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Kosrae Chamber of Commerce Arms Voters to the Teeth Candidates Clamor to Have Their Views Heard at Candidate Forums

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Kosrae - Ten months ago the Kosrae Chamber of Commerce began work on a project that quite possibly gave Kosrae voters the best issue based information on candidates than they had ever had in the history of Kosrae as a State, arming voters to make electoral choices based on issues rather than other more nebulous criteria. It was at the forum for gubernatorial candidates in October 2006 that the financial difficulties of Kosrae first started being discussed in the open by voters and candidates alike.

When Yosiuw George was running for Governor in Kosrae, he and the other candidates participated in the Kosrae Chamber of Commerce's Candidates Forum. George said that the forum gave candidates an equal opportunity to let the people of Kosrae know their views and that he felt it was a fair process. He said of the first ever series of Candidates' Forums, "I'm not sure how seriously people took our answers but the Forums were a good start... a good tool to begin to move voters away from the 'village mentality'."

Though Kosrae election results still

followed on some level, along village lines, the forums, a series of "question and answer" speaking events sponsored and organized by the Kosrae Chamber of Commerce served to make constituents aware of the issues and the candidates' views on issues important to their communities and their State. The Chamber held public forums for municipal offices, all of the state offices and for each congressional seat including the recently concluded special election for the four year seat vacated when Senator Alik Alik was named as FSM Vice President.

Not only were the forums public events in each of the municipalities, they were televised repeatedly on Telecom's cable channel and rebroadcast on the local radio system. The Chamber of Commerce additionally made DVD's to send off island.

Though the Forums were not mandatory all but one candidate for a municipal race participated and then only because of a scheduling conflict in the candidate's schedule. Despite the fact that answering questions in a public setting when the questions are not known in advance is a big risk for candidates, because of ground-work done by the Chamber's 40 plus members along with others committed to the idea, candidates came.

Chamber representatives said, "The subcommittee worked extremely hard at being impartial and fair in the questions asked and we never heard one comment that we were one sided or unfair during any forum... it was the Chamber's distinct pleasure that we had such a strong turnout for the past 10 months or so since we started this process."

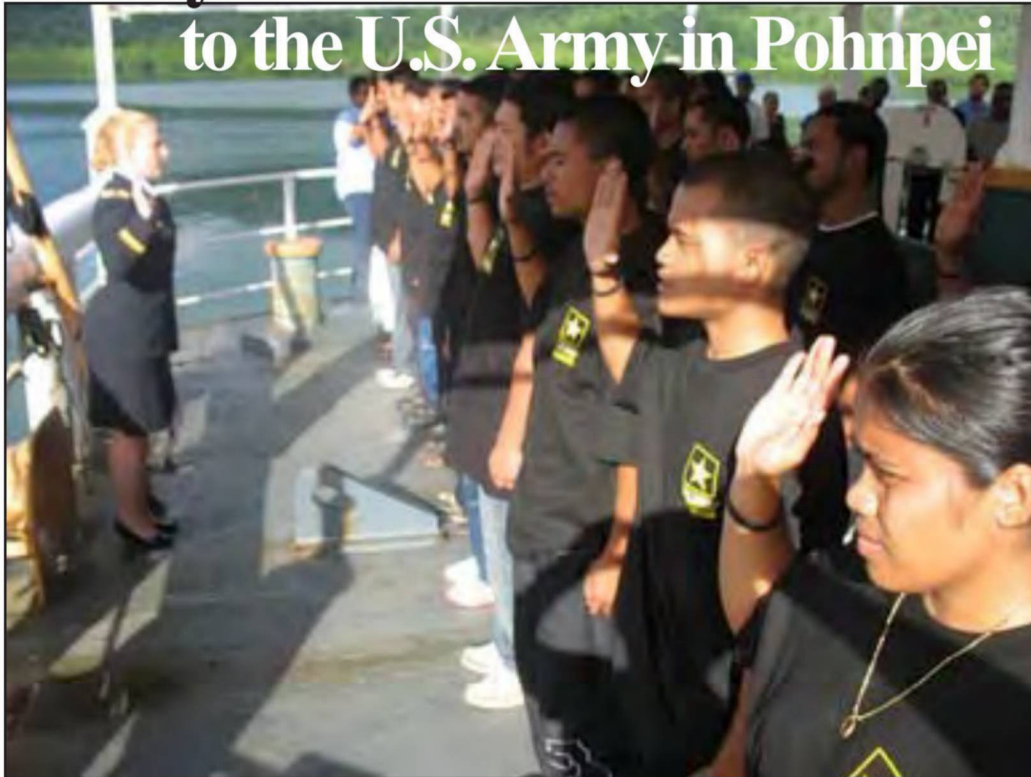
It is extremely rare that secrecy is a form of transparency. The Chamber members felt that in order to avoid any possibility of being accused of favoritism they needed to keep all questions secret until they were asked of the candidates at the Forum events. The Chamber formed a subcommittee of four who went to extreme lengths to maintain secrecy. Subcommittee members solicited the community for questions that were issue oriented. To maintain the privacy of the questioner each question was rewritten so that no one knew who in the community had asked the question. Organizers say the committee was getting as many as 80 questions at a time for consideration.

After all of the questions were compiled the subcommittee met to determine which questions would be asked and the final list of questions was closely guarded until the time of the forum.

Each candidate was allowed to give

See "Forum" on page 8

Twenty One FSM Citizens Sworn In to the U.S. Army in Pohnpei



President Mori Submits Cabinet Nominations to Congress

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Special Election Results Certified

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NEWS

MRA Promotes FSM Corporate Registration in Japan

Micronesia Registration Advisors Says That Prospects are Good but FSM Action is Needed

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlle Press

Pohnpei, FSM – If Japanese corporations respond in the way that Micronesia Registration Advisors, Inc. (MRA) has said they will the corporation stands to make a great deal of money. The Federated States of Micronesia would make some too.

MRA came into existence in 2005 and, according to the corporate webpage (micronesiaregistration.com) responded to an internationally published request for proposal for a registration advisor. On November 14, 2005 MRA signed a 30 year exclusive contract with the Federated States of Micronesia to promote corporate registry in the FSM to corporations in Japan.

A Japanese company can, under FSM and Japanese law set up a subsidiary corporation registered in the FSM and save some money on tax at home. The FSM has a

corporate tax rate of 25.5% as compared to a much higher rate of 40 to 50% in Japan. The Japanese controlled FSM corporation would pay taxes in the FSM but would not have to pay the tax in Japan. Japan considers domiciles that have a tax rate of less than 25% to be illegal tax havens. FSM set their rate at just above that level principally to attract Japanese investors.

Public Bill 13-70 passed by Congressional override in 2004 of then President Urusemal's veto not only established a Registrar of Corporations but also established a provision for compensation of the Registration Advisor. Essentially the law created a Registration Advisor Compensation Fund with up to 50% of the realized tax that is generated by the promotional activities of the advisor to be deposited into the fund by the Department of Finance upon receipt of the revenue. Payments to

the advisor are dictated by the terms of the contract between the FSM and an advisor that would be chosen in the future.

Current Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Akillino Susaia said that MRA, under the contract and the law costs the FSM nothing until the tax from newly registered corporations begins to come in, which they have not yet begun to do.

In the absence of the MRA document, 13-70 by itself seems to say that payments to the Registration Advisor Compensation Fund and therefore to MRA would occur every time a Japanese corporation, registered in the FSM through the efforts of MRA, pays tax here.

Nice job if you can get it and that really is the question. Can MRA get it? According to a progress report on their activities submitted to the Department of Economic Affairs MRA essentially says that they can get it but they're asking for some legislative changes to make it easier for Japanese Corporations to register in the FSM. They're even asking the FSM to lobby the U.S. Congress to change a small portion of the Internal Revenue Service code but then this kind of advice is exactly the type of service MRA was contracted to perform for the FSM.

The website for MRA is informative. In addition to describing the types of services they perform, they have links to PDF copies of letters of endorsement from Government leaders and experts in the field of Corporate Registration. They even have a copy of a letter from Mr. Kenneth E. Barden, an Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) based in Saipan.

One government website the MRA did not choose to link to is fsminvest.fm a DEA website designed to attract investors to the FSM. Perhaps that is because the site is several years old and infor-

mation contained in it is no longer completely accurate. In its progress report, MRA asked for the Registrar of Corporations to develop a website with the latest corporation registry regulations. They say that the website should have a statement that the FSM government has contracted with MRA to promote the corporate registry in Japan.

According to the Status Report, "to date, Japanese companies and individuals have formed six FSM corporations. Two of those have filed their first tax return and a third expects to file their tax return in the next few months. None of the corporations have reported income or paid income tax yet, as they have just started to make their investments."

The six Japanese corporations in the FSM are "designed to hold investment funds of their owners."

MRA is also selling Japanese corporations on the idea of setting up captive insurance companies in the FSM. They say they have had serious conversations with 8 major Japanese corporations. The 14th Congress of the FSM passed a law to facilitate Captive insurance but the office that is set up to monitor the activities of insurance companies as well as banks has yet to set up procedures for the oversight of those very complex corporations.

