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Pohnpei Legislature investigates Governor's School Lunch program spending

Two members submit a resolution for articles of impeachment against Governor Ehsa

By *Bill Jaynes*
 The Kaselehlie Press

Peilapalap, Pohnpei, FSM—A resolution for the impeachment of Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa was submitted by Senators Francisco Ioanis and Wincener David on March 10, 2010 during the special session of the Pohnpei Legislature that closed on March 26. The resolution centered on alleged financing illegalities that are funding the school lunch program introduced by the Governor at the primary school level.

The resolution has been assigned to a committee for review but has not received further Legislative action.

If the report of the joint committees on Education and Cultural Affairs (E&CA), Finance, and on Judiciary and Governmental Operations (J&GO) issued on the March 9, 2010 is any indication, the resolution currently has only a small chance of passage in the Pohnpei State Legislature when they meet again in the May regular session. From the signature page it appears that

most of the Senators are members of the joint committee.

The committee convened for investigative hearings on Pohnpei's School Lunch program based on a floor motion for them to do so. Members considered four possible actions as a result of their findings.

They explored impeachment as one of the options but decided against that op-

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Search underway for missing fishermen in Pohnpei

By *Bill Jaynes*
 The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM—Dr. Aminis David and his crewmember Swiper Oliver did not return for weigh in at the end of a day of fishing in a Pohnpei Fishing Club tournament held on Saturday, March 27. David and Oliver left the Pohnpei Harbor at approximately 7:15 that morning and had not returned by sunset that night.

David and his crewmember were last seen by other fishermen competing in the tournament in waters off of Ant Atoll, southwest of Pohnpei.

Pilot Alex Tretznoff of Caroline Islands Air took to the sky to perform an evening search of the water in that area in the hope that the fishermen would have a flashlight by which they could signal to him as he flew over but according to members of the fishing club he did not spot any beacons of any kind.

Seven boat owners met at 6:30 on the morning of Sunday, March 28 to coordinate their own search efforts. Seas were rough and the weather was threatening, even potentially dangerous but volunteers took to the sea to search the surrounding waters and the islands of Ant and Pakin.

Meanwhile Tretznoff once again took to the skies to conduct an aerial search for the lost men until rain hampered visibility. When rains cleared in the early afternoon he continued his search.

Pohnpei's Emergency Disaster Coordinator Dais Lorrin contacted the U.S. Coast Guard for assistance.

The Marine Surveillance Vessel FSS Micronesia was dispatched by FSM National Police Chief Pius Chotailug who was reached by Australia's Marine Surveillance Advisors just as he was ready to board a plane to return to Pohnpei from Honiara, Solomon Islands. The vessel was instructed to patrol the same area that Fishing Club members were searching. The Micronesia returned to Pohnpei Harbor on Sunday evening after dark.

No one had spotted any sign of the missing fishermen by the close of their second day at sea.

According to members of the Pohnpei Fishing Club, the U.S. Coast Guard approved of the search method that had been utilized by the end of Sunday.

The Coast Guard's analysis of ocean currents led them to suggest that waters further south of Pohnpei should be searched beginning on Monday morning.

If weather cooperates, Alex Tretznoff will be taking off in the early morning hours to search southern Pohnpei waters.

A U.S. Coast Guard plane from Guam will also search those waters beginning midmorning on Monday.

The USS Micronesia has also been dispatched.

At press time Dr. David and his crewmember Swiper Oliver had not yet been found.



Susaiia sworn in as FSM Ambassador to China

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Dispute continues over TransCo shares and dividends

By *Bill Jaynes*
 The Kaselehlie Press

Chuuk, FSM — Chuuk State Associate Justice Ready E. Johnny ruled on a motion to show cause why defendants and their attorney of record in a TransCo stock dispute should not be held in contempt for issuing a dividend check in the name of the FSM Supreme Court instead of issuing that check to the plaintiff in the case, FSM President Manny Mori. The motion was filed by President Mori's attorney Sabino Asor.

Associate Justice Johnny said in his ruling, "the court cannot fault the defendants

or their attorney for trying to take steps to avoid potential multiple liability for the same dividend payment," and denied the motion for an order to show cause.

Essentially the dividends were for earnings on shares of TransCo stocks whose ownership is still under dispute.

TransCo held its shareholder's meeting in Chuuk on Saturday, March 13. Shareholders who were present received their dividend checks at that time. President Mori did not. Since at least a portion of his shares are under dispute, TransCo issued the check instead in the name of the FSM Supreme Court where a portion of that dis-

pute is being heard.

At 6:30 on Sunday morning, the day following the shareholder's meeting, President Mori called Steve Finnen, TransCo's attorney in his hotel room. Finnen explained to President Mori several times that he was not allowed to talk to him but that he would be glad to talk with his lawyer.

30 minutes later, Chuuk State Police officers arrived at Finnen's hotel room and told him that he needed to accompany them to the police station. The officers were responding to a charge by President

See "TransCo shares" on page 2

Auditor concerned about statute of limitations expiry on criminal referrals to Justice

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—The FSM Office of the National Public Auditor (FSMOPA) released its 2009 annual report in early March. Along with a glowing description of the office’s substantial accomplishments and noteworthy peer review results there was one section of the report that showed that there is a problem, not so much with FSMOPA but with FSM law enforcement.

The Audit Division is one of the two divisions FSMOPA established in order to conduct its work. The Compliance Investigation Division is the other. CID has two primary investigation functions, administrative and criminal. CID works to identify systems and accountability weaknesses in the Nation’s financial administration and gathers evidence of criminal activity for criminal prosecutions in the courts. Evidence gathered for criminal prosecution is turned over to the FSM Department of Justice for possible prosecution.

During Fiscal Year 2009, CID handled 13 new cases and followed up with 14 cases

carried over from prior years. Four cases were referred to FSMDOJ for prosecution in 2009. According to the data in the FSMOPA Annual Report a large percentage of cases sent to FSMDOJ have yet to be prosecuted. Some cases referred for prosecution were referred as long ago as five years without any criminal charges having been filed.

Of the 15 cases submitted to FSMDOJ for prosecution five were referred two or more years ago. The report expressed FSMOPA’s concern that the statute of limitation could potentially expire “if actions are not speedily taken on the matters.”

FSMDOJ did successfully prosecute two cases in 2009. One involved two defendants for crimes related to mismanagement of the FSM National Aquaculture Center in Kosrae. The charges were for theft of Government funds totaling \$31,815.

One of the co-defendants in that case was tried and entered a guilty plea in court and was sentenced to house arrest and restitution. According to the FSMOPA report, FSMDOJ is still attempting to extradite the primary defendant in that matter.

FSMDOJ also prosecuted former FSM Ambassador to the United States Jesse Marehalau on two counts of theft of Government funds. Marehalau was sentenced to prison for three and a half years followed by restitution.

We wanted to ask the Chief of Litigation at the FSM DOJ if there is a reason why there are fifteen cases still outstanding that had been referred by the FSM OPA. When we arrived at the department an employee said that she had been instructed to tell us that if we wanted to talk about a particular case under investigation at the Department they could not comment. If we wanted information on a case the Department had already filed at the court we could get that information at the FSM Supreme Court.

In other words, the department was not willing to discuss any matter with us.

The Department is not under any obligation to prosecute a case just because the Compliance Investigation Division refers a case to them.

CID referred cases contain allegations that

include: Conspiracy and theft; theft and embezzlement from a fishing corporation; false damage and crops claim; conflict of interest and attempted fraud; false travel claim; contract fraud regard a Marine Park; collusion and violation of bidding procedures involving school supplies; false claim; theft and misuse of Secondary Nutrition Program; misappropriation of CIP Fishing Project Funds; tax evasion and money laundering; false claim, payroll fraud and forgery; misappropriations of Public Project funds; Internet scam; and payroll theft and forgery.

The case alleging Tax Evasion and Money Laundering matches the time frame of a DOJ court filing on which The Kaselehlie Press reported in 2008.

Since the Department was unwilling to give us any information whatsoever we could not verify our theory that some of the listed CID referred cases have already in fact been filed at the Supreme Court.

Sophia Pretrick is the CID’s Chief Investigator. She said that the division constantly follows up with FSMDOJ on her division’s referrals and will continue to do so. Since she doesn’t work for the Department of Justice she could not comment on their behalf.

... TransCo shares

Continued from front page

Mori that his dividend check had been essentially stolen from him.

Upon arrival at the police station Finnen explained the situation to the officers and told them that Chuuk Attorney General Jose Gallen could clear the matter up. The officers confiscated the \$1620 dividend check payable to the FSM Supreme Court and asked Finnen what his plans had been for that day. He told them that friends had planned to take him out in a boat and that

he was scheduled to depart Chuuk on the late flight that night. Although police did allow Finnen to leave the police station they instructed him to cancel his boating plans and to be available to return to the Police Station.

It took some time to contact the Chuuk Attorney General but after he was reached he immediately wrote a memo to the Director of the Department of Public Safety advising the Director to return the check to Finnen. The memo said that he could find no probable cause to charge Finnen with any crime in relation to his possession of the check. The AG also wrote a letter to Finnen telling him that he was returning the check to him and apologizing for any inconvenience the department’s response to President Mori’s

charge may have caused him.

Finnen was allowed to leave the island as he had scheduled with the check in hand.


On Thursday, March 18, Mori’s attorney, Sabino Asor filed the contempt charges. On the same day the court received a Notice of Deposit of the Dividend Payment.

Before Finnen could file any response to the charges, Associate Justice Johnny ruled that neither TransCo nor Finnen were in contempt. He also directed that the \$1620 dividend payment should be deposited in the court’s registry in an interest-bearing account. The court has also asked the defendants in the ongoing lawsuit to file a brief by April 1, 2010 regarding the issue

of whether Mori is a bona fide purchaser for value of the shares for which the dividends are being paid. Mori’s attorney will have until April 13, 2010 to respond to the brief and on April 14, 2010 there will be an evidentiary hearing on the issue if any parties involved in the law suit believe that such a hearing is needed.

