

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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“International Man of Mischief” Bilks the Best

Peter Foster, International Confidence Man Under Investigation for Allegedly Scamming \$300,000 from the Bank of the FSM

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Using what some say are falsified documents, the “international conman”, a company at one time directed by Peter Foster who has served jail time for various unlawful activities on three continents received approval for a \$580,000 USD loan from the Bank of the FSM. Foster assembled a group of investors, primarily family members that became a Fijian company under the name Kai Viti Liku Beach, Ltd. The business planned to build a resort called Kai Viti Liku Beach on Champagne beach at the far northern tip of Fiji’s Yarawa chain.

Bank of FSM official spokesman and Board Chair Ito Joseph said, “We are unable to say with certainty that documents were forged or what the situation is at the present until Police investigation in FSM and Fiji is complete. However, the company produced what was an official land lease... [but] there are questions of false representations.”

According to bank officials “Foster was a director and shareholder in the company but resigned those positions

so that his negative past did not jeopardise the project.” That, at least is what they were told.

Foster’s childhood friend, Gold Coast barrister Sean Cousins several weeks ago severed all relations with Foster and his family when he found out that Foster had forged his letterhead and signature and used the letter to apply for the mortgage on the family’s proposed new resort.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald it is unknown whether the Australian Assemblies of God pastor who actually once held the lease for the land where the Foster’s intended to build their resort is an associate of theirs. The lease, however was cancelled for non-payment and given to a consortium headed by New Zealand barrister and developer, Evan Williams. When the bank became aware of the cancellation of the lease which they had been led to believe was still in force, they reported the problem to the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Fiji Reserve Bank.

The cancelled lease is being disputed in court. Some say that the case is strong

and will show that lease payments were made. If the payments are proven they would likely result in a setting aside of the lease cancellation.

Apparently Foster and four Fijian associates were impatient for the case to be resolved and are accused of setting up a bogus website designed to discredit Williams. They are accused of impersonating Williams on the internet and “letting it be known” that the Champagne Beach resort would be a “heavenly haven for homosexuals”. They further said that pedophiles could find boys at the resort “as young as you want them” for \$100.

While impersonating Williams the conspirators said he had bribed officials. The ventriloquist puppet masters caused a fury in Fiji when they had Williams describing Fijians as “stupid people, really.”

A Fiji Times story claimed that a dinner with Fiji leaders was set up by Bank of FSM CEO Bob De Courteney and that during that meeting he wired \$300,000 to Foster’s company. Mr. De Courteney said the dinner was not



Peter Foster moves through a crowd of reporters during the “Cheriegate” scandal

hosted by the Bank of FSM but a firm of consultants called J.R.A. Fiji in order to introduce Bank of FSM to Ministers and other people of importance in Fiji community. “To my knowledge

See “Bank Conned” on page 20

Chuuk Lagoon Facing “Imminent Threat” from WWII Ships

Japanese war vessels sunk more than 60 years ago beginning to leak greater amounts of pollutants.

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlie Press

November 8, 2006, CHUUK, FSM – Chuuk’s world class diving – and a big chunk of the local economy – centers around the sunken ships that rest at the bottom of its spectacular island-dotted lagoon. Those ships now also pose what is potentially the greatest threat to the most populous state of the Federated States of Micronesia: massive oil leaks from the tankers and destroyers and other WWII relics that could create the biggest environmental catastrophe to ever hit its’ shores.

“The rate of leakage is rising dramatically,” says Joe Konno, former Director of the Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency, speaking on the subject as it relates to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or POPs. Konno often represents the FSM at international environmental forums.

The 57 wrecks made up of destroyers, transports, cargo, submarines, tugs, carriers, tankers and other vessels, have for decades provided local blaster groups with enough raw powder and munitions to dynamite areas of the lagoon and its abundant



Mr. Joe Konno

reefs for illegal hauls of fish. Now, the disintegrating hulls are also creating havoc with the leakage of diesel fuel, oil, and other chemicals toxic to the environment.

“If one of those ships happens to break loose in the lagoon or on the reef, you can imagine the damage it will cause from the loads of fuel being released,” Konno cautioned a group of leading environmental leaders at the recent 1st Environment Conference, held in Palikir, Pohnpei.

Asterio Takesy of Chuuk, Director of the Secretariat of the Pacific Re-
See “Disaster Looms” on next page

WHAT'S INSIDE

IMF Says Rapid, Sustainable Growth Needed in FSM

Finance Irregularities at FSM Embassy

JICA Establishes Alumni Association

Police Commission Available to the Public

Howard Commits \$149.5 Million for Australia-Pacific Technical College

Rising Seas Threaten Asia-Pacific Region

Extinction Possible for Pohnpei Tree

Guidelines from the Center of the Universe

German Ambassador in Kolonia

NEWS

IMF Visit to Chuuk and Pohnpei Promotes "Rapid Sustainable Growth"

State governments need to cut jobs and collect more taxes, while governance of FSM Trust Fund should be enhanced.

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlle Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – A team of International Monetary Fund (IMF) economists made a two-week trip to the islands of Chuuk and Pohnpei to review the near-term economic outlook of the nation. The IMF is the financial arm of the World Bank and has an overall goal "to promote global financial stability and sustainable growth" for its member countries. The IMF sends a team to the FSM every other year.

Kenneth Kang, Deputy Division Chief of the Asia and Pacific Department of the IMF, along with two other economists, spent the score in Pohnpei and Chuuk with what he considered a wide range of government and private sector representatives

In a press conference with the media at the Ocean View Resort overlooking the signature granite walls

of Sokehs Rock, Kang said that the IMF was in the FSM "to advise and promote policies that we think would help sustain rapid growth." A forward approach to foreign investment is one of those policies.

David Arthurs of Baptist Radio, leading off the press conference, asked a pointed question regarding the Pohnpei Foreign Investment Board, claiming that the politically appointed membership of business people appear to be "protecting their own interests" at the expense of expanded foreign investment on the island.

The IMF economist team did in fact meet with the FIB to "discuss the regime of foreign investment" on the island. Ultimately the IMF recommends – not only for Pohnpei but the entire FSM – trying to find a way to have a transparent process to evaluate both the costs and benefits of foreign investment.

According to Kang, foreign investment's "tremendous benefits" come in the form of "good, quality jobs...provides for better training and the transfer of technology...and helps to expand the economy" across a variety of sectors. Kang stated further that it should be a simple "negative list system" (where certain activities are banned outright, and everything else is open to foreign investment) "that evaluates the benefits and costs of foreign investment on the entire population" of the FSM.

In a follow-up email, Kang elaborated on the costs associated with foreign investment to Micronesian

society, saying, "In terms of the cost, (it's) the temporary cost of adjusting to greater competition. Anytime that you open a market to more competition, existing businesses will have to adjust by improving their services and quality in order to compete. Change can sometimes be difficult."

The FIB was one of the recent FSM government organizations that had its Compact funding cut by JEMCO.

The World Bank conducted a study on "the ease of doing business" in a number of countries around the world. The FSM placed 106th out of

See "IMF" on page 8

...Disaster Looms

continued from page 1

gional Environment Programme (SPREP), a regional environmental organization, said, in a recent discussion at the same conference in Pohnpei that the issue of leakage is "approaching an emergency situation."

SPREP recently concluded a survey of all sunken vessels from the massive and violent US Navy bombing of the Japanese 4th Fleet in February 1944 in Chuuk Lagoon, as well as all other WWII sunken vessels throughout the entire Pacific.

Considered second only to Pearl Harbor in strength, the U.S. saw this Imperial Navy base as a major threat, and conducted Operation Hailstone in crystal-blue Chuuk Lagoon, a 2-day intense aerial bombing campaign that continued in various forms until the war's end.

"War ships, cargo ships, and then we have the tankers," said Takesy, "and the tankers and larger ships are your immediate concern... There ought to be some discussions between the FSM government and the government of Japan" on the impending environmental threat.

It is a bi-lateral matter between these

two nations. Although the FSM profits from the vessels through tourism revenue, maritime law dictates that it is Japan that still owns the sunken ships and planes.

The FSM and Chuuk specifically do not have the myriad resources necessary to handle such a potential disaster.

Environmental leaders have called for "immediate actions" to be taken "to remedy the imminent environmental threat posed by the sunken World War II ships" by the end of 2007.

In the coming months, it is expected that Chuuk Governor Wesley Simina will send an official communication to FSM President Joseph Urusemal in order to try to elevate at the national level the priority of the threat posed by the situation, and move forward the possibility of bilateral talks with the government of Japan on the pressing issue.

The Earth Watch Institute, a high resolution satellite data and information provider, has sent a team that has been helping the Chuuk government and the EPA on a detailed study of the wrecks in recent weeks to record information on the lagoon's archaeology and on the corrosion and current decay rates of the wrecks.

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NEWS

Financial Irregularities at FSM Embassy to the US Ambassador Marehalau Recalled - Investigations Ongoing

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Despite the findings of financial improprieties, inconsistencies, missing documentation and bad business practices, the audit summary of the FSM Embassy in Washington DC released on October 20 was worded in generous terms.

