

Visitors to Pohnpei Held Up

By Jessica Chapman
The Kaselehlie Press

A live-aboard tourist dive vessel was briefly detained in Pohnpei in mid-June, generating a stir involving various departments of the state and national government and two embassies, resulting in some discussion of the country's immigration regulations and tourism policies.

Pohnpei Port Authority reports that on the morning of June 14 a resident alerted them to the presence of an unidentified vessel anchored in Madolenihmw's Temwen Harbor. Harbor patrol officers dispatched to the scene identified the vessel as the SS Thorfinn, a dive vessel based in Chuuk.

According to PPA, officers instructed the Thorfinn to proceed to Pohnpei's main port in Dekehtik for proper clearance, as is customary procedure for all vessels ar-

riving in any FSM state. Due to the vessel's reported need to take on fresh water and for time to start its engines, the Thorfinn proceeded to the main port the following day, June 15.

Once the vessel reached Dekehtik, reports indicate, a number of government and diplomatic officials - including representatives from the U.S. and Australian embassies - were summoned to the scene and immigration authorities confiscated passports and issued citations for "illegal entry" - a violation punishable by a \$1,000 fine.

According to immigration, the Thorfinn was carrying nine tourist divers - hailing from various locations, including Australia, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States - in addition to two crew members and the captain. According to Thorfinn Capt. Lance Higgs and others, some passengers were quite alarmed and

agitated by the startling turn of events.

Ensuing consultation among the Department of Justice and immigration and port officials as well as Higgs over the next several hours led to dismissal of the citations. Passengers were released and the passports were returned. No arrests were made. No charges were filed.

However, competing accounts persist regarding what led to the incident, how officials and Thorfinn occupants handled it and the possible repercussions such an occurrence could have on the country's tourism industry.

An anonymous letter, circulated widely in the community in the days following the incident. The letter provided a passionate and detailed account of the experience, including accusations of mistreatment of Thorfinn occupants by local officials. In an

email, Higgs substantiated the letter as "factual with just a few minor aberrations."

Specifically, Higgs characterized officials' treatment as "stern."

Reports of negative treatment have been strenuously and consistently denied by those present during the Thorfinn's detention, including immigration, port authority and the DOJ.

Some say the vessel's detention and its inconvenience to passengers could have been easily avoided.

"It's really a non-incident," said Acting Secretary of Justice Matt Olmsted who, in consultation with officials, secured dismissal of the citations. "If he [the captain] would have called upon the port, none of this would have happened," he said. "At worst, it was a misunderstanding."

Harbor Patrol and Inspection Chief Ronald I. Reyes explained

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Pohnpei "Unqualified"

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei State Director of Treasury and Administration Mr. Finley S. Perman has accomplished what most in recent history have not been able to accomplish for Pohnpei State. The recently completed Pohnpei State audit was submitted well before Jemco's requirement and had an unqualified rating. At the time of press Pohnpei State was the only one to have met the June 30 deadline.

Having an unqualified audit has been a goal of the director since he arrived in his post in March of 2004. Auditors are called upon to issue official opinions as to the accounting procedures utilized in

organizations. Audits deal with not only financial health but record keeping policy, procedures, and practice. They insure that the balance sheets issued by an entity are accurate and based on generally accepted accounting procedures. For Pohnpei State to have an unqualified audit means that there were very few audit exceptions and that the finance reports issued are clean and accurate.

According to Mr. Perman, the 2003 audit that occurred just after his arrival in the department was qualified. "The auditors could not find the records they needed," he says. "We were on the verge of a high risk evaluation."

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*Pohnpei State Director of Treasury and Administration
Mr. Finley S. Perman*

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NEWS

Kansou Prosecution Can Resume- Other Defendants Serving Jail Time

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

The prosecution of FSM Sen. Roosevelt Kansou on corruption, conspiracy and other charges will continue under the authority of the country's Department of Justice according to a June 15 Supreme Court ruling.

The DOJ was severed in March from trying the sitting senator – as well as his wife Memorina and the couple's business, EM-R - due to the unauthorized involvement of a former prosecutor in the case.

The recent ruling contains one caveat, however. Only attorneys hired after Feb. 2006 will now be eligible to work on the case.

"The court is aware of the hard-

ship and insurmountable difficulties that the continued disqualification of the entire FSM Department of Justice may cause," the ruling explained.

"The court is also aware," it continues, "that the judicial process's fairness may be impugned by the appearance that Crabtree [the former DOJ prosecutor] may have had some involvement . . ."

The court presumes that anyone hired after Feb. 2006 will not have been exposed to or influenced by any of the events leading to the department's disqualification.

The ruling further prohibits consultation between former prosecutors and newly assigned attorneys to the case. The DOJ currently has

two attorneys hired since February.

The court denied the department's request to lift the disqualification of Crabtree.

The case, originally filed in November 2003, charged Kansou and others with 32 counts of misuse of public funds and other corruption charges, including conspiracy to use government funds for unauthorized purposes. Together, they accused nine defendants and five businesses of the theft of more than \$1.2 million in government funds from 1998-2003.

Kansou, a central figure in the case, was named in 20 of the 30 counts.

In April, five of the defendants –

including former FSM Sen. John Petewon – were convicted on criminal conspiracy charges leveled by the suit. Petewon was sentenced to 30 months in jail for his offenses in late June. Defendants James Fritz and Frank Darra also received 30-month sentences. One defendant, John Engichy, was sentenced to two years.

Another defendant, former FSM Sen. Simeon Innocenti pled guilty in March to medical fraud charges brought against him. Innocenti is currently serving an eight month jail term.

Justice Richard H. Benson issued the ruling. Benson was appointed to hear the case in place of Associate Justice Dennis Yamase, who recused himself.

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Urusemal's Motion to Dismiss Granted - Vetoes Stand

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

The FSM Supreme Court on June 22 granted Pres. Urusemal's motion to dismiss congressional appeal of vetoes he issued after the legislative body's special session in Kosrae earlier this year.

"The President can veto any bill for any reason he chooses," the court opined. Congress, it explained, is the only available avenue through which to seek override of a veto.

Therefore, it says, the court does not have jurisdiction on the issue "regardless of what the President's objections were."

Urusemal vetoed six of the eight measures – among them an election law overhaul - passed during the short, five-day session, alleging violation of a constitutional provision requiring first and second readings of proposed measures take place on separate calendar days.

The dispute centered on business conducted March 3, when Congress finished business from the previous day and then proceeded to adjourn and reconvene another legislative day.

In his veto communiqués to Congress Urusemal cited a concern about hasty passage of bills.

In its unsuccessful bid for an appeal, Congress contested the validity of the vetoes, arguing a day could legally comprise any 24-hour period.

The veto override option customarily available to Congress would be difficult to execute, the filing alleged. Legislation passed into law - in spite of a dispute over legality - could make the laws vulnerable to lawsuits and risk public trust.

In his vetoes, Urusemal expressed the hope that legislation could be reintroduced at a later date.

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Berman Alleges Police Brutality

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

In a three page letter addressed to Rullens Phillip – Director of the Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety, Mary Berman, a US Citizen, long time Pohnpei resident, and local attorney alleged Police brutality against her and her husband. She claimed in the letter that she and her husband were stopped on a dark road at 9:00 in the evening on June 21, in Nett Municipality by men who claimed that they were from the Nett and State Police departments though the men refused to show any identification. Mrs. Berman was driving her husband home after he had what she claims was a non-injury car accident with no property damage.

Berman said that she asked if they were under arrest or if there were any crimes with which they were being charged. She alleged that though the men representing themselves as Police officers told them that they were not under arrest they detained them just the same. She was told that the “unwritten policy” after any car accident was

that the driver was to come immediately to the State Police Headquarters and file a report. She said that they would not let her have a form to fill out on the spot and refused her demands to call a State Attorney to check on the existence of such a policy.

The police officers, according to Berman’s letter, detained the couple while they waited for their supervisor who arrived at 9:15. She said that the supervisor did not ask the couple for any information but walked up to the car and announced in a loud voice, “If you don’t let us take your husband right now, we will take him by force.” She said that she felt that the officers would break her car windows and do just that so she asked to be let out of the car so that she could let her husband out whose door would not open from the inside. She said that there were three or four police officers leaning against her door.

They stepped aside and let her out of the vehicle. She claimed that at that point she remembered the



Photo of bruise left on Mary Berman’s arm allegedly by heavy handed police officers.

power lock on the driver’s side of the car and reached back inside to unlock the door. When she reached for it one of the police officers yelled, “Don’t let her lock the car.” She alleged that three officers then pinned her against the car while another crawled through the car grabbing her husband and pulling him from the car. The policemen detaining Mrs. Berman allegedly pulled her arms

behind her back and handcuffed her tightly leaving dark bruises on her arms.