Also according to the MRA Status report, regulations in Japan that changed in April have caused several Japanese law firms and "high net-worth" individuals to reassess how they structure large ticket insurance policies on their lives. Key-man life insurance policies are written to cover the life of the CEO and/or other directors of corporations. MRA says that the timing is good for the market opened up by the regulatory changes in Japan but that they would need

see "MRA" on page 15

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NEWS

President Mori Submits Cabinet Nominations to Congress

FSM Information Services

Palikir, **POHNPEI** – President Manny Mori has today submitted to the 15th Congress, some of his Cabinet nominations for the various departments and offices of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

President Mori's letter to Speaker Isaac V. Figir noted that the nominations are based on the Executive Reorganization Bill transmitted the previous week and requested Congress's patience and "appreciation of the policy considerations reflected in the choices of nominations."

While the general threshold requirement for a nominee's selection is his/her competency in the relevant area, President Mori stated that "since these are public offices whose conducts and decisions impact the lives of people,

not only are higher standards of behavior expected of their holder, but the public interest also demands that factors such as integrity of Government and the need to separate the pursuit of private interests from the execution of public offices should also be part of the selection consideration."

Accordingly, the President noted that some traditional nomination considerations like residency distribution of the nominees "are not of particular priority" in the new Administration's selections.

On the other hand, incumbent holders of some of the offices are being nominated to the same or different offices "where their skills and talents would contribute most to the new Administration's policy objectives," stated the President.

President Mori's submitted nominees are:

1. **Lorin S. Robert** as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Robert is the current Acting Secretary and has been with the Department over 10 years;

2. **Finley S. Perman** as Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration. Perman is currently the Director of Finance for Pohnpei State Government;

3. **Francis I. Itimai** as Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure. Itimai is currently with the FSM Department of Finance and Administration and was the former Planning and Budget Officer for Yap State Government;

4. **Dana Wesley Smith** as Secretary of the Department of Justice. Smith is currently an attorney in private practice in Hawaii and a was former Legislative Counsel to the Chuuk Legislature and former

staff attorney to the Congress of Micronesia); was a Peace Corp Volunteer in Micronesia,

5. **Fabian Nimea** as Director of the new Office of Statistics, Budget, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management. Nimea is currently running his own financial consulting firm, prior to that he was the Executive Vice President and Credit Administrator for the Bank of FSM;

6. **Andrew R. Yatilman** as Director of the new Environment and Emergency Management Agency. Yatilman is the current Secretary for the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure;

7. **Anna Mendiola** as a Trustee on the Compact Trust Fund Board of

See "Nominations" on page 4

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NEWS

TSP Graduation

Pohnpei, FSM - "Don't look up to the great ones, make the great ones look up to you." were the words of wisdom and advice given to the 2007 TSP (Talent Search Program) graduating class by TSP alumni and COM-FSM National Campus 2007 Valedictorian Roger Gilmete.

The Educational Talent Search Program (COM-FSM) held its annual Senior Award Banquet on May 31, 2007 at COM National Campus gym. Tutors, parents, staff, and students all turned out for an evening in commemoration of this year senior's accomplishments. The graduates were comprised of 86 students from Madolenihmw High School (MHS), Nahnpei Memorial High School (NMHS), and Pohnpei Island Central School (PICS).

The Program was honored by the presence of: COM-Pohnpei Campus Director-Penny Weilbacher, MHS Principle-Arwelson Arpona, many other important people, and most especially, the large number of parents present.

The evening's ceremony included remarks from Pohnpei Campus Director-Penny Weilbacher, TSP Program Director-Rita Harris-Hadley, as well as the keynote ad-

dress from Roger Gilmete. Roger's remarks were encouraging and left the students with more understanding of what goals they should set as they begin their journey to college. Appreciation Awards were given out to tutors and other supporting staff who contributed so much to the program's success this year.

Awards of completion and honors were given out to this year's graduates. Stephanie Fredrick of NMHS, Jeffrey Albert of MHS, and Lashauna Wilson of PICS were awarded the Student of the Year (a \$100 scholarship to pay for their Fall and Spring COM registration). Other special certificates were awarded to the graduates in recognition of various performances and skills thanks to the donations of local businesses.

The Educational Talent Search Program would like to sincerely thank the donors who contributed to this event. Without whom this event would not have been possible. Our thanks go out to:

Ray & Dor's, House of Travel, Ace Office Supply, Bank of FSM, FSM Development Bank, FSM Telecommunications, Nihco, Western Union

Tuna Commission Membership Grows

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. The United States of America deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention establishing the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission last Thursday, 27th June. Mr Andrew Wright, Executive Director of the Commission, in welcoming the ratification by the United States, said "The participation of the United States as a full member of the Commission simultaneously provides for the full involvement of American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam in the work of the Commission. Given the importance of tuna to the US territories in the Pacific all three will now have an opportunity to actively engage in the efforts of the Commission to provide a sustainable future for the tuna industry in the region".

The Commission, which is based in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia now has 30 members. The Commission's primary responsibility is to support a consultative framework for cooperation on the sustainable use and long term conservation of the region's globally valuable tuna resources. Mr Wright said "The reported catch of tuna from this region in 2005 was 2.15 million tons which was a record". He expected that to have been exceeded in 2006 - the Commission is still working on the compilation of all the data for that year. Mr. Wright added that, while this is the reported harvest, fish taken illegally or which are unreported to the Commission may add an additional 10% to that figure. This is a major concern as such activities seriously undermine the efforts of the Commission to establish a long term sustainable level of harvest.

...Nominations

continued from page 3

Trustees. Mendiola is the current Chief Executive Officer of the FSM Development Bank; and

8. **Evelyn Adolph** as one of two FSM representatives to the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO). Adolph is currently the Program Manager for the FSM Tax Reform after serving as an advisor to the Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Absent from the Presidents transmittal of June 29 are the nominations for the Department of Health, Department of Education, Depart-

ment of Resources and Development, the proposed Office of National Archives, Culture and Historical Preservation. Also awaiting nominations are the posts for Public Defender, Post Master General along with the heads of FSM's overseas missions.

President Mori's letter informed the Speaker that nominations for the remaining offices and departments will be submitted "as soon as people are able to confirm their availability to serve."

Please see Page 15 for three additional nominations that came in after newspaper deadline.

Matson to hike rates to Palau, FSM, Marshalls

Marshall Islands via Guam.

Saipan Tribune

Matson Navigation Co. announced yesterday that it will raise its freight rates for the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Marshall Islands by \$185 per westbound container, effective Sept. 2, 2007.

In addition, a transshipment fee will increase by \$65 for cargo destined for Palau, FSM, and

The company said these increases are being taken to offset escalating costs, including cargo handling costs. The increases will be filed with the Federal Maritime Commission.

Matson customers are urged to contact their local sales representative or the company's Customer Support Center for more information.

Korean Man Gets 10 Years for 'Ice' In Guam

Pacific Daily News

HAGATNA, Guam - A 30-year-old man, a Korean national, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for his participation in a drug ring that sought to bring into Guam 500 grams of the drug crystal methamphetamine, or "ice," from Korea.

Duh Wan Kim was sentenced Wednesday in the District Court of Guam. There is no parole in the federal prison system.

Kim also was ordered to five years of supervised release, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office. But as a condition of his supervised release, Kim will instead will be turned over to immigration officials for deportation proceedings.

Kim was indicted on Aug. 30, 2006 on a charge of attempted possession of methamphetamine hydrochloride with intent to distribute. Kim was found guilty on Nov. 1, 2006.

At street value, 500 grams of ice would be worth an estimated US\$250,000, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Karon Johnson, and investigated by federal and task force agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration; and assisted by officers from the Guam Police Department, Violent Street Crimes Unit, and the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, Contraband Enforcement Team," the release stated.

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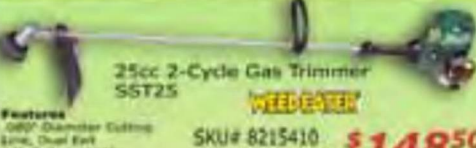
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NEWS

Australia Gives UN \$500,000 To Protect Asia-Pacific World Heritage Sites

Australian Embassy Press Release

Australia is to give \$500,000 to the UN to identify, protect and promote World Heritage sites in the Asia Pacific region.

Australia's Assistant Minister for the Environment, Mr John Cobb, said the funding to the UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) World Heritage Centre would go towards a range of activities.

Marking the 2007 World Heritage Committee meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand, Mr Cobb said that the \$500,000 also celebrated a partnership to conserve places of outstanding universal significance in the region.

"The funding was made through a special Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO, signed in 2002, in which Australia had pledged to take a leadership role on World Heritage issues in the Asia-Pacific.

"Through the Asia-Pacific Focal

Point we've been able to support a special website for World Heritage managers, on-ground activities in countries including Samoa, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam and a variety of other practical initiatives," Mr Cobb said.

"The \$500,000 funding package will go towards similar partnership projects, including best practice management for listed properties and the sharing of information and experiences," he added.

Details on the projects would be released later and Mr Cobb said that more than 800 World Heritage locations on the list were as unique and diverse as the Egyptian Pyramids, India's Taj Mahal and America's Yellowstone National Park.

"In the Asia-Pacific region more than 120 sites were listed, including Sumatra's tropical rainforests and Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

"These places go beyond national borders and identities - as does



The Taj Mahal built in the 17th century by Taj Mahal, the Indian monument constructed in the 17th century by the fifth Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan for his favorite wife Mumtaz Mahal. Located in Agra, India, the mausoleum was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983

Australia's role as a signatory to the World Heritage Convention.

"Australia is proud to be working with the global community to look after these exceptional sites around the world," Mr Cobb said.