Former Ambassador Jesse B. Marehalau has returned to Yap having been asked at the behest of FSM Congress and President Joseph Urusemal to resign his post as FSM Ambassador to the US. Ongoing investigations will look into whether or not Marehalau was unwittingly duped by an employee to whom he had given too much power or whether he was complicit in the conspiracy charges currently leveled at Rico Calderon. The former driver for the Embassy has been reported to have "rolled over" on Marehalau implicating him in the sale of FSM passports. Those passports allow the holder to freely enter

and work in the U.S.

Apparently Calderon had many more responsibilities than just those of a driver. For reasons known only to the former Ambassador, bookkeeping responsibilities were removed from Administrative Assistant Connie Marike and given instead to Calderon, who collected over \$19,000 for website maintenance in addition to his salary for services as accountant/driver.

The auditors from the FSM Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA) were in Washington D.C. to do a complete audit covering three fiscal years along with the first three quarters of the 2006 fiscal year which ended on September 31. The last audit covered three years through 1997.

The auditors found that of the 2103 checks written over the audited period worth almost \$3,333,000 only 622 had enough information that could be reasonably used to determine matters of propriety and legality. The auditor reported that 81 percent of expenditures lacked sufficient documentation and that some had no documentation at all, lacking even the name of the payee. Sources say that the check register had not been reconciled in five years. Despite the large number of transactions that had no supporting documentation the auditors were able to determine that besides the lack of documentation something has been going wrong at 1725 N Street NW in Washington D.C.



The audit summary said, "We believe there are two main reasons for lack of compliance: lack of knowledge regarding procedures or an intent to cover up inappropriate expenditures."

"Inappropriate expenditures" do not include expenditures like that of a computer carrying case purchased by

See "DC Audit" on page 6

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JICA Establishes Alumni Association in the FSM

International cooperative agency has trained over 350 FSM citizens since 1989.

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlie Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – The Japan International Cooperation Agency announced the formation of its' 110th Alumni Association in the world at an inauguration ceremony on November 3.

JICA's main activities are two-fold: to dispatch Japanese volunteers to assist local government and communities, and to accept training participants to Japan.

To date, more than 350 people from the FSM have participated in trainings through the JICA program.

Of those, 61 are the first members of the JAAFMSM, with the number, according to Takeho Sakata, expected to be expanded in terms of members as well as a variety of activity programs aimed at providing ongoing professional and personal development.

Sakata, the Resident Representative of the JICA Micronesia Office, said, in an opening address at the recent inauguration of the Association under



Japan's Charge d'Affairs, Toshio Omura, JICA Director, Takeho Sakata, Telecom CEO Takuro Akinaga

dusky, wet skies at the PCR Restaurant in Nett, "Those ex-participants are leading the future of their countries. It's necessary to maintain and develop friendships with those who have a better understanding of Japan and it's also important for Japan to support their self-discipline and activities even after they return to their home countries."

The Directors of the corporation are President Marstella Jack, FSM Attorney General, Vice President Estephan Santiago, Public Affairs Officer for the FSM, Secretary Eugene Marquez, FSM Immigration Labor Officer, and

Treasurer David Manglay.

The five are members of JICA and are the principal incorporators of the corporation as well.

"We want to provide attractive programs to our members," said Sakata in a brief interview, elaborating on the need to provide opportunity to members to stay with the association for many years.

The purpose of the Association, according to its Articles of Incorporation, are to gather and create friendship among all JICA Alumni, to develop relationships between JICA and the alumni, and to support economic,

cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation between the FSM and Japan.

Another organization operating on the themes of friendship and peace, the U.S. Peace Corps, was also present, and David Reside, Director of Peace Corps Micronesia, hoped for a rich relationship between the governments of Japan, the FSM, and the U.S. in achieving collaborative goals.

JICA has 110 Alumni Associations in 96 countries throughout the world, having helped 180,000 participants with professional training from host countries.

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Pohnpei State Police Commission in Service

Lt. Alexander Phillip is assigned to handle Police complaints

The Kaselehlie Press

A move mandated some time ago by the Pohnpei State Legislature has resulted in the opening of a new office for the Pohnpei State Police. Lt. Alexander Phillip is the first Professional Standards Officer in Pohnpei State. He is assigned to deal with any and all complaints against the State Police and its officers.

Chief Joe Roby said that Phillip is tasked to investigate all complaints coming into his office even anonymous complaints.

The public can contact the new Pohnpei Police Commission at 320-2803 or by stopping by the new office next to the detective section at State Police Headquarters and across the street from FSM Telecom in Pohnpei.



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NEWS

...DC Audit

continued from page 3

the Embassy for \$630, or floor mats for the Ambassador's car which cost \$450. Those expenditures and others like them were said to "not follow prudent business practices." The term "inappropriate expenditures" refers instead to expenses like the 16 expenditures of the 622 available for review that reimbursed the Ambassador for personal household expense which is not allowed under FSM law. The term also applies to the \$1340 the Embassy paid for parking tickets which should have been the responsibility of the driver who acquired them. If money had gone into inappropriate pockets, that would also have been "inappropriate". The lack of documentation for expenditures makes it tedious to ascertain appropriateness, but it is not impossible.

Under the heading "Prudent Business Practices" the audit questioned the prudence of a cleaning contract that costs \$1800 per month when there are

only four employees in the building. They also felt it was excessive for an office of that size to have and pay for 15 phone lines. Six of the lines are dedicated to the security alarm, DSL line, fax line... leaving 10 lines for four employees to use.

The Embassy did not submit to the Department of Finance and Administration (DOF&A) the Monthly Operating Fund Reports and supporting documentation. It did not submit a Monthly Imprested Fund Report or Replenishment Requests. The DOF&A continued to replenish the Embassy's funds despite the fact that the required documents were not submitted.

The Embassy opened an overdraft line of credit about which DOF&A was not aware. The funds were commingled in the General Operating Fund of the Embassy. The principle balance of the loan reached a high point of \$200,000 though it is now paid off. "We cannot determine what the loan funds were used for because the Embassy commingled funds from FSM advances, FSM payroll,

imprest account, and loans... ONPA has requested an opinion from the Attorney General regarding the legality of the loan."

The Embassy is required under law to maintain a cash journal to record all incoming cash regardless of the source of funding. There was no cash journal available for review when the Auditors arrived.

The law requires that construction or renovation work over \$20,000 must enter a transparent bid process with contractors submitting bids. The Embassy entered into a contract which they did not send to the Department of Transportation, Communications, and Infrastructure, nor the Justice Department to review as they were required to do. The contract was with a construction company of Philippine nationals who were charged under the contract to do renovation work on the 100 year old building. Marehalau told the auditors that the job which was to have been completed no later than September 2005 is still not quite done. There is some more work to do on the roof. This is despite payments on

the contract totaling \$14,799 over the \$200,000 budget. Documentation irregularities regarding the contract and payment for work under it abound.

Regarding the security of passports, the auditors "found that the Embassy could not track the receipt and distribution of the passports they handled for distribution." The records for 441 days of the audit period reviewed were missing. The remaining logbooks showed that 22 passports had been recorded in incoming logbooks but only 12 passports were recorded in the logbook. Embassy personnel could not explain the lack of entries in the logbooks.

Deputy Head of Mission James Naich is currently acting as FSM Ambassador until new staff and appointees can be identified and approved. The only other employee working at the Embassy is a recently hired receptionist.

ONPA has said that a follow up audit will be conducted in 6 to 9 months.

The complete audit can be found at <http://www.fsmpublicauditor.fm>.

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NEWS

Australia to provide AUD\$149.5 Million for the Australia-Pacific Technical College

Australian Embassy Press Release

At the 2006 Pacific Islands Forum, Australian Prime Minister John Howard announced that the Australian Government would provide AUD\$149.5 million for the establishment and operation of a new Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC).

The college will offer courses in hospitality and tourism, health and community services, automotive trades, manufacturing and construction and electrical trades. The first intake of students is scheduled for July 2007 and it is hoped that in the first four years, 3000 students will graduate.

The APTC will be headquartered in Suva and will include training centers and country offices in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu. An important element will be ensuring access by students from all island countries, including the smaller

island states. This will be assisted by a generous scholarship scheme, worth \$10 million in the first four years.

Courses will be delivered by Australian registered training organizations, contracted to the Australian Government's overseas aid agency, AusAID. The college will have close links to industry to ensure the relevance of training to employment.

The college will assist economic growth in Pacific island countries by addressing skills shortages and increasing workforce competitiveness, and will also assist mobility of skilled workers between the Pacific and developed countries.

