature.

Still nothing happened, and it continued to not happen until just a few weeks ago when the foreign investment panel ruled to issue three permits and to deny one.

According to Quirino Loyola of Pohnpei’s registrar’s office, the one foreign investment application the panel denied claimed a Compact exemption which Pohnpei’s law says can be granted to U.S. citizens as a reciprocal agreement. He said that the panel rejected the application because the applicant was not a U.S. citizen.

The panel issued permits to Best and Best, a car dealership; PADMA, a retail business; and Miju Mulsan, Company, Limited, a fishing operation.

Miju Mulsan is a defendant in a civil action regarding the State’s issuance of a lease for the Pohnpei Fisheries Corporation (PFC) dock in Dekehtik.

At the mutual request of attorneys for the plaintiffs and the defendants in the civil action, the FSM Supreme Court temporarily suspended hearings regarding the lease of the PFC dock while the parties attempt to reach an out-of-court settlement on the matter.

Unlike FSM Supreme Court procedures and rulings, out-of-court settlement arrangements are not subject to public disclosure.

Meanwhile, the FSM Supreme Court’s temporary restraining order that barred Pohnpei State from evicting Luen Thai from the docks and prohibiting them from executing a lease with Miju Mulsan still stands.

Loyola said that Miju Mulsan’s original foreign investment application included the operation of the PFC dock facility. He said that the AG’s office advised the registrar’s office that all mention of the PFC dock facility should be scrubbed from the Miju Mulsan’s application since that facility is still a matter of litigation. Miju Mulsan complied with that request and submitted an amended application.

The permit the registrar’s office issued to the company does not authorize Miju Mulsan to perform transshipment activities at the PFC dock.

The issuance of a foreign investment
See “Foreign Investment” on page 13



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The College of Micronesia-FSM is having a fair to celebrate its 20th anniversary. We are inviting the public to participate by buying a table to sell food, goods, and services, for sharing information, or to set up games. If you are interested, please complete the form below. Return it to the COM-FSM President’s Office with your \$20 entry fee. The money goes into the college’s endowment fund.

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Pacific Teacher Scholarship Award

August 13, 2013

Honolulu, Hawai'i— PREL is honored to announce the recipients of the 2013 Pacific Teacher Scholarship Award! Congratulations to the following outstanding future teachers:

- Ms. Tala Ropeti, American Sāmoa
- Ms. Tonya Tuigamala, American Sāmoa
- Ms. Catherine Borja-Flores, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Ms. Rhonda Johnny, Pohnpei
- Ms. Drystal Silbanuz, Pohnpei
- Ms. Yasko Weilbacher, Pohnpei
- Ms. Daphne Nestor, Republic of Palau

The recipients are accomplished students currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program at an accredited college or university and are residents of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands (USAPI). Since 2004, PREL has offered this scholarship opportunity to assist aspiring teachers in the Pacific region as they work toward their educational goals, with the intent to bring their knowledge home to their communities.

Applicants submit a personal statement, course transcripts, and letters of recommendation. Criteria for the scholarship competition include having an intention to teach at a school in the USAPI and a good academic record with a minimum GPA of 2.5. PREL received and reviewed applications from across the jurisdictions.



Daphne Nestor, Palau



Drystal Silbanuz, Pohnpei



Rhonda Johnny, Pohnpei



Catherine Borja Flores, CNMI

President Mori signs Congressional Act No. 18-11, item vetoes \$895,000

FSM Information Services

August 21, 2013

President Manny Mori informed Congress that he has item vetoed an amount of \$895,000 proposed in Congressional Act No. 18-11 for “principal amount owed by Pohnpei employers” to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Social Security.

Congressional Act No. 18-11 would appropriate the sum of \$1,680,000 from the general fund of the FSM for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, to assist Pohnpei State and Yap State “in retiring debt and covering budget shortfall, and for other purposes”.

Under this proposed legislation, Pohnpei State is to receive \$1,130,000 inclusive of \$130,000 to be directed to the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation and the \$895,000 owed to FSM Social Security by some employers.