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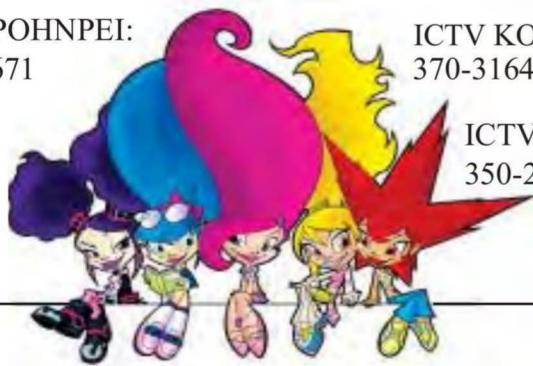
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New National Public Auditor Field Office in Chuuk State

Office of the National Public Auditor

(Weno, Chuuk) - With funding made available in March 2007 a new field office of the National Public Auditor has been opened in Weno, Chuuk. With funding in place, the tasks of recruiting staff, searching for office space, procuring equipment, goods and services, etc. were speedily implemented and are continuing to-date. The cheerful staff at the office say that "things have begun to pull together to make it look like an office."

In early June 2007, the National Public Auditor, Mr. Haser Hainrick, traveled to Chuuk with a senior staff member from the Main Office and, together with the staff from the Field Office, met with Chuuk State Officials from the Execu-

tive and Legislative Branches to formally inform the State's leadership about the presence of the Office of the National Public Auditor through the recent establishment of the new Field Office.

An initiative of the Office of the National Public Auditor pursuant to its Strategic Plan, this vision became a reality in 2007 after the budget was approved. The office had been seeking funding for two years.

In his budget request, the National Public Auditor noted that since it is the most populous State and currently faces serious financial problems, Chuuk State needs immediate and close attention from the National Government to provide solid assistance in addressing its financial crisis. The National Public Auditor said that

he felt it was necessary to take immediate action because of his concern that the negative international publicity surrounding poor financial management in the State of Chuuk, and the ongoing allegations of serious financial corruption not only have an adverse impact on all the good citizens of Chuuk, but on the reputation of the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia. Hainrick said, "...such negative perceptions could restrain international aid and investment in the FSM. Given all such reasons, it is essential and in the best interest of the citizens to establish the new Field Office in Chuuk."

Currently, the Chuuk Branch Office has four (4) staff members; two auditors, one investigator and a secretary. An audit supervisor with CPA credentials is being actively recruited. The person who takes the position will report directly to the National Public Auditor

and will manage the day-to-day operations of the new Field Office. The investigator reports to the chief investigator at the Main Office in Palikir for matters pertaining to assigned cases in this specific jurisdiction.

Located at the Tupunion Building across the FSM Supreme Court in downtown Weno, the complete mailing address and contact information are:

Federated States of
Micronesia
Office of the National Public
Auditor
Chuuk Field Office
P.O. Box 760
Weno, Chuuk FM 96942
Phone: 330-9932/8835
Fax: 330-8840

Staff's bio can be viewed by clicking on 'Staff' at fsmpublicauditor.fm

PEACE CORPS WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

Peace Corps/Micronesia is seeking to fill the following part time (20 hrs/week), work-study position, based in Kolonia, Pohnpei. The position requires strong ability to speak, read, and write English and work with computers in Microsoft Word and Excel. Familiarity with Microsoft Outlook desired.

To apply, qualified persons must send a cover letter describing their qualifications for the position. They must also send a resume in English with work history, salary history, and work-related references.

These application materials should be dropped off at the Peace Corps office in Kolonia, or sent by email to its@fm.peacecorps.gov. The deadline for receiving applications is **Wednesday, July 20, 2007**.

Information Technology Specialist Assistant

The IT Assistant is a work study position that works under the supervision of the IT Specialist and provides IT support (training and administrative) to Peace Corps Volunteers and staff. Besides providing IT support the work-study assistant will learn the following skills:

Skills Learned:

- Support and maintain Peace Corps computer, network, and telephone systems.
- Assist and Support Peace Corps staff with IT related tasks (E-Mail, MS-Office Applications, etc.).
- Supports Peace Corps Volunteers with IT related tasks and projects.
- Provide IT support to Peace Corps offices in Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap, and Palau.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Desire to learn IT concepts and procedures.
- Hardworking and reliable.
- Excellent inter-personal skills.
- Ability to communicate effectively in both oral and written English.
- Ability to work effectively as part of an intercultural team.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook desirable.

A transportation and meal stipend will be provided during the work-study period.

NEWS

Kosrae Moves Forward with USDA Housing Grant

The Kaselehlie Press

In September 2006, the FSM state of Kosrae signed a Technical Assistance Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture. The agreement granted \$287,826 to the state's Rural Development Office in exchange for providing a program of technical and supervisory assistance in aiding low income families in carrying out what is known as the self-help housing program. Under this program, families provide a substantial portion of the labor involved in building their own homes. This "sweat equity" contribution reduces the total cost of purchasing a home – allowing many people to purchase houses that would otherwise have been out of reach. The program packages other USDA loan programs targeted for low-income families with the self-help grants to make home ownership a possibility for many. The self-help housing grant has been in existence in the United States since 1971 and helps some 1,500

rural families build their own homes each year.

The program is actually a good fit for the FSM, with a largely rural population, as well as a place where community ties – one of the main prerogatives of the program is to build community ties through mutual building efforts toward a common goal – have traditionally been, and remain strong. Kosrae has made forward progress in implementing the program, with several homes already under construction utilizing the grant funds, and a target of providing funding for up to 24 homes to be built in the next two years. The local Rural Development Office will provide technical assistance such as homeownership education, loan packaging, and construction supervision as part of the provision of the administration of the program. In terms of federal programs and grants offered from the U.S., the USDA remains one of the largest federal donor agencies to the FSM.

Twenty-One New Recruits From FSM Sworn In For U.S. Army Service

U.S. Embassy

As a new day dawned in Pohnpei on the morning of June 29th, twenty-one young Micronesians took their oath of enlistment in the U.S. Army in a ceremony aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Sequoia*, moored at Kolonia Harbor in Pohnpei. Eight of the new soldiers are Pohnpeian: Starchell Alten, Ocie Daley, Semenster Hadley, Eugene Kohler, Ronald Orozco, Sam Osteen and David Ueno. The remaining thirteen enlistees hail from Kosrae: Lany Alik, Hanson Charley, Thomas Charley, Robson George, Joshua Isaac, Darnell Jonas, Moses Lonno, John Nena, Thomas Nena, Amato Palsis, Madao Robert, Petrose Suwei, Jason Tara and Mitcher Tolenoa. All were sworn in by U.S. Army Captain Elizabeth Powers, Executive Officer of the Military Entrance Processing Station in Honolulu.

The Compact of Free Association allows FSM citizens to serve in the U.S. military. The U.S. Army provides a wide range of education, employment, income, insurance, medical, skills training and travel benefits, but the new recruits first needed to pass the Armed Forces

Vocational Aptitude Battery test in order to qualify for military service. They will depart their home islands over the next three months to report for basic training at Fort Benning in Georgia, Fort Jackson in South Carolina, Fort Knox in Kentucky, or Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, where they will specialize in aviation, infantry, logistics, maintenance, security, supply, and vehicle operation.

Assisting in the ceremony were Staff Sgt. Nelson Jack (of Pohnpei), Staff Sgt. Neemia Vaiagae, SFC Joseph Moxley, and First Sgt. Fitimalo Siaoosi, who currently serve as U.S. Army Recruiters in Guam. Delivering remarks at the ceremony on behalf of the U.S. Embassy, Ambassador Suzanne Hale congratulated the new recruits and noted the invaluable contributions made by Micronesian veterans. She also stressed the importance of strong relations between the United States and FSM as a factor in the promotion of international security.

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.

...Forum

continued from front page

an introductory speech strictly timed for three minutes. After all candidates had a chance to give their opening statements the candidates were then each asked questions on issues in the community and were allowed three minutes each to respond. According to Commerce members, whether each candidate was asked the same question or different ones depended on the number of candidates participating in each forum.

When the question and answer session was complete, each candidate got an additional three minutes to give a closing remark.

Unlike scholastic debates, there was no scoring of the candidates' performances. Since the Chamber of Commerce is a non-political entity they did not want to be seen to be endorsing any one candidate in any race.

Organizers of the Candidate Forums said that they hoped that their idea would spark other groups in the other states to take on projects of a similar nature whether they are formal debates or forums like the ones the Chamber organized. Though the forums were, they admit, a great deal

of work they said that they feel that the forums had a positive effect on each of the elections and they hope that other groups will take the initiative to stage events like theirs in their own States.


Asked if they had any words of wisdom that they would like to share with people in other states who want to hold similar public events members said, "I think that you have to have a group of people willing to invest and donate their own time to get this going. You have to approach the candidates and work with them and express to them what the goals are of holding such events and then you have to follow through...If we had failed or were partisan in any way then we would not have had the attendance that we did."

People in Kosrae stood behind the process in a big way. Even companies that didn't have a presence on the island donated to support the Candidate Forums and the Chamber of Commerce is grateful to each of them.

The members of the Chamber of Commerce will take a well deserved rest from their flurry of activity for now but they'll be back at it in about a year and a half better prepared than ever!



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Dengue like Zika Virus Confirmed in Yap

YAP Department of Health Services

*A travel advisory asks that individuals visiting Yap avoid mosquito bites. If a visitor to Yap falls ill while in Yap or after returning home, they are requested to report to a health professional. In order to reduce the risk of infecting other islands or other countries, individuals are strongly advised not to travel if they are feeling ill. Health professionals who suspect Zika in a patient (especially with recent travel to Yap) are asked to immediately inform their local health department and the FSM Department of Health at (691) 320-2619. To reduce the risk of establishing local transmission, patients should be instructed to avoid mosquito exposure during their acute illness.