If you would like more information on the ATCP or current scholarships available from the Australian Embassy, please contact the Embassy in Pohnpei - (691) 320-5448 or at australia@mail.fm

U.S. TERRORISM EXPERT VISITS FSM

U.S. Embassy Press Release

The U.S. Embassy hosted a visit from October 17-23, 2006, by Dr. Eric Shibuya, Associate Professor at the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies. Dr. Shibuya specializes in Oceania and Transnational Crime Issues, including terrorism, people trafficking, drug smuggling, illegal weapons trade, money laundering, maritime piracy and EEZ poaching. While in Pohnpei he served as a Facilitator for the FSM Maritime Security Exercise, held at COM-FSM National Campus from Oct. 18-20. This event was co-hosted by the FSM Disaster Preparedness Office and the Joint Task Force for Homeland Defense.

Dr. Shibuya delivered security briefings on transnational crime to FSM and Pohnpei law enforcement officials from Police, Customs, Immigration, Attorney General, Port Authority, Harbor Patrol and Maritime Surveillance offices. He also met with

members of the Pohnpei Legislature's Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee to update them on regional threats. On Oct. 19, he gave a Power Point presentation at COM-FSM in Palikir on "Terrorism in the Pacific" as part of the Embassy's Forum Lecture Series. Before returning to Hawaii, he participated in radio interviews with Pohnpei State Public Radio and Pohnpei Baptist Radio.

In his various presentations, Dr. Shibuya emphasized the importance of developing a regional perspective on terrorism and focusing on enhancing local awareness and capabilities instead of only worrying about threats. He stressed that "all FSM citizens have an important role to play in maintaining their own security by being vigilant. Be on the lookout for suspicious activity on your islands. If you see something that looks wrong, report it to your local law enforcement authorities."

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Suva, Fiji

The Forum Secretariat invites suitably experienced and qualified individuals to apply for the following positions that will both be reporting directly to the Deputy Secretary General (Sustainable Development and Good Governance).

- **Public Relations Adviser**
- **Regional and International Issues Adviser**

To improve communication and public relations between the Forum Secretariat, member governments and stakeholders, the Public Relations Adviser will lead a highly motivated team of professionals in enhancing the needs described with the understanding of and support for the work of the Secretariat. Interested applicants should have a post graduate degree in social sciences preferably in one or more of public affairs, media and communications along with relevant years of work experience. Ability to work with and through other professionals, institutions and people, a sound knowledge of and experience in Pacific media and communication, institutions and processes. Moreover, proven ability in writing and editing of executive speeches, press statements and other public documents, with advocacy work and its coordination will be necessary.

The Regional and International Issues Adviser will be responsible for ensuring that liaison and coordination of the Forum Secretariat's work with those of its key stakeholders in the region and internationally are extremely effective. Ideal candidates will possess excellent communication, organisational and strong interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity and the ability to provide information and excellent advice to member governments and different stakeholders. An advanced university degree in social science including international relations with relevant years of work experience in coordinating regional and international development issues on development partnerships is highly recommended for this role.

Interested applicants for both positions are encouraged to obtain information packages containing job description and remuneration details, which are available by emailing jobs@forumsec.org.fj or at www.forumsec.org. Salaries will range from SDR27,540 to SDR41,310 (equivalent FJD70,778 to FJD106,167) per annum. Additional allowances include housing, education, home leave airfares, life and health insurances. The term of both positions will be for three years.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji and if not posted, may be sent to jobs@forumsec.org.fj.

Applications close on Friday 1 December 2006. Only nationals of member governments are eligible to apply for these positions.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages both men and women to apply.

Member Governments of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

NEWS

...IMF

156 countries studied, and last out of all Pacific Island Countries.

Although Kang lauded efforts of the FSM to promote its business environment through the passage of the bankruptcy and secured transaction laws, he said, "We did feel that economic activity could pick up in Micronesia with the release of some of the delayed Compact grant funding, particularly the Infrastructure grant funding, which will be helpful in building the roads, improving the power system, etc. That should have a positive impact on the economy."

Continued risks to rapid growth, according to the IMF, are the large yearly budget deficits being run by the state governments, particularly in Chuuk, which is mired in \$30 million in arrears, or overdue bills.

In terms of the medium-term outlook of declining Compact funding, the IMF holds the position that the FSM

governments need to start targeting budget surpluses, and leave behind the take-care-of-today outlook that predominates in Micronesian political, economic, and social life.

"There's a tradition in Micronesia to balance the budget every year," stated Kang in response to a question by Kaselehlle Press Editor, Bill Jaynes. "I think there is a need to move away from that tradition and start targeting a surplus in the budget so that the savings can be set aside and invested for the future."

"That's the kind of framework that Micronesia needs at this point. Because it's unavoidable, the decline in external support," said Kang, echoing continuing statements made by representatives of the Asian Development Bank as well as the U.S. Department of Interior. "You have to free up resources...and that message is very important to get out...the (mind set) has to be more forward looking in setting the budget every year."

The two quickest and best ways to

do that are to reduce spending through cuts in government expenditures and to increase revenue through a reformed tax collection system for the nation. The "tax reform package" with the greatest popularity of international economists and financiers is one known as the VAT system, a more streamlined and efficient form of tax, which is basically a sales tax, is more "business friendly." A proposed net profit tax as opposed to the current gross revenue tax system would also encourage infrastructure development for businesses.

According to the IMF economists, the new tax system, after building consensus, passing legislation, identifying auditors and staff for a "new unified Revenue Authority", and all other administrative tasks, could take at least two years to come into effect.

Kang noted that many other Pacific Island countries are utilizing the VAT tax. He said that the FSM "collects far less tax revenue than other countries in the region," indicating that there are many people who simply do not pay taxes.

"There's a need to widen the tax base, to broaden the coverage of taxes here," stated Kang, in promoting the idea that tax collection should be pursued more vigorously for different sectors of society, such as home business people, sustainable enterprise, and natural resource users, so that tax administrators "can collect more from those people that are not paying their fair share of taxes."

Increased use of tax auditors within a centralized national authority would help achieve this aim, stated Kang, "so they could monitor more easily people's incomes or transactions."

The FSM Trust Fund currently being funded by the Compact, and intended to carry the FSM financially for about 20 years, is underperforming, getting off, as Kang stated, to an "extremely slow" start on its returns.

Enhancing the governance of the Fund, says the IMF, will be important for improving its performance.

In relation to private sector growth, the subject of commodifying land also came up in the press conference. In the FSM, and throughout other parts of Micronesia, it is illegal for foreigners to own any land or water resources. Although it provides obvious protection to local families here facing globalization pressures, this, according to Kang, hinders economic growth.

"I think it's time," said Kang, promoting the idea on a limited scale to start. "Maybe people will be able to see the benefits and what the impact would be, and maybe if they see that you can make money, you can recover value, by trading land, then that might help to expand the practice."

To get around the social ramifications of displacement through loss of land by Micronesians, enforceable leases for lengths of 50 or 100 years also provide a viable alternative to the secure feeling of foreign interests, stated Kang.

SEA BREEZE HOTEL



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Contractor's Announcement

The Government of Chuuk is asking for bids for the Small Business Development Center building to be constructed in Weno, Chuuk. This will be funded from the ADB Private Sector Development Project loan. The bid opening will be on Dec 7, 2006 at 4:00 pm in Chuuk.

Bid Documents are available from Hiroshi Muludy at the Division of Planning, Chuuk. Ph 330 2552 or from William Ladore at the Department of Economic Affairs in Palikir. Bidders are also encouraged to contact William Ladore in the Department of Economic Affairs to ensure that they complete the bidding forms correctly: wsladore@dea.fm or psdp@dea.fm or Ph 320-2646/5133.



Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

Bank of the FSM currently maintains accounts for the following individuals & groups:

Ta Municipality	P.O. Box 847	Weno Chuuk
Chuuk Chamber of Commerce	P.O. Box 394	Weno Chuuk
Church of Weno	P.O. Box 1365	Weno Chuuk
Chuuk Public Utility Corporation	P.O. Box 910	Weno Chuuk
Stachiro Pison	Patta Island	Chuuk
Martin Sam	General Delivery	Weno Chuuk
Denita Bossy	P.O. Box 38	Weno Chuuk
Chris Coats	1716 Smith Lane	Arlington, Texas
Monica N Trigg	P.O. Box 39	Weno, Chuuk
Outer Island High School Library	Ulithi Post Office	Ulithi Yap
Alanna T Mingay	P.O. Box 9	Kolonia Pohnpei
Roland T Tsunoda	1001 Colorado Avenue	Palo Alto, California
Micronesia Islands Investment Corp.	P.O. Box 697	Kolonia Pohnpei
Chung Feng Kuang	P.O. Box 1510	Kolonia Pohnpei
Mark Carl Fenn	C/O Novex International	Clovis, New Mexico

As required by FSM law, the Bank wishes to inform these customers that accounts will be closed and the funds transferred to the FSM Secretary of Finance in January 2007. If your account appears on this list, you can avoid having your funds turned over to the Secretary of Finance by making a deposit or withdrawal to the account before December 31, 2006.