The State of Yap is to receive an amount of \$550,000 that includes \$50,000 to “be used for fuel for the Field Trip Ship”.

The funds appropriated are to be allotted, managed and administered by the Governors of the respective States according to the Financial Management Act of 1979, and other relevant laws and

regulations.

Although President Mori indicated his agreement with the general intent of the Act, he stressed some concerns in the “language and purpose” for the portion allocated for Pohnpei State.

The President pointed out that the laws governing social security “impose an excise tax”, which all employers must remit to the social security administration.

“Failure to pay tax is a violation of law... this act appears to reward non-payment of tax by ‘Pohnpei employers’ without penalty and without any review of the problem leading up to the non-payment of tax”, the President stressed in his August 15 message to Congress regarding the Act.

He also said that the Act “sets a dangerous precedent” where delinquent employers are not only let off from making owed payments but the National Government is also compelled to make the payments on their behalf.

Having stressed his views, President Mori signed the Act on August 15, designating it FSM Public Law No. 18-11 and returned it to Congress for further review.



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Simple but brilliant idea showcases Micronesian musical talent

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

August 23, 2013

Pohnpei, FSM—From the land of Aloha comes one of many stories about Micronesian doing good things in the U.S. All too often those stories remain untold in preference for the more titillating negative stories. It's a story about a young Chuukese musician who lives and plies his craft in Hawaii reaching out to his fellow Micronesian islanders and uniting them in a way that I can't recall having seen since I first met a group of Micronesians from the Marshall Islands in Los Angeles over two decades ago.

Aki Aniol is from Penia, Chuuk. He is a singer and entertainer currently living in Hawaii. He is one of Chuuk's top recording artists and has attracted a large facebook following on his personal page. His idea was brilliant in its simplicity. He opened a facebook page he called "Micronesia's Got Talent" (www.facebook.com/micronesiagottalent) and invited Micronesians to participate in an online musical contest.

He recruited young Micronesian judges, most of whom live in the United States mainland, to judge video performances of assigned songs that Micronesian competitors upload to the page.

"As for prizes, we the judges have chipped in from our own pockets to give (to)

the top winner," Aniol wrote. The top prize was stated to have been money and recording help and a new release cd from one of the judges. Aniol says that because of donations from businesses, churches, and non-profit organizations, the top prize might get much bigger and they have been toying with the idea of an all expenses paid trip to the US mainland. Aniol says the group is working on that and that nothing has yet been finalized.

Aniol opened the facebook page on August 7 and by August 10 when registration closed, 83 Micronesian contestants had signed up to participate, though with submitted names like Ted Nugent, it's almost certain that some were not serious entries. By the end of the first week, 42 people from Micronesia had submitted video entries of their performances of the assigned song—42 different and sometimes amazing performances of "Winner" by New Zealand artist RIA.

The intention had been for the judges to review all of the submitted videos, add up the combined scores, only 25% of which is based on audience reaction to the videos. The judges' score is based on singing ability, clarity, originality, and stage presence. All but the seven lowest scoring competitors would continue on to the next phase. Because there were only 42 actual submissions during the first week, all of the competitors continued on to the next phase. The process will be repeated each week with a different assigned song through the

beginning of November when the top three competitors will be announced.

This week the judges assigned the song "I'd Rather Go Blind", a vocally challenging blues song by Etta James.

The site currently has nearly 8500 followers from all over the world. Video submissions have come from Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae, Saipan, Guam, Palau, and the Marshall Islands.

Aniol said that he had done informal competitions on his personal web page in the past and he knew that there would be some interest but he and the other organizers were shocked by the reaction. It's a much bigger job than Aniol expected it would be. He and the facebook page administrators have more than a full time job just trying to keep up with all of the messages that come in from all over the world and to make sure that the inevitable trolls don't overrun the page with negativity. So far the Micronesian community and the page's followers have been respectful for the most part.

There have been few complaints other than from potential contestants who didn't hear about the competition until after registration was closed. Amanda Abello submitted an entry without knowing that she was supposed to have registered. Her video is not part of the competition but she says that one of the judges saw her entry anyway and offered to collaborate with her

on a musical project outside of the contest.