Zika is a flavivirus that is similar to the dengue virus, causing similar but milder symptoms. Like dengue, it is transmitted by mosquitoes. It was first identified in 1947 in rhesus monkey serum in Uganda. In 1978 a small outbreak of acute fever in Indonesia was caused by Zika virus. From the limited cases reported in the literature, Zika is not believed to have long term health effects in people. There is no evidence that this infection has affected pregnant women or their babies in the past.

On June 22, 2007 Blood specimens collected by Yap Department of Health Services and tested at CDC labs showed that the recent illness on Yap is likely caused by the ZIKA virus.

The Yap outbreak appears to have started in April 2007 and to have peaked in late May, however cases continue to present. In this outbreak the symptoms are mild and generally last for 4-7 days, consisting of:

- a maculopapular rash involving the trunk and extremities that is sometimes pruritic.
- conjunctivitis; and
- joint pain, that can affect both large joint and the smaller joints of the hands and feet.

As of Friday, June 29th, there have been 42 cases confirmed to be Zika by PCR and IgM analysis. An additional 65 probable cases with at least two of these symptoms have presented to the outpatient department of the Yap Memorial Hospital and at the Wa'ab Community Health Center. No patients have been admitted to the hospital and there have been no deaths. Because the disease is mild, many more infections are thought to have occurred in the community that did not seek medical attention. An initial assessment in the community indicates that a significant proportion of the population has been affected. Geographically, cases have occurred all over the island of Yap.

Rapid tests used in Yap for Dengue have given false positive results on patients with Zika virus (PanBio and Pentax).

Traditionally, illness caused by Zika was termed "Zika Fever." However fever has been an inconsistent feature of this Zika outbreak. Other symptoms that have been noted in the Yap outbreak include retro-orbital eye pain, myalgias, lower extremity edema, lymphadenopathy, and diarrhea.

An enhanced environmental campaign to reduce mosquito breeding areas in Yap is ongoing. The Yap community has been asked to avoid mosquito bites by wearing long clothing, staying within screened areas and using mosquito repellents and coils, especially when ill.

The Yap Department of Health Services is conducting further investigations to better characterize the clinical presentation of the illness, the magnitude of the outbreak, and the mode of transmission in order to determine the best control measures. They will be continuing to work with FSM Department of Health, Education and Social Services, the WHO, Institut Pasteur and the CDC.

For more information please contact Dr. Martin Bel at yapepinet@fsmhealth.fm

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NEWS

FSM PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS WITH FINANCIALLY TROUBLED STATES

Office of the FSM Chief of Staff

Palikir, **POHNPEI** – After less than one month in office, the new Administration began its mission to assist the financially troubled states of Chuuk and Kosrae. Helping or attempting to help the financially troubled States of the Federation has become an urgent part of the President's job even when the States were given primary authority over their own financial affairs. Left unresolved, such problems pose serious implications for the wellbeing of that State's own citizens as well as the financial and economic wellbeing of the Federation.

The respective financial situations of Chuuk and Kosrae are far different in magnitude and urgency. For the current FY2007, Kosrae State has an estimated budgetary shortfall within the range of \$2 million dollars. Chuuk State, on the other hand has estimated government liabilities of \$41 million. (The FSM President's task force staff believes the records indicate a higher debt amount but the State's

financial staff is unable to produce complete records).

Moreover, the States respective government leaderships have a different attitude over the President's to help their states.

The Kosraeans, who have a lesser problem, are determined to solve their problem by themselves. They are willing to make the necessary sacrifices. Before the annual audit could confirm the accurate amount though, the Kosrae state leadership met last month and formulated an adjustment plan which will solve their budgetary shortfall by FY2008. Their adjustment program among other things includes the following measures: (1) to lay off 98 people from the state payroll; and (2) increase state sales tax. The Kosrae Legislature has already passed sales tax increase legislation.

In the case of Chuuk State, the situation is decidedly worse and staff members have not been able to produce the true extent of the state's problem. As of June, 2007 the State government's liabilities amounted to an estimated \$41

million. An estimated \$11.6 million of this is in short-term obligations, and the remaining \$29.8 million is for long-term obligations.

Short Term and Medium Term obligations are those that need to be paid off within a very short time, from one to three months (for short term) and over the next two years for medium term. These include:

- Chuuk Finance repeatedly failed to turn over to the Social Security Administration money due for Chuuk State Government employees though the money was withheld from the employees' paychecks.

- There are many checks issued by State Finance without sufficient funds in the bank accounts that are floating while incurring interest and penalties.

- State Finance deducted from employee's salaries amounts to cover national Income Tax and Health Insurance Premiums but failed to remit the money to the proper authorities.

- Added to the already stated problems is an overdraft facility with the Bank of FSM, payables to local vendors, obligations to municipal governments, the Recovery Loan to the National Government, and obligations to foreign companies performing infrastructure construction projects for the state.

The Long Term obligations include; medical referral obligations, payment to landowners for land leases and purchase, and other claims and court judgments.

After running fiscal deficits in excess of \$2 million in both FY2004 and 2005, it is estimated that the state government will also run a budgetary deficit of a similar magnitude in FY2006. The fiscal out-turn of the state in FY2007 is not expected to be any better.

Chuuk's escalating financial difficulties has prompted President Mori to take a decisive stance to place high priority on assisting Chuuk in reversing its financial problems.

Since taking office less than a month ago, he has held two meetings with the Chuuk Leadership to encourage the leadership to agree on a set of reform measures that will address the State's financial crisis. Despite extensive discussion on potential reform measures, the last leadership meeting fell short of reaching such an agreement.

A Joint Task Force is tasked to undertake further work to quantify several different adjustment measures with the aim of presenting a more clearly defined set of recommended reform programs for the Leadership to consider in its upcoming meeting on July 17th.

So far, there is encouragement from the effort of the Kosrae State Leadership. On the part of the Chuuk Leadership, a great deal remains to be seen. The President is hopeful that the Chuuk Leadership will show appreciation of the gravity of the many problems and that they will demonstrate responsive leadership and commitment to resolving them.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED



10TH EDF PACIFIC REGIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME (PRIP)

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced candidates to develop the regional programmes to be funded under the 10th EDF PRIP. The Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, in his capacity as Regional Authorising Officer, is responsible for coordination and programming of the 10th EDF PRIP. The consultancy will be funded from the regional Technical Cooperation Facility project administered by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

The European Union has allocated a total of •76.2 million for the 10th EDF Pacific Regional Indicative Programme covering the period 2008 – 2013. Regional programmes in the area of Human Resource Development and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources need to be developed for funding under the 10th EDF. Regional programmes developed under the natural resources area may cover marine and land resources.

Ideal candidates should have relevant qualifications and appropriate experience. Experience in Project Cycle Management and Logframe methodology would be appropriate. Expressions of interest should be fully documented including CVs and other relevant details of qualifications and experience. Expressions of interest may be e-mailed to rao@forumsec.org.fj or mailed to the Regional Authorising Officer, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji, with subject "Expressions of Interest".

The closing date of expressions of interest is 31 July 2007.

2007 JOINT
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Government of the Federated States of Micronesia

2007 Joint Inauguration Celebration Ceremonies

— for —

His Excellency Emanuel Mori
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The Honorable Alik L. Alik
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— and —

The Leadership & Members
of the
Fifteenth Congress
of the Federated States of Micronesia



Sunday ~ July 15th 2007
Inter-denominational Service
Our Lady of Mercy Church
Kolonia
4 o'clock in the afternoon

Monday ~ July 16th 2007
Inauguration Ceremony
COM/FSM Gymnasium
Palikir
10 o'clock in the morning

2007 Joint Inauguration Celebration Ceremony
Chairperson ~ Dr. Rufino Mauricio
320-6129 or e-mail: fsmhpo@mail.fm

OPINION

SAMOA GOVERNMENT BANS IMPORT OF U.S. TURKEY TAIL MEAT

Radio New Zealand

The Samoa government has banned the import of turkey tail meat from the United States in support of health preventive measures to stop people from getting life style diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart and kidney failure..... the ban will be effective on the first of May and the government is considering whether to also ban other im-

ported meat such as mutton flaps and chicken.

Turkey tail, chicken and muttons are the main types of imported meat widely used by average and low income families. The Ministry of Health is concerned by the high fat content of the three types of meat.

Guest Perspective

Education and Exercise Not Legislation is the Key

[Editor's Note: The following is from the Island Food Community of Pohnpei's membership group dialogues where items of nutrition and health are discussed amongst the members and others who are concerned with the health of island people. The Island Food Community of Pohnpei actively promotes nutritious and healthy eating with particular emphasis on healthy local foods.]

Dr. Bryan Isaac is responding in this column to the factual news item above.]

I just wanted to make a few comments on the "banning of imported food" to help improve the health of all of us islanders, especially in terms of the NCDs (non-communicable diseases), just as our friends down south have done.

My hat's off to them for doing something about this epidemic and I hope it is one signal for our leaders to start thinking about and do something(s), too. BUT, I do not agree that formulating legislations to solve a problem such as this (preventing NCDs) is the way to go. It is a law that will fail to achieve its goal, and any similar legislations aimed at solving such problems will not work if a basic understanding of the roots of the problem is not there! I am referring to a basic understanding of what the problem is, how it comes about, how to deal with it (fix it) and prevent it. The time and efforts should be focused on spreading the words of its ABCs.