Kosraean:

In fwal nuke pusren Masap lun FSM, Bank FSM inge akkalemye nusin Customers nukewa ,ma e akkalemyeyuk lung inge la account lowos ma akkalemyeyuk inge e tufwa kauli a money ka an ac tuhfeh itukyan nusin Secretary lun Finance ke FSM National Government ke January 2007. In oralla account se lom an tia putatyan nuke oakwuk ku oiya se inge, kom enenu in tuku nu Bank FSM oralla sie deposit ku withdrawal nuke account san meet liki December 31, 2006.

Chuukese:

Sia awora ei esinesin ngeni ami kei aramas, mwicheichen aramas, ika sopai mi affat itemi assan pun faan pungun annukun FSM, masowan ami kei accounts epuene lo ngeni ach ewe FSM Finance lon January 6, 2007, ika pwe ese wor mwokutukutun uttut (withdrawal) ika isonanong (deposit) lon me mwen December 31, 2006. Ach anean pwe kopwe chuuto rech ach sipue annisfengen won om kei account.

Yapese:

Tan e Motochiyal nu FSM, Bank e badag ni nge yog ko pi customer rok ney ni rayan I January 2007, maran close nag e pi account ney, man pii e salpiy riy ko FSM Secretary ko Finance. Fa'an ra be mug e account rom ko re list ney, ma rayog ni dabni pii e salpiy rom ko Secretary ko Finance faanra ngamub mu deposit fa mub mu withdraw nag e salpiy ko account rom u m'on ko December 31, 2006.

Pohnpeian:

E kosonndier sang ni ruwes en kosonned en FSM me FSM Bank udahn pahn pakairkiheng aramas oh pwihn en aramas me sansalehr powe, me epwelpen amwail tungol de sapwellimomwail nekinek nan Bank en FSM pahn katoktokidi nan sounpwong en January pahr 2007. Mwoni koaros me patpato nan nekinek pwukat pahn kesepwillang FSM Secretary en Finance. Ma mwaromwi iang sansal powe ah komwi kak pwaredo de ketido oh kapidohi de kasauwada omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek sang nan FSM Bank mwohn December 31, 2006 ma komw sohte kupwuriki omwi tungol de sapwellimomwi nekinek en kepideklang FSM Secretary en Finance.

MEMBER FDIC

NEWS

Rising Seas Threaten Asia-Pacific Region

By **MICHAEL PERRY**
Reuters

SYDNEY (Oct. 9) - Millions of people could become homeless in the Asia-Pacific region by 2070 due to rising sea levels, with Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, China and Pacific islands most at risk, says Australia's top scientific body.

A climate change report by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) found global warming in the Asia Pacific region could cause sea levels to rise by up to 16 cm (six inches) by 2030 and up to 50 cm (19 inches) by 2070.

Rising temperatures will also result in increased rainfall during the summer monsoon season in Asia and could cause more intense tropical storms, inundating low-lying coastal villages.

"The coastlines of Asia-Pacific nations are generally highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly sea-level rise caused by rising global temperatures," said the CSIRO report released on Monday.

"Vast areas of the Asia-Pacific are low lying, particularly the small-island states, as well as the large river deltas found in India and Bangladesh, Southeast Asia and China."

Sea level rise between 30 to 50 cm (11 to 19 inches) would affect more than 100,000 km (62,140 miles) of coast, particularly China's Pearl Delta and Bangladesh's delta, said the report.

"As sea level rise exceeds half a meter, the area affected in the Asia-Pacific region rises to over half a million square kilometres, affecting hundreds of millions of people," it said.

"Large areas of Bangladesh, India, Vietnam are inundated and Kiribati, Fiji and the Maldives are reduced to just a small fraction of their current land area."

Environmental Refugees

The report also said rising sea levels and increased rainfall would spread infectious diseases in the region, leaving millions more at risk of dengue fever and malaria.

It said local and regional economies would be hard hit by chronic food and water insecurity, warning Sri Lanka's GDP could fall by 2.4 percent with less than a two degree Celsius warming.

The report also warned of environmental refugees fleeing their flooded homelands, citing growing migration from some South Pacific island states already suffering rising sea levels.

Some 17,000 islanders applied for New Zealand residence in the last two years, compared with 4,000 in 2003, it said.

The low-lying South Pacific island nation of Micronesia has experienced an annual sea level rise of 21.4 mm since 2001.

The report, commissioned by Australian aid agencies, prompted calls for Canberra to do more to combat climate change and to be more open to environmental refugees.

Australia has not signed the Kyoto Protocol to cut greenhouse gases, which cause global warming, and has rejected requests from Pacific islands to take environmental refugees.

World Vision Australia chief, Reverend Tim Costello, called on Australia to review immigration programs to consider people displaced by rising sea levels.

"This is enlightened self-interest, because there are going to be so many environmental refugees knocking on our door, flooding here with the sea levels rise as predicted and...the failure of economics and crops because of the rain changes in so many of these countries," Costello told local radio.

No such thing as climate change refugees: Vanstone

30 OCTOBER 2006 CANBERRA (Pacnews) — Australia's Immigration Minister Senator Amanda Vanstone says her department has not made any plans to deal with so-called "climate change" refugees.

Senator Vanstone said she was not aware of requests from Pacific nations to look at the issue of people whose homes are under threat from rising sea levels.

She has told a Senate Estimates Committee the term "refugee" is being wrongly used.

"There's no such thing as a climate [change] refugee," she said.

"In my view it diminishes the importance the international commu-

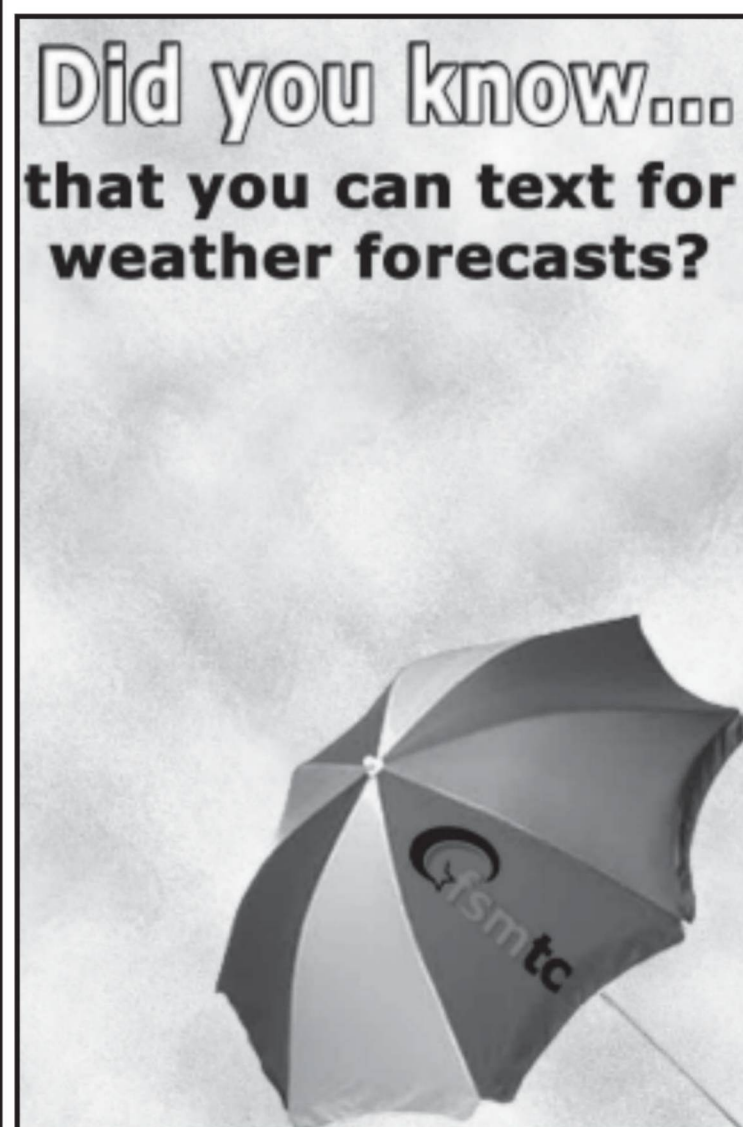
nity should put on refugees to call everyone else who might need to be relocated for humanitarian reasons a refugee."

Tuvalu's new prime minister, Apisai Ielemia in a recent interview with *PACNEWS* said his government would pursue the issue of environment refugees with Australia and New Zealand.

"It's not part of my government policy yet now, but we will consider the issue at the appropriate time."

Previous Tuvalu governments had worked on a migration plan for its citizens to the bigger Pacific Island nations in the event the islands are overwhelmed by rising sea level.

Did you know...
that you can text for weather forecasts?



CONSERVATION

An endemic tree of Pohnpei on the brink of extinction

By *Conservation Society of Pohnpei*

Current research at CSP seems to show that the local tree **Kurumw** is in danger of becoming extinct. Fieldwork has found a handful of dead trees, and possibly three young living trees. Since the beginning of the study, no trees have been found with either flowers or fruits. Kurumw, scientifically known as *Parkia korom* is found only on Pohnpei. Pohnpeians have traditionally used the wood in canoe building. The tree has not been collected by botanists for over 50 years. Kurumw is already listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, a resource containing information on all known threatened species in the world.