"Music was an escape for me when I was young," Aniol says. "If it weren't for music and my parents telling me to keep at it then I wouldn't be here. Music kept me busy and away from all the negative things around me—drugs, alcohol, sex, etc. So I guess you can say that I'm doing this to somehow give these youths a chance to see life through music."

"My main goal is to show our people and viewers that us Micronesians can unite and show God's greatest gift—love," he wrote. "Also to give everyone a chance to see all of those wonderful talents we have...I have love for all Micronesians. For us to come together and show the world that we might be a small country but we have big hearts."

Aniol admits that the contest hasn't been perfect. The organizers have found a need to change some rules or to make clarifications as they receive feedback. For instance, one competitor submitted a video entry doused in electronic vocal effects that hid the true nature of the competitor's voice. Rather than banning the use of vocal effects, the organizers issued a ban on the use of microphones in video submissions.

No, the contest which Aniol hopes to make an annual event isn't perfect but it is very good. It is uniting Micronesian young people, and it is showing the world that Micronesia definitely has plenty of talent!

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YAP OPA's Compliance Investigation Division promotes the Yap State Ethics Law with government heads and agencies

Office of Yap State Public Auditor (OPA)

Yap State - July 2013 the Compliance Investigation Division (CID) of the Office of Yap State Public Auditor (OPA) conducted an assessment into government agencies in relation to their use and enforcement of the existing Yap State Law on Ethics. The purpose of the project was to pass existing information to the three branches Executive, Legislative and Judiciary in a handbook format to make it more accessible to government employees and for management to monitor and enforce. This is part of CID's objective to promote good governance, ethical conduct and integrity in government operations and activities.

The manner in which we perform our work measures how well we serve. Speaker Henry Falan of the Yap State Legislature speaks of Yap CID's effort to promote awareness of ethics and making it accessible to all government employees, saying, "I wholeheartedly support and embrace it-wholistically. It is a worthwhile effort. Anything of this nature requires the genuine participation of the whole government." The Chief Justice also emphasized that as government employees we have to know the ground rules fully before we do the actual work.

The handbook was distributed to all the government agencies to make it part of their in-house training guidelines. This is part of Yap CID's proactive efforts to prevent fraud and unethical conduct in government.

The assessment and review was conducted by visiting departments/agencies especially the heads to understand what ethical guidelines they have and how essential it is to have it in place. The handbook was presented with the cooperation from the Governor's office to the agencies to use and make the handbook as part of their annual trainings and orientation process.

The Governor's Office highlighted that efficient services depend on us doing our job correctly and ethically. No matter what the job may be, each job in the government is vital to the people of Yap.



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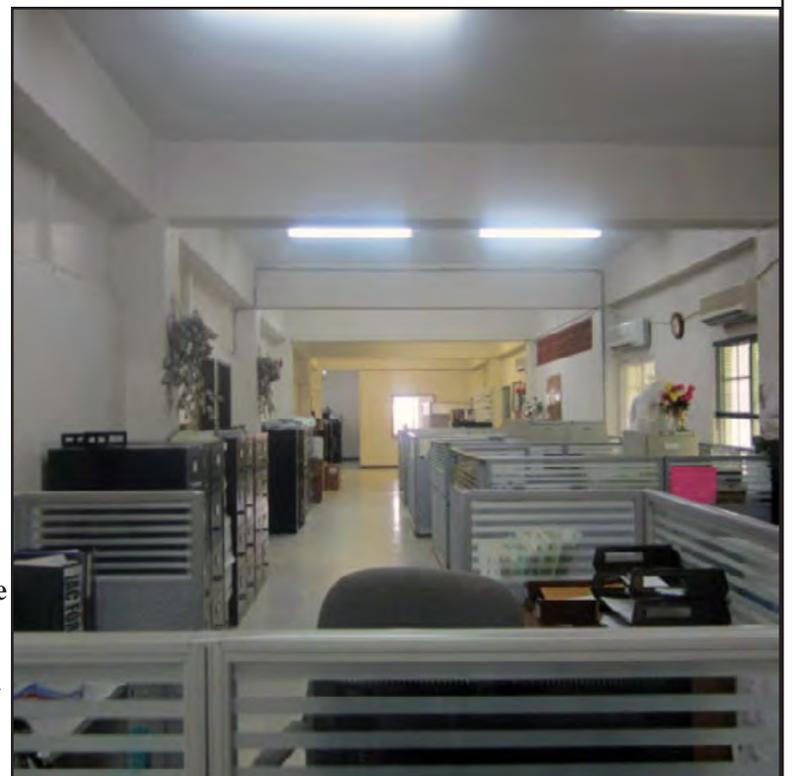
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Email: loverh@fsmdb.fm