According to Mrs. Berman, the police officers attempted to put her in the back of a pickup truck in the rain. She said that she insisted that she be allowed to passenger in the truck cab with a seatbelt. The officers allowed her into the cab but offered her no seatbelt. She said that she did not see what

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Historic Buildings Hamper Fisheries Commission Efforts

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

Several issues are impeding the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission from relocating to its new two-story office building in Kolonia.

Concerns over the historic value of a building next to the new facility as well as how to provide proper access to the offices behind it – including the U.S. Peace Corps office and an early childhood education center – have led to the lengthy delay.

There also remains some minor wiring work to be completed for the new building.

As a result, the organization has yet to sign a lease for the two parcels of land it was allotted by the state in early 2005.

“I guess we were rushing to get

the Tuna Commission to Pohnpei,” said Youser Anson, executive director of the Pohnpei Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The WCPFC is frequently referred to as the “Tuna Commission.”

According to Anson, consideration of the historic value of the nearby building – a former school erected during Japanese administration of the island - failed to occur earlier because attention was focused on the land directly occupied by the new facility.

The issue arose only recently, when the land department was considering a request from the commission – later withdrawn - to build a residence on the property.

The land department recently completed maps and surveys that will enable composition of a lease

that will provide for preservation of the school building and a proper access road. Remaining work now rests in the hands of the state attorney general’s office said Anson.

Pohnpei Attorney General Edwel Santos was unavailable for comment.

“We’re anxious to move into the building just as soon as we can,” said WCPFC Executive Director Andrew Wright. The growing commission staff is being temporarily housed in the four-story building also home to Micronesia Red Cross and the FSM National Olympic Committee.

The WCPFC monitors and oversees fishing activities on the high seas as well as collects fisheries data for government agencies. Its jurisdiction includes major portions of the western and central Pacific outside the exclusive eco-

nomie zones of its more than two dozen member countries.

Construction of the new facility was completed and handed over to the FSM from China in late January. China contributed \$US2.5 million toward construction of the facility.

The commission has no immediate plans to demolish the nearby state office buildings – in obvious disrepair - which include the Treasury Department, the Division of Revenue and Taxation and others.

The former Japanese school currently houses several state offices, including the personnel office, labor and manpower development and health insurance.

However, Anson said preliminary arrangements are being made for the eventual likelihood of their removal.

NEWS

Tourists Detained

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the importance of gaining proper clearance in a written statement. "Official Vessel Clearance Procedures," he wrote, "... is designed to prevent and clear vessels from being possible suspects for potential trafficking of illicit drugs, contrabands, terrorist activities, carrier of contagious diseases, and other stringent matters of such sort."

Officials say FSM law supports the response to the Thorfinn's unexpected visit. In a prepared statement, Department of Justice Division Immigration and Labor Chief Mohner Esiel explained that "statutes . . . clearly establish the legal authority for immigration inspection of passengers arriving on vessels entering a 'port of entry.'"

Esiel points to Title 18 of the FSM Code that indicates all vessels are subject to immigration and other inspections at a port of entry. Further, he instructs, Title 50 requires inspection of the documentation of all non-citizen passengers.

Officials elaborate that the law applies to vessels uniformly – whether they are already traveling within the FSM or not – and to all non-citizen passengers, whether they originate in the FSM or not.

"If we were to freely allow foreign nationals to enter any port having such travel originated within the FSM on FSM vessels

or otherwise, are we protecting the interests of our citizens?" asked Esiel.

What alarmed officials was, not only were they unaware of the Thorfinn's plans to travel to Pohnpei at that time, but the vessel proceeded to anchor and disembark passengers for sightseeing activities at an unusual location.

Reyes acknowledged that records indeed indicated the Thorfinn's intentions to visit Pohnpei. However, the vessel was not expected until June 17, a full three days later.

Title 18 does, however, cite Temwen Harbor as an "official port of entry."

It also says, "A vessel or aircraft in distress may anchor or land at any port in the Federated States of Micronesia . . ." as long as it notifies the "nearest Government representative" as soon as possible.

Further, Higgs reported he made continued failed attempts to contact the port via radio over two days' time.

All that would have needed to happen, explained Senior Immigration Officer David Wolphagen, was for the Thorfinn to contact and then pass through the main port at Dekehtik where the vessel could be inspected by quarantine and customs officials and passengers could fill out an immigration arrival form and freely proceed with

their activities.

Higgs views such regulations as burdensome. He notes the difficulty – both financial and logistical – of a requirement to call upon a port of entry within each state of a single country.

Further, Higgs – a native of Canada – said as a tourism operator shuttling passengers between the four FSM states for 24 years he has never encountered or heard of the regulations requiring an official check-in for an FSM vessel while engaged in travel between FSM states.

"No warnings were ever voiced of any laws forbidding this practice," Higgs said via email. "Often we transported noted public figures on them . . . always in good spirit and without any obvious violations of law stated to us."

Higgs acknowledged, however, that he had not visited Pohnpei in nearly five years. And officials say certain immigration regulations – such as those permitting issuance of citations and imposition of penalties for violation of the country's immigration laws – were fully implemented only recently, in 2005.

Further, Higgs maintains he was providing a service to the state. The purpose of the Thorfinn visit was twofold. In addition to arranging for passengers to dive at select locations in Pohnpei waters – including Oroluk and Ant Atoll - Higgs had also arranged to pick up waste oil from Pohnpei Utilities Corporation. The vessel

is able to operate on the oil and has arranged in the past to relieve PUC of it at no charge.

PUC did not respond to a request for comment.

Higgs maintains he was unable to establish radio contact with the port to notify them of the vessel's arrival.

What puzzles officials is why Higgs would backtrack from Ant, virtually passing Dekehtik, if indeed he only stopped at Madolenihmw to respond to a burst steam pipe.


Some also question the vessel's eligibility to allow scuba diving in Pohnpei waters. According to Pohnpei's foreign investment board, the vessel does not hold a permit to conduct business in the state's waters.

Higgs said the experience left a sour taste in the mouths of his passengers.

"At all times it appears they [government officials] were carrying out their roles as guardians and enforcers to prevent evil from arriving to their island, but at the possible price of distracting the very tourists supposedly sought here," Higgs commented.

"If existing laws were broken on previous voyages, we're sincerely sorry for having done so without clear knowledge of this infraction," said Higgs.


Thorfinn passengers departed Pohnpei by air in the days following June 15, as had been originally planned. The Thorfinn left Pohnpei June 19.



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Request for proposals in relation to the establishment of a housing complex for the Commission

Following the establishment of 55 year residential lease arrangements by the Pohnpei State Government the Executive Director requests proposals from interested land owners for long term lease arrangements for land, sufficient in size to allow the phased construction of up to 12 accommodation units configured as: 1 four bedroom house, 7 three bedroom houses and 4 two bedroom apartments. There should also be space for a common recreation area which is envisaged to eventually contain a swimming pool, tennis court and BBQ deck. The land need not be in a single lot but if separate the lots should be within easy travelling distance of each other.

The proposals will be used as a basis to seek funds from the member countries of the Commission, either directly or by way of an approval to obtain a commercial loan, whichever proves more feasible. Therefore proposals need to specify the size and configuration of the land involved, the lease terms, whether the owner(s) would prefer to construct the required dwellings or to allow a third party to undertake the needed construction work. Proof of unfettered ownership of the land would be required. The proposals would be presented to member countries for consideration at the Commission's next annual session to be held during December 2006 in Samoa.

Interested parties are requested to provide submissions to the Executive Director by 11 August 2006.

“Unqualified”

Continued from Page 1

Under the direction and mandate of Governor Johnny David, who as Mr. Perman put it, “set the course”, the director set out to clean up the finances of Pohnpei. Apparently that is what he accomplished.

“We told the employees that if they did not do their jobs properly we would be forced to remove them.” He said that because of the appeals process for terminations in State Government some department heads look the other way at poor employee performance. “We owe it to our citizens and to donor countries [to have clean audits] so that they will have confidence in how we handle money entrusted to us.”

In 2005 they had yet another qualified audit for fiscal year 2004 but the central unit of the state finance office was clean according to the Director. Pohnpei State has 7 component units such as EDA and

PFC. By law those government agencies are allocated a certain amount of money for which they are to account as separate entities. Director Perman says, “The problem was that none of the agencies had accountants.” Finance reports from the component units were assimilated into the central government's audit report as required, resulting that year (2004) in a qualified audit opinion.

Mr. Perman approached the Legislature for help in providing accountants for the “component units”. The legislature did not allocate the resources he requested so the Treasury Department recruited a CPA to help with the accounting of the State agencies. That move resulted in the unqualified audit—the first in many years.

When asked if he thought the success was because he was a good leader, Mr. Perman shook his head and said, “We just did what needed to be done.”