Kurumw is believed to be pollinated by bats. The Serehd is known to preferentially perch on the tree as well. The flowers are yellow and globe shaped. The fruits are pods about 25 – 32 cm long, including the stem, and 3.5 to 4.5 cm wide. Each pod has 20 or more seeds. There should be fine red – brown hairs on the pods and on the young twigs, and tiny white hairs on the leaflets. The leaflets appear tiny; just over one centimeter long and about half a

centimeter wide. The tree can grow up to 20 meters tall and the trunk can be as large as one meter wide. People have said it prefers wetter than average places on Pohnpei and grows in the upland forest, but not as high as the current watershed protected area. The tree grows best in areas that have been steadily converted to agroforestry since 1975.

Many of the trees were cut down during the Japanese occupation. The forestry department of Pohnpei and a few local landowners have expressed interest in planting the seeds to ensure the future of the tree. Kurumw has been growing here since long before Nan Madol was built. The tree is a legacy passed down through the ages to the current generation of Pohnpeians. Lets work together to ensure that future generations will know this beautiful tree.

If you know Kurum and have additional information, or if you know where the researchers at CSP can find the tree, please contact us at 320-5409. You can also email Kierin Mackenzie at kirinito@yahoo.com.

Pohnpeian Translation

CSP wiahier roprop ehu me kediarakadahr me pein sapwelimatail tuhke pwoat me adaniki Kurum mwomwlahr de sohrlalahr. Dou wiawihier nanwel kan oh nansapw akan oh token tuhke Kurum tohto me dierek oh iangahki meh silipwoat me dierek me momour ahpw tikitik. Sangehr ni tepin roprop wet eh tepdahr, saikinte tuhke me dierek me mie wah de rohs ih. Kurum de me semen en pali en tuhke kan kin patohwan *Parkia Korom*, dierekte nan Pohnpei, met me wewehki me Pohnpei nan sampah pwon. Mehn Pohnpei en mahs akan kin wiahda wahr sang ni paliweren tuhke pwoatet. Daulih sounpar 50 me semen en tuhke kan sohte wia roprop de kaskuhlki tuhke Kurum. Kurum pil kileldiengehr nan nein IUCN pwuhk, pwihn ehu me iang samanih tuhke kan nan sampah, oh kasalehdahr me Kurumw sosohralahr.

Mahn pwehk akan me kin waseli wahn tuhke pwoatet oh kin karehieng e par wasa tohto. Serehd pil kin mwahuki mih nan tuhke pwoatet. Wahn rohs en tuhke wet ongohn oh pwonopwon. Wah kan kin udukan

oh kin reirei patehng kirikirih me kak reirei ki 25 – 32 cm oh kak tehlap ki 3.5 – 4.5 cm. Ehute wah kak kolokol were 20 de tohtoh sang. Mie kisin une poah weitahta me kin mih ni wah kan oh ni pons pwulopwul kan, oh pil kin mie kisin une poah pwetepwet pohn kupwuden teh kan de teh pwulopwul kan. Kupwudeh kan kin pwidikidik; reireiki pohnangin centimeter ehu oh tehlapki mwein elep en centimeter. paliweren tuhke pwoatet kak reirei ki meter 20 oh tepin tuhke wet kak tehlapki meter ehu. Aramas kin koasoia me tuhke pwoatet kin mwahuki wasa me wisekesek kan nan Pohnpei oh pil kin mwahuki mih nanwel keren kan ahpw kaidehn nanwel ilehkan me rasohng nan Watershed. Tuhke wet kin mwahuki mour nanwel kan me aramas koadkoadahkier sangete nan pahr 1975.

Kidalap en Kurum kamala nan mwein sapan ahr kakaun Pohnpei. Ohpis en forestry iangahki soumwet kei kasaledahr arail men iang padoak tuhke wet pwe en kak momour kohkohlahte. Kurum momour Pohnpei sanget mwohn Nan Madol eh wiawihda. Tuhke poatet wia sohsoh ehu me sang rehn mehn mahs akan me kin mihmi Pohnpei. Kitail menlau sawas pene pwe kitail en kak kolokol tuhke pwoatet ohng dih en mwuhr kan.

Ma komwi mwahngih de patohwan dahkot Kurum oh mie omwi iren kapatapat, de mie wasa me ke wewehki me mie tuhke pwoatet me pwihn en roprop en CSP kak diar ie, komw menlau oh eker telephn nempe 320-5409. Komwi pil kak e-mail dohng Kierin Mackenzie ni address et kirinito@yahoo.com.

LOST PROPERTY

An amount of money has been found at the Australian Embassy. If you have lost it and wish to claim it, please put in writing your contact details, the time and place you lost it, the amount and any other identifiable remarks to verify your claim.

All enquiries to:
Andrew Jackson-Calway
phone no 320-5448
by 15 November 2006

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Suva, Fiji

Forum Representative to Solomon Islands

The Forum Secretariat invites suitably experienced and qualified individuals to apply for the position of Forum Representative to Solomon Islands.

The appointee will liaise with RAMSI and the Solomon Islands Government, facilitate reporting to the Forum Chair, and facilitate assistance and promote other regional initiatives to the Solomon Islands Government.

Ideal candidates will possess excellent communication skills, strong interpersonal and organisational skills, cultural sensitivity and the ability to provide information and advice to government and different stakeholders. The ability to set priorities and work independently with minimal support will be essential.

Tertiary qualifications in the area of Political Science or a related field are required with a good understanding of the role and functions of regional agencies. A good understanding of the political, economic, social and security situation in Solomon Islands and a sound understanding of the objective and activities of RAMSI would be an advantage.

Interested applicants are encouraged to obtain an information package containing the job description and remuneration details, which is available by emailing jobs@forumsec.org.fj or at www.forumsec.org. The salary range will be SDR27,540 to SDR41,310 dependent on skills and experience. The current exchange rate is SDR1.00: FJD2.57. The package also includes the provision of housing and education allowances, home leave airfares and life and health insurance.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva and if not posted, may be sent to jobs@forumsec.org.fj. Only nationals of member countries are eligible to apply for this position.

Applications close on Friday 17 November 2006. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages both men and women to apply.

Member Governments of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

KP-Perspective**Beat Me...Love Me?**

There are a few facts in life about which I am certain. If I throw something into the air it will come down. If I drive my car at a high rate of speed into an immovable object I will lose the battle and will probably be hurt if not killed. If I don't show up at work I will eventually get fired. If money goes out faster than it comes in it will disappear. Actually, now that I think about it, there are many things that I know for certain. One of them is that, "my rights end where another person's nose begins."

I don't wish to call into judgment in any way, shape, or form, FSM culture but there seems to be an unwritten rule in place that a person can be beaten if someone who feels superior to them, like a spouse, a girlfriend, boyfriend, or a parent, feels that the inferior one has done wrong. The definition of "wrong" seems to vary according to the mood of the one delivering "justice". If that is FSM culture as someone who came to my office the other day claimed, and I cringe to say it, something is terribly wrong.

Physical violence is for defending yourself when you are under physical attack not for teaching another person a lesson. Ask anyone who is involved in most of the martial arts. Their training is for defense and not for offense.

There is a tiny young lady I know of in Pohnpei who is healing from her second black eye in three months. The punches that left her face altered and blackened were delivered by her loved one of choice—a boyfriend. I don't know what she did that caused him a problem and frankly, I don't care. There is no excuse. One black eye is inexcusable. Giving her two black eyes even before the other one has had a chance to even fully heal is despicable especially since the punch was delivered by someone probably twice her size.

It's possible that she did something so repulsive that he felt he had no choice. That's the "she got what was coming to her" syndrome. You always, every time, have a choice. I think he just likes the powerful feeling that some people get from beating up people who are smaller than they are.

By the way, alcohol is not a causative agent. Alcohol is a choice and if you are violent when you take it into your body then you should stay completely away from it unless you don't care about anyone else including yourself.

No matter what your child did, the thrust and gather that created your child did not give either parent the eternal right to smack them around at will. "Spanking" is one thing but beating a child to within an inch of their life and stopping there if you stop at all, seems to be cruel and unusual punishment. I have seen children and young adults in the FSM hurt so badly by their parents that they could barely move for days on end and the child, no matter what age, takes this treatment out of respect, or something else entirely, for the parent who delivered the punishment.

It seems to be acceptable behavior to beat your spouse if they have done you wrong. It supposedly keeps them in their place. Who defines where that place is? Who gave you the right to say, "This is what I expect from you and if you disappoint me in whatever miniscule way I will beat you mercilessly"? Ah, true love...

How about violence between people who are not related? I have a scar above my right eye from a punch delivered at a bar where I was providing music a few years ago. The scar will never go away and it was caused when I spoke to a person there in what I thought was a polite manner but he thought he heard me say something completely different from what I actually said. All I know for certain is that one moment I was fine and the next moment there was a fist like a side of beef coming at my head, a bright light and I was down. It was the only punch I've ever received in all of my 44 years. Why did that happen? It happened because that person had a "fight first, ask questions later" mentality.