“Manta Trust” reps educate Pohnpei students



Dr. Deakos discusses threats to manta populations world wide



Ms. Julie Hartup of the Manta Trust Organization at Pohnpei Campus



Ms. Hartup then gave information about manta feeding patterns. At times the animals target spawning aggregations of other fish. Her presentation included a video of mantas feasting on fish spawn. Mantas also feed regularly on plankton in the waters. Divers and snorkelers here in Pohnpei see this behavior regularly at Manta Road.

The two concluded by asking for help in gathering information about the population of manta rays here in Pohnpei. They suggested that divers photograph as many mantas as possible, observe mating, feeding, and cleaning behaviors, and report the findings to CSP. The greatest threat that manta rays face comes from humans. The mantas are a slow growing population; females give birth to one baby every other year. A great danger is that some fisheries target mantas for their gill rakers and cartilage, both of which are in high demand in Asian markets.

Manta rays need protection locally. While they are now protected by CITES (Convention on International

John Ranahan

Kolonia, Pohnpei - On Wednesday, August 14, Julie Hartup, from the Manta Trust Organization in Guam, and Dr. Mark Deakos, a manta specialist from the Hawaii Association for Marine Education and Research, gave a presentation to local divers and other members of the public about the work of the Manta Trust. They were here to increase interest in monitoring the manta population in the waters around Pohnpei. The talk took place on the Pohnpei Campus of the College of Micronesia.

species and behavior of mantas. The spectators learned that mantas have at least a thirty-year life span. Ms. Hartup continued with information about the animals' mating behavior. A train of males waiting for a chance to mate follows a single female. Only a few of the males are successful. Hartup also offered information about feeding and cleaning behaviors, which she made real to the divers present by discussing the dives she made here at Manta Road with both the Conservation Society of Pohnpei and the local dive club.

the research methods used to identify individual manta rays. These include photo identification, sizing, genetic samples and acoustic tracking. He explained that the belly patterns on mantas are unique; no two are the same. Dr. Deakos also demonstrated the use of the specialized camera used to measure the size of different mantas. He went on to talk about genetic sampling. Researchers use DNA information from the biopsies of samples, small amounts of flesh taken from the living mantas, to discover whether various groups of mantas are related.

Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), humans are still harvesting mantas. Having a healthy population of these animals may provide important, sustainable economic benefits in the form of Manta Ray Watching Tours that could draw significant numbers of tourists to Pohnpei in the future. The island could earn far more from living mantas than from the market value of gill rakers.

The Manta Trust presentation increased local knowledge and enhanced awareness of the importance of these magnificent creatures. Anyone wanting more information about the Pohnpei Manta Project may contact the Conservation Society of Pohnpei.

Ms. Hartup began with a slide presentation to give the audience information about the different

Dr. Deakos followed with a presentation about



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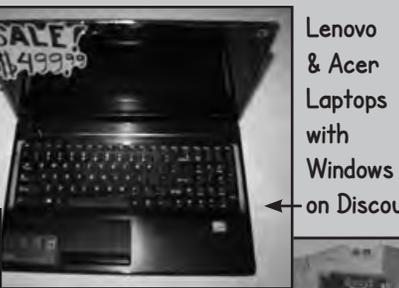
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Ihoang - Champions of 2013 Pohpei Little League

Photos and story by Jim Tobin

The championship game for the 2013 Pohnpei State Little League Baseball was held on Monday, August 19 at the Spanish Wall field in front of hundreds of spectators. Ihoang (from Kitti municipality), coached by Strickson Anson, battled Rookies B (from U municipality) to an 18 – 6 run win, led by league most valuable player (MVP) Nathan Anson. The Little League Baseball competition started in June. 9 teams played a round robin league until early August with each team playing 8 games. From the results of league play a 9 team double elimination playoff was held in August.