The simple fact is, eating more than the body needs equals extra calories. Extra calories have nowhere to go but to be stored. How does the body store these extra

calories? These are put away as lipids which we know as fat. How can this process be prevented or minimized? You can "burn" them up (EXERCISE) and make sure you don't take too much in (don't reach for that extra serv-

**...EAT ONLY
WHAT
YOUR BODY
NEEDS AND
EXERCISE!**

ing when you feel full)—Eat only what your body needs and exercise!

We can stop eating turkey, muttons, steak, etc., either because of laws or by choice for the rest of our lives and eat just bananas, breadfruits, yams, fish, etc. but when we eat beyond what the body needs for maintenance, even "good food" will still be stored away as extra calories—**FAT**. Extra fat equals weight gain; extra weight brings home a whole slew of problems, especially as the years go by (high blood pressure, diabetes, heart diseases, depression—the NCDs, to name a few). There is no one way of eating that is right and good for weight loss if the calories spent are not more than those taken in. One can follow any diet programs available and still gain weight if exercise is not part of the program so that more calories are burned than are included in the diet.

The opposite is true too—you can eat all you want and still lose weight if you exercise and burn more calories than you take in, even if you eat such "bad food" as turkey tails!

A simple analogy that may be easier to understand is a water tank or container having one pipe filling it and one pipe draining it. If there is more water coming into the tank than is being drained out, the water level will rise ("gain weight"). If there is more water being drained than coming in, the water level will go down ("lose weight"!). If there is an equal amount of water coming in as going out, the water level will remain the same (maintained weight, desired or not).

I believe that if this simple knowledge is driven home, it will do more good than would passing any number of legislations.

Teaching our younger generations at the very early stages of their lives, even before elementary school at home to eat the right food and to exercise is not impossible.

Our leaders should make efforts to help our school system to encourage, and implement programs that emphasize to our children the importance, along with their academic programs, of eating right, exercising and being involved in sports. Currently there is no well organized physical education programs I know of at any level of our school system.

Spending some of our funds to fix up facilities in our schools and the communities, to encourage sports (thus exercise) will, in the long run, be money well spent rather

than the current practice of spending funds on meetings, conferences, etc. where only a few benefit.

We, as adults, overweight or not, can start watching our eating habits, eating healthy foods, and exercising to stay healthy and lessen our risks of acquiring these NCDs. We should also be examples to our younger generations.

Those unfortunate enough to have already acquired some of these NCDs can help themselves by eating right and by exercising regularly to lose weight and to retard progression of their conditions.

Giving medications for a condition one already has does not have to be a life sentence, even for diabetics. Proper eating and exercise to keep a negative calorie balance can help minimize the amount of medication needed and afford those afflicted with a healthier well being.

Again, it is good to know that our island friends down south have leaders who are trying to do something for their health, but I believe that focusing the emphasis on how to get the basic understanding of the cause of the problem and what to do about it is a more effective, long term fix than passing legislation that will only be changed, broken, ignored, etc. That solution is just a superficial fix.

I hope our leaders here entertain these important issues along with their many other responsibilities and duties.

Thanks for allowing me to share my views.
Bryan Isaac, M.D.

OPINION

B N N

By Bermin F. Weilbacher

bnn_fsm@yahoo.com

The opinions expressed in the BNN Column are those of the author.

The Column missed the last issue and I blame it on no one but me and maybe the constant rain or is it the sakau?

Going up and up....

I tried to leave the subject but it keeps popping up—PUC. The electricity/fuel conversion rate now escalates into an ever increasing rate of 36.25 cents for every kilowatt (1000 watts) sold to its 7000 plus customers. Where is the top of this hike?

It is not a typo...

You would think that the corporation would be appreciative of the efforts of customers who try harder to reduce their delinquencies or do their share of the burden of providing utilities, but no, and in a classic case, PUC recently sent a threatening notice to one of its water customers to pay up or go without water. And this is not a typo folks—the amount overdue was 87 cents!!

Get lost with your tank...

Another customer gave his land free of charge to PUC to build a tank and what does PUC do? It sends a notice to the landowner that his power bills would be transferred to his water bill. His reaction? GET LOST WITH YOUR TANK.

And yet we read in the press that PUC wrote off \$2 million dollars of uncollectible accounts? TWO MILLION BUCKS!!! SOMETHING IS TOTALLY WRONG

Where is he taking us???

And talking about fuel, the Pohnpei State Governor announced the creation of its own Fuel Task Force (divorced from the FSM Fuel Task Force) to tackle with oil magnate Mobil???? A critic told me, when he read in the newspaper, that when the government finally buys the tank farm from Mobil, it will negotiate with a professional fuel company to run it, he asks, "What's wrong with Mobil? Isn't it a professional fuel company?"

I wonder where the Governor, with less than 6 months remaining in his second term, plans to take his constituency in terms for fuel consumption?

It used to take two sticks of cigarettes to download or attach files...

The Internet speed I get is never 56 kilobytes (56 thousand bytes or digital imprint per second) that TCOM led me to believe. It varies from something like 28 to maybe 49 kbs, if you are lucky or it doesn't rain. IT TOOK ME 15 MINUTES TO ATTACH ONE PICTURE A FEW NIGHTSAGO!!!

In the old days, when I used to puff 3 to 4 packs of cigarettes a day, I'd measure the length of upload/download time by the number of sticks I'd smoke. It was usually 2 sticks per function. But they say I can get High Speed Internet at maybe 100 mbs and I was excited until I learned that I had to pay something like \$399 (not \$39.90) dollars per month.

A flashy billboard won't alert you of deficiencies...

But the one issue that bothers me and many customers is the current cell phone problems. While I appreciate that I can now use the cell phone, there are times that I just wanted to throw it away in the ditch. At times it takes up to ten tries to make a successful connections, if you are lucky. And yet, has the corporation told the public what is happening? Have you seen any public notice on that billboard about some of the difficulties they are encountering? You think they will adjust the charges? Noo, certainly not!!

Like PUC, the FSM Telecommunications Corporation, has dozens of highly paid employees with a wage rate that one critic calls "runaway salaries." And yet it does not have a strong public relations program to ease some of the frustrations customers are having with the cell phone problems. At least I have not read or heard any public statements regarding the current cell phone and Internet deficiencies. Not even on the billboard in front of the corporate office. All I see is Happy Birthday wishes and movie listings and the constant hard copy reminders of cutoff schedules of my accounts.

As one frustrated cell phone owner told me recently, "What's the use of that flashy and expensive-looking but often incoherent billboard if our cell phones cannot connect?"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wasting Breadfruit

Looking out the window of my office, I see dozens of breadfruit growing on four trees. At various spots on the block in central Kolonia where I live there are more trees with probably hundreds more breadfruit ripening as I type. In the next couple of weeks, there will be breadfruit splattered on the streets and ground under most of these trees, a terrible waste of the nutritious bounty that this island (Mother Nature, if you please) provides. 100 or 50 years ago this waste would not be happening, as the breadfruit was so important to the Pohnpeian society that a season of the year is named after it.

What has changed? I think it is two important aspects of life on Pohnpei (and in Micronesia and other places). First, the introduction of rice, canned goods, and other food stuffs that are easy and quick to prepare. Perhaps finding an easier way to complete the day-to-day "tasks of life" (some might call it laziness) it is a part of human nature. But, if uncontrolled we know that a sedentary lifestyle will lead to health problems. Breadfruit takes some effort to gather and prepare - you can't just "pop the top" and eat.

Second, the economic division between the "haves" and the "have nots" has widened. 50 or 100 years ago the "economic" difference between the two groups was a matter of a bigger herd of pigs, or larger yams, or more sakau plants. It would have been

difficult to measure, but you might say that (in 1907) the richest person in the village was twice, or three times, or maybe five times richer than the poorest. Today (2000 census info from the one of the FSM states), there are 18 individuals with incomes of \$50,000+ and more than 19,000 individuals with incomes less than \$1,000 - a ratio of 50 to 1! Why are turkey tails, corned beef, and spam-type food so popular? The popularity has grown since the first generations started eating these food items after WWII, and economic necessity kept these cheap and unhealthy foods on the menu for many families. As has been pointed out by other writers - if children are fed a food for a long enough time, they'll grow to really enjoy the taste. If a can spinach cost 25 cents there would be no Vitamin-A problems in Micronesian populations.

How does this tie in with agriculture and breadfruit? We know that many people no longer have the time, and some no longer have the desire, and some no longer have the land, needed for agriculture. But it is true - "We simply cannot live without agriculture." *Someone* has to grow food, and it has to be distributed, or life will cease. The areas of the world affected by famines teaches us this harsh lesson. I'm not a very good farmer, so I would certainly be one of the folks eating lots of breadfruit.

Bob Spegal

Dear Editor

Tell me, is there any place you know of where it costs more to fly?

Lokaia Tohto

NEWS

New Shipment of Pohnpeian Bibles Dedicated

On Sunday afternoon, July 1st, a service was held at Kepinle Church to celebrate the arrival of another printing of the Bible in Pohnpeian. The service was led by Rev. Nickontro Johnny, MC, and Rev. Dias Lorin gave the message. Several churches were represented as their pastors took part in the service.

The printing project has taken several years to bring to completion under the oversight of the United Church of Christ, Pohnpei (UCC/P). The chairman of the Council of Churches, Rev. Paulino David, thanked the United Bible Society and the owners of Nihco for making it possible for the Bible to be available to Pohnpeian readers at the low price of \$10.75. A generous loan from Nihco enabled the printing of a large enough quan-

tity to reduce the price.