When I get angry, and I do, my first instinct is toward violence. I admit it. I'm a pretty big guy and could probably do some damage if I want to but I'm also an adult. Kids, while they are learning to be reasonable human beings resort to violence and brawling. Healthy, caring adults don't do it. They're bigger than that.

Problems don't get solved by violence. Problems only increase when violence is applied. Don't believe me? Ask the US's President Bush. It's high time that we begin to treat each other with a modicum of respect. Next time you are drawn to violence, think first and see if you can make the urge go away. Most people can!

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The letter in this issue is in response to an Associated Press release posted recently on the Micronesian Seminar's Forum discussion group, regarding an Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' (APIL) resolution calling for a task force to develop a regional fuel plan to reduce the price of fuel in the Pacific Islands.

Participants in the resolution include Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Kiribati.

May I suggest that we call our island legislators' resolution the RIP VAN WINKLE RESOLUTION!

Perhaps you don't know the story which went something like this:

Rip Van Winkle went hunting for his starving family. He came across some little green men drinking in the forest. He could not refuse a shot of the brew. He downed it in one hungry gulp. His head felt heavy and he fell asleep. He awoke twenty years later to find that the world had passed him by!

Now, fast forward to our Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) toward the end of 2006. They have just passed a resolution to create a task force, to develop a plan, to reduce the price of fuel! It sounds like a Hop, Skip, and Jump event that might happen at the Olympic Games. One has to do a number of different things to reach the goal line, if he or she can in fact make it to the goal line!

Boy, we Islanders sure sound like we are devoted fans of Paul McCartney's, "The Long and Winding Road"! We prefer to go South, then North, then East, in order to get to the West!

Is there any chance that this APIL Task Force Plan will ever make it to a workable reality before our Compact of Free Association is expired, or before all of our fiberglass boats have rotted away, or before everyone has migrated

from the islands? I mean, surely, our honorable leaders do consider their resolution a meaningful public service; another historic accomplishment?

Perhaps while we're waiting for the Task Force to develop its "Plan" on how to reduce fuel costs in the islands to be submitted back to the APIL General Body for review, debate and approval, the result of which will then be submitted to each participating government to review, approve, and then to implement, you might be able to tell me WHERE ARE WE IN TERMS OF TIME?

This week, the Science Journal put out a study by scientists and economists from different countries predicting that if the world does not do something drastic and serious to preserve the ocean and conserve the world fish stock, by 2048 there will be no more fish or marine life for the world's 1 billion poor people in the developing countries and islands to live on!

Will somebody please tell APIL to speed up its Task Force Resolution implementation so that our islands' fishermen will have less expensive fuel to power their boats so that they can fish before the world's fish stock runs out? Or should we start getting used to eating canned snakes from China?

Sabina S. Asor

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

SEND US TIPS
phone 320-6547,
fax 320-6571 or kpress@mail.fm

Guidelines From the Center of the Universe ...for Pedestrians and Traffic

I nearly smashed a teenager while I was driving on the street the other day. It was another sortie in the age old conflict for control of the streets and the center of the universe that has been raging ever since people figured out that they could convert grass, a few oats, and plenty of water, into four legs and speed. Smelly brown piles in the middle of the street were the by products. Four legs have been replaced by four wheels. Grass, oats, and water have been replaced by petroleum, over which wars are fought. Smelly brown piles are no longer on the street but in the air and in our lungs.

I'm nearly certain that peculiar gesture involving the middle finger evolved directly as a means of expressing feelings over the distances that rapidly develop during skirmishes between pedestrians and drivers.

When you are a single pedestrian, it's not that easy to establish yourself at the center of the universe. Solitary pedestrians tend to be used instead as tools by motorists who are trying to establish themselves at the center of the universe, but do not despair. There are still ways.

As both a driver and a pedestrian I know the guidelines from both ends. As I said, I nearly lost a skirmish with a pedestrian the other day except for creative thinking.

A pedestrian, wearing the maroon skirt of Pohnpei's PICS High School, was sauntering (the national pass time) across the street. I'm pretty sure she knew she had the "right of way" – an antiquated term that in this instance means that motorists who are fast and maneuverable (not a qualitative statement) have to let a slow and unpredictable pedestrian cross the street if that's what they want to do. The motorist who fails to yield the right of way, will be spayed or neutered as they are equipped.

From a block and a half away I saw that my adversary was practicing the guidelines. She didn't look both ways. Probably she didn't want to allow her zorrries to fling mud at the back of her head like mine always do when I'm walking. If I look like Spanky's friend, Alfalfa, it's because my zorrries have given me a 'roadside mousse'. Regardless of why, she

didn't hurry. She crossed the street diagonally which gives the longest possible crossing time.

She was good but I was better. I cracked a big grin and kept going at the speed I was going when I first saw her.

I couldn't see her face since she wasn't looking at me or, apparently at anything else, except perhaps, her feet. It possible she was faking that because I could almost feel her grinning. She probably thought I'd have to wait for her to sashay across the street.

She couldn't possibly have known that I'd just had my brakes done. I waited until the last possible second and stopped with confidence. It was a gutsy, hot headed and potentially neuterable maneuver.

I didn't see any new puddles on the street but from the look on her face she needed a change of clothes and a shower though it was kind of hard to tell since her skirt was so dark. When she recovered she gave me little smile that told me she knew that I am the center of the universe. Ah, victory!

Sometimes a solitary pedestrian colludes with a motorist. His partner stops his car across the street from the pedestrian who is blocked up like a track star in front of a parked car parked on a curve in the road. The pedestrian raises slightly his muscles tense and his focus entirely on his ride.

Hearing the sound of an approaching vehicle is like the starter's gun and he's off!!

The driver passing the parked car, seeing a blur in her peripheral vision and not wanting to be spayed, slams on the brakes.

The pedestrian pretends not to notice the driver's face pressed against the windshield. The blue color on her face is probably funny but he knows that he can laugh later when he and his own driver are long gone. It is more important that he keep to the task of establishing himself at the center of the universe rather than cackling and rolling in the street, and trying to breathe.



Meanwhile, the dead stopped motorist, with heart pounding at 200 beats per minute utters a tiny prayer

starting with "Oh, you son of a" She needs a change of clothes, a shower, and new upholstery, at least in the driver's seat of her car.

The solitary pedestrian and his driver score major points.

Pedestrians traveling in groups of three or more have an advantage over drivers. After all, motorists are sure that they will be spayed or neutered if they mess with them. When walking down the street in a group extend your arms fully to the side and grab each other's shoulders. The more the merrier! You can actually take up several lanes of traffic in this way. You are the center of the universe and the road is yours!

Despite their fears, drivers always have the upper hand in the conflict. When you are at an intersection with a stop sign gun it as soon as there is a break in cross traffic! You are the center of the universe. Never mind the little old lady that just passed the right front bumper of your car. She'll make a great conversation piece, maybe even better than the 'flying lady' ornament on a Rolls Royce.

If there is a pedestrian on the side of the road, especially when there are no side walks, 6 inches is enough clearance. They will probably enjoy the cool breeze of your passing anyway. You are the center of the universe. Never forget it!

Cars, puddles, and pedestrians present a whole new set of opportunities. Don't forget about those.

I think I've said enough for this fortnight's issue.

*Bill Jaynes
The Center of the Universe*

Did you know...
**that you can send
a SMS message
from your FSMTCeLL
to any email
address in
the world?**

NEWS**German Ambassador, Dr. Axel Weishaupt Visits Kolonia**

By **Dr. LOIS ENGLEBERGER**
Island Food Community

The German Ambassador, Dr. Axel Weishaupt, receives a drinking coconut from Kadalino Lorens of the Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs, at the official Inauguration of

the Renovated Training Room Facilities at the Pohnpei Agriculture Office, in the Botanical Garden in Kolonia, on Nov 2, 2006. The expansion of the training room and the addition of the windows were made possible through a grant under the

Small Scale Projects Scheme of the German Embassy Manila.

Dr. Weishaupt in his speech said, "We are proud to be supporting this project as the renovated training room is envisioned to be the venue for farmers, women, youth and other community groups. It will also be available for the use of other groups such as the Island Food Community of Pohnpei, which is already a partner of our cooperation. With this project, we ultimately hope to be able to contribute to the success of the Pohnpei Agriculture office in promoting agricultural development and the production and consumption of local food crops. For the people of Pohnpei, it is hoped that the project will translate into livelihood opportunities, self reliance, food security, improvement of nutrition, and the long term survival of the Pohnpei agro-forestry system.

I would like to congratulate all the people who contributed to the successful completion of this project, in particular Mr. Adelino Lorens, of the Pohnpei State Government, Dr. Lois Englberger, Research Advisor of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei, and Ms. Karin Jahr de Guerrero, Development Counsellor of the German Embassy Manila, who all worked together unceasingly to make sure that this project could be implemented.