If the court determines that Mori is a bona fide purchaser for value of the shares, then the dividends, with interest, will be promptly paid to Mori. If the court determines otherwise, the funds will remain on deposit earning interest until a further court order.

Associate Justice Johnny’s ruling was issued on March 25, 2010.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Susaia sworn in as FSM Ambassador to China

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—President Manny Mori administered the oath of office to Akillino Susaia in a ceremony held in the President's conference room at 4:00 Friday, March 26, 2010. Susaia was confirmed by the FSM Congress on February 13, 2010 to be the FSM's first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Susaia's wife, Mihpel stood with Akillino as the oath was administered.

Susaia had been serving as the Consul General of the FSM in Hawaii where he served since April 3, 2008. Previous to that appointment Susaia had also served as the FSM Secretary of

Transportation Communication & Infrastructure, and also as the FSM Secretary of Resources and Development.

Mr. Carl Apis has been serving as the Minister and Charge d'Affaires to the FSM Embassy Beijing. Mr. Vincent Sivas has been serving in Beijing as the First Secretary.

The ceremony was attended by Vice President Alik and members of the President's Cabinet, along with friends and family members of the Susaia's.

The family held a reception at the Cliff Rainbow hotel later in the evening. The Susaia's are scheduled to leave Pohnpei for China on April 3, 2010.



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Communication problems hinder FSM Congressional action

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM— The third special session of the 16th Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia was called by FSM President Mori. The President called for the session to begin on Saturday, March 20, the day after the closing of the State and National Leadership Council which was held on March 18 and 19 at the College of the Federated States of Micronesia, National Campus in Palikir, Pohnpei. The Congress session was scheduled to begin at 10:00 in the morning but got off to a late start due to late arrivals including the President.

FSM Congress Speaker Isaac Figir gavelled the session to order at approximately 10:15 but there was nothing for Congress to do other than the usual formality of opening the session. According to Figir, the President had defined no clear agenda for action by the Congress, nor had he transmitted vital information needed for Congressional action during the session.

It has become such a common scenario during this administration that Congress passed the first reading of a bill (CB 16-91) that would require any FSM President to present a clear agenda and to provide sufficient information for Congressional action in advance of any future special sessions a President may call.

Congress rules already require that the Speaker must have a 2/3 majority assent of members before he can call a special session but some members felt that passing a bill that would require the President to define a clear agenda without explicitly requiring the same of Congress would be a double standard. The bill has been deferred to the fourth regular session so that Senators can work on amendments to correct that apparent problem.

The fourth regular session is scheduled for May.

Speaker Figir said on the closing day of the third special session that he has worked with every FSM President since the founding of the FSM and that he has never seen any calls for special sessions from previous presidents that were as vague and unspecific as the ones issued by the current President.

"It's the budget I'm really worried about," Figir said during the third session day. He said that it costs a minimum of \$50,000 for Congress to meet and that when it does meet it should have a clearly defined purpose. "Even on the \$9.2 million I had to go and search for the information," he said.

The Speaker was referring to the \$9.25 million granted to the FSM by the U.S. Department of Interior in November of 2009. The grant is to provide money for engineering, architectural and planning costs associated with 27 infrastructure projects approved under the Compact of Free Association with the United States. That money would allow \$100 million worth of infrastructure projects to move forward to the bidding stage.

The money was authorized by the Joint Economic Management Committee at their Sep-

tember 2009 meeting. The grant paperwork was signed by FSM Ambassador to the United States, Yosiwo George, on November 30, 2009.

During the second special session, also called by the President that began November 30 and continued through December 9 of 2009 Congress received no actionable Presidential communication regarding the OIA grant award.

Congress met again for its regular session on January 25 through February 13 of 2010. Figir said that Congress did not receive any communications from the President's office regarding the grant until the end of the eleventh day of that session. Figir said that the Presidential communication contained no cost estimates or distribution breakdowns and no direction that would comply with the FSM law that requires a distribution of all grant money to each of the States and to the National Government based on a mandated distribution formula. As far as Congress knew, based on the Presidential communication, "It was just a lump sum grant," said Figir.

He said that it wasn't until the third special session began that he was made aware that there had been a cost estimate breakdown all along but that Congress had simply not been provided a copy of that breakdown.

Figir said, "We have rules. We can't just rubber stamp funds in violation of the law. If we do that then we're going to be blamed by the recipients."

By blaming, Figir meant that their actions could be subject to interpretation by the Supreme Court if any of the recipients were to file an action at the court.

Congress spends significant amounts of time trying to be absolutely certain that laws they pass and actions they take will stand up under Supreme Court scrutiny if that scrutiny becomes necessary due to legal action. Bills passed by Congress must be legally sufficient and in accordance with the FSM Constitution.

In a recent example Congress spent a significant amount of time during the third special session on what many people might consider to be a very simple bill instructing the President that he must, during the March elections put forth to FSM voters the question, "Should a Constitutional Convention be held?"

The bill has been deferred until the May regular session mainly due to an unresolved debate on the chamber floor over whether the word, "request" or "direct" should be used in the language of the bill. Former FSM President Senator Joseph Urusemal said that the word "request" was softer but still sufficient for the language of the bill. Some other Senators said that under the Constitution, the President has no choice but to put that question to the voters and that the language of any bill Congress passes should also give the president no choice in the matter. They said that the word "request" could be interpreted to mean that the president has a choice in the matter. "Instruct" or "direct" should be used instead.

"Request" said Pohnpei's Senator Peter Christian, "is the language of resolutions and

shouldn't be used in a bill."

On the matter of the \$9.25 million grant for infrastructure planning, Figir said that the Ways and Means Committee did hold hearings on the matter during the second regular session but that members ultimately decided that there was not sufficient information on the distribution formula they should use and that they needed more input from the states before Congress could act.

That assurance didn't come until members met for the State and National Leadership Conference. The members of the SNLC included the FSM President and Vice President, the four State Governors, and Legislators from each of the States and from Congress. The decisions of the SNLC are not legally binding but help to quantify the wishes of the States. The gathered leaders agreed that Congress should act to appropriate the money from the grant so that projects could move forward.

Knowing that the recipients of Congress appropriations had essentially agreed not to file suit against their actions, Congress, on March 25 passed the bill (16-93) appropriating the funds for the State infrastructure projects. Of the \$9.25 million, \$1.96 million was appropriated for Chuuk State projects; \$1.644 million was appropriated for projects in Kosrae, \$2.688 million for Pohnpei, \$756,000 for Yap, and \$2.202 million for National infrastructure projects.

Giff Johnson, the Marshall Islands correspondent for the Marianas Business Journal wrote an article entitled, "\$100 million in FSM bottleneck" that appeared in the March 15, 2010 issue of the Journal. In it he contrasted the FSM's progress on U.S. funded infrastructure projects with that of progress of projects in the Marshall Islands where, Johnson said, "dozens of projects have been funded and many completed, including 140 new classroom buildings."

The article quoted Stephen Savage, field office manager for the infrastructure compact grants for the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. "Despite the best intentions of the president and four governors, we can't get out of the starting gate on these projects." FSM Congress action is holding up

the process of getting the grant into motion, Savage said in Majuro in late February. "The FSM Congress insists on appropriating all the grants."

Speaker Figir said in an interview on March 24, the day before the appropriation bill passed its second and final reading, "Comparing the Marshall Islands, or even Palau (to the FSM) isn't fair." Palau is another Freely Associated State that receives U.S. Compact Funds. "The Marshall Islands has one government. The FSM is a loose Federation and the National Government is a facilitator of the wishes of the four States. Palau has 19 separate States but the National Government of Palau is the central government. They're both just completely different from the FSM."

He said that the U.S. does not recognize the FSM's internal distribution formula. "The United States should be mindful of our procedures. If the U.S. wants to just come in and run the projects they should put it in black and white."

He said that the government of the FSM has a compelling motivation to get the infrastructure projects moving but it has to do so within the framework of its own laws. "I guess if we're wrong than I'll take the blame," said Figir, shrugging his shoulders, "but we have to follow the law."

Though Figir did not mention specifically the two previous precedents when Congress acted in a manner inconsistent with the distribution formula he said that on both occasions Congress passed the appropriation bills only after significant consultation with State leaders.

The elapsed time between the acceptance of the grant by the FSM Ambassador to the United States to the first Presidential Communication transmitting the details of the grant to Congress was just over two months. The time between that initial Presidential communication containing "insufficient detail" and passage of the appropriation bill was just under seven weeks.

The money will be available to move the 27 approved infrastructure projects to the bid stage as soon as President Mori signs the bill into law.



... Ehsa's school lunch program

Continued from front page

tion for now.

Senator David is a member of E&CA committee and signed the joint committee report. Senator Ioanis is a member of the Committees on Finance and J&GO and signed the joint committee report twice, once as a member of each committee.

Signatures for three members of the joint committee were not present on the committee report including those of Naiten Phillip, Chairman of the E&CA, Joseph Edgar, who is a member of the Finance committee and the Vice-Chairman of J&GO, and Benjamin Ludwig who is a member of the J&GO committee.

In order to ensure that the Executive branch would be ready to provide necessary information and documents, the joint committee first sent a letter to the Executive branch informing them that the committee would proceed with its assignment upon the new year. The E&CA committee was already in the process of oversight hearings on the matter.

"The concern of the Legislature rests mainly on the fact that while the law allows for the possibility of food services at the elementary level, the program should first be planned out carefully and should also guarantee that funding is available," the committee report (244-

10) said.

The committee also expressed its concern over the inequity that surrounds the fact that over 70% of Pohnpei's Elementary School students are not receiving school lunches.

On January 27, 2010 the joint committee designated Ausen T. Lambert, the chairman of the Finance committee as the chair of the joint committee.