David Signs Luen Thai Lease

*By Jessica Chapman
The Kaselehlie Press*

Pohnpei Gov. Johnny David on June 15 signed a controversial lease agreement on behalf of the troubled Pohnpei Fisheries Corporation with a major regional fishing corporation, Luen Thai Fishing Venture.

Incentives contained within the five-year lease include a guarantee of 10 percent allotment of LTFV's annual net profit toward PFC, a \$600,000 minimum investment by LTFV in PFC facilities and employment of 100 local employees.

The arrangement comes less than a year after David overturned a lease agreement signed by the former PFC board and the very

same company, citing terms as not favorable.

In October 2005, however, the governor created a task force to replace the PFC board and to seek an amended lease with LTFV. Those negotiations resulted in the current lease.

In a written statement issued by David's public information office, the governor argues the amended lease contains more favorable provisions – including those mentioned above – than the earlier lease.

LTFV is a division of Tan Holdings, a Saipain-based corporation with ownership interest in a num-

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Mortlocks Taro Documented, Collected, and Promoted

Planting material from 21 varieties was collected and brought back to plant in the taro genebank collection located at the Pohnpei Pilot Farm in Pohnlangas, Madolenihmw, a joint project of Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs and IFCP. The corms (or the part that you eat) of 9 different varieties were also collected to prepare as samples for analyzing for micronutrient content in laboratories in Fiji and Switzerland.

On May 16, 2006, a workshop was held on Ta to identify the varieties of taro. Over 30 participants from the islands of Ta, Satowan, and Moch attended. Participants were given an important health message about how yellow-fleshed carotenoid-rich varieties of local foods including banana, breadfruit, pandanus and giant

swamp taro can protect against vitamin A deficiency, diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, and anemia.

A special emphasis was made on the carotenoid-rich Apuch fruit, *Crataeva speciosa*, which turns very yellow-orange when ripe and grows abundantly on the islands (see KP May 27, 2004). This fruit was eaten and enjoyed in the past but now is neglected and few are eating it. It was explained that if Apuch fruit could be added to the diet again, especially to the diet of the children, they would receive great health benefits.

Participants discussed about the shift from local foods to imported foods such as rice and canned meats. They were excited about starting a campaign to revive the production and consumption of local foods. After the discussing the relationship between local foods and health benefits, the rest of the workshop was dedicated to viewing taro plantlets and discuss-

ing the characteristics of the different varieties of taro.

This project was supported by Pohnpei State Office of Economic Affairs and funded by the New Zealand Government. A special thanks is extended to Obet Mwarluk, Agriculture Extension Agent on Ta; Juda Amaraich, Mayor of Ta; Helbert Seilo, Rainer Sorryz, and Samuel Sammy of Ta, and Makies Mony of Satowan for providing the information used to document the different varieties of taro and for providing all the planting materials and sample corms. Appreciation is extended to Ryan Teelander, Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) on Ta, Jennifer Salzman, PCV on Satowan, and Adam Gustafson, PCV on Moch, for organizing the participants from their respective islands and in assisting facilitation for the workshop and special thanks too to Rainer Jimmy and Susie Lokopwe, Peace Corps Micronesia, for all their help in organizing this project.

By Amy Levendusky
Island Food Community

From May 15 to May 18, 2006, Dr. Lois Englberger and Amy Levendusky of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) visited the islands of Ta and Satowan in the Mortlock Islands of Chuuk in order to study and promote the different varieties of Mortlockese giant swamp taro or *pula*, and other local foods.

A total of 32 varieties of giant swamp taro were named, described, and photographed. The local name, any alternate name, stem color, if stem has thorns, corm color, corm size, corm texture, leaf shape, growth rate, and other pertinent comments were recorded.

Annual Camp GLOW Teaches Students Leadership Skills

By Amy Levendusky

From June 19th through June 22nd, 2006, Camp GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) was completed successfully for the second year in a row. Camp GLOW is sponsored by the Gender and Development Committee (GAD), an organization affiliated with Peace Corps posts world wide. GAD's main objective is to learn about and teach Peace Corps Volunteers, their local counterparts, community members, youth groups and women's groups how to integrate a gender based approach to development in their daily lives.

Fifty 7th and 8th grade girls from RSP, Palikir, Awak, and Saladak Schools joined together on Nahlap Island for Camp GLOW 2006. This 3 night, 4 day camp was filled with education and fun. Guest speakers included Melyann Mallarme of Micronesian Red Cross presenting on First Aid, Trueleen Joseph of Peace Corps Pohnpei presenting on Adolescent Reproductive Health, and

Rebecca Messinger and Laura Bernert, of Peace Corps Pohnpei, presenting on gender issues. Amy Peter and Larry Sohl of the Pohnpei Dental Division presented on dental hygiene and distributed a tube of toothpaste and a toothbrush to each student. Selihno Maxin and Valerie Turmini of the Conservation Society of Pohnpei taught the students about Pohnpei's marine environment.

The girls were not only involved in educational activities but were also given time to participate in several recreational activities including, dancing, beading bracelets, swimming, volleyball, and basketball. At the end of the camp the girls were given a 40-page booklet covering the information presented by the guest speakers. They were also given a Camp GLOW t-shirt. Anyone interested in learning more about GAD or in volunteering to help with Camp GLOW next summer,



please call Trueleen at the Peace Corps Office at #320-2531.

A special thanks goes to the Australian Embassy for funding the informational booklet and to the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation for funding the t-shirts. GAD extends its appreciation to all the guest speakers and to our head cook, Agnes Amor for donating their precious time and energy to the camp. GAD would also like to thank the following parties for their donations and support: Peace Corps Pohnpei, the Office of Youth and Social Affairs,

AMCRES Mobil Service, A-One Mart, Bank of FSM, Bank of Guam, Best Buy, College of Micronesia-Pohnpei Campus, Craig Reffner, Dr. Wallins Dentist Office, En's Seven Star, Kosrae Kolonia Congregational Church, Nahlap Island Resort, Napa Auto Parts, Palm Terrace, Pohnpei Arts & Crafts, Reed Oliver, Senny's Enterprises, The Village Hotel, Visual Impact, Yvonne's Hotel, and the Pohnpei Water Company. With the support from the local community, Camp GLOW was a success. GAD looks forward to hosting the camp next year.

17 YAPESE STUDENTS AWARDED PUBLIC HEALTH CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS

By Martina Reichardt

(Yap) - On May 30, 2006, seventeen Yap State Department of Health workers attended a colorful graduation ceremony at the Colonia Community Center, where 12 graduates were awarded undergraduate certificates in public health and five graduates received diplomas in public health. Fiji School of Medicine (FSMed) Dean, Professor David Brewster who flew in from Fiji specifically for the momentous occasion, presented the graduates with their awards for successfully completing the FSMed Academic Board's course requirements, which was administered through the distance and flexible learning program.

Over two years, the students took a total of 20 courses of which, three were conducted locally by FSMed approved instructors and the remaining 17 were conducted by FSMed faculty instructors. The instructors flew into Yap nine times staying for two to three weeks at a time to conduct trainings and administer tests which were taken back to FSMed for grading.

The main subject areas covered included environmental health,



Yap graduates of the Fiji School of Medicine Public Health Course: Pictured from left to right in the back row – Lucy Tinngig, Nympha Tinan, James Siugpiyemal, Cyril Yinnfel, Julie Yurow. Front row – Martha Namgey, Denitha Palemar, Hector Palemar and Alodia Paul. Other graduates not pictured include – Antonia Gaamed, Daisy Gilmatam, Juanita Gilmatam, Sylvia Gurepin, Margaret Lefagochog, Robert Tanglir, Mary Tided, Laurence Yug

nutrition, health service management, health promotion, communications in health, epidemiology and community development practicum.

This two-year distance and flexible learning public health course was co-sponsored and organized by the Yap State Department of Health Services and the Yap Area Health Education Center (AHEC) under the Directorship of Dr. Mark Durand and dedicated AHEC staff Leona Tamag

and Pius You.

In addressing the graduation gathering, Dr. Durand explained that AHEC's responsibility is to identify areas in the local health system in which further training is needed and then identify higher learning institutions that can serve Yap in those areas. Some of those institutions identified to date include the FSM College of Micronesia, Palau Community College, University of Alaska, University of Hawaii at Kino and

the FSMed.

"The idea here is to bring the programs to the people instead of the people to the programs," explained Dr. Durand when talking about the high cost of learning in sending health personnel for off island training as opposed to conducting trainings locally.

At the graduation Fiji's Professor Brewster revealed that next year FSMed will be increasing its first year student intake from 70 to 80 and welcomed students from the Micronesian region to apply. He says that presently about one third of all students enrolled in FSMed come from around the Pacific region.