Great Exam Answer

It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking. And Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper.

Resio Moses for Congress

Met en sekerehki Pohnpei — U, towe koaruhsie, kapidoloangen ei tungoal pekipek en wia candidate ong usuhs (Mahs 6, 2007) ong sehr me I patoloale rahnwet: Pohnpei Senator-At-Large nan FSM Congress. I patohwen peki utuht en kupwur kan en weiwet.

Conveying to all and asking for their vote of confidence in our up-coming election, March 6, 2007. Kalangan.

Resio S. Moses
Senator-At-Large

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FSM NATIONAL - STATE EXERCISE ADDRESSES MARITIME SECURITY ISSUES

U.S. Embassy Press Release

(U.S. Embassy: Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM) On October 18-20, 2006, the FSM Disaster Preparedness Office and the U.S. Joint Task Force for Homeland Defense (JTF-HD) co-hosted a Tabletop Exercise on FSM Maritime Security at COM-FSM National Campus in Palikir, Pohnpei. The purpose of this workshop was to engage the appropriate agencies to ensure that all available response resources can be accessed in the event of a maritime disaster. Over 60 FSM national and state officials from all four states participated, including some from disaster, police, customs, immigration, health services, EPA, transportation, public safety, port authority, harbor patrol, and maritime surveillance offices. Also in

attendance were representatives from Mobil Oil and the Micronesian Red Cross Society. The event provided an excellent forum for dialogue and interaction among the various FSM national and state agencies involved in disaster response.

This workshop is part of a comprehensive regional program by the JTF-HD, which works with island partners in the FSM, RMI, Palau, Guam, CNMI and American Samoa to enhance disaster response capabilities. Additional seminars in this series within the coming year will address pandemic preparedness and initial response to aircraft accidents. They will also apply the principles developed during this exercise to test emergency response procedures.

Mr. Jim Petroni, one of the JTF-HD Facilitators, offered the following observations on the exercise: "Our Micronesian colleagues were delightful to work with. They were quite open and frank about the issues confronting them in the field of disaster response. They were extremely receptive to our recommendations and eager to design their own solutions to the challenges they face. Our entire team is very eager to return to the FSM in the near future to resume the important work we have begun here." Matt Kuor, FSM National Disaster Coordinator, added the following comments: "This exercise was extremely helpful for us in identifying some gaps in our disaster response plans. These gaps can now be overcome with the assistance of our friends from JTF-HD. We

are very appreciative of the skills and experiences they have shared with us. This has been a tremendous success for us and we hope this is the beginning of an ongoing process that will enable us to assimilate and practice the valuable lessons we have learned this week."

Issue 20 Problems

Journalism, according to conventional wisdom is supposed to be unbiased. "Present the facts and let the reader decide." It is very difficult to be unbiased because we at the K-Press are humans.

In the last issue I let the standard fall and I apologize for that. There are many reasons for the short coming but they all sound like excuses which are like noses. Everyone has them and they all smell.

The article in the last issue on the Kosrae Debates smacked of endorsement and the JEMCO article presented as fact what were actually opinions.

We made an additional mistake on the front page on the caption for the Pohnpei Farmer's Fair. Khep Peniou and Khep en Dol en Wai were actually the categories that the unnamed farmers won rather than their names.

The deadline for submission of items for the next issue of the Kaselehlie Press is 6:00 PM November 17, 2006

NOTICE OF INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2006, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with BANK OF GUAM are inactive, and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective BANK OF GUAM Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2007, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (16) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2007, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

CHUUK BRANCH

- Central Youth Club
Houk Island
Chuuk State, FSM 96942
- Hall Island Junior High School
by Kisauo Bob or Marcus Sango
PO Box 834 • Weno, Chuuk 96942
- Inter-Parish Mwichen Asor
PO Box 250 • Weno, Chuuk 96942
- Mercedes Non Fono
PO Box GH • Moen, Chuuk 96942
- Prayer Group: (FEFAN)
PO Box 526 • Weno, Chuuk 96942

POHNPEI BRANCH

- Account Alternate
Rural Development & Elizabeth Dore
PO Box 396z
Kolonia, Pohnpei FSM 96941
- Rural Development & Yoster Henry
PO Box 396
Kolonia, Pohnpei FSM 96941
- Cathleen J. Welson & Rural Development
PO Box 664
Kolonia, Pohnpei FSM 96941

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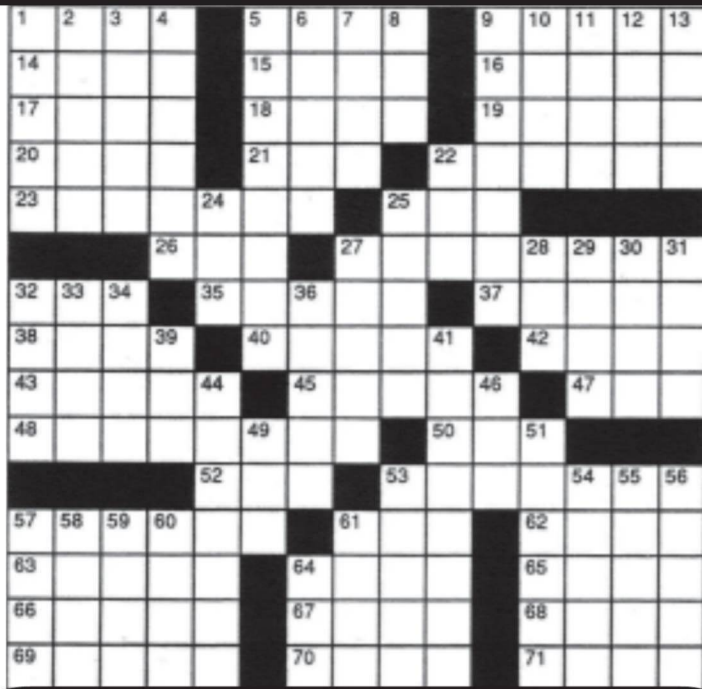
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA: Chuuk Branch (691) 330-2567 Fax: (691) 330-2640 - Pohnpei Branch (691) 320-2550 Fax: (691) 320-2562



LAST Issue's Solution

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Tough fiber
- 5. Ration
- 9. Lassoed
- 14. Having wings
- 15. Press
- 16. Avoid
- 17. Sand hill
- 18. Beach soil
- 19. Worsted fabric
- 20. Prepare copy
- 21. Malt beverage
- 22. Cold season
- 23. Circle portions
- 25. That man's
- 26. Sweet potato
- 27. Scattered trash
- 32. Set
- 35. Allude
- 37. Digging tool
- 38. High cards
- 40. Round roofs
- 42. — the Terrible
- 43. Grip
- 45. Ciphers
- 47. Print measures
- 48. Comic book hero
- 50. Hawaiian staple
- 52. Be sick
- 53. Climbing devices
- 57. Sends payment
- 61. Tavern
- 62. Persia
- 63. Wear away
- 64. Information
- 65. Atop
- 66. Consumer
- 67. Aid
- 68. Layer
- 69. Dog pests
- 70. Simple
- 71. Withered

DOWN

- 1. Hot as
- 2. Evade
- 3. Overly excited
- 4. Attractive
- 5. Took weapons from
- 6. Spoken exams
- 7. Solitary
- 8. Cease
- 9. Opposes
- 10. Baking chamber
- 11. Portion
- 12. Rim
- 13. Antlered animal
- 22. Humor
- 24. Boat paddle
- 25. Employed
- 27. Citrus fruit
- 28. Upon (pref.)
- 29. Rant
- 30. Dutch cheese
- 31. Lairs
- 32. Jokes
- 33. Beige
- 34. Jump
- 36. Of a focus
- 39. Direction (abbr.)
- 41. Move apart
- 44. Chatterers
- 46. Turf
- 49. Wrong (pref.)
- 51. Stupid ones
- 53. Subsequently
- 54. Tennessee — Ford
- 55. Judge
- 56. Sleeping sound
- 57. Coral structure
- 58. Epochal
- 59. Speck of dust
- 60. Notion
- 61. Infant
- 64. Water barrier

Word Search - BOTANY AT BAY

You'll sound like a bona fide horticulturist after you solve this puzzle, which lists botanical terms, each one followed by its English meaning.

AMARA
BITTER
ARGENTEA
SILVER
AUREA
GOLD
AUSTRALIS
SOUTHERN
BACCATA
BERRYLIKE
BLANDA
MILD
BOREALIS
NORTHERN
CANDIDA
WHITE
CONICA



CONE-SHAPED
CORONATA
CROWNED
EDULIS
EDIBLE
FRAGRANS
FRAGRANT
LIANA
CLIMBING
LOBATA
LOBED
OCCIDENTALIS
WESTERN
ORIENTALIS
EASTERN
PUNCTATA
DOTTED

MARY BERMAN

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Email: mberman@mail.fm Kolonia, Pohnpei
FM 96941

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96941

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RELIGION

Owners Manual (The Instruction Book)

By **BILL SCHUBERT**
Micronesia Bible College

Have you ever noticed when you buy something new it often comes with an owners manual. You know — like that new stereo CD player, a microwave oven, or maybe a new clothes washer. You open the box and there it is, the manual with the instructions stating, “read this before operating”. If you’re like me (and I think many of you are) off to the closet shelf, a storage drawer or somewhere else goes that manual without being read. And it lies there until a problem comes up or I can’t get the stereo to do what I want it do. So getting the manual out I read it. Guess what? That’s right, right there in the manual is the answer to my problem. All it took was reading the “owner’s manual”. Unless of course we talking about

my Japanese right hand drive car, it did come with a manual. But I can’t read it or understand it, it’s written in Japanese.