The final results of the league were:

Champions	Ihoang
2nd Place	Rookies B
3rd Place	Turnball Aces A
4th Place	Komwad Komwad
Team Sportsmanship	Songete
League MVP	Nathan Anson

The individual Most Valuable Players for each of the 9 teams were:

Rookies A – Tony Penias	Ihoang – Nathan Anson
Songete - Sean Narruhn	Liamweimwie – EJ Ioanis
Get Down Dirty – Wensper Martin	Turnball Aces B – Leonard Panuelo
Rookies B – Siro Loreense	Komwad Komwad – Lensberg Sarapio
Turnball Aces A – CJ Adalpert	

The Pohnpei Little League Baseball Association (PLLBA) would like to thank and recognize league sponsors: Honorable Peter M. Christian, At-Large Senator FSM Congress; Ace Hardware; Matson Navigation; Caroline Fisheries; Lyon and Associates; Luen Tai Holdings; Palship; Office of the Governor, Pohnpei State Sport Commission and FSM National Olympic Committee.

PLLBA President Chris Christian would also like to thank Pohnpei Little League tournament director Patterson Anson, and other league coordinators and umpires: Jose Joab, Nickontro Johnny, Nailly Luther, Charley Charley and Strickson Anson for their professional work and dedication. The PLLBA congratulates all Pohnpei Little League Baseball coaches and players. We all watched these young athletes improve week by week into fine baseball players. Now it is time for our local schools to implement Baseball into their physical education curriculum.



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August 2, 2013

Ngeni Io Ese Pwan Nifinifin:

Itenap: An CPUC pung ar repwe tonong fori ar angang won fonuen aramas.

Ren ami oupwe fat pwe chon angangen CPUC mi wor ar pung mi affat non ewe allukun Chuuk State Law No. CSL 8-05-14 ar repwe tonong won kewe private lands ar repwe fori ar kewe angang ar repwe awana ika sokurioni, angei reading, fotukatiw,ika omokutu meters, puku ira mi osukosuka kewe lines me pwan ekkoch an epwe esinipato fatenochun ar kewe angangen fifi, konik me sewer.

Fansoun CPUC a awora an esinesin me churi ewe soufonu fan itan ar angang, ese wor emon sou fonu epwe osukosuka kewe chon angang, ika pwe a wor chon osukosuka kei chon angangen CPUC, iwe ir ra atai ewe pungun alluk mi fat me asan,pwan ir mi tongeni osupwang ar resap chiwen aea ika torir kewe tufich ren konik, fifi me sewer, nge seinon ir mi fen pwan tongeni tonong non osukosuken aramas tipis.

Ika mi wor om kapas eis, ka tongeni eisini ach we offesin Attorney General, Chuuk State Government.

Sabino S. Asor, Esq.
Attorney General



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August 2, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation Employees' Right of Entry onto Private Property.

Please be aware that CPUC Utility Workers have the legal right under Chuuk State Law No CSL 8-05-14, to enter onto any private land that has or will have public utilities services in order to survey, take readings, make installations, remove meters, cut or remove any tree or branch causing interference to utilities equipment, or for any other purpose in connection with providing utility services.

Once CPUC has announced its entry and consulted with the landowner as to its proposed action, no private landowner can interfere with CPUC Utility Workers' entry onto such property. Any intentional action taken to interfere with CPUC's ability to provide utility services on private property is a violation of the law and may lead to the temporary lost of utilities and, further, the possibility of criminal charges.

If anybody has any questions, please feel free to contact our Office at your convenience.