Professor Brewster also announced that the school would like to have one faculty member based in the Micronesian region to help assist and prepare students wishing to enter medical school.

Professor Brewster says that the FSMed present day focus is on the learning process and gradual retention of knowledge over a longer period of time unlike in the past where many times students had so much information to learn in a short period of time that they forget half of what they learned after they completed their training.

SIXTEEN NEW RECRUITS FROM FSM SWORN IN FOR U.S. ARMY SERVICE

By The US Embassy

The ranks of the American Armed Forces increased today as 16 young Micronesians took their oath of enlistment in the U.S. Army. In a ceremony at Oceanview Plaza in Pohnpei, Jesse Albert, Mihkel Gilmete, Timmy Isaac, Jason Joseph, Rex Kanichy, Lambert Anthony, Arnold Picky, Ronald Ronny, Jimmy Santos, Brennan Yoma (all from Pohnpei), Swaitcher Benjamin, Kun Floyd, Robin Kinere, Kilfrank Sigrah, Moses Sigrah (all from Kosrae) and Prince Sanemai (from Yap) were sworn in by Capt. John Muntzer, USMC, of the Honolulu Military Entrance Processing Station.

The new recruits will depart their

home islands over the next three months to report for basic training at either Fort Benning (Georgia), Fort Jackson (South Carolina), Fort Knox (Kentucky) or Fort Leonard Wood (Missouri). They will fill Military Occupational Specialties in the fields of aviation, infantry, maintenance, security, supply, and vehicle operation. The Compact of Free Association allows FSM citizens to take the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test, which can qualify them for military service. This special status opens doors to a wide range of education, employment, income, insurance, medical, skills training and travel benefits otherwise not available to non-US citizens.

Assisting in the ceremony were Staff Sgt. Nelson Jack (of Pohnpei), Staff Sgt. Justin Cruz and First Sgt. O l y m p i o Magofna who currently serve as U.S. Army Recruiters in Guam. Deputy Chief of Mission Stephen Druzak delivered remarks on behalf of the U.S. Embassy at the ceremony. He informed the young men of what to expect when they report for active duty and advised them to make sure they keep in touch with their families after they depart the



FSM.

FSM Citizens interested in learning more about opportunities for service in the U.S. Armed Forces can contact the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs or the U.S. Embassy for additional information.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ARE INVITED FOR A PRE-QUALIFICATION LIST FOR BIDDING MAJOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

PROJECTS INVOLVE THE FOLLOWING INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS:

ELECTRIC POWER: POWER PLANTS and ABOVE GROUND TRANSMISSION LINES

CHUUK WENO POWER PLANT REHABILITATION (\$12,000,000 to \$18,000,000)*

WATER and WASTEWATER SYSTEMS: TREATMENT PLANTS and UNDERGROUND PIPING

CHUUK WENO WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM/TREATMENT PLANT (\$6,000,000 to \$11,000,000)*

POHNPEI KOLONIA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (\$8,000,000 to \$11,000,000)*

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

CHUUK WENO SOLID WASTE LANDFILL (\$2,000,000 to \$6,000,000)

POHNPEI SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (\$3,000,000 to \$6,000,000)

ROADS and PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

CHUUK WENO ROAD / DRAINAGE UPGRADE (\$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000)*

YAP ROAD RESURFACING (\$8,000,000 to \$14,000,000)*

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION: HARBORS and WHARF FACILITIES

AIR TRANSPORTATION: AIRPORT LANDING STRIPS, HANGARS, and TERMINALS

POHNPEI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY REHABILITATION (\$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000)

POHNPEI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF (\$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000)

KOSRAE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF (\$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000)

KOSRAE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT APRON RESURFACING (\$4,000,000 to \$7,000,000)

CHUUK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF (\$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000)

YAP INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF (\$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000)

EDUCATION: ELEMENTARY and SECONDARY SCHOOL FACILITIES

CHUUK WENO HIGH SCHOOL (\$12,000,000 to \$20,000,000)*

KOSRAE UTWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM BUILDING (\$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000)

KOSRAE LELU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM BUILDING (\$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000)

KOSRAE TAFUNSAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM BUILDING (\$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000)

KOSRAE CAMPUS VOCATIONAL CENTER (\$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000)

KOSRAE CAMPUS STUDENT CENTER (\$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000)

POHNPEI MADOLENIHMW HIGH SCHOOL (\$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000)

POHNPEI NANPEI HIGH SCHOOL (\$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000)

POHNPEI KOLONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM BUILDING (\$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000)

POHNPEI PCIS LIBRARY**

POHNPEI OHMINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

POHNPEI NETT STUDENT BUILDING**

POHNPEI CAMPUS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**

YAP DOE WAREHOUSE (\$500,000 to \$1,000,000)

YAP COLONIA EARLY CHILD EDUCATION CENTER (\$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000)

YAP CAMPUS CLASSROOM (\$500,000 to \$1,000,000)

HEALTH: HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARIES

KOSRAE MENTAL WARD ADDITION**

KOSRAE WALUNG DISPENSARY**

YAP HOSPITAL RENOVATIONS (\$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000)*

POHNPEI PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER**

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES

KOSRAE PUBLIC SAFETY RENOVATION**

MAINTENANCE / MISCELLANEOUS CONTRACTS

* MULTI-PHASE PROCUREMENT

** PROJECT BUDGET TO BE DETERMINED

All Projects will only be awarded from the Pre-Qualification list on a competitive Bid basis. Projects will be awarded on or before the end of December 2006, and are expected to exceed \$100,000,000 for Fiscal Years 2004, 2005, and 2006.

FSM has received current grants under Compact II with the U.S. Government. Dedicated agency funding totals \$750,000,000 for the years FY 2004 through FY 2023. Refer to the Project Management Unit (PMU) under the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) issued May 2004.

The Funding Agencies are the following.

- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs (OIA)
- U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Other Foreign Donors

Firms interested in undertaking unique and challenging improvement projects in the Federated States of Micronesia are directed to the PMU Web site at www.pmu.gmphawaii.com.

For more information, please contact MR. RAYMOND MCCORMICK, P.E., by email to: rmccormick@gmpassociates.com or by fax to: (808) 538-3269.



Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

DR. ELIUDEL K. PRETRICK

AND

RENWICK PRETRICK LAWRENCE

would like to extend our sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude toward the National and State Governments, his religious, medical, and traditional colleagues, including family and friends in Pohnpei and abroad for all your help and comfort during our time of grieving the great losses of our beloved father Eliuel K. Pretrick and our grandson Renwick Pretrick Lawrence.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH & KALAHNGAN

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Nohno Kesia & children

PACIFIC WORLD NEWS

Marshall's Fuel Prices Soar

By **MARIANAS VARIETY**
PACNEWS - PINA

16 JUNE 2006 MAJURO Gas prices at the pump broke the \$4 mark for the first time ever in the Marshall Islands, prompting a doubling of fares for taxis — the main public transportation — in the nation's capital this week.

In response to increasing world market diesel fuel prices, the power utility company in Majuro also announced Wednesday that effective 01July, electric rates would rise between nine and 12 percent, *Marianas Variety* reports

Mobil Oil Micronesia, a subsidiary of ExxonMobil, and sole supplier of gasoline to the Marshall Islands, raised its wholesale price to dealers this past week to US\$3.82, and in response the four local gas stations bumped their pump prices, which had been hovering just below US\$4 a gallon, to as high as US\$4.10.

But customers wondering how much a gallon of gas costs can't find out from reading numbers on the pump meters.

The gas stations were forced to tape written notices on their pumps advising customers of the price per gallon and to sell gas by the gallon, not by the price per gallon, since Mobil, which provides the pumps, has not yet changed equipment that will allow the price of the meters on each pump to go over US\$3.99.

Mobil officials did not respond to requests for comment on when they would fix local pump meters.

The escalating cost of fuel is hitting hard in a country with an unemployment rate estimated at 34 percent.

"General social and economic conditions and the overall quality of life for most Marshallese have steadily deteriorated," said government economic report issued earlier this month.

"With very few pay raises being bandied about in the community, all the people reliant on taxis can do is tighten up and cut down wherever they can on expenses," commented an editorial in the Marshall Islands Journal, the country's weekly paper.

The Marshalls Energy Company announced its fourth electricity rate hike since January 2005. Electric prices for businesses and government offices are to increase from 22.5 cents per kilowatt hour to 24.5 cents on July 1, while residential rates are being hiked from US16 to US18 cents.

There is no public transport system in Majuro, which has a population of nearly 30,000 people.

Privately owned taxis provide the main means of transportation for students and workers, and have done so without a fare increase since the late 1980s, despite the dramatic rise in fuel prices since 2004.