On January 29 three subpoenas were issued, one each for the Pohnpei State Budget Officer, the Director of the Department of Education, and the Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration. All three responded to the subpoenas the day before the scheduled hearing saying that they did not have in their possession "any minutes, notes or memoranda or similar documents of meetings" discussing or authorizing the commencement of the school lunch program which the committee had requested the witnesses to bring to the hearing. They were, however, each aware that the school lunch program was in operation which led the committee to question who, what and how the program began without any authorization or document saying that it should do so.

The committee learned in its hearing on February 4 that the "hot lunch program" is actually bowls of soup being served to students of some of the schools in Pohnpei. The Department of Education anticipates furthering such services to the remaining schools which witnesses said "have not yet received the blessing of such service."

According to the Committee report, no separate account has been set up for the costs of the food services in elementary schools. Instead, the Executive branch tapped into the accounts of food services for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program and the secondary schools.

The committee report said that the introduction of a school lunch program at the elementary school level seems to have been driven by the Governor's campaign promises. However, the oversight of Education services was given by the Governor to Lt. Governor Churchill Edward, so that while the institution of the school lunch program started with the Governor, the implementation seems to have been directly handled by the Lt. Governor. The Director of the Department of Education has had the responsibility to ensure that the program is successful, while the Director of Treasury and Administration has had the responsibility of seeing that the program is adequately funded. The committee concluded that the school lunch program has been implemented vertically, or school by school rather than horizontally, or grade by grade. Schools appear to have been chosen by proximity to an Early Childhood Education Center or to a High School in order to make use of existing kitchen facilities and staff members.

Apparently there is an implementation schedule for the program that shows no intention of reaching the State's four largest elementary schools, Nett with 968 students, Ohmine with 798, Kolonia with 736, or Palikir with 594 students. Four of the five outer island elementary schools are not on the implementation schedule at all. Sapwuhfik is listed for implementation in December of this year but the commit-

tee believes that "may be window dressing."

The documentation available to the committee shows that of Pohnpei's 7,837 elementary school students, only 2,309 (29.5%) of them are currently receiving soup. The committee concluded that there is no timetable for eliminating the inequity.

The committees' concluded that "there has clearly been a violation of the law," in the Governors' implementation of the school lunch program. The resolution for articles of impeachment lists seven separate alleged violations of Pohnpei State Law.

The committee explored four possible options: Impeachment, a Temporary Restraining Order, doing nothing, or working towards a viable program.

The committee eliminated impeachment as an option for seemingly pragmatic reasons saying, "In this case, the Governor has instituted the program, but the Lieutenant Governor has implemented it. To punish only the Governor...would be to reward the Lieutenant Governor...by allowing him to succeed to the Governorship. To impeach the Lieutenant Governor, also, would put the Speaker in as Temporary Governor until a special election could be held, or, if less than a year were remaining, until the terms of office ran out. Would a temporary Governor, or a succeeding Governor easily end a program of feeding school children? Would there be a popular reaction? And what of two cabinet officials who could be impeached for violating their own oaths of office? Are they participating in a conspiracy? Is this to be an impeachment of a Gang of Four?"

"The other problem is the court delay that was experienced in two previous impeachments? (sic) There was never a legal resolution of the issues raised. The hope would be that changes that have occurred in the make-up of the judiciary would lessen this issue. But we won't know until we get there."

Though the committee said that the program might collapse under the weight of its own inadequacies, doing nothing was not an option that it would recommend. ECE funds are being used to fund the program despite Tim Donahue's recorded opposition to the use of ECE funds for extending the school lunch program. Donahue is the Education Sector Grant Manager for the Office of Insular Affairs. Without the intervention of the Legislature, both the school lunch program and the Early Childhood Education program might be in jeopardy, the committee concluded.

Working towards a viable school lunch program is not an immediately viable option, the committee concluded, because there simply are not resources available for a program of that type that would cover all students. "If the Administration and the electorate want a school lunch program at the primary school level, they must be willing to pay for it." The committee explored several options including an excise tax. The excise tax they discussed would apply to every sale between the importer and the consumer. It would also apply to all services rendered in Pohnpei. With such a tax, "there would definitely be an increase in tax revenue over the present situation."

The Joint committee recommended a two prong approach to the problem of the inequitable provision of a school lunch program and the law breaking that they say occurred in order to keep the Governor's campaign promises. They asked the Legislature's authorization to continue to pursue investigatory hearings, and at the same time, for the Joint Committee to file an action in the name of the Seventh Pohnpei Legislature in the Pohnpei Supreme Court seeking a temporary restraining order, as a step toward securing an injunction against the school lunch program.

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Business Premium	1024 kbps	512 kbps	\$479.00
Business Pro	1536 kbps	384 kbps	\$599.00
Business Elite	1536 kbps	768 kbps	\$718.00
HOME ISPEED ADSL			
Home Basic	256 kbps	64 kbps	\$33.00
Home Standard	512 kbps	128 kbps	\$65.00
Home Premium	1024 kbps	256 kbps	\$129.00
Home Elite	1536 kbps	384 kbps	\$194.00
GLOBAL IP over T1 Premium			
Premium 128	128 kbps	128 kbps	\$637.00
Premium 192	192 kbps	192 kbps	\$955.00
Premium 256	256 kbps	256 kbps	\$1,273.00
Premium 384	384 kbps	384 kbps	\$1,909.00
Premium 512	512 kbps	512 kbps	\$2,545.00
Premium 768	768 kbps	768 kbps	\$3,818.00
Premium 1024	1024 kbps	1024 kbps	\$5,090.00
Premium 1280	1280 kbps	1280 kbps	\$6,363.00
Premium 1536	1536 kbps	1536 kbps	\$7,635.00
One-time Charges for Proposed Services			
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Business ADSL Installation	\$24.00		
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Global IPL Relocation	\$21.00		Charge

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Basic 128	128 kbps	\$1,910.00	\$319.00
Basic 192	192 kbps	\$2,670.00	\$478.00
Basic 256	256 kbps	\$3,430.00	\$637.00
Basic 384	384 kbps	\$3,640.00	\$955.00
Basic 512	512 kbps	\$6,310.00	\$1,273.00
Basic 768	768 kbps	new	\$1,910.00
Basic 1024	1024 kbps	\$12,330.00	\$2,548.00
Basic 1280	1280 kbps	new	\$3,183.00
Basic 1536	1536 kbps	\$18,350.00	\$3,819.00

Domestic Digital Lease Circuit (Rates reduced up to 68%)

NAME	Transmit/Receive	Existing MRC	Proposed MRC
Domestic 128	128 kbps	\$3,760.00	\$1,219.00
Domestic 256	256 kbps	\$7,040.00	\$2,437.00
Domestic 512	512 kbps	\$12,160.00	\$4,873.00
Domestic 1024	1024 kbps	\$16,640.00	\$8,745.00
Domestic 1536	1536 kbps	\$17,700.00	\$14,017.00

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By virtue of Title 21 Chapter 2 Section 228 of the FSM code, FSM Telecommunications Corporation wishes to invite comments from the general public on the new provisional service rates.

Deadline for accepting comments will be thirty (30) days from the posting of this announcement. Date posted: February 19, 2010.
Comments should be addressed to:



FREDY PERMAN
CUSTOMER CARE/MARKETING MANAGER

FSM Telecommunications Corporation, P.O. Box 1210, Pohnpei FM 96941
ph: (691) 320-2740 fax: (691) 320-2745 email: tariffcomments@telecom.fm

President Mori transmits tax reform package to Congress

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlle Press

Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM—A package of bills sent from the office of the FSM President just in time for the last day of the third special session of the Sixteenth Congress landed in the Congress chambers and exploded like a land mine lost since World War II. The package included the proposed enabling legislation “to effectuate the recommendations of the Tax Reform Task Force.”

The package included an act for an FSM Unified Revenue Authority (URA), a Revenue Administration Act, a Net Profit Tax Act, a National Value Added Tax (VAT) act, and a Wages and Salaries Tax amendment to exempt the first \$5000 of everyone’s salaries.

The response to the arrival of the package was immediate. Senators made comments on the Tax Reform both on and off the Congress Journal record.

Pohnpei Senator Peter Christian asked to skip forward on the agenda to the Miscellaneous Business agenda item so that he could deliver an impassioned speech on the matter of government’s seeming lack of concern regarding the Constitution and the will of the people. He said that the issue of a Value Added Tax had gone to voters in a referendum and that the people had clearly said in their response to that ballot measure that they did not approve

of such a tax. “In spite of that fact, the Government pushed forward administratively... Maybe we should just not look at the Constitution because apparently it’s just a trivial document,” he said.

Speaker Figir said that he had suggested to the State and National Leader’s Conference which concluded the day before the third special session began, that Congress would not likely be ready for the tax reform package until May of 2011. “Tax is a bad word at election time,” said Figir.

He said that the National Value Added Tax is unconstitutional and explained that the constitution specifically defines the type of taxes that the National Government can collect and that the proposed value added tax usurps States’ tax collection rights.

Senator Setiro Paul, Chuuk’s At Large Senator said that he is certain that Chuuk’s Constitution would have to be changed before the proposed tax reform package could be put into place in that State. Senators from Chuuk and from other States were seen to nod their heads at his statement.

Former President Senator Urusemal of Yap reminded the Senators that it was during the Third Economic Summit in 2004 that tax reform was proposed. Urusemal was FSM President at the time. He urged Senators to keep their minds open and to perform due diligence in understanding thoroughly what was being proposed. He

reminded Senators that Congress had given the impression through appropriations that went to fund the Tax Reform Committee that Congress was not opposed to the idea of tax reform.

Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee Senator Dohsis Halbert said that of course the government is always looking for ways to increase its revenue. He said that Congress would have to be careful as it proceeded in order to be certain that the people of the FSM are fully informed on the details of how such a tax reform might take place.