Sabino S. Asor, Esq.
Attorney General

Yvonne Neth selected as “Next Generation” artist



sees that life with a different eye and works with different media. If a reader will pardon the hyperbole, the work of the 2013 Next Generation Pacific artists needs to be seen to be believed.

Scoop Independent News out of New Zealand said that over the next year, the five artists will be teaming up with the Pacific Islands

Society to celebrate and promote their work across the region and the world. Pacific Islands Society aim to facilitate a deeper awareness and appreciation for the abundant artistic talent in the Pacific Islands region by helping to promote emerging artists, providing professional development opportunities, and putting on a roster of showcase events with its global partners.

The Pacific Islands Society is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting stronger people-people relations between the Pacific Island Countries and beyond. Through its speaking series, cultural events, and annual campaigns, PacSoc brings together some of the region’s most influential minds to discuss major political, economic, environmental, and social issues facing the Pacific Islands— all while celebrating the vibrant cultures that make the region so unique and valuable to the global community.

August 22, 2013

Federated States of Micronesia—Pohnpei’s Yvonne Neth is one of five artists from the Pacific region that the Pacific Islands Society chose for their 2013 Next Generation Pacific artists program.

The other artists whose art was selected to be highlighted by the Pacific Islands Society were Lalovai Peseta of Samoa, Beatrice Camallonga of Lifou, New Caledonia, Francis Pesamino, a Samoan artist from South Auckland, NZ, and Jeffrey Feeger of Port Moresby, PNG.

The work of all of the artists is now on display in a virtual gallery on the website of the Pacific Islands Society. (www.pacificislandsociety.com/programs/arts-culture/pacific-artists).

The diverse and captivating creations of the artists capture Pacific life as they see it, and each artist

...Foreign Investment

Continued from page 5

permit to Miju Mulsan has sparked rumors of preferential treatment.

During an interview earlier this week, Loyola said that the registrar’s office had been under some pressure to get the applications it has issued through the system but didn’t indicate the source of the pressure.

In an effort to be sure that we understood his earlier statement we called him this afternoon for clarification. He said that he hadn’t meant to imply that anything untoward or inappropriate had taken place in the process of the issuance of the permits the office has issued. He said that the pressure to which he had been referring was the pressure of the law that requires an application to move through the system within 60 days and to be decided upon by the review panel within 10 days after the registrar’s office sends it to the panel.

Loyola said that the reason the office did not process any foreign investment permits during the last two years was because the law’s prescribed foreign investment panel hadn’t yet been set up and regulations had not yet been established. An official set of regulations would protect Pohnpei from spurious accusations.

“Official regulations would help us to make objective decisions,” he said.

Loyola said that the office of the Attorney General developed a set of regulations but they were rejected as “too short” because they didn’t deal with all of what he called “the grey areas” of the law. He said that the employees of the registrar’s office sat down and hashed out a more comprehensive set of implementing regulations and submitted them to the Attorney General’s office some time ago, but

because the AG’s office is currently short of staff, the regulations have not yet been approved for implementation.

We asked another representative of the registrar’s office why some foreign investment applications that have been on file for several months had not yet been sent to the panel. He said that the registrar’s office is charged to exercise due diligence. They are charged to verify that the documentation that applicants submit is accurate, authentic, and complete.

“Some applicants are hesitant to present the documentation that we need to have according to the law,” the employee said. As an example, he said that some applicants were hesitant to present bank statements.

“That can slow things down,” he said.

None of the applications that Pohnpei’s registrar has handled since the law was passed meet the “green” status of the law which requires a minimum capitalization of \$250,000 with a majority local ownership; \$50,000 for professionals. Applicants in the “green” status require no confirmation by the foreign investment panel and can be approved directly by the office of the registrar.

So far the investment applications that the registrar has passed along to the panel are in the “amber” category. The three foreign investment permits the panel has approved are 100 percent foreign owned.

Loyola said that the registrar recently sent several other applications to the foreign investment panel for consideration. All of those applications are also for businesses in the “amber” status.

The panel has 10 business days from the date of their submission from the registrar’s office to determine the status of applications.