More than 20 typhoid cases confirmed in the Marshall Islands

Radio New Zealand International - PACNEWS - PINA

28 JUNE 2006 MAJURO-At least 22 cases of typhoid fever have been confirmed in the Marshall Islands' capital Majuro,

Health authorities have issued warnings to local residents in an effort to halt the spread of the potentially deadly illness.

There are typically one or two cases of typhoid a year in the

Marshall Islands but the outbreak of at least 22 confirmed cases has been a great concern to health officials.

Patients have ranged in age from young children to adults and from many different parts of the island.

Radio New Zealand International reports doctors from the US Centre for Disease Control has arrived in Majuro to assist the Ministry of Health in identifying the source of the outbreak.

President Urusemal attends France-Oceania Summit

Palikir, **POHNPEI (FSM Information Services - June 30, 2006)** - President Joseph J. Urusemal returns to Pohnpei today after attending the Second France-Oceania Summit in Paris hosted by French President Jacques Chirac.

French President Chirac invited leaders of the Pacific Island Forum countries to Paris for the Second France-Oceania Summit on June 26th to discuss France's role in the development of the Pacific region.

Through discussions of the various pressing regional issues and the issues of common interest to strengthen France-Pacific cooperation, a new dynamic to the relations between France and the Pacific region was introduced, by way of a Declaration.

The Second France-Oceania Summit Declaration agreed that the Parties would pursue and expand their cooperation to enhance stability in the Pacific region. It further agreed to support Small Is-

Continued on Page 19

Government says foreign investment act good for business

SOL- GOVT
PACNEWS-PINA

27 JUNE 2006 HONIARA - The Solomon Islands Foreign Investment Act 2005 came into effect yesterday heralding a new era for the island nation's ability to attract foreign investment.

The government said Solomon Islands had been missing out on its share of lucrative foreign invest-

ment because of lengthy delays in processing applications caused by an outdated act.

It said by encouraging more foreign investment, the new legislation would create a large number of new jobs for Solomon Islanders, *Solomon Islands Broadcast- ing Corporation* reports.

It said these jobs are desperately needed throughout Solomon Is-

lands especially in rural areas.

The Minister for Commerce, Industries and Employment, Francis Billy Hilly was quoted as saying that these jobs would enable Solomon Islanders to learn new skills and how to use new technologies that will help them to be able to start their own business.

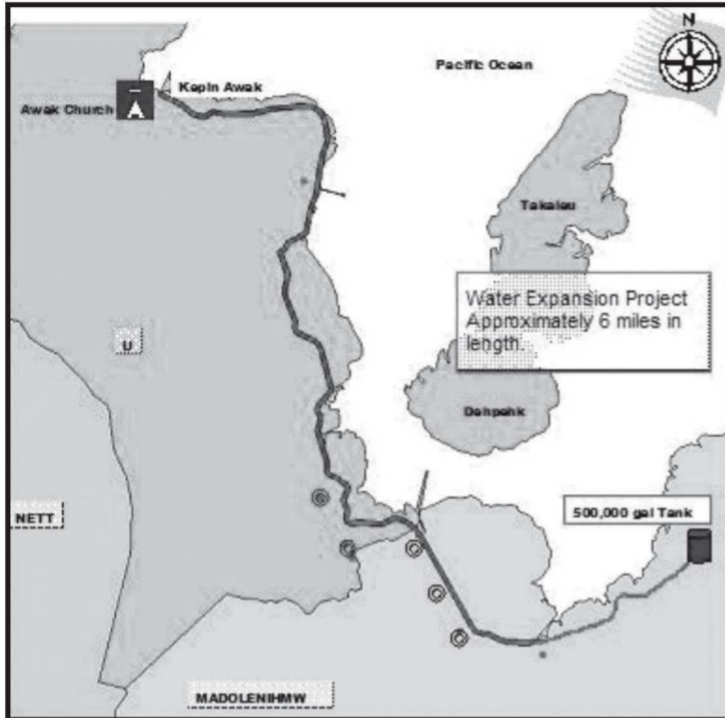
The government said the new act would ensure timely processing of

applications with the help of a new electronic register, and that rigorous screening processes would be maintained to ensure only genuine investors are accepted.

The new foreign Investment bill was passed by parliament last December and it came into effect follows cabinet's approval.

NEWS

PUC's "Pipe Dream" Comes True



Map of the pipeline's path from Kepin, Awak, U to Kinakapw, Madolenihmw—small circles are the location of drilled wells

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Even before the Cholera outbreak of 2000 PUC officials were dreaming big about expanding the water supply into the rural areas of Pohnpei. On June 23 those dreams were realized when the water pipeline from Kepin Awak, U to Kinakapw, Madolenihmw, five drilled wells, and the 500,000 gallon water tank were officially dedicated. The pipeline is projected to serve 450 homes, schools, government institutions, schools, and churches along its approximately 6 mile length.

The total cost for the project \$2,911,000. \$150,000 of those dollars came from Pohnpei State Government, \$578,000 came from loans, and \$2,183,000 came from grants.

Dignitaries from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) involved in funding the project were on hand at the site in Kinakapw, Madolenihmw and promised support when PUC pursues the next phase of its pipe dreams. RUS II a projected \$6,000,000 pipeline to Kitti is in the planning stages now.

Photos by Bill Jaynes



The 500,000 Gallon Tank in Kinakapw, Madolenihmw



Marcellino Actouka - Pohnpei Utilities Corporation Executive Director and Lorraine P. Shin State Director, USDA - RUS

Truancy at Issue in Pohnpei

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

According to the Legislature of 1999 if education was to be a priority then it must be compulsory. The Legislature passed a law that year requiring all children between the ages of 6 and 16 to be in either a public or private school. According to Chief Joe Roby the law was passed but it was never enforced due to limited funding for the police department. If the truancy committee has its way that will change by the beginning of the coming school year. The committee is composed of members of the Department of Public Safety, the Attorney General's office, and the Department of Education with Chief Joe Roby serving as temporary chair of the committee.

The law says that "all minors who will have arrived at the age of six years, and who will not have arrived at the age of 16 years, on or before December 31 of a school year, shall attend either a public or a private school for and during such school year, and any parent, guardian or other person having the responsibility for or care of a minor whose attendance is compulsory under this section, shall be responsible for seeing that the minor is enrolled at some such

school." According to the law (SL-4L-123-99 Title II Section 3-1) both truant students and responsible guardians can be prosecuted.

If convicted under the law a truant minor will be required to attend counseling sessions administered by the Department of Education. If the minor is 14 years of age or older they will be required to perform up to two hours of community service for each day or part of a day in which they were truant (absent without good cause). The parent or guardian of that minor will be guilty of contributing to the truancy of a minor and will also be assigned to attend counseling sessions administered by the Department of Education. For each incidence of truancy the parent or guardian will additionally be required to perform up to four hours of community service.

There are some specified exemptions to this law. In the case of physical or mental handicap certified by a licensed physician the minor will be exempted from compulsory attendance. A child taught in home by a competent tutor approved by the Director of Education will also be exempted. Other exemptions include those who have graduated early through aca-

ademic achievement as well as those who are enrolled in approved alternative education programs. Minors who are 15 or over who are suitably employed can be exempted by the Director of Education on a case by case basis.

The truancy committee continues to meet in order to develop ways to enforce the truancy laws.



The Speaker of the 6th Pohnpei State Legislature and Ms. Lorraine P. Shin examine the new 500,000 gallon tank

Computer Hardware Bids

The PIU of the Private Sector Development Project in the Department of Economic Affairs is procuring computer hardware and printers for the Department of Lands and the Land Commissions in Chuuk and Yap.

Specifications for the required items can be obtained from William Ladore or Matthew Abel at the Department of Economic Affairs. Bids must be received no later than Monday, July 25, 2006

Phone: 320-2646

email: PSDP@mail.fm

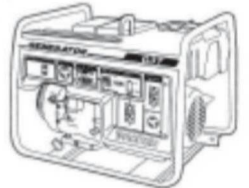
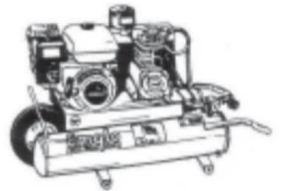


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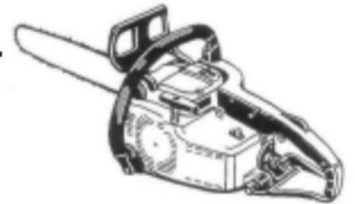


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LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Pohnpei Constitutional Convention**

Pohnpei will soon embark on a journey of reform, I call it, through a constitutional convention where many issues will surely be put forth for contemplation. Pohnpei, as we all know, has been constructed over a course of time by means of active contributions from many generations, traditions and cultures, all of which have found their mark. We have defined a language, modeled a landscape, welcomed other languages and other cultural manifestations, shown our openness to generous interchange, constructed a system of rights and freedoms, made our own laws and, finally, developed a model of supportive coexistence which strives for social justice.