Another said that he is “dying to see” budget projections on the net tax but that he had not yet seen any.

Some asked how it could be that tax collection under the proposed plan could possibly be better as the Tax Reform Task Force has promised if the same people currently collecting taxes are the ones that would be collecting taxes under a new and supposedly more complicated tax structure.

Speaker Figir said that he had told the SNLC that it would probably take Congress at least as long to process the proposed tax reform as it did to get it to Congress in the first place.

It didn’t seem like a threat; merely a statement of the complexity of the tax reform package and political realities.



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The Third State and National Leadership Conference (SNLC) ended with two major decisions.

By *FSM Information Services*

March 22, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei - The Third FSM State and National Leadership Conference (SNLC) held at the College of Micronesia (COM) FSM Gym, Pohnpei, on March 18th and 19th, 2010, ended with the Principals signing on the two main decisions: the Declaration of Commitment on Food Security, and the Resolution proposing the creation of a Seventh Compact Sector Grant for "Enhanced Reporting and Accountability.

Though the Declaration and the Resolution are not legal binding documents, they however constitute a strong signal toward ensuring food security throughout the FSM as well as enhancing the utilization of Compact Grants to achieve developmental objectives in the FSM.

Following the Declaration on Food security, both States and National Governments will now adopt and implement necessary policy measures and plan of actions to ensure that food is available in sufficient quantities and on a consistent basis; and that all FSM Citizens have sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. The FSM Government is convening a national Food Summit later this month in preparation for a regional Food Summit which will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu in April. It is clear that this would require the effective participation of both private and public stakeholders, as well as the cooperation of rural communities and individuals.

The Third SNLC also adopted important decisions on:

- i. the appropriation of the Compact Grant for Architecture & Engineering services for pre-design planning and design plans for construction of all September 2009 JEMCO approved Compact infrastructure projects;
- ii. the mandate given to the task force established by the President to outsource the necessary funding with the view to extend the coverage of the Submarine Fiber Optic Cable (SFOC) to the three other FSM States (Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap);
- iii. the line of credit from the Euro-

pean Investment Bank to the FSM Development Bank (FSMDB) for re-lending to local entrepreneurs; and,

- iv. the FSM Fishery Rehabilitation Loan Proposal.

The Third SNLC also considered and took note of recent developments in relation with:

- i. the tax reform currently being completed by the Task Force chaired by Vice-President Alik Alik, and which is expected to be submitted to the FSM Congress for consideration during its May regular session;
- ii. the increasing challenges facing the FSM social security and the need for immediate funding from both the National and State Government to relief the system and other actions, including the repealing of mandatory retirement age statutes;
- iii. the support for the National Government to proceed to accept Automotive Diesel Oil (ADO) in accordance with the Exchange of Note between the govern-

ments of the FSM and Japan and the need for States Government to appropriate Japan Non Project Grants in accordance with the said Exchange of Note;

- iv. Bill N0 16-08 aiming at establishing the National Government's regulatory power over Telecommunication Operation in the Federated States of Micronesia; and,

- v. the various options to improve Air Transport Service in the FSM and the need to centralize and coordinate inter-Islands shipping throughout the FSM

The Private Sector, represented by the FSM Association of Chambers of Commerce, thanked President Mori for including the business community in the conference and for the efforts undertaken by the Government to revamp the Association. Mr. Bill Stinnet, Interim President of the Association, also took the opportunity to share some of the concerns of the Private Sector with the Leadership. These include entry permit for foreign workers, tax and related issues, social security for employees from the Private Sector, economic and

telecommunication infrastructure.

Attending the Third SNLC were the FSM President, H.E. Emanuel Mori, Vice President Honorable Alik Alik, the Speaker of the FSM Congress, the Honorable Isaac Figir, Governors Robert Weilbacher of the State of Kosrae, Wesley Simina of the State of Chuuk, John Ehsa, of the State of Pohnpei, and Sebastian Anefal of the State of Yap. Members of the National and State Cabinets, National and State Senators, members of Diplomatic Missions, representatives of Municipal Governments, supporting staff and representatives from the Private Sector were also present.

The Third SNLC Conference was chaired by Governor Weilbacher of Kosrae State, and the Acting Secretary for the FSM Department of R&D, Mr. Marion Henry, assumed the role of Facilitator.

For more information, please contact the Secretariat of the Conference (FSM Department of Resources and Development) at telephone number (691) 320-5133.



First Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship to be awarded in May

By *Jim Tobin*

FSM National Olympic Committee

The first Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship 5K Walk/Run was held on Pohnpei on Saturday 20 March starting and finishing at Palm Terrace Shopping Centre. Over 225 participants walked or ran from the start through Kolonia Town to the turnaround point on the causeway at Liheakika Beach and back to the finish. The walk/run was the first fundraiser for the Dr. Eli-

uel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship. The run raised over \$1,500, with the family of Dr. Pretrick making a donation of \$500. All run registration fees and donations from the event went entirely to the scholarship fund.

The overall male and female winners were Luke Lavin, with a fast time of 18 minutes and 47 seconds, and Michaela Curr with a time of 22.41 minutes. The other division winners were: youth division 12 years and under – OJ Kapri-

el (24.13) and Marylinda Alexander (25.01), junior division 18 years and under division – Alinanstar Ifamilik (20.15) and Reiliza Saimon (24.13) and master division – Ken Smith (27.33) and Elena Yamada (32.02). Also receiving awards were the top 10 finishers: 1st – Luke Lavin (18.47), 2nd – Makilihno Ardos (19.53), 3rd – Alfanster Ifamilik (20.15), 4th – Marlon Edlont (20.46), 5th – Roger Nakasone (20.10), 6th – Paul Watson (20.51), 7th – Philip Prouhet (21.31), 8th – Dexter Rain (21.33), 9th – Joysner Dadius (21.53) and 10th – Marino Ardos (22.01).

sors of the first Eliuel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship 5K Run: the family of Eliuel and Kesia Pretrick; FSM National Government Department of Health and Social Affairs; FSM National Olympic Committee; Palm Terrace Shopping Centre; Island Food Community; COM-FSM; Pohnpei LP Gas and Ice Plant; Bank of Guam; Drops of Life; KPress and Pohnpei State Public Safety.

Dr. Pretrick was the formal Secretary of the FSM National Government Department of Health, Education and So-

We wish to thank the following spon-

See "Pretrick Scholarship" on page 10

US health care law ignores Micronesians living in America

By *Giff Johnson*
The Marshall Islands Journal

Majuro, RMI –Health care insurance coverage for Micronesians living in the United States was eliminated in the sweeping health care legislation signed into law earlier this week by American President Barack Obama.

The originally passed House of Representatives health care bill included a provision to restore Medicaid coverage to all citizens of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau living in the U.S. But on Sunday March 20, the House passed the Senate version of the legislation that did not include this provision, an official at the Marshall Islands Embassy in Washington said.

Until 1996, when the U.S. Congress cut the benefit, islanders from these three western Pacific nations that have "Compacts of Free Association" with Washington were eligible for Medicaid health coverage. There have been increasingly vocal calls from legislators in states with large populations of Micronesians for the U.S. federal government to cover the costs of health care services for islanders.

Lobbying efforts by the Marshall Islands in the Senate to get the Medicaid provision included in the Senate version of the health care bill were unsuccessful, said the official at the Marshall Islands Embassy.

Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo of Guam, the current Chair for the House Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, is looking into other means to restore this eligibility as it also impacts Guam, said the official.

Also, Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka (Hawaii), Blanche Lincoln (Arkansas), and Jeff Bingaman (New Mexico) have expressed that this is a priority for them as well, and they will figure out a way to get this through.

Meanwhile, the Hawaii State House of Representatives is considering Resolution 25 that calls for the U.S. Interior Department and the U.S. Congress to provide additional federal aid to Hawaii to provide services to migrants from Compact nations.

The resolution also calls for the U.S. Congress to make citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands eligible for federal medical services, and urges the Interior Department to locate dialysis machines in these three nations. Because these services for patients with end-stage kidney complications from diabetes are not available in their home nations, islanders have sought these costly medical treatments in Hawaii and other U.S. states. Islanders from these three "Compact nations" have visa free travel rights to the U.S.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PERSUANT TO TITLE 37 (5.4 & 5.5) OF THE FSM CORPORATE REGULATIONS, EVERY CORPORATION REGISTERED WITH THE FSM NATIONAL REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS IS REQUIRED TO FILE AN ANNUAL EXHIBIT OR ANNUAL REPORT TO THE OFFICE OF THE FSM REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS NO LATER THAN APRIL 01 OF EACH YEAR. HOWEVER, IF A CORPORATION HAS ADOPTED A FISCAL YEAR BASIS, SUCH COMPANY MAY FILE ITS REPORT WITHIN 90 DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

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IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation internationale pour les migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

The International Organization for Migration

VACANCY NOTICE

(Re-Advertised: Previous applicants need not apply and late applications will not be considered)

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As a critical staff member in IOM's Micronesia operations, he/she will be in charge of overseeing the delivery, storage, stocktaking and maintenance of emergency relief equipment in Yap. He/she will also be required to liaison closely with key stakeholders in disaster mitigation and management, including national and local government authorities, US government agencies, United Nations agencies and civil society.

The successful candidate will possess excellent leadership skills, adaptability and capacity to work in a highly dynamic and changing operational context, with people originating from various professional and cultural backgrounds. He/she will be capable of working independently with minimal guidance and will also have exceptional interpersonal skills, to facilitate the smooth delivery of program outputs.

Applicants must have demonstrated work experience, with previous experience in a management position and/or an international organization or embassy being a distinct advantage. In addition, a prior knowledge of asset management would be highly beneficial.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted

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QUALIFICATION/LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS: Graduate from an accredited university, with a bachelor degree in business management, social science, engineering or related field and/or a combination of relevant qualifications and experience.