The choirs of Danpei and Kepinle Churches performed great special music. One performance reminded us that, "the word of God is strong" in a beautiful musical setting. The Lien Alem of Kepinle provided light refreshments following the service. Distinguished guests included Rev. Judah Johnny and Rev. Bethwel Henry.

The first sales were made at the church after the service with the help of the Office of the General Secretary UCC/P, Rev. Tesiwo Liwy and his wife at the sales table. Copies may be purchased during regular business hours at Nihco Office Supply across from Pohnpei Public Library. The edition is the Protestant Bible in a leather-colored cover.

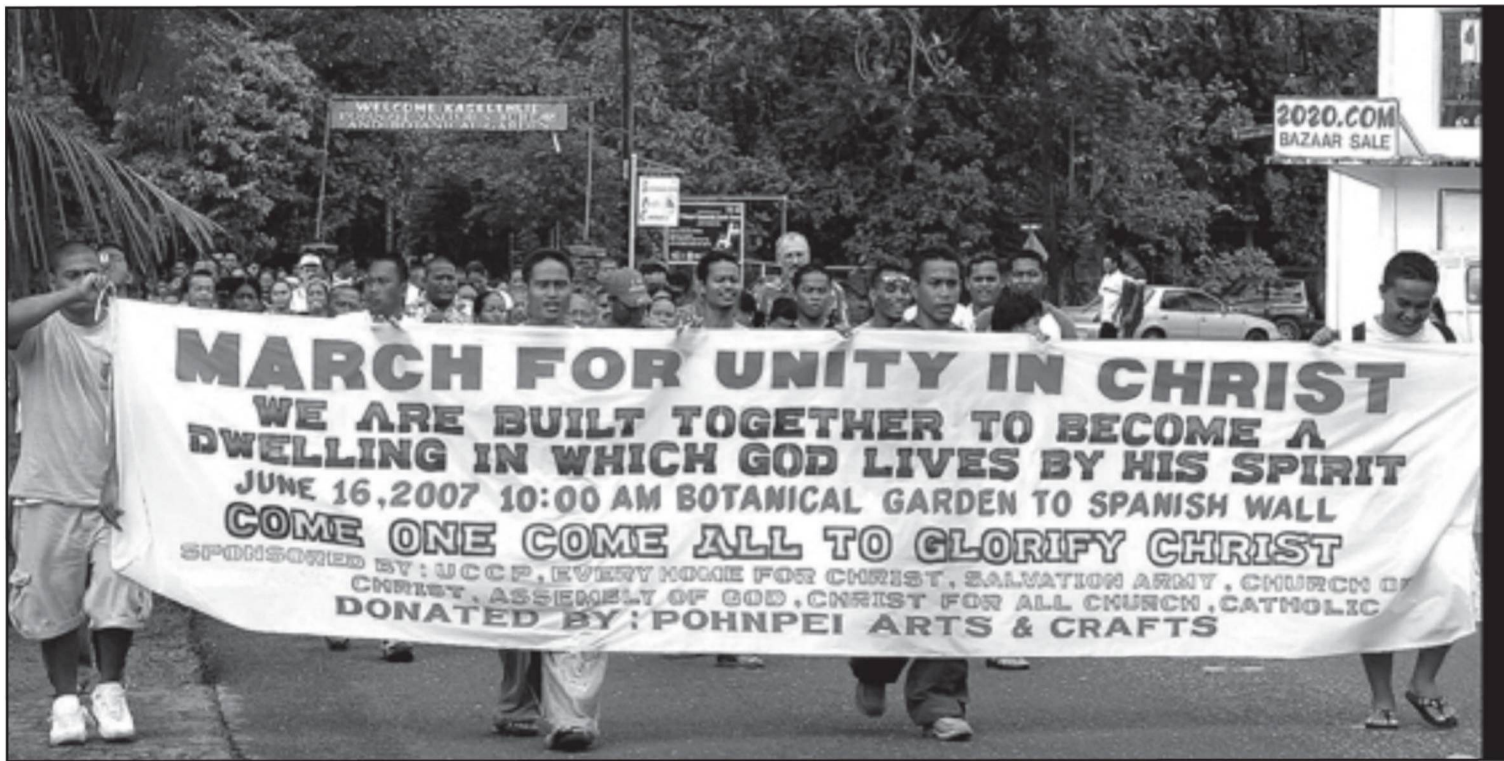


United Church of Christ Ministers display new copies of the Pohnpeian Bible.

Front row: (left to right) Rev. Daniel Poll, Rev. Dias Lorin, Rev. Etiler Joseph

Back row: Rev. Nickontro Johnny, Rev. Tesiwo Liwy, and Rev. Weltrick Panuel

Pohnpei Christian Ministerial Association Stages Demonstration of Christian Unity



Singing rang out down Namiki Dori Saturday morning, June 16th as an enthusiastic crowd marched through Kolonia from the Botanical Gardens to the Spanish Wall Park in a demonstration of Christian unity. Carrying a colorful banner donated by Pohnpei Arts and Crafts, the marchers were led by Parade Marshall Frank Semens, of the Pohnpei Police Commission. Escorted by Kolonia police vehicles with lights flashing, the

group attracted attention from people on balconies and looking out of windows, pedestrians and other drivers who halted as they passed by. Organized by the Pohnpei Christian Ministerial Association, the parade flowed into an outdoor worship service in the bright sunshine at the park.

The youth-led service included choral and instrumental participants from Our Lady of Mercy,

Sokehs Pah Congregational Church Youth Choir, The Salvation Army Young Peoples League, Christ for All and Every Home for Christ. Moderated by Reverend Bender Enicar from Sokehs Pah Congregational Church the messages were delivered by three representatives from the Catholic youth. Recognition was given to Major Scott Nicloy of the Salvation Army who indicated this was the last public special event he

would participate in before leaving Pohnpei for a new position in Kake, Alaska.

The theme, "One in Christ," was taken from the Biblical text in Ephesians 4:4-6 which says, "There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

National Elections Office Certifies Results of Special Elections

Palikir, POHNPEI (FSMIS) – The Office of the National Election Director has transmitted to President Manny Mori the winning candidates of the Special Election held on July 3, 2007

Voters from the States of Chuuk and Kosrae revisited the polls July 3, 2007 to once again, elect their at-large or four-year representatives to the 15th

Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. The two seats were vacated when President Emanuel (Manny) Mori from Chuuk and Vice President Alik L. Alik from Kosrae were sworn into their current roles.

According to the National Elections Director, the following are the certified results of Tuesday's elections:

For the State of Chuuk:

Setiro Paul – 3,599
Steve Mori – 3,448
Redley Killion – 3,333
Mark Mailo – 3,192
Willie W-3 Williander – 3,191
Moulten Soulik Sellet – 978
Johnny Meippen – 168
Masao Nakayama – 111

Candidates Johnny Meippen and Masao Nakayama wanted to have their names withdrawn but filed after the deadline therefore their names re-

mained on the ballots.

In the State of Kosrae, the following are the certified results:

1. Claude H. Phillip – 1,078
2. Renster P. Andrew – 919
3. Canny L. Palsis – 697
4. Ben Jesse – 414
5. Lyndon H. Jackson – 347

According to the Office of National Elections Commission, the candidates have a week after certification to challenge the certified results.

President Mori Transmits Three More Cabinet Nominations

Palikir, POHNPEI (FSMIS) – On July 6 2007, President Manny Mori transmitted three more nominations to the 15th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The President's transmittal letter reiterated his position on the selection process, "the primary consideration in the choices of nominee is based on merits and availability of suitable people." He noted that the residency distribution of the nominees is a sec-

ondary consideration.

The nominations are:

1. **Julius Joey Sapelalut** as the new Chief of the Office of Public Defender. Sapelalut is a former staff attorney for the Public Defender's Office and is currently the Chief of Litigation for the Chuuk State Office of the Attorney General.

2. **Robert W. Spegal** as Secretary

for the proposed Department of Health and Social Affairs. Spegal is currently the program manager for the Pohnpei Competitors Association and was a former Director of Pohnpei State Department Health Services. He was also the former Administrative Office for the University of Hawaii School of Medicine Pacific Basin Medical Officers Training Program in Pohnpei.

3. **Roger S. Mori** as Secretary for the proposed Department of Resources and Development. Mori is the current Assistant Secretary for

the FSM Department of Economic Affairs and was a former President of the Chuuk State Senate.

According to the President's transmittal letter, the nominations for the remaining department and offices would soon be transmitted. The remaining nominations would be for the proposed Department of Education, Post Master General and the proposed Office of National Archives, Culture and Historical Preservation, along with the heads of FSM's overseas missions.

President Mori Calls for First Special Session of 15th Congress

Palikir, POHNPEI (FSMIS) – The First Special Session of the 15th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia has been called to convene on July 10, 2007.

In accordance with the FSM Constitution Article IX - section 16, President Manny Mori has called for the FSM Congress to address those issues of national concern during a proposed 10-day Special Session. Urgent among the issues transmitted by the President are the following:

1. **Executive Re-organization Bill** - a proposal to reorganize the structure and functions of some of the existing departments and office of the Executive Branch.
2. Cabinet nominations – to submit the new Administration's nominations to head the departments and relevant offices of the national government.
3. Asian-Development Bank Private Sector Loan - two separate bills on the issue are transmitted

to Congress, one to amend Public Law 13-53 on the 1st Tranche of the loan to re-designate some funding towards the Executive Steering Committee on Tax Reform; and the other bill is to appropriate the 2nd Tranche of the program loan.