The Constitution of Pohnpei was adopted by the Constitutional Convention on March 5, 1984. On October 9, 1984, the Governor issued an official proclamation that the Pohnpei Constitution had been ratified and the Constitution took effect on November 8, 1984, thirty days after proclamation by the Governor.

Legislative history: 1. S.L. No. 2L-131-82, 7/9/82 created a constitutional convention for the state of Pohnpei, prescribing its powers, duties, and functions and authorizing appropriation. 2. S.L. No. 2L-131-82 was amended by S.L. No. 2L-137-82, 10/1/82, S.L. No. 2L-159-82, 12/10/82, S.L. No. 2L-180-83, 7/1/83, S.L. No. 2L-195-83, 9/13/83, S.L. No. 2L-213-83, 11/2/83, S.L. No. 3L-17-84, 7/9/84, and S.L. No. 3L-32-84, 9/5/84. 3. S.L. No. 2L-214-83, 10/1/83 authorizes funding. 4. S.L. No. 3L-18-84, 7/9/84 created a

committee to draft an education component to the Constitution. 5. S.L. No. 3L-33-84, 9/10/84 prescribed the process of referendum, implementation, and transition.

Over the past 22 years, we have pled *nolo-contendere* to the concept of autonomy despite the various cries, of aspiration, to establish our own institutions of self-government. Our leaders are reluctant to shoulder with solidarity the concept of a determined autonomous state. Nor have they attempted to pursue the dream of one Pohnpei with no impediments of any nature to the free and full independence that all nations of today require. Have we been consumed with the figment of the imagination that the federation can stand alone after witnessing the effects of the past compact? Are we telling our citizens that the next 17 years will sustainable economy will develop with the magic wand of self reliance? Now, a pessimist I am not, but, as a concerned citizen and a father of three, my constitutional obligation dictates a free expression.

Pohnpei possesses enormous potential to gain its own self-sustaining economy, our fertile lands and the huge ocean(200 miles EEZ) have yet to be fully utilized. Our infrastructure is heading in the right direction and education is the primary goal of each small family. We must invest in tourism because all island nations depended on it. We have with us some of the most beautiful sites in the world and yet they remain hidden. Private entrepreneurs

have yet to gain the needed support from the government. So yes, Pohnpei has a lot of potential to succeed in this challenging world. We are a small people of great determination and *koupwel*. Only, we are looking elsewhere to solve our problems.

We need real economists to help us, some of the brightest young men and women are currently with us or are soon to join us. We need their expertise and I am sure they will be proud to join us in this challenging endeavor. If we are alone, we will have no one to blame for our problems and as determined as we are, I have 100% confidence in our success. Have you bought into the line that some of our leaders take that as a group, the four States of the FSM, we have a stronger voice with one vote? Would you rather not have four stronger votes with one voice? As

the saying goes, think for a minute.

So what can we do now? I say we support the upcoming constitutional convention and make sure our elected representatives incorporate amendments to the constitution that after the amended compact ends, the state of Pohnpei retains the ultimate right to secede from the federation if we choose to do so. Furthermore, the decision to secede shall be based on a specific percentage of the voting population. Otherwise, we will remain frustrated forever and ever.

Of course, we will take our share from the trust fund.

*Yours truly,
Mason Albert
U, Pohnpei*

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

Thank You. The Editor

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KP-Perspective

Talking it Out

I haven't lived an extremely long life but I have noticed a few things on the way, little "forehead smacking", "duh" moments that change the way I think. One of the things that I have noticed along the way is that communication nearly always solves problems rather than the other way around and that the lack of it nearly always creates problems. Communication is vital. I don't do nearly enough of it with my wife. I've noticed that when I don't communicate with her and tell her what's going on she not only begins to feel neglected but we tend to head in separate directions thinking that were going to the same place. It's when we find out that we're not going in the same direction and thinking similarly that the problems start to happen.

There are many reasons that people don't communicate. Sometimes we just forget that it's important or we're busy and we think we've told someone that thing that is so important when we never did. Sometimes people don't communicate because it gives us a sense of power, "I know and you don't. I'm a big man." Sometimes we just don't want the other person to know

what's going on. There is a biblical saying about that, "the truth will find you out."

Sometimes communications are just plain hard. We don't want to deal with something because it's a big issue and so we keep it to ourselves to avoid conflicts. The thing is, that leaves the other person to make up his or her own mind about what's going on and big bad issues become huge, nearly insurmountable issues. You get my point I think.

If people don't talk to each other and air problems they only get bigger. People are removed from office, businesses go down the drain, people just fall apart without communication.

Think of that as part of our job at the K-Press. It's not to find the bad guys in the black hats, nor to find the dirt. Our job is to help us all to talk and to do it with facts. Of course if no one will talk to us then there's a problem I suppose. Don't be afraid to talk to us. We're not the enemy. I'm looking forward to talking with you.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Namiki 2nd Floor Restaurant at 6:30pm. Public Welcome.



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



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



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



Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meeting every Tuesday from 11:30-12:30 at the Sei Restaurant.



Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30p.m. Everyone welcome.



The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15p.m at PCR/Nantehlik.



St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.

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NEWS

President Urusemal signs FSM's first insurance law

Palikir, **POHNPEI (FSMIS)** – President Joseph J. Urusemal has signed into law seven Congressional measures, among which includes the first Insurance Law of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Public Law 14-66, enacts a new Title 37 of the Code of the FSM to establish an Insurance Law for the FSM to regulate the emerging insurance community and its various responsibilities.

The President has noted in his transmittal letter to Speaker Peter M. Christian that the Government invites public comments from the various sectors of the community over the next few months for any amendments that may be needed in the new complex insurance law to ready

them for transmittal at the next session of the Congress.

Along with the Insurance Law, the other signed from the Fourth Regular Session of the 14th FSM Congress held May 11-19, are:

Public Law 14-61, which amends Title 55 of the FSM Code - Government Finance and Contract, to eliminate the requirement that Congress must amend the recommended National Government compact budget by means of a bill. The new law allows Congress to propose amendments by resolution.

Public Laws 14-62 and 14-63, both amend certain sections in a previous law pertaining to Chuuk's Election District 5. While PL 14-62, authorizes Chuuk State Commission for

Improvement Projects as the allottee of the funds within that particular legislation. PL 14-36 meanwhile, is an override for additional funding towards the projects as noted within the legislation.

Public Law 14-64, is another override that changes the use and allottee of certain funds previously appropriated under Public Law No. 9-27.

Public Law 14-65, de-appropriate \$83,333 from what is allotted in Public Law 12-50 to provide funding for contractual services to complete the Headquarters of the Tuna Commission.

Public Law 14-67, appropriates \$2.1 million from the FSM General Funds for funding the noted Public Projects and Public Pro-

grams in each State. The funding is allotted on the basis of 150,000 per State Representative in the FSM Congress. Accordingly, the funding is apportioned as follows: the State of Chuuk (6) - 900,000; the State of Kosrae (2) - 300,000; the State of Pohnpei (4) - 600,000 and the State of Yap (2) - 300,000

The President had, along with the Public Laws, vetoed **Congressional Act 14-87** which called for changes in the use of funds from an outer island airport to a junior high school. President Urusemal however, encouraged Congress to review the measure for re-introduction in the next session of Congress so that Pattiw Junior High School project receives the needed funding.



MiCare

Federated States of Micronesia

OPEN SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

THE OPEN SEASON FOR MICARE (KNOWN AS FSM HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN) IS FROM JULY 1 THROUGH 31, 2006.

ANY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WHO IS NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE PLAN MAY SIGN UP DURING THIS PERIOD. EMPLOYEES WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE PLAN MAY CANCEL OR CHANGE FROM ONE PLAN TO ANOTHER OR ADD NEW DEPENDENTS.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES MAY ENROLL IN THE PLAN BY WRITING TO MICARE OFFICE AND INDICATING THEIR INTEREST IN ENROLLMENT.

DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO ENROLL, SIGN UP NOW!

For more information, please contact the MiCare office in your area.

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Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Tel: 320-2549/5865
Fax: 320-5693

Chuuk
P.O. Box 381
Weno, Chuuk FM 96942

Tel: 330-5891
Fax: 330-5893

Kosrae
P.O. Box 388
Tofol, Kosrae FM 96944

Tel: 370-2935
Fax: 370-2935

Yap
P.O. Box 610
Colonia, Yap FM 96943

Tel: 350-2307
Fax: 350-4113

Toll-Free Poison Control Center

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

FSM residents fearful of possible exposure to or ingestion or overdose of poisonous substances now have access to a toll-free poison center telephone number to seek professional medical advice.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant, administered by the Nebraska Regional Poison Center in collaboration with the FSM Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs, permits residents to place a call, free of charge, to the U.S.-based center.