Engineering Services for Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education Program

Position Title:

Engineering Services for Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education Program

Location: Federated States of Micronesia

Type of Appointment: 30-day consultancy

Estimated Start Date: September 16, 2013

Application Closing Date: September 9, 2013

Context:

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of Mission (CoM) in Pohnpei and direct supervision of the Programme Manager (PM) for the Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education Programme (CADRE) being implemented throughout the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the successful candidate or company will be responsible for providing engineering and construction support to the Mission in the FSM for the implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster mitigation activities. Specifically, this position will entail preparing bidding documents and cost estimates for 15 - 20 individual sites in which IOM is implementing physical climate adaptation and hazard mitigation measures, such as: installation of retaining walls, water harvesting systems, sea walls, etc. across the four states of the FSM.

Core Functions/ Responsibilities:

1. Prepare project designs including:
 - a. developing a scope of services,
 - b. feasibility study,
 - c. architectural plans,
 - d. specifications,
 - e. Bills of Quantity,
 - f. construction documents and drawings
 - g. estimatedcostings that address the basic design elements for each site.
2. Ensure design documents are technically complete and correct within the established design parameters; specifically U.S. Building Standards.

3. In collaboration with the Programme Manager ensure appropriate procurement procedures are undertaken for the relevant projects identified.

4. Prepare timely, accurate, regular and well written site reports for all adaptation and mitigation projects to be implemented under the Programme.

Desirable Competencies:

Behavioural

a) takes responsibility and manages constructive criticism; b) works effectively with all clients and stakeholders; c) promotes continuous learning; communicates clearly; d) takes initiative and drives high levels of performance management; e) plans work, anticipates risks, and sets goals within area of responsibility; f) displays mastery of subject matter; g) contributes to a collegial team environment; h) incorporates gender-related needs, perspectives, and concerns, and promotes equal gender participation; i) displays awareness of relevant engineering and technological solutions;j) displays knowledge and sensitivity to traditional and cultural arrangements in communities

Technical

a) effectively applies highly specialized technical knowledge to deliver on set objectives; b) effectively coordinates actions with other implementing partners; c) works effectively with stakeholders, beneficiaries and the broader community

Desirable Qualifications and Experience:

a) completed degree from an accredited academic institution, preferably in Civil Engineering, Architecture, Urban Planning, Construction or Project Management or closely related areas; b) two years of professional international experience in a developing country context; c) professional accreditation as an engineer and/or architect preferably from a U.S. based accrediting entity;

Applications from qualified female candidates are especially encouraged.

How to apply:

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Dr. Joseph

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Pohnpei, FM 96941

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- For information on Alcoholics Anonymous call 924-9197 or email lonestarahelicopters@yahoo.com
- 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 320-4015.
- 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
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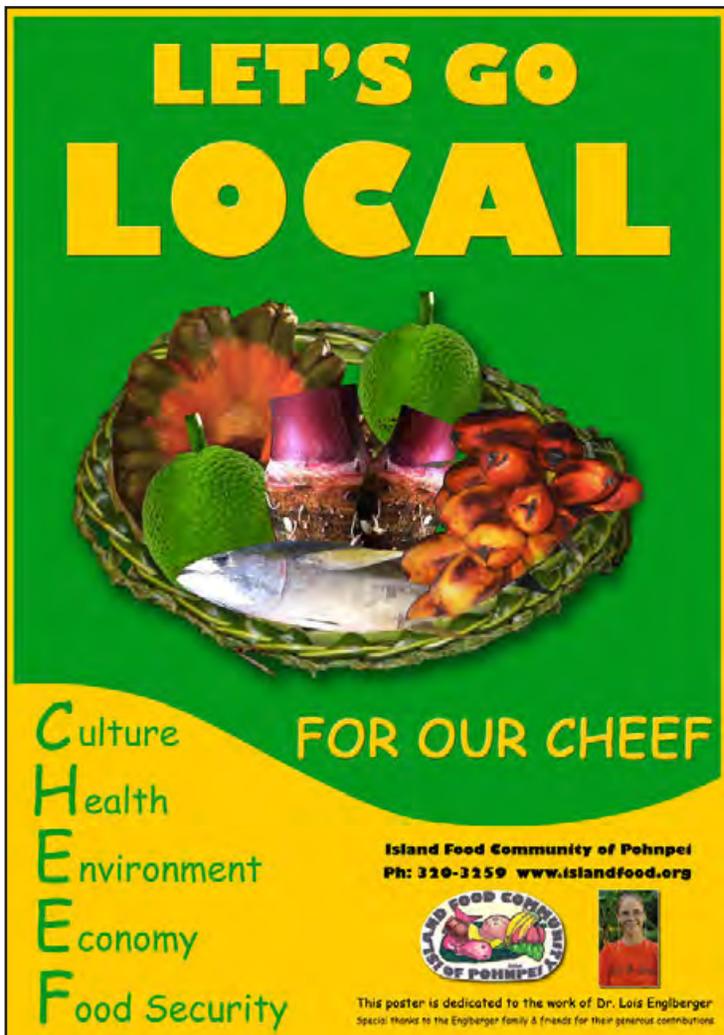
By April Turner
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Funded with donations from the Englberger family and friends, this new poster highlights the key message of Let's Go Local! and the main indigenous foods Island Food Community of Pohnpei promotes.