4. Supplemental Funding – an amendment to the FY-07 Budget to appropriate funding towards: the FSM's participation in the South Pacific Games, supplement inauguration preparations and towards further payment of the loan by the Micronesia Long Line Fisheries Corporation.

5. Micronesia Energy Corporation – to enact a new Title 27 of the FSM Code to address the essentials of creating an FSM Energy Corporation as a public corporation.

President Mori transmittal said he looks forward to Congress's favorable consideration of the transmitted items. He further invited Congress to "consult with the various departments for further information" on any of the submitted bills.

...MRA

continued from page 2

confirmation that the policies could be written in the FSM without a licensing requirement. They suggest that if enabling legislation is needed it should be reviewed by Congress very quickly and acted upon in order to keep the new business from going to other countries such as Bermuda who currently dominates the Japanese large ticket key-man insurance market.

The status report also indicated that MRA hopes to develop an international ship registry (flags of convenience) if the FSM adopts a few international maritime conventions. A shipping expert has written a brief on the benefits to the FSM of adopting the conventions. The brief is currently being reviewed by the FSM Department of Transportation.

MRA has drafted a ten page Venture Funds bill that is currently being evaluated by the Department of Justice and the Department of Economic Affairs. The bill can be viewed on the MRA

website under the "law" tab. They say that they have introduced the CEO of a multi-billion dollar corporation to the FSM Ambassador in Tokyo. If the FSM adopts the bill the FSM stands to "realize very significant benefits over a ten year period."

All of the 21 recommendations that MRA submitted to the Department of Economic Affairs are designed to make the task of registering corporations in the FSM a more streamlined process. Some of the recommendations they have made in the past have been adopted by the FSM but implementation of the laws enacted has been slow. For example, a corporate income tax regulation was passed in January of 2005 but regulations and tax forms to implement the law have not yet been developed. Regulations still have not been adopted for the Captive Insurance Bill that was passed by Congress in June of last year just over a year ago.

MRA has over 28 years left on its contract with the FSM.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11				12				13			
14			15					16			
17					18		19		20		
21						22		23			
			24	25	26						
	27	28									
29								30	31	32	33
34				35		36		37			
38			39		40		41				
42					43				44		
45					46				47		

SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Leather piercer
- 4. Jabber
- 7. Gush
- 11. By way of
- 12. Cooking liquid
- 13. Part of a foot
- 14. Trespass
- 16. Where to get a BLT PDQ
- 17. Pain
- 18. Have a bite
- 20. Made a lap
- 21. Require
- 22. Bombing run

24. Concealed

- 27. On tape
- 29. 100 centimes
- 30. Dagnabbit!
- 34. Choose
- 35. What this and that make
- 37. and legend
- 38. In the vicinity
- 40. Galleries
- 42. Info
- 43. Cleopatra's snake
- 44. in a million years!"
- 45. Hodgepodge in a pot
- 46. Bashful
- 47. Nonalcoholic

DOWN

- 1. Birdlike
- 2. Flinch
- 3. Wood spinner
- 4. Are There"
- 5. Assistant
- 6. Glad
- 7. Depressed
- 8. Abracadabra
- 9. Custard-filled pastry
- 10. Ivory-colored
- 15. Lessen
- 19. Ripped
- 23. Puzzling question
- 25. Properties without buildings
- 26. Anxieties
- 27. Say again
- 28. It's left in a will
- 29. Spots for frogs
- 31. Circular
- 32. Knight's outfit
- 33. Irritable
- 36. Dogsled command
- 39. Like sushi
- 41. Secret agent

Word Search - EGGPLANT

I think I've solved my produce problem. I've decided to sell the chickens and grow eggplants instead! Here is a puzzle about the tasty eggplant, the egg-shaped white variety of which is the source of the vegetable's unusual name.

- AUBERGINE
- BABA GHANOUJ
- BAKE
- BOIL
- BROIL
- BUSHY stem
- CASSEROLE
- COOKING
- CULTIVATE
- DICE
- DISHES
- EGGPLANT p armigiana
- ERECT stem
- FLESHY
- FRY
- GLOSSY
- GRILL

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

- MOUSSAKA
- NIGHTSHADE family
- PLUMP
- PURPLE
- RECIPE
- RIPE
- SAUTE
- SEEDS
- SHAPE
- SKIN
- SLICE
- SMOOTH
- STEW
- STUFF
- TENDER
- VEGETABLE
- WARM climate

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FSMDB and USDA Team Up to Offer Low-Rate Home Loans in Pohnpei

By **Margaret Damarlane**
The Kaselehlie Press

POHNPEI STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS – A partnership among the FSM Development Bank, the USDA Rural Development Office, and the Rural Home Partnership Association now allows more funds to be available to potential first time home owners in Pohnpei.

The partnership agreement was signed on June 27, 2007 during a ceremony at the Pohnpei State Legislature. During the ceremony, Mr. Phillip Stetson, National Director of the 502 Direct Loan Program, remarked that there is a great need for housing in Pohnpei, which becomes visible within the first minute of driving from the airport.

The housing loans that are available because of this partnership have lower interest rates than the other housing loans. There's enough money available during the first fiscal year of this partnership for 30 homes, and even more during the next fiscal years.

U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, Suzanne Hale, who was also present at the ceremony and gave a speech, said that this partnership is a wild dream come true. She said that she was approached by veterans who needed home loans, but when she contacted the U.S. Veterans Administration, she was told that they couldn't provide home loans outside of the U.S. So by creating this partnership, low interest rate home loans are now available to them.

The Memorandum of Understand-



ing signed between the FSMDB and the USDA will allow the bank to secure Rural Development loans in any of the four FSM States and make the bank the second securing agent in each state.

Pohnpei Community Development Corporation (PCDC). It is expected that the partnership will bring in at least double the amount of funds for new housing.

Under the partnership, the FSM Development Bank (FSMDB) or another lender such as the Pohnpei State Housing Authority will finance at least 20% of the loan for a new house, with the USDA carrying up to a maximum of 80%.

The program will also involve a 3rd partner who is an approved non-profit community organization, such as the PCDC, who can promote the housing program in the community, assist prospective applicants to understand eligibility requirements and assist with the application process.

The Rural Home Loan Partnership agreements signed in Pohnpei are between the FSMDB and USDA RD and Pohnpei Community Development Corporation, and the Pohnpei State Housing Authority and the USDA RD and the

Tide Table July 11 - 24, 2007				
	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	11 Wed 12:31AM 3.6 08:08AM 1.0 01:32PM 1.9 06:09PM 1.3	18 Wed 05:15AM 4.0 11:59AM 0.5 05:58PM 2.8 11:23PM 1.2	11 Wed 12:20AM 2.0 10:10AM -0.4	18 Wed 03:48AM 2.1 11:46AM 0.1 05:00PM 0.6 08:35PM 0.4
Thursday	12 Thu 01:27AM 3.9 08:54AM 0.7 02:30PM 2.0 07:11PM 1.2	19 Thu 05:42AM 3.7 12:22PM 0.7 06:30PM 2.9 11:58PM 1.4	12 Thu 12:53AM 2.2 10:21AM -0.5	19 Thu 04:01AM 1.9 11:44AM 0.2 05:19PM 0.8 09:12PM 0.5
Friday	13 Fri 02:15AM 4.2 09:32AM 0.4 03:13PM 2.1 08:04PM 1.0	20 Fri 06:05AM 3.4 12:43PM 0.9 07:04PM 2.9	13 Fri 01:28AM 2.4 10:39AM -0.6	20 Fri 04:06AM 1.7 11:34AM 0.3 05:44PM 0.9 09:47PM 0.7
Saturday	14 Sat 02:57AM 4.4 10:06AM 0.3 03:49PM 2.3 08:49PM 0.9	21 Sat 12:35AM 1.6 06:24AM 3.0 01:02PM 1.0 07:42PM 2.9	14 Sat 02:03AM 2.5 10:58AM -0.5	21 Sat 04:01AM 1.5 11:16AM 0.3 06:17PM 1.1 10:24PM 0.9
Sunday	15 Sun 03:36AM 4.4 10:37AM 0.2 04:23PM 2.5 09:31PM 0.9	22 Sun 01:20AM 1.9 06:37AM 2.7 01:20PM 1.1 08:34PM 2.8	15 Sun 02:35AM 2.5 11:15AM -0.4	22 Sun 03:40AM 1.3 10:58AM 0.2 07:09PM 1.2 11:08PM 1.1
Monday	16 Mon 04:11AM 4.4 11:07AM 0.3 04:56PM 2.6 10:10PM 0.9	23 Mon 02:40AM 2.1 06:35AM 2.3 01:39PM 1.3 09:55PM 2.9	16 Mon 03:03AM 2.4 11:29AM - 0.3:4 T 0.2 07:02PM 0.1	23 Mon 02:43AM 1.2 10:44AM 0.1 09:24PM 1.3
Tuesday	17 Tue 04:45AM 4.3 11:34AM 0.4 05:27PM 2.7 10:48PM 1.0	24 Tue 02:08PM 1.4 11:37PM 3.0	17 Tue 03:28AM 2.3 11:40AM -0.1 04:45PM 0.4 07:53PM 0.3	24 Tue 10:35AM 0.0 11:33PM 1.5

ISLAM
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Islam teaches:
Peace, Love, Harmony,
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PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES RIGHTS

As a worker in the private sector you have certain rights that are given to you by the FSM and Pohnpei State Constitutions, rights that are given to you by FSM Law and Pohnpei State law and certain rights which the FSM Supreme Court says that you have.