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PO Box K 2644
Kolonja, Pohnpei
FSM 96941

U.S. Congress wants Micronesia migrant audit

Government Accountability Office may explore impact

By Giff Johnson
Marianas Variety

March 22, 2010

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—Eight American Congress people — including three from the U.S. state of Arkansas — have asked the U.S. Government Accountability Office to conduct the first-ever audit of Compact impact aid related to Marshall Islanders, Micronesians and Palauans living in America and its territories.

In a Feb. 26 letter to Acting U.S. Comptroller General Gene L. Dodaro, who heads the GAO, the Congress people asked GAO to "evaluate federal funds granted annually to certain state and territorial governments to aid in their defraying costs resulting from the demands placed on them due to the residence in their jurisdictions" of people from these three western Pacific nations.

With their letter to the U.S. government's watchdog agency, the Congress people included a detailed six-page "proposed scope of work" outlining dozens of questions and issues they want the GAO to address, including a review of "screening protocols addressing communicable diseases and other public health and national security interest to the United States," and a request for recommendations for "improving the pre-entry and pre-admission screening for Freely Associated State citizens migrating to the United States."

Islanders from the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau have visa-free access to the United States as part of Compacts of Free Association that provide the U.S. government with military authority over an area of the Pacific about the size of the continental U.S.

Since the first Compact went into effect between the U.S. and the Marshall Islands

and the Federated States of Micronesia in 1986, and Palau in 1994, questions have been raised by Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Marianas about the adequacy of U.S. federal "Compact-Impact" funding provided to cover costs for providing education, health and other services to islanders legally residing in these U.S. areas. Since a second Compact was approved in 2003, with the number of islanders moving to the U.S. increasing, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Marianas have escalated complaints that \$30 million annually reimburses them for only a fraction of the costs to provide services.

Now, mainland states such as Arkansas — where an estimated 5,000 Marshall Islanders live — are expressing concern that while they support large populations of islanders, they receive no Compact impact funding.

"We are interested in receiving recommendations for improving both the adequacy and effectiveness of such federal aid," said U.S. House members Madeleine Z. Bordallo (Guam), Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (American Samoa), Neil Abercrombie and Mazie K. Hirono (Hawaii), Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Northern Marianas), and Vic Snyder, John Boozman and Mike Ross (Arkansas) in their letter to the GAO.

The \$30 million annually is now divided among Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Marianas based on population counts done by the Interior Department. American Samoa is also eligible for this funding.

Seven years after the U.S. Congress approved Compact legislation with the Marshall Islands and Micronesia, "we believe a meaningful evaluation of the administration and expenditure of these federal funds is feasible and warranted," the U.S. lawmakers said.

Secretary Salazar Announces \$2.5 Million Grant Award for Expansion of Childhood Education Center in Yap

By U.S. Department of the Interior

March 22, 2010

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced a \$2,508,350 grant award to expand the capabilities of the Early Childhood Education Center on Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia. The two-story facility will feature new classrooms, offices spaces, and conference and training rooms for children in the Western Pacific island state affiliated with the United States.

"The first couple of years in any child's life are critical and fundamental to their development and learning process," Salazar said. "The building of this much-needed new center in Yap will afford children on the island the opportunity and access to quality support all children deserve in order to succeed later in school."

"Most importantly, overcrowding will be reduced and adequate space for the establishment of a safe, healthy developmental environment will be made," said Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta. "I am truly excited about the commencement of this project because it is vital that we establish a precedent of high quality, early childhood programs that provide children with the preparation they need to enter kindergarten ready for success."

The site of the new building will be in the capital of Colonia on Yap. The new facility will expand the childcare capacity of the existing Early Childhood Education Center. States in the Federated States of Micronesia receive operation funding and health and education program assistance under a Compact of Free Association with the U.S. Government.

...Pretrick Scholarship

Continued from page 8

cial Affairs and the founding President of the FSM National Olympic Committee. Dr. Pretrick passed away in May 2007. Last year, Penny Weilbacher, Iris Falcam, Moses Pretrick, Lore Nena and Jim Tobin formed the Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship Committee. The committee has been approved by the Department of Justice, FSM National Government as a certified Non-Profit Corporation. Mrs. Weilbacher was elected the Chairwoman and Tobin the Secretary/Treasurer, with Pretrick and Nena as Committee Members. Iris Falcam, Co-Chairwoman, was one of the founders of the committee. Her leadership, guidance and strength will be missed.

One scholarship, in the amount of

\$10,000.00), will be awarded each school year. The primary purpose of the Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick Memorial Scholarship is to encourage citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to pursue a post secondary education and receive a 4-year University Bachelor of Arts or Science (BA or BS) Degree in Physical Education or sport related fields.

Any FSM citizen is eligible to apply, provided he/she would be, at the time of award, enrolled and attending, or accepted to attend an accredited institution of higher education. To maintain eligibility to receive scholarship funds for the entire academic year, a recipient must be a full-time student enrolled in a degree program in Physical Education or a Sports related field, and must make academic progress toward his/her degree by successfully completing a full-time course load each semester that scholarship funds are received. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale), or its equivalent, must be maintained to qualify for continued aid both semesters.

The deadline for submitting the scholarship application is May 1, 2010. For further information, including scholarship applications, contact your school counselor, financial aid advisor or Dr. Eliuel. K. Pretrick Scholarship Committee:

Penny Weilbacher – Chairwoman	pennyw@comfsm.fm	320-3795
Jim Tobin – Secretary-Treasurer	fsmnoc@mail.fm	320-8914
Moses Pretrick – Committee Member	MPretrick@fsmhealth.fm	320-8300
Lore Nena – Committee Member	lnena@comfsm.fm	320-2480 ext 302

Smoke Testing of the Sanitary Sewer System

The engineering firm Lyon Associates is under contract with Pohnpei Utilities Corporation to prepare an "Inflow and Infiltration Study for the sewer system. One element of this study will involve a smoke test. The Lyon Associates crew will be opening manholes in the streets and easements. A non-toxic smoke will be blown into the sewer mains to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke that may be seen coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground is non-toxic, harmless, and creates no fire hazard. The smoke should NOT enter your home, unless the plumbing is defective or drain traps have dried up. If you have any seldom used drains, pour water into the drain to fill the trap.

If smoke should enter your home or building correction of defects on private property is the responsibility of the owner. A licensed plumber should be consulted to ensure the corrections are properly made. If smoke is observed you may contact a member of the survey crew working in your neighborhood. They will be pleased to assist you in identifying the source of the smoke.

Some sewer mains and manholes may cross property lines, easements or other rights of way. Whenever these lines require investigation, the crew will need access to the sewer mains and manholes. Clearing of some easements to facilitate access may be performed prior to the survey.

PUC requires photographs to be made of leaks that are found. The survey should begin on April 20, 2010 and may require 40 days of fieldwork. If you have questions or observe smoke in your home please call PUC at 320-2374

Advance notification allows anybody with special requirements such as health concerns enough time to inform you of their situation so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Don't forget to include any concerns with your notes.

Opinion Editorial ECONOMICS AND THE LAW - RECYCLING -

By *Martin Mix*
The Kaselehlie Press

I try to keep the focus of this column on the places where economics and law interact. By necessity, the state and national legislative bodies are part of this column because these two bodies pass the laws that can change the way we interact with our economy.

The national government can change the way we spend our money by changing the price of merchandise with import taxes. The state government can change the way we spend our money by changing the price of merchandise with sales taxes.

These legislative bodies can change the way we act by rewarding or punishing certain kinds of behavior.

Today's article has to do with the way we treat cans and bottles, especially the cans and bottles we see alongside our roads.

We can make sure that there are no cans or bottles alongside our roads or piled up around

our houses.

Besides being ugly, these cans and bottles and other trash breed mosquitoes and attract mice and rats.

If the legislature would pass a significant container tax this would stop. "Significant" means large enough that people will return the cans and bottles. We suggest that five cents per can or bottle is large enough.

The legislature can add other items if other items start showing up alongside our roads in large numbers. Bowl ramen bowls are a possibility.

The container tax would be collected with the first sale, the same as the sales tax is collected.

The tax will be part of the selling price. It will be up to the customer whether or not the customer wants to get the money back. If the customer wants to get the money back then the customer can return the bottles and cans. If the customer does not care about the mon-

ey, then the customer can throw the cans and bottles away. These cans and bottles will be picked up by someone who wants the money.

The recycling operation should be contracted out to the private sector. The contract should be for at least a five year period. 75% of the tax collected should be paid to the recycling company. 25% would go to the general fund. (75% is a guess) Any money made by the recycling business for the sale of recycled containers will belong to the recycling company.

We should not worry about the recycling company getting too rich from selling the cans and bottles. No recycling operation that had to pay for aluminum cans has survived without government subsidy. The recycling company will have to dispose of the bottles because it is not worthwhile to send them overseas and there is nothing we are using bottles for now except for take out sakau.

The company doing the recycling will pay the people or businesses that bring in the cans and bottles.

Customers who want to save money can take their cans and bottles to collection places. They can give the cans and bottles to a family member or friend. They could donate the cans and bottles to a church or other worthy cause.

The container tax will not cost the businesses anything because the businesses will pass on the cost to the customer. It will be up to the customer whether or not to get his money back.

If the legislature passes the legislation there will no longer be empty cans and bottles alongside the roads or outside our houses.

The question is whether or not we are willing to pay five cents when we buy a can or bottle to keep our roads free from of these empty cans and bottles. We should be willing to pay the five cents. If we are too lazy to take them to the recycling center then let someone else make the five cents.

Legislature, the ball is in your court.

Letter to the Editor

"Wetter than Seattle" or just all wet?