"Poison centers provide immediate and free treatment recommendations for toxic exposures . . . to both the public and to health care providers," explained Dr. Steven Seifert, medical director of the NRPC in a press release.

"This can include accidental ingestions of household chemicals like bleach or kerosene, bites and stings by things like centipedes, jelly fish or sea urchins, suicidal ingestions, or substance abuse such as inhalation of intoxicating vapors, as well as drug information such as pill identification and drug side effects," he said.

According to Seifert, nearly all

exposures to toxic or poisonous substances occur in the home, and more than 50 percent involve children under the age of six.

In the FSM, a nation with a higher suicide rate than many countries and a greater risk of exposure to poisonous marine life the picture may be a bit different.

Seifert traveled through the FSM in June to familiarize health officials with the new service. Assistant Secretary of Health Marcus Samo sought and coordinated the grant from the FSM.

In addition to the FSM, NRPC provides service to Nebraska,

Wyoming and American Samoa. Health care professionals can also consult the center for up-to-date information and advice.

To call the poison control center from the FSM, dial 288 and wait for an automated message. Then dial 800-222-1222. The service is available 24 hours.

For more information, go to www.nebraskapoisson.com

**SEND US
TIPS**

320-6547

kpress@mail.fm

Indigenous Peoples Group CINE Visits Pohnpei

By **Amy Levendusky**
Island Food Community

From June 3-9, 2006, Professor Harriet Kuhnlein from the Centre of Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE), McGill University, Canada and Chief Bill Erasmus, Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations, Northwest Territories, Canada and Chair of the CINE governing board visited Pohnpei. The purpose of their visit was to assist with "The Traditional Food System of Pohnpei" project. This project is documenting and promoting the traditional foods of Pohnpei in the village of Mand, Madolenihmw, as coordinated by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) and local agencies.

Pohnpei was selected as the 12th case study in a global health project led by CINE. The other case studies in the project include indigenous groups in Canada, Peru, Colombia, Japan, Kenya, India, Nigeria, and Thailand. The overall purpose of the project is to increase the production and consumption of locally grown foods and to improve health, conducting also scientific research to show the impact of this and presenting these results to the United Nations in order to help indigenous peoples.

The 2 year project began in May 2005 and will be completed by September 2007. This project includes two phases. Phase 1, the documentation of the traditional food system began in May 2005 and was completed August 2005. Phase 2, which began in September 2005, is an intervention (using a mixture of methods) promoting those foods in Mand with the highest potential health benefits and greatest acceptability.

On June 5, 2006, Professor Harriet and Chief Bill attended a strategy planning workshop at the Pohnpei Agriculture office, organized by IFCP. Twenty-nine people from government and non-government sectors, including community members of Mand, attended the workshop.

Professor Harriet stressed how impressed she was with the great effort and progress brought forth by the Mand community members in implementing the project and looks forward to further progress in the future. Chief Bill emphasized, "My people in Canada have gone away from our local foods to eating a more western diet. With this change in diet, we're seeing an increase in health problems like diabetes."



Participants to the Pohnpei Traditional Food for Health Strategy Planning Workshop at the Pohnpei Agriculture Office, 5 June, 2006, organized by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei with Professor Harriet Kuhnlein (back row, far right) and Chief Bill Erasmus (back row, 2nd from right) from the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE) Canada.

During their visit, Professor Harriet and Chief Bill had the opportunity to meet with Governor Johnny P. David and representatives from the Office of Economic Affairs, the College of Micronesia-FSM, and the Departments of Health and Education. They also attended a charcoal oven demonstration in Mand. One of the cultural highlights of their visit was observing the traditional pounding of breadfruit ceremony, *lihli*, at the residence of Deacon Lorens in Saladak.

IFCP thanks the Mand community and our collaborating partners and support agencies, including the Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs, Departments of Health and Education, Department of Land and Natural Resources, COM/FSM Land Grant, Natural Resource Conservation Service, CINE, Sight and Life, New Zealand and Australian Embassies, the Global Environmental Fund, and Pacific German Regional Forestry Project (PGRFP).

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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58	59	60						61				62	63	64
65					66	67	68				69			
70					71						72			
73					74						75			

SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

- ACROSS**
- 1. Long Napped Carpet
 - 5. Anticipate
 - 10. Small nail
 - 14. Domesticated
 - 15. Insect stage(abbr.)
 - 16. Chest sound
 - 17. Tied
 - 18. Frequently
 - 19. Related to
 - 20. Hanging Ornament
 - 22. Merrymaking
 - 24. Hen fruit
 - 25. Religious symbol
 - 27. Portion
 - 30. That Girl
 - 31. Vends
 - 35. Large Weight
 - 38. Observe
 - 39. TV game show "Let's make a ___"
 - 40. Work unit
 - 41. High craggy hill
 - 42. Elevated railroads
 - 44. Large Monkey
 - 45. Small island
 - 47. Outdoor meal
 - 49. Wind direction
 - 50. Requires
 - 52. Obese
 - 53. Group of eight
 - 55. Higher in rank
 - 57. Weep
 - 58. Mischievous child
 - 61. Flapjack
 - 65. Opera Solo
 - 66. Once more
 - 69. Typesetting machine; ___ type
 - 70. Penny
 - 71. Fixed a piano
 - 72. Paradise
 - 73. Relieve
 - 74. Doorway
 - 75. Looks at
- DOWN**
- 1. Way of walking
 - 2. Possess
 - 3. Prayer ending
 - 4. Sex
 - 5. Faring; Getting
 - 6. Movement of odor
 - 7. Skill
 - 8. I have (contr.)
 - 9. Type of dance
 - 10. Type of cooked meat
 - 11. Gardening tool
 - 12. Landed
 - 13. Declare untrue
 - 21. Representative
 - 23. Donkey
 - 25. Greek letter
 - 26. New
 - 27. Beer Mug
 - 28. Cowboy's mount
 - 29. 90 degrees; right ___
 - 30. Contention
 - 32. Smallest amount
 - 33. Backslide
 - 34. Frozen Rain
 - 37. Alley ___; cartoon character
 - 38. ___ Whitney; inventor
 - 43. Regard with contempt
 - 46. Teach
 - 48. Automobile
 - 51. Health Resort
 - 54. Bikes
 - 56. Dish
 - 57. Sweet Treat
 - 58. Speed contest
 - 59. Region
 - 60. Moral Wrongs
 - 61. Dock
 - 62. Assistant
 - 63. Leg joint
 - 64. Long periods
 - 67. Firearm
 - 68. Picnic pest

Law Office of



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TIDE TABLE July 5 - 18, 2006

	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	5 04:23AM 2.1 08:31AM 2.3 03:28PM 1.3 11:17PM 3.0	12 03:54AM 4.5 10:55AM 0.1 04:43PM 2.5 09:53PM 0.8	5 01:24AM 1.2 11:59AM 0.3 11:35PM 1.4	12 02:56AM 2.6 11:25AM -0.5
Thursday	6 06:40AM 1.8 10:35AM 2.0 04:32PM 1.3	13 04:33AM 4.5 11:30AM 0.2 05:20PM 2.6 10:36PM 0.9	6 11:19AM 0.2 11:57PM 1.7	13 03:30AM 2.6 11:53AM -0.3
Friday	7 12:16AM 3.3 07:47AM 1.4 12:36PM 1.9 05:41PM 1.3	14 05:12AM 4.4 12:04PM 0.4 05:58PM 2.8 11:20PM 1.0	7 10:27AM 0.0	14 04:01AM 2.4 12:15PM -0.2
Saturday	8 01:06AM 3.6 08:30AM 1.0 01:50PM 2.0 06:42PM 1.2	15 05:51AM 4.1 12:38PM 0.6 06:38PM 2.8	8 12:30AM 1.9 10:04AM -0.2	15 04:26AM 2.1 12:27PM 0.0
Sunday	9 01:51AM 3.9 09:08AM 0.7 02:43PM 2.1 07:36PM 1.1	16 12:08AM 1.2 06:29AM 3.7 01:10PM 0.8 07:23PM 2.9	9 01:06AM 2.2 10:09AM -0.3	16 04:38AM 1.8 12:22PM 0.2
Monday	10 02:33AM 4.2 09:44AM 0.4 03:26PM 2.2 08:24PM 0.9	17 01:02AM 1.4 07:08AM 3.2 01:43PM 1.0 08:16PM 2.9	10 01:43AM 2.4 10:29AM -0.5	17 04:19AM 1.4 11:59AM 0.3
Tuesday	11 03:14AM 4.4 10:20AM 0.2 04:06PM 2.4 09:09PM 0.9	18 02:16AM 1.7 07:52AM 2.6 02:19PM 1.2 09:28PM 3.0	11 02:20AM 2.5 10:56AM -0.5	18 02:26AM 1.2 11:23AM 0.2

3rd Annual 2006 "INS" MAROSONG

POHNPEI HALF MARATHON 13.1 MILE RUN

4:00 p.m., Saturday, July 29



Start: 4:00 p.m. at INS Store
Finish: Spanish Wall Softball Field

Cash prizes for top finishers
Overall 1st Place – \$1,000.00
Overall 2nd Place – \$500.00
First women finisher – \$500.00
And more cash prizes

No registration fee. All runners will receive finisher's medal and ribbon, INS souvenir t-shirt, hat and gift bag

For more information contact the FSMNOC office (320-8914)

Alleged Police Brutality

continued from Page 3

they did with her husband.