The FSM and Pohnpei State Constitutions say that no government action can be done which is based on gender, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, language or social status. These Constitutions also says that all laws apply to all of the people equally. In a practical sense you should not count on the Constitutional protection of these rights to keep your job.

You have the following rights given to you by Pohnpei State law. The law says that your employer shall not "discriminate in any way in the payment of wages as between persons of different races or religions or as between the sexes; PROVIDED that nothing herein shall prohibit a variation of rates of pay for employees engaged in the same classification of work based upon a difference in seniority, length of service, substantial difference in duties or services performed, difference in the shift or time of day worked, or hours of work." In a practical sense you should not count on the protection of this law to keep your job.

Pohnpei state Law says that you must be paid the minimum wage which is \$1.35 per hour in 2007. The law says that you must be paid overtime if you work more than forty hours in one week.

FSM law requires that your wages be reported to FSM Social Security. If you think that your wages are not being reported to Social Security you can ask them directly or you can ask MLSC for assistance.

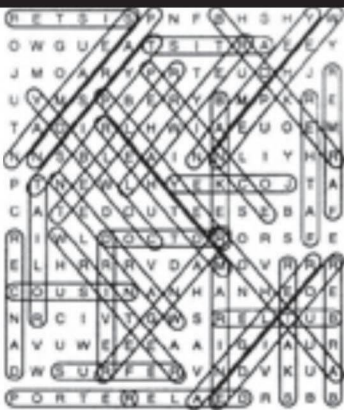
There is an FSM court decision which says that an employee is entitled to a safe work place. The Pohnpei Supreme Court has not yet had a case where they had to decide about this.

If you have any questions about this subject you can contact Legal Services by calling 320-2404 or by coming to the MLSC office on Monday between 9:00AM and 3:00PM.

REAL ESTATE (LAND) FOR LEASE:
PRIVATE LAND SITUATED NEAR FSM CAPITAL IN PALIKIR, POHNPEI, ACCESSIBLE TO ROAD, POWER AND WATER. SIZE: 100 FT X 100 FT, ABOUT 100 YARDS BEFORE FSM CAPITAL.

FOR INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT EMY AT
920-1829

LAST Issue's Solution



The deadline for
ads and news
items for the next
issue is
July 20, 2007

LAST Issue's Solution

PORN EGG SIP
AREA COO ACE
SNAPSHOT TIS
HAS WED TINT
ATONAL BONGO
ENAMORED
VINEYARD
ACRES FOYERS
ORAL GIN GAP
ROT HANDRAIL
TOE AGE ULNA
AND MAD NEST

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office at 7:00pm. Public welcome. For details, call 320-2123.

Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30pm. Public Welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FANGO holds its monthly Issue Base Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The public is welcome.

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press
P. O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941
fax to: (691) 320-6571
phone to: (691) 320-6547
email to: kpress@mail.fm

ANOTHER CLASSIC LIMERICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY **TRASHBUSTERS**

Nervous Neville was frightened of falls,
And he shook at the thought of bad calls,
And of missing, through nerves,
Even one of the serves,
For, of course, he had only two balls.

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HEALTH AND NUTRITION

FSM Postal Stamps Promote Micronesia Bananas

By **Dr. LOIS ENGLBERGER**
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Eight colorful new postal stamps in the Bananas in Micronesia Series were released June 2007, for sale in the Kolonia post office of the Federated States of Micronesia Postal Services, as well as other FSM post offices.

Each stamp focuses on a different Pohnpei banana variety, including *Utin Iap*, *Utimwas*, *Mangat*, *Ihpali*, *Daiwang*, *Akadahn Weitahta*, *Peleu* and *Utin Kerenis*. The values of the stamps range from 26 cents to \$4.60.

Postmaster General Bethwel Henry and Masatomo Mori of the FSM Philatelic Bureau expressed their excitement about the stamps, pointing out that they are in the category of "definitive stamps" and can be used for many years to come.

One purpose of developing the stamps was to increase awareness about these valuable Micronesian banana varieties, all of which are rich in provitamin A carotenoids and have important health benefits. Carotenoids protect against cancer, heart disease and diabetes, and provitamin A carotenoids are converted into vitamin A in the body and help protect the body against infection and night blindness.



Photo by Lois Englberger

These banana varieties are all well-liked for their taste, but some have become rare in recent years, along with the neglect of island foods. For that reason, it is particularly important to care for these banana varieties

and grow more of them.

Postmaster General Bethwel Henry and Masatomo Mori worked with the Island Food Community of Pohnpei on this project and with Dr. Lois

Englberger, who provided the banana photographs. It is hoped that this project may greatly help promote and conserve these island foods and to help improve skills in recognizing the different varieties.

Recipe of the Week

Giant Swamp Taro with Banana (Rodima Wus, recipe from Mwoakilloa, Pohnpei)

- 3 cups giant swamp taro (about 2 medium sized giant swamp taro)
- 3 cups ripe banana
- 2 cups coconut juice (about 2 coconuts)

1. Peel and grind raw taro. If possible, use yellow-fleshed varieties with high carotenoids content.
2. Peel and pound ripe banana until well-mashed.
3. Add coconut juice to taro and banana and mix well.
4. Put the mixture into a baking tin and bake for about 1 hour.
5. Serve.

Dollar Up Enterprises

Thermos Bottles
1.5 liter
~ \$1.00 ~

Essebce Bath
Soap
~ \$3.99~

Reese's Peanut
Butter Cups and
Butterfingers
~35¢~

SPORTS

Midar Trains for Czech Republic



For the past few weeks, Australian track and field coach John Hamann has been training Xavier High School student Vanessa Midar (Pohnpei) on techniques to start and run the 100 meter sprint at the Pohnpei State Track and Field (photo). Midar will represent the FSM at the IAAF 2007 World Youth Athletics Championships in Ostrava, Czech Republic from July 10-14. Also accompanying Midar will be Jaclyn Truncellito, her local coach and a teacher at Xavier High School. Their trip is funded by an IAAF grant submitted through the FSM National Olympic Committee office. Coach Hamann has been on the FSM since April visiting all the 4 FSM States and will depart in August. His trip was funded by an International Olympic Committee grant submitted by the FSM National Olympic Committee. All track and field athletes and coaches, especially beginners, are invited to train with Coach Hamann from Monday thru Friday at the Pohnpei State Track and Field at 4:00pm.

*POHNPEI FISHING CLUB
ANNOUNCES
an Expanded
JACKPOT TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY, 14 July 2007*

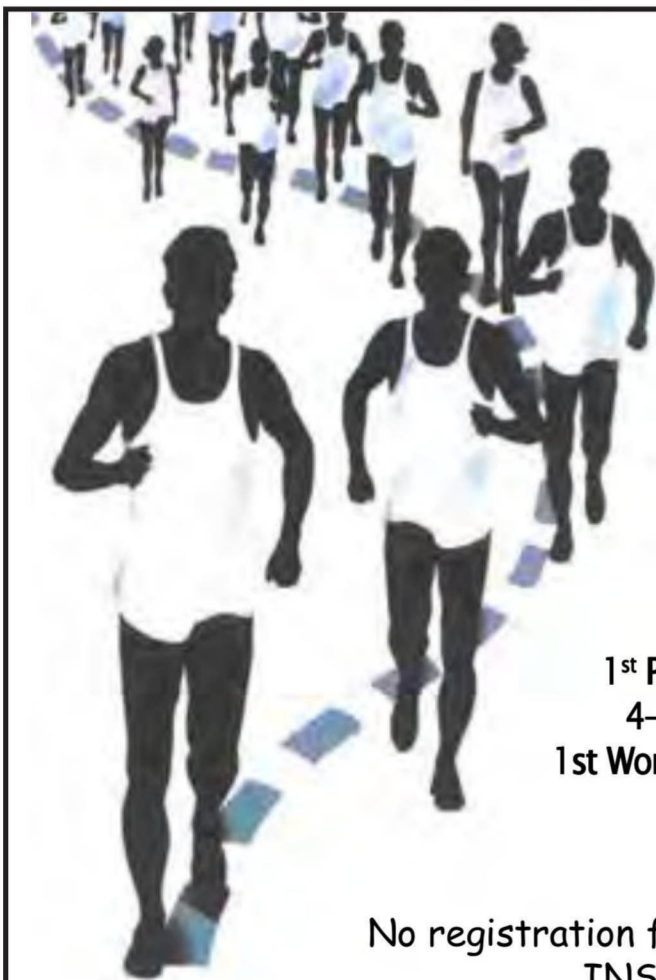
Total of \$300.00 in

PRIZES:

*HEAVIEST FISH (\$70 & \$30) -
LADY ANGLER (\$35 & \$15)
JUNIOR ANGLER (\$35 & \$15) -
BEST BOAT (\$70 & \$30)*

**SAFETY BRIEFING AND
REGISTRATION**

*5:30 to 7:00pm, FRIDAY, 13
July, at PCR RESTAURANT*



4th Annual
**2007 "INS"
MAROSONG
POHNPEI HALF MARATHON
13.1 MILE RUN**

4:00 p.m., Saturday, July 21

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

1st Place - \$500 2nd Place - \$250 3rd Place - \$100
4-10th Place - \$30 11-20th - \$15 21-30th - \$10
1st Women - \$300 2nd Women - \$200 3rd women - \$100
1st Junior - \$100

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

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