It was like any other day in Pohnpei, or was it? It all depends on your point of view. Saturday was wet and forlorn with a feeling of trepidation in the air. There was an unusual quietness around town. To what could I attribute my uneasiness? Was there a tsunami coming or a new shipment of tuna down at the dock?

That wasn't it at all! The word came out that "Wetter than Seattle" was due to play their bi-monthly performance at the Rusty Anchor. Even more astonishing, the Australian Navy were in town and threatening to make an appearance. It promised to be one heck of a night!

The band hit the stage at 9:00 and immediately launched into a ferocious version of The Who's 1965 classic, "Can't Explain," with much improved vocals by Steve Finnen on bass and a blistering guitar lead from Bill Jaynes. The song sounded refreshingly alive and faithful to the original considering its 45 year standing as a rock classic.

Some people complained that the music was too loud, but, hey, it was rock and roll and the band was pulling no punches playing the music it was meant to be played. The real thing—loud and proud!

The audience was treated to the inti-

mate experience of being up close and personal as the band paid homage to as many rock classics as one might care to remember!

Included in the exhaustive set list was toe tapping, rousing version of Grand Funk's "We're an American Band," a rocking version of Free's 1971 hit "All Right Now," and an adventurous journey into Led Zeppelin's "Black Dog," with Chris McSween on vocals doing his best to impersonate Robert Plant's original wailing on the song and bringing a youthful direction to the band. I had to take my hat off to the band's attempt to create their own version Zep- pelin's classic music.

With Nigel Jaynes' drums keeping things tight at the back, we were indeed fortunate to be able to enjoy so many songs worthy of stadium rock status.

With the band working overtime and covered in sweat, which caused Bill to change his clothes during their short breaks, the question on everyone's lips was, "Where is the Navy?"

Suddenly, as if the gods had answered, the place exploded! The Navy had arrived and the joint was jumping. An array of strange dances began to take place. Bodies were duck walking, others were dancing the pogo. Other people

were hustled on the pool tables. The Aussies screamed for AC/DC and the band obliged. Some Aussie sailors joined the band to sing with them. Even the patron of the Rusty Anchor seemed to be enjoying himself.

As usual when a good time is being had it passed all too quickly. A hat was passed around to allow the audience to express its appreciation in a monetary way. Of course there were the obliging and willing and there were also the shy and retiring.

Remember though, folks, musical entertainment is scarce here in Pohnpei so if the lads are forced to cancel their gigs at Rusty's because we couldn't contribute to help them replace a broken guitar string or other essentials then we only have ourselves to blame the next time we ask, "What shall we do tonight?"

No one wants to see a door charge like some of us are accustomed to paying in the places we come from. The next time we are asked to dip into our pockets, think how fortunate we have been to experience "Wetter than Seattle" live, in concert in Pohnpei!

If you don't think the band was worthy of any contribution, or they didn't work hard enough, or sweat enough, or you

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Pohnpei, FM 96941



just didn't "dig'em," let them know the next time you see them in the streets and I'm sure they'll do their best to make amends the next time.

Steve Gatting

(Editor's note: I swear that this letter came to me completely unsolicited and represents the opinion of the writer!)

K-Press Perspective

The huge pink elephant with lavender and violet polka dots in the Congress chamber

A proposed Congress resolution (16-77) introduced by Pohnpei Senator Peter M. Christian on the next to last day of the third special session of the 16th Congress raised eyebrows, a few chuckles, and not a few sophomoric comments from Senators gathered on that day. The proposed resolution would define marriage as a union between one man and one woman and "requests" the President of the Federated States of Micronesia to uphold that principle with all the actions and power of the Executive Branch of the government.

A spectator in the gallery, knowing that she was speaking to the reporter from The Kaselehlie Press, could not contain herself, leaned over and whispered intensely, "They can't do that! What about the Constitution? What about civil rights? I guess we should just throw out Article Four of the Constitution?"

Later, again unable to contain herself, she leaned over again and implored me, "What about bigamy, or adultery? Should we make a resolution about that?"

I didn't look at her. I was trying desperately to hear what was being said on the floor of the Congress as they giggled amongst themselves during recess. Just the same, I could sense that she was being sarcastic. I didn't actually have to see her tongue in her cheek to know that she was disgusted at the proposed resolution. I, frankly, wasn't sure yet what I felt.

So I looked it up but I couldn't find anything in Article Four that implies or explicitly states that same sex marriage is inappropriate in the FSM. The provision of Article Four of the FSM Constitution that came anywhere near dealing with the subject was Section 4 regarding equal protection under the law. It says, "Equal protection of the laws may not be denied or impaired on account of sex, race, ancestry, national origin, language, or social status." But that doesn't really cover the issue in any explicit way either and seemed to deal with rights on an individual basis rather than as couples, although the term "social status" might apply.

It seems to me that in part it is probably the lack of a clear prohibition of same sex marriage in the FSM code or in the Constitution that inspired Senator Christian to introduce his somewhat surprising resolution.

Actually, it's not really all that surprising. The issue of same sex marriage has raged across the United States in ballot referendums and court proceedings for years. But perhaps you should read the text of the entire resolution before we continue on in this discussion:

"WHEREAS, the customs and traditions of marriage are very important to our enriched culture and heritage in the Federated States of Micronesia; and

"WHEREAS, the Congress recognizes

the importance of protecting and preserving the tradition customs and privileges of marriage; now, therefore,

"BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Third Special Session, 2010, that the Congress, on behalf of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia, requests the President of the Federated States of Micronesia to uphold, with all the actions and power of the Executive, the principle that marriage is a union shared between one man and one woman; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia"

The proposed resolution was dated March 25, 2010 and signed by Senator Peter M. Christian.

According to Article V of the FSM Constitution, there is nothing improper about Senator Christian's proposed resolution. Section II of Article V says, "The traditions of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia may be protected by statute. If challenged as violative of Article IV, protection of Micronesian tradition shall be considered a compelling social purpose warranting such governmental action."

Of course a resolution is not a statute. No bill has been introduced to protect the culture of the FSM where homosexual marriage is concerned. Resolutions are really one mechanism that Congress has to make its wishes known. It's a way of saying, "We believe this," whatever 'this' is as defined in a resolution, "and because we believe this we want you to take, or we are taking this action."

Senator Dohsis Halbert read into the journal on the last day of the special session, a statistical listing that showed that only just over 10% of U.S. states have approved same sex marriage but that all of the 50 states have at least legislated something on the issue. He asked the rhetorical question, "Shouldn't the FSM also take some kind of a stand internationally to say, 'This is who we are? This is our culture.'"

So why now? As I said earlier, it's not a new issue. In the United States, The first state law defining marriage as a union between a man and woman was adopted by Maryland in 1973.

According to an article published in 2004 on the website Stateline.org, a website of U.S state policy and politics, the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), passed by Congress in 1996, bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allows states to ignore gay marriages performed elsewhere. Four states (Maryland, New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Wyoming) have laws or court rulings prohibiting same-sex marriage that predate the federal DOMA.

The FSM government has had several employees who were citizens of other countries and who were unabashedly homosexual. Some of them lived in the FSM for many years and performed their jobs admirably according to their supervisors.

So what has happened recently that would have inspired such a resolution in the FSM in the year 2010?

Most of the Chamber floor comments on the proposed resolution occurred "off Journal" during recess which, just like in Elementary School is sometimes a chance for Senators to stretch their legs and play for a moment or two.

Though Speaker Figir has given me permission to report what goes on during Congress recesses I know that some Senators are squeamish about that idea so I won't attribute comments to any particular Senator and quotes in this article from this point forward will be paraphrased unless explicitly stated as otherwise.

I will say that even during recess the Senators were extremely careful about their wording when they discussed possible motivations for the resolution. Other than the admittedly extremely important preservation of FSM culture, no "specific" reason was given for the resolution.

But there seemed to be a giant pink elephant with lavender and violet polka dots in the room whose presence no one was willing to acknowledge in any kind of a formal way.

"I don't care how they do it the United States, this is our country and we have our own culture," said one Senator.

"People who come here should respect our culture and tradition," another said, and went so far as to describe the proper hanging of drying undergarments in the FSM away from public view.

"How can I explain to my children when they see two people of the same sex who are supposedly married," one of them asked? "How am I going to do that?"

Another Senator suggested that the matter should be taken to the public either in a referendum or in committee hearings surrounding a legislative bill rather than a resolution.

One said that the FSM government whether it wants to or not is going to have to face the issue head on very soon and will be called upon to stand up for its own culture.

Whoever it was that made that comment probably came the closest to any of the Senators to almost...kinda...sorta...you know...saying outright that there was a huge pink elephant with lavender and violet polka dots in the room and maybe they should kinda...you know...say something about it.

But they never did.

I'm not in Senator Christian's head and I don't begrudge him his opinion in any way, shape or form.

I personally think that the resolution has something to do with the supposed pending arrival of a foreign citizen couple, one of whom is supposedly coming to the FSM to serve in an official capacity, not within the FSM government but for another country. The two people, so some Senators have told me, are the same sex. It is not at all clear whether or not the two are married.

There have been other cohabitating unmarried couples serving in official capacities for other countries within the FSM but those couples were heterosexual. As far as I know, the FSM Congress never introduced resolutions concerning cohabitation of unmarried heterosexual couples though there certainly is a Judeo Christian ethic, the ethic that was mentioned by Senator Christian as having been assimilated into the FSM culture, which prohibits unmarried sexual relations.

Even saying that presupposes that two people who have chosen to live together are also, in fact, having sex; something that none of us can know for sure unless we're peeking through their windows, which, by the way IS against the law despite what some despicable people in the FSM do anyway.

The fact is, the FSM, if it chooses to do so, would not be the first country that said, "No, our culture won't allow us to accept you to work in our country as a representative of your country because you are in a same sex relationship." It happens all over the world all the time. Just ask any foreign government official that has ever been responsible for placing a same sex couple anywhere in the world. They'll tell you that it can sometimes be tough to accomplish.