Breadfruit, Karat banana, pandanus, Mwahng (giant swamp taro) and fish are represented, as well as, the CHEEF benefits of Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food security.

The poster is being placed in all community facilities, schools, government departments and organizations in Pohnpei. If you would like a poster for your public space, please contact IFCP on 320-3259.

Special thanks to Konrad Englberger for facilitating this excellent awareness raising resource.



Local apple wine for sale

By April Turner
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

The sweet taste of local apple wine is made even sweeter from the fact that it is produced in Pohnpei with local organic ingredients and supports a local family.

Made with just local apples and sugar cane juice it is fermented naturally by the Abrahm family in Uh municipality. They first started production in 2010 learning the wine making process by themselves so they could make use of their surplus apels on their land.

The local wine can be purchased by individuals or organizations holding events and delivered to your door for just \$7.50-\$15 a bottle. This a great way to substitute imported products for locally produced items. For more ideas on how to substitute imported for local, see our new website www.islandfood.org.

Call Pedras and Konsa Abrahm on 925-

3449 to order the free delivery of your local wine (and make sure you order a lot because you will want more than one bottle!)



Pohnpeian Karat Banana Sorbet

By the *College of Micronesia Hotel Restaurant Management Students*
2004 World Food Day Healthy Cooking Competition

Ingredients

- 1 ripe Karat banana (very soft and sweet)
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed Pohnpeian sugar cane juice
- 3 tablespoons of coconut milk, freshly squeezed
- ½ teaspoon grated Pohnpeian madeu (local cinnamon)
- ¼ cup crushed ice

Method

- Place all ingredients into a blender or mixer and whip for 30 seconds
- Freeze for 1 hour and place it again in a blender or mixer and whip again for 30 seconds, eat immediately

Health Notes

This sorbet is naturally sweet and low fat – it's a great topping for banana bread or fruit salad.

Variations

Substitute 3 tablespoons of Pohnpei pineapple juice for sugar cane juice. Add 3 tablespoons soursop juice.

More local recipes can be found on Island Food Community's NEW website www.islandfood.org

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To be used in connection with grills.

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Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.
2875 Michelle Drive, Suite 170
Irvine, California 92606
United States of America
Telephone: (714) 283-1155
Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
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Non-metal hose reels; manually operated hand tools for use with lawns and gardens, namely, clippers, hedge trimmers, garden and lawn rakes, shovels, spades, post hole diggers, weeding hoes, mattock hoes, garden hoes, hand cultivators, garden trowels, pruning shears, pruning saws, non-powered lawn mowers, lopping shears and grass shears, hand-operated spreaders for seed and dry lawn chemicals, hand-pumped sprayers for lawn and garden use; hand-operated sprayers for insecticide.

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