Berman said that she asked to speak to a State Attorney or to the Public Defender but that since it was after office hours none could be reached.

Mrs. Berman said that they informed her of her right to be silent after she had already filled out a form which asked if she had been drinking. After detaining the Berman's and transporting them to the Police Station, the police officers asked Mr. Berman to undergo a sobriety test instead of doing one on the road side. They claimed that he failed the test involving the walking of a straight line.

Asking once again if she was being charged with a crime, the supervisor told her that she had pushed him and was being charged with "Obstruction of Justice". Mary was released but her husband was taken to jail.

She said in her letter, "I have read numerous cases in the law books about police brutality of a very severe nature here in Pohnpei and in the other states of the FSM. This is why I was so concerned that these 'police' should not take my husband away from me, out of my sight, on a dark road at night...My request, to you [Director Phillips], is that an investigation be made, and that those who violated State law be punished and terminated as appropriate under the law."

On June 28 when the Kaselehlie Press contacted Director Phillips he had not yet seen the letter. When we emailed him the letter he was quick to respond and a statement was forthcoming from Police Chief Joe Roby. On consultation with the State Attorney General's office Chief Roby was advised to make no comment until the results of an Internal Affairs investigation is completed. The investigation was initiated on Friday, June 30, 2006.

Luen Thai Lease Signed

Continued from Page 5

ber of different businesses. In addition to LTFV, Tan Holdings owns Asia Pacific Airlines - which could reportedly pick up its service to Pohnpei under the new arrangements - and a number of hotels, garment factories and other businesses.

Tan Holdings also holds an interest in CTSI which maintains offices adjacent to PFC.

LTFV operations in the region have sounded some alarms.

The fishing company has come under fire for possibly unscrupulous business activities in Palau. Newspaper reports acknowledge a complaint against the fishing company, alleging tax evasion, money laundering and operation without a permit.

The complaint also warns that the fishing company is dominating the country's fishing business.

LTFV holds a Pohnpei foreign investment permit.

David appointed State Planning Advisor Hubert Yamada and State Finance Director Finley Perman as temporary administrators of the new business arrangement pending approval of permanent board members.

The contentious issue remains before the Pohnpei legislature.

According to the governor's office, Luen Thai already has two longline fishing vessels in Pohnpei and plans to bring seven more.

PFC was established in 1992 to operate and manage a fish processing plant, boats and a cold storage facility. David has cited investment of more than \$22 million in the corporation over the years.

The state attorney general's office continues an investigation into PFC's descent into financial insolvency.

Tasmanian company wins Pacific islands radio contract

ABC/MERCURY PACNEWS

A group of Tasmanian companies has won a contract to provide remote Pacific islands with FM radio, *ABC* reports.

The Kiribati Government awarded about \$2 million (US\$1.5 million) to the Powercom group to set up the first radio contact between the country's coral islands.

The company would take the latest communications technology to the group of 33 remote islands that make up the Republic of Kiribati using a tradition transport method - canoes, the *Mercury* reports

Powercom managing director Phillip Tompson said the islands did not have electricity and some did not even have jetties from which to off-load equipment.

"We will have to land and install large volumes of complex equipment such as transmitters, towers, building materials and antennas on remote islands using canoes and local people," he said.

"This is something that we are experienced with as we have already done some work in Kiribati to expand their existing telecommunications network from the main island to two other islands and in 2004 we installed the first-ever television station.

"We only ever dropped one piece of equipment in the ocean, which was a piece off a ladder of a tower, which the locals promptly dried into the water to retrieve.

"This time we will have even more challenges. Washington Island, on which we will build a 40m tower and solar-powered satellite station, can only be reached by a 14-foot canoe."

Mr Tompson said the remote Kiribati islands stretched across 3500km and two time zones, making the installation of a broadcasting network complex.

The formal announcement of the contract was made by Premier Paul Lennon, who toured Powercom's manufacturing factory yesterday.

Mr Lennon said Powercom's contract to supply internet and radio services to Kiribati was a reminder that Tasmania had stepped out to the world stage.

The launch was Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Kiribati William Franken said the new communications systems would be life changing for the 90,000 people of Kiribati.

"On some islands there is no form of communication at all," he said.

France-Oceania Summit

Continued from Page 11

land Developing States for economic growth, sustainable development, management of resources, and regional security.

In line with objective of the Pacific Plan, the Declaration stressed the importance of strengthening multilateral cooperation on three main issues:

1. Sustainable economic development;
2. Environment and biodiversity protection and conservation, and
3. Political stability of the Pacific region.

Along with the FSM, the other Forum Island nations represented at the Paris Summit include: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The French Territories of the Pacific were also in attendance: New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna along with the Secretariats of the:

- Pacific Islands Forum,
- Pacific Community, and
- Pacific Regional Environment Program.

The 1st France-Oceania summit was held in 2003 in French Polynesia.

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTION

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

Alfons of Pohnpei clinches gold in Micro All-around

FSM Information Services

Eugene Alfons of Pohnpei State has been declared the winner of the Micro All-Around, the signature competition of the Micronesian Games currently underway in the Northern Marianas Islands from June 23 –July 1.

The Micro All-Around is a sporting event unique to the Pacific, which challenges athletes from the Micronesian islands to a competition of traditional islands skills which involves spear throwing, swimming, diving, coconut climbing, coconut husking and coconut grating.

With Alfons of Pohnpei winning the Gold, the Silver goes to Atti Atti of the Marshall Islands and

Micronesian Games 2006 Medal Tally June 30th, 12:00 p.m				
Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
C.N.M.I.	27	31	29	87
<i>Pohnpei</i>	4	12	14	30
<i>Chuuk</i>	3	6	9	18
<i>Yap</i>	2	3	2	7
<i>Kosrae</i>	2	2	2	6
FSM	11	23	27	61
Guam	46	25	18	89
Kiribati	5	7	6	18
Marshall Islands	3	5	10	18
Palau	23	15	16	54
Total	126	129	133	388

Stalin Stanley of Palau receives the Bronze.

In addition to the Micro All-Around, traditional events like

Track and Field, Swimming, Basketball, Baseball, Tennis and Volleyball are all part of the sporting competitions of the Micronesian Games.

The Micronesian Games are organized for the island nations and territories in the Micronesian archipelago: Chuuk, Guam, Kiribati, Kosrae, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Northern Marianas, Palau, Pohnpei and Yap.

With the exception of Nauru, all the Micronesian islands are represented at the Micronesian Games 2006 expected to wrap up this weekend in the Northern Marianas. The medal tally as it stands on Friday, June 30th 12pm, is:

More information may be obtained from the games' website: <http://cnmi.net/microgames/>

Pohnpei Young People Fare Well at Guam Tournament Thanks to the BFSM and Local Businesses

By Caroline Adams

Ten of Pohnpei's best young tennis players went to the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam. Desperate for travel funding the FSM Tennis Association's Junior Development Program in April of this year approached the Bank of the FSM and other busi-

nesses for donations. The Bank of the FSM came through with a donation of \$2500 to help send the young people to the tournament.

Due to the lack of funds Nauru, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands pulled out of the tournament. Were it not for the donations from local businesses, the FSM Tennis

Association would have had to pull out of the Qualifying Tournament as well. This year the FSM, CNMI, Guam, and Palau participated in the tournament with a tournament total of 12 young people in each age division.

The youngsters fared well at the tournament for the first time out

and will go out next time with great tournament experience. As a group they came in ahead of Palau for third place. Individual rankings were not available at press time.

The FSM Tennis Association's Junior Development Program would like to thank particularly the Bank of the FSM for their \$2500 donation to the program. The only government agency to contribute was the National Olympic Committee who gave \$500. Every business gave generously. They include: Pohnpei Ace Hardware, Pohnpei Napa Auto Parts, Ace Office Supplies, Pohnpei Transfer and Storage, Caroline Fisheries Corporation, Adam's Brother's Corporation, FSM Telecom, Pohnpei True Value, FSM Telecom, and ABCOR Engineering and Construction.