This is the Federated States of Micronesia, a sovereign nation. It is a voting member of the United Nations. It is a noble nation and has the right of self determination. Its people can make a stand internationally on any side of any issue.

You think not? Just ask the folks at the Prunerov, Czechoslovakia lignite-fired monster greenhouse gas producing power plant if FSM can take a stand on anything.

This tiny little nation can do what it wants to do within reason. If it chooses to say that it won't accept a homosexual couple then that's it. Other countries have done it but other countries have specifically said so. If that's what the people of the country want to do they should do the same.

Or maybe the FSM might choose to do what Speaker Figir suggested, "Why don't we just leave those people alone."

Crossword - Food

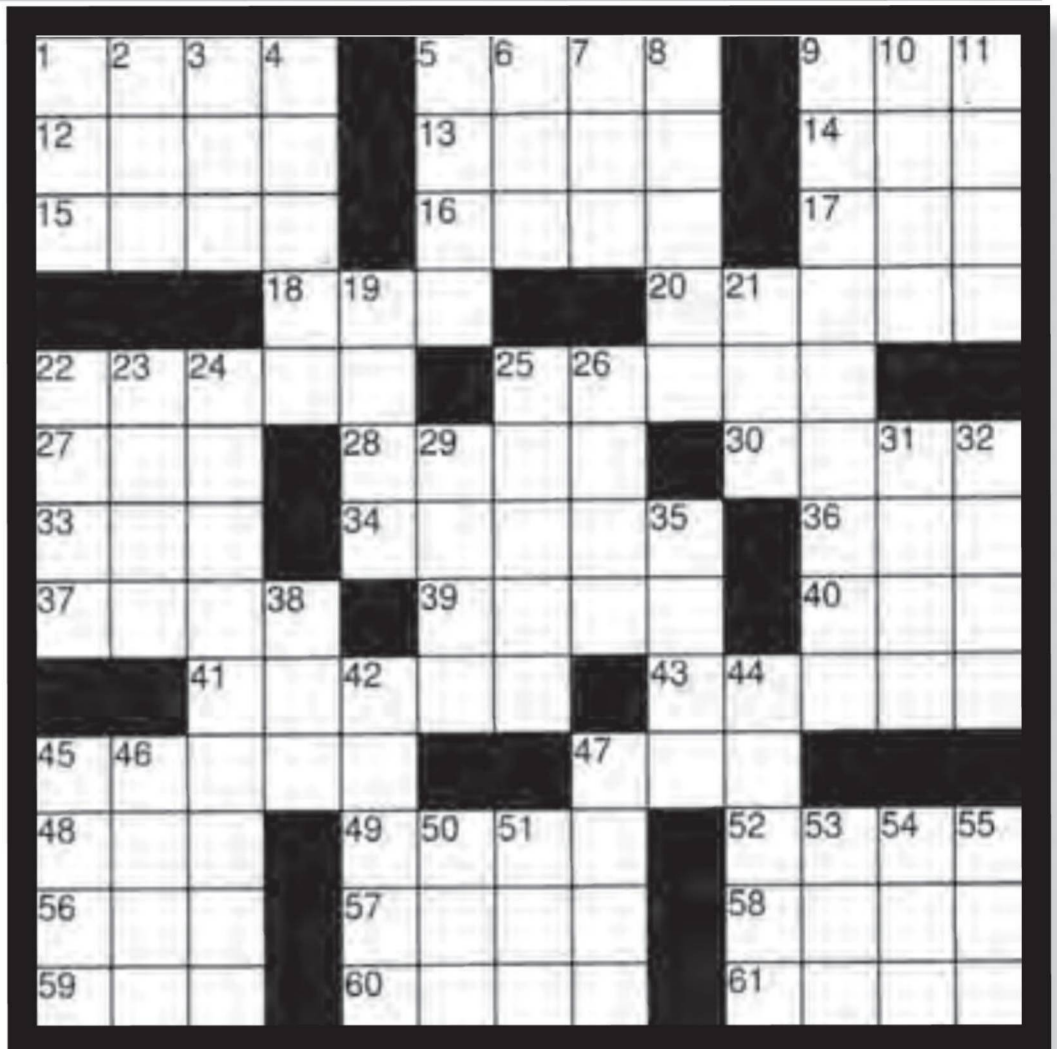
ACROSS

1. Dutch cheese
5. Brewer's yeast
9. Absorb, like gravy
12. Part of IPA
13. Recipe words
14. Another part of IPA
15. Italian cooking style?
16. Broil
17. Food school, for short
18. Recipe abbr.
20. Hungry-Man rival
22. Soy sauce
25. Red wine also called Shiraz
27. Way more than 18
28. ___ Moco (a burger with a fried egg, rice, and brown gravy)
30. Spirit sometimes used in tapenade
33. Sushi tuna, often
34. Dos Equis, for one
36. Strong Brazilian coffee
37. Jicama or horseradish
39. ___ trout
40. Place often having a quaint restaurant
41. Frequent detail for Chinese food
43. Stovetop
45. Epicure's pride
47. Where to skim from
48. Sushi squid
49. A lubricating liquid
52. ___ apple

56. Sushi fish
57. Their tails are used in soup
58. Common fruit shape
59. Tea ___
60. More than merely dip
61. Keg tapper

DOWN

1. Farm spray watch-dog
2. Indian legume or dish
3. ___ purpose flour
4. Like some beans
5. Food fish
6. Fruity drink
7. Advised quantities, for short
8. Seder spice
9. Artificial sweetener beverage
10. Aglio e ___
11. Fruit shaped like a light bulb
19. The "meat" of onion or garlic
21. ___ prik (hot sauce)
22. ___ fruit
23. Hostess product
24. Seasoning from a shaker
25. One without much meat



26. ___ Imperial apple
29. Seasons a pan, perhaps
31. Flan mold
32. Ice cream holder
35. UK candy bar
38. A "short shot" of a beverage
42. Red Bordeaux wine
44. Chef's garb
45. Bow ___ (farfalle)
46. Caribbean fruit resembling a peach
47. Loosely cover meat
50. Kitchen gadget
51. Black-eyed or goober
53. Caviar, for instance
54. ___ Tai (drink)
55. Shape for some kitchens

K Press Puzzle Pleasure



Your Word List Goes Here



Jackpot

Insert the proper consonant into each empty circle to create the maximum number of 4-letter words. In the example, "V" would form the words "hovel," "verse," and "vying," but "T" (as shown) forms the words CATCH, HOTEL, TERSE, and TYING, for a total of 4 words. If you choose the right letters, you'll hit the 52-word **Jackpot**. Use each consonant only once.

- C
- D
- G
- H
- K
- M
- P
- R
- T
- V
- Z

Pacific Islander lends support to activists against Czech coal plant

Greenpeace media release

Prunerov, Czech Republic, March 23, 2010 – Cook Islander, Tereapii Williams, lent his support to 12 activists who scaled a 300 metre high chimney of the Prunerov II coal-fired power station in the Czech Republic to hang a banner denouncing it as a ‘Global Shame’ today.

The extension to the power plant is under challenge from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as part of a trans-boundary Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) (1). FSM has stressed that climate impacts of the project had not been assessed and has asked for their expansion plans to be dropped.

Greenpeace and the Czech advocacy group Environmental Law Service have also raised numerous objections to the adverse environmental impacts which CEZ’s proposal would cause.

Mr Williams, who had gone to Prunerov to support this action said “Pacific nations are endangered by the rising sea levels and rising sea temperatures. Our homes are threatened and the marine ecosystems on which we depend are being damaged. The very existence of whole nations and cultures is at stake,” he said

“If industrialised countries like the Czech Republic continue to fuel climate change, we Pacific Islanders are

doomed. Prunerov is one of Europe’s largest sources of CO2. Extending its life for more than a quarter of century with obsolete technology would be a global shame.”

Greenpeace spokesman, Lagi Toribau said major CO2 emitters have to stop living under the impression that their carbon addiction does not have consequence.

“Coal burned on one side of the world is threatening the very existence of countries like FSM and other nations in the Pacific – and it’s not simply a butterfly effect but a direct consequence,” he said.

Coal is the most climate polluting fuel with an almost 80 % higher CO2 emissions factor than natural gas.

Jan Srytr of Czech NGO Environmental Law Service commented “ This is the first time a country vulnerable to climate change has taken steps to address the emissions of a coal-fired power plant in an industrialised country through an EIA process. Other countries should watch the process carefully.”

The action follows the resignation of the Czech Environment Minister, Jan Dusik, after he refused to approve the 25-year extension.

ANOTHER CLASSIC
LIMERICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TRASHBUSTERS

There once was a young man from Lyme
Who scored a goal for the very first time!
The young man was glad
But his teammates were sad
'Cause he hadn't changed sides at half time!

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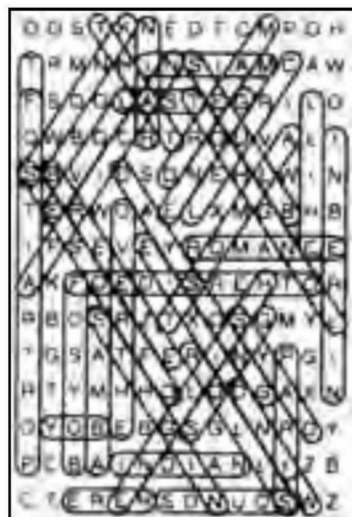
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at China Star Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: - rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
- Pacific Mission Fellowship – A Bible-based English Worship Service Invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the kids too!. Call: 320-2496
- Ultimate Frisbee pick-up game every Tuesday 5:45pm at the Spanish Wall. All levels welcome! Call 320.2439 for more details

Previous

Crossword Solution

FEE	TRY	LEG	PAL
ELM	RQO	APE	ERA
ADD	ELK	PIT	ACT
SET	NEED	LOATHE	
TREAD	LEMONS		
DYE	TUG	KILL	
BRAD	BLOT	DUO	
EATS	BONER	TELL	
AGO	WADE	HAUL	
MEMO	PET	DIE	
BARREL	SNIDE		
FARINA	DEAL	MEN	
IRE	NIB	ARE	AFT
SEE	USE	SIT	GEE
TAD	LET	HAS	ERR

Summer Songs



4 Letter Words

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P. O. Box 2222 phone to: (691) 320-6547
Pohnpei, FM 96941 email to: kpress@mail.fm

Kosrae Holds Go Local Agroforestry and Health Workshop

By *Mona Tara*
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

The community of Malem in Kosrae was happy to hold a go local agroforestry and health workshop to promote local food production and consumption on February 25 and 26, 2010, with support by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) and the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA).

Over 30 women and men participated each day in this 2-day workshop. As part of the workshop, a survey was conducted on the present diet consumed and crops and varieties grown by households. The result of the survey presented on the 2nd day showed the importance to increase consumption of local food, fruits and vegetables and to increase the number of crop varieties planted. The women groups decided to focus on planting more banana, pandanus and papaya varieties and soursop so that they have these foods for their families.

A demonstration of the local charcoal oven was done on the 2nd day. This oven was made in Pohnpei by Capitol Fabricators and

was presented to the community as part of the project. All the participants were interested in owning a charcoal oven because it can use charcoal made from coconut shells. What a wise way to save money!

Mayor Maheta Kilafwasru thanked IFCP and all the facilitators and noted how the participants had learned a lot about the value of local foods and are keen to start planting.

The refreshments and lunches served were so special because of the fact that all were totally local. Not only the food was local, but the plates and even the eating utensils were local, as made from the rib of the coconut frond.

The agencies that helped to facilitate this workshop were KIRMA, the Community of Malem, Island Food Community of Kosrae, Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs, College of Micronesia-FSM Cooperative Extension Services, Kosrae Department of Health, and the Island Food Community of Pohnpei.

Thanks are also given to US Forestry and the Secretary of Pacific Community Healthy Pacific Lifestyle Section for funding support.



Participant of the Kosrae Go Local Agroforestry and Health Workshop, February 25-26, 2010, happily show their local food products.



A Go Local tray of the local foods provided at the Kosrae Go Local Agroforestry and Health Workshop.

Astronomical Tide Prediction March 31 - April 13, 2010

		Pohnpei		Chuuk	
Wednesday	03/31	04/07	03/31	04/07	
	03:45AM 4.5 10:03AM 0.5 04:03PM 3.9 09:57PM 0.7	09:21AM 3.0 07:25PM 1.7	02:53AM 2.1 09:30AM 0.3 02:54PM 1.2 08:19PM 0.3	05:01AM 1.6 08:24PM 0.1	
Thursday	04/01	04/08	04/01	04/08	
	04:15AM 4.6 10:39AM 0.6 04:32PM 3.6 10:19PM 0.8	03:08AM 2.5 05:45AM 2.4 12:01PM 3.1 07:27PM 1.5	03:12AM 2.3 10:08AM 0.4 02:59PM 0.9 08:13PM 0.3	04:48AM 1.4 07:58AM 1.3 11:40AM 1.4 08:21PM 0.2	
Friday	04/02	04/09	04/02	04/09	
	04:45AM 4.5 11:16AM 0.9 04:58PM 3.2 10:40PM 1.0	02:01AM 2.8 06:55AM 2.2 12:51PM 3.3 07:37PM 1.4	03:33AM 2.3 10:47AM 0.5 02:48PM 0.8 08:06PM 0.1	03:53AM 1.3 07:01AM 1.2 12:20PM 1.5 08:07PM 0.3	
Saturday	04/03	04/10	04/03	04/10	
	05:16AM 4.3 11:54AM 1.2 05:22PM 2.8 10:56PM 1.2	01:56AM 3.1 07:27AM 1.9 01:23PM 3.5 07:50PM 1.2	03:55AM 2.3 11:29AM 0.6 02:14PM 0.7 08:03PM 0.0	02:54AM 1.3 07:07AM 1.0 12:46PM 1.6 07:48PM 0.4	
Sunday	04/04	04/11	04/04	04/11	
	05:47AM 4.0 12:37PM 1.6 05:39PM 2.4 11:04PM 1.4	02:05AM 3.4 07:55AM 1.6 01:51PM 3.6 08:06PM 1.1	04:15AM 2.2 08:05PM 0.0	02:14AM 1.4 07:28AM 0.8 01:10PM 1.6 07:34PM 0.5	
Monday	04/05	04/12	04/05	04/12	
	06:19AM 3.6 01:45PM 1.9 05:39PM 2.1 10:50PM 1.7	02:20AM 3.7 08:22AM 1.3 02:18PM 3.7 08:24PM 1.0	04:35AM 2.0 08:12PM -0.1	01:58AM 1.6 07:54AM 0.6 01:34PM 1.5 07:31PM 0.5	
Tuesday	04/06	04/13	04/06	04/13	
	07:01AM 3.3 08:37PM 1.8	02:39AM 4.0 08:50AM 1.1 02:45PM 3.7 08:44PM 0.9	04:51AM 1.8 08:19PM 0.0	01:58AM 1.8 08:23AM 0.5 01:59PM 1.4 07:35PM 0.4	

Pingelapese People Organization, Inc. (PPOI) Bans Soft Drinks at their Community Functions

By *Island Food Community of Pohnpei*

We are happy to announce news shared by Melner Isaac and Semensen James of the Pingelapese People Organization, Inc. (PPOI) that their organization has banned soft drinks at their community functions for health reasons.

On Sunday, 14th March, the PPOI had its first regular meeting for 2010. The report on the Mand community ban on soft drinks at its community functions was shared and many individual members in the organization expressed strong support to what Mand started.

The subject was immediately moved and approved by the PPOI to also ban soft drinks from its community organization functions. We're very proud for our Pingelapese community in Mand for taking this lead for the sake of people's health!

Mr. Isaac also pointed out that even with this ban, families need to take the lead to give health drinks to their children and other family members.

Semensen James, President of PPOI, also spoke on this topic on the V6AH radio program of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei recorded on 17 March 2010.

Dr. Englberger pointed out that a can of soft drink contains about eight spoons of refined sugar, a substance which is harmful to health. A coconut contains only one and a half spoons, and this is natural sugar, which is healthy, and water contains none!

How exciting that the movement has started for improving health in Pohnpei! We hope that more communities and organizations may follow!

Thank you Mand Community and the PPOI!

International Women's Day 2010: Bringing Women's Issues to the Forefront

*U.S. Ambassador to the F.S.M.
Peter A. Prahar*

March 8, 2010

March 8 is International Women's Day. This year, it also marks the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing. Fifteen years ago, 189 countries signed on to a Platform for Action that affirmed the need to work for women's equality in access to education, health-care, jobs, credit, and more. It stressed the need to have women participate fully in the economic and political life of their countries, and to protect women's right

to live free from violence. It was at this conference that then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton declared: Human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights.

In the spirit of that conference, the United States has been working to integrate "women's issues" into mainstream foreign policy. We recognize that it is a human rights issue when mass sexual violence is used as a tool of war in the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is a human rights issue when women are excluded from the peace negotiations that affect their

lives. And it is a human rights issue when women and girls are held like chattel by human traffickers and when girls are forced into child marriages.

Women's rights are human rights, and women's issues are human issues. They cut across traditional spheres of concern, and they are central, not peripheral. They are international development issues: Study upon study has shown that aid given to women is reinvested in their communities, and skills-development programs turn women into drivers of economic growth. And they are peace and security issues: When women are

targeted in conflicts around the world, societies fray and destabilize; the places that most exclude women from public life and seek to constrain their lives are the same in which extremist ideology finds a receptive home. The status of women is a bellwether for the political and economic health of nations.

Women's issues are a critical component of the most urgent transnational problems we face today, and they should be on the agenda of everyone, men and women, from the grassroots to the policymaking levels, in political life and beyond. Violence against women is endemic around the world. Ending it requires everyone's participation, including an active and vocal role for men and for religious leaders of both sexes. The United States is supporting programs around the globe in order that their voices will be heard.

Despite the pledge made in 1995 by so many countries to end the discrimination that robs the world of the talent it desperately needs, women are still the majority of the world's poor, unhealthy, underfed, and uneducated. To the silent majority around the globe that supports women's equality, we say: The time to translate support into action is now.

We look forward to the time when International Women's Day will be a historical and retrospective celebration of women's path to the achievement of equality – when every day belongs equally to women and to men, and every day is a good day for human rights.

MOVIE NIGHT

Join

The College of Micronesia & The U.S. Embassy

for a screening of

"THE PAPER"

78 minutes, produced in 2007 by Aaron Matthews, distributed by Icarus Films

The documentary film THE PAPER, goes inside the newsroom revealing the drama of deadline journalism. But this is not a big-city newspaper. It is The Daily Collegian, the newspaper published by students at Pennsylvania State University (better known as Penn State). In the course of one crisis-filled year the students face crashing deadlines, ethical dilemmas, doubts and disagreements, all at the same time they are handling course work, homework and exams.

THE PAPER explores the journalists of tomorrow wrestling with today's media questions. Do you lure newspaper readers by entertaining them or by offering them hard news? What is the media's responsibility to serve the public interest in all its diversity? This film addresses these questions in a story that interweaves the drama of pressure-cooker journalism with the idealism of youth.

THE PAPER is a revealing portrait of young Penn State journalists whose disillusionment and determination are shaping the news of tomorrow.

With Guest Speaker

Bill Jaynes

Managing Editor, The Kaselehlie Press

National Campus

FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH

4-6 PM

Library - mitc

Pohnpei Campus

Saturday, April 17th

6-8 PM

Gymnasium

Admission: FREE



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