I have heard people say, “I sure wish life came with an “owner’s manual” or instruction book. Life sure would be a lot easier”. Well, I’ve got good news for you. God has given us an “owner’s manual”, an instruction book on life—it’s called the Bible, the Word of God. You might



Rev. Bill Schubert
Assemblies of God
Missionary -
President of
Micronesia Bible
College

even have one on a shelf, in a drawer or somewhere else around your home. Now you might say, I have tried to read the Bible and I just don’t understand. I understand, some parts of the Bible are a little confusing and not quite clear. But sometimes just as with our stereo “owner’s manual” we have to read it again (and maybe again) or get help to understand, so

Bible reading personal by inserting your name and using personal pronouns when you read it. This helps you to sense and feel that God is speaking to you. Example, read John 3:16 this way, “For God so loved Bill (your name) that He gave His one and only Son, that if Bill (your name) believes in Him, he/she will not perish but have eternal life.”

Key #3 – Picture “It” - By this I mean when you read the Bible think about what it says, imagine or picture the story or event in your mind as if you are seeing it happen. Example, Picture yourself in a boat. The sea around you is stormy, the wind is blowing and waves are rising, splashing in the boat. You cry for help and Jesus stands up and says “peace be still.” Suddenly the storm quits the sun comes out, the waves are calm. (Matthew 8:23-27)

Key #4 – Practice “It” - Nothing helps us to understand the Word of God like practicing it or doing it. In the same way “not doing it” will hinder you and I from receiving more understanding. Please read John 8:31-32 and James 1:22-25.

Key #5 – Preach “It” - By this I mean speak (read) it out loud so your own ears can hear it. Talk about the Scriptures, share what God is showing you with others. As you speak, share, and hear it (God’s Word) again, the Bible will become even more personal and real to you. Romans 10:17 tells us “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the Word of God.”

Friends, I have found that as I use these keys one at a time or several together, the Bible is unlocked before me and my understanding grows. Hey, why wait for a problem, why not today, search that shelf, closet or drawer and get out the Bible - God’s “Owner’s Manual”, instruction book and read it today. You might find the answers you’ve been looking for and what life is all about.

Bill Schubert and his wife Mary-Ann moved to Pohnpei in 2001, to help in the training of God’s people for ministry and service.

it is with the Bible. One reading is not enough and sometimes we need a little help to understand.

Let me give you a little help in understanding your Bible. Here are five keys I have found to unlock God’s Word – the Bible.

Key #1 – Prayer. This key is double sided. One side tells us to ask God the Author, to open the eyes of our understanding as the writer does in Psalm 119:18 “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.” The other side of the key reminds us to pray God’s Word. By this I mean use the words of the Bible in your prayers. For example, you might pray like this, “God, you said in 1 Timothy 2:4 “you want all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth”, so please help my family to be saved and to know the truth. Amen.”

Key #2 – Personalize “It”- Make your

Tide Table November 8-21, 2006

	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	8 04:19AM 3.0 09:41AM 1.1 04:30PM 4.9 11:31PM 1.1	15 06:22AM 1.5 01:17PM 3.3 06:56PM 2.3	8 02:40AM 0.0 06:37AM -0.2 03:08PM 2.5	15 06:40AM 0.1 02:34PM 1.2 08:32PM 0.8 11:32PM 0.9
Thursday	9 04:53AM 2.7 10:02AM 1.3 05:05PM 4.6	16 12:14AM 3.2 06:42AM 1.4 01:26PM 3.7 07:28PM 2.0	9 06:38AM -0.4 03:31PM 2.3	16 06:26AM 0.2 01:36PM 1.3 08:09PM 0.7
Friday	10 12:21AM 1.4 05:29AM 2.3 10:17AM 1.6 05:40PM 4.3	17 12:53AM 3.2 07:01AM 1.3 01:40PM 4.0 07:57PM 1.7	10 06:43AM -0.4 03:53PM 2.1	17 12:15AM 0.8 06:15AM 0.2 01:15PM 1.5 08:14PM 0.5
Saturday	11 01:28AM 1.6 06:20AM 2.1 10:13AM 1.9 06:20PM 3.9	18 01:25AM 3.2 07:21AM 1.2 01:59PM 4.2 08:26PM 1.5	11 06:49AM -0.4 04:12PM 1.9	18 12:46AM 0.7 06:08AM 0.2 01:16PM 1.8 08:32PM 0.2
Sunday	12 03:24AM 1.8 07:19PM 3.5	19 01:56AM 3.2 07:42AM 1.1 02:21PM 4.5 08:55PM 1.0	12 06:55AM -0.3 04:24PM 1.7	19 01:15AM 0.6 06:09AM 0.2 01:28PM 2.0 08:57PM 0.1
Monday	13 05:16AM 1.7 09:31PM 3.2	20 02:27AM 3.1 08:05AM 1.1 02:45PM 4.7 09:27PM 1.0	13 06:56AM -0.2 04:22PM 1.5	20 01:42AM 0.5 06:14AM 0.1 01:47PM 2.1 09:27PM -0.1
Tuesday	14 05:57AM 1.6 01:23PM 3.0 06:06PM 2.6 11:18PM 3.2	21 02:58AM 3.0 08:29AM 1.0 03:12PM 4.8 10:01PM 0.9	14 06:51AM 0.0 03:49PM 1.3	21 02:08AM 0.3 06:22AM 0.0 02:11PM 2.3 10:03PM -0.2

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

To facilitate public comments and involvement, the Federated Shipping Co. Ltd., will be conducting public meetings regarding the proposed revisions to its Tariff at 3p.m., November 6, and 1 p.m., November 17, 2006, at the Pwohmaria Hotel and Kolonia Town Hall respectively. Your presence and participation at these meeting is solicited.

Federated Shipping Co. Ltd., is also soliciting comments regarding proposed revisions to its Tariff rates and charges. Comments will be accepted until November 20, 2006. To review the proposed revision you can contact the Federated Shipping Co. Ltd. at Dekehtik Island, or you can either call Ph. 320-2794 or email: FSCO@mail.fm

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press



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HEALTH & NUTRITION

Pohnpei Farmer's Fair a Success

By **AMY LEVENDUSKY**
Island Food Community

The Pohnpei Farmer's Fair which coincided with World Food Day this year was a great success. The Fair was held on Friday, October 20th, at Pohnpei Agriculture inside of the Botanical Gardens. Activities included a food crop competition, a healthy cooking competition, and an essay/art competition for high school and elementary students. Demonstration booths were also set up for public viewing, including the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), the Cooperative Research and Extension Services (CRE) of COM/FSM Land Grant, Public Health, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, DSAP, and the FSM National Biosafety Project. The event was organized by Pohnpei State Agriculture, COM/FSM Land Grant, and the Island Food Community of Pohnpei.

A total of 114 farmers competed in 53 categories in the food crop competition. Mr. Pensis Elias from Kitti received the most points overall for his entries in the crop competition. (5 points for 1st place, 4 for 2nd Place, 3 for 3rd Place, 2 for 4th Place, and 1 for 5th Place) Mr. Sosner Edgar from U won 1st prize for his 210 pound yam, *Kehp en Dol en Wai* and his Namwuh Weitahta yam. Mr. Luciano Apraham from Sokehs won 1st prize for his 210 pound yam, *Kehp Peniou*. Ms. Mathia Pluhs from Nett won 1st prize for her breathtakingly large bunch of *Iemwahn* bananas. An abundance of fruit and vegetable crops and an im-

pressive variety of banana and sugar cane entries highlighted the significance of locally-grown foods in Pohnpei.

A total of 19 participants entered the Healthy Cooking Competition which focused on local food recipes. The categories included ripe *Taiwang* banana, ripe *Karat* banana, *Mwahng* (giant swamp taro), *Kipar* (pandanus), and any local food. The criteria included using a healthy cooking method (i.e. steamed, boiled, baked, or raw), using healthy ingredients (i.e. less salt, sugar, fat), good taste and appearance, written recipe accompanying the dish, local ingredients, and food sanitation. Mr. Samuel Washington from Kitti won 1st prize for his *Karat* banana cake. Ms. Pelihda Waltu from Kitti won 1st prize for her *Kipar* (pandanus) jelly. Ms. Eunice Hedgar from U won 1st prize for her *Daiwang* chocolate milkshake. Ms. Elizabeth Peter from Kitti won 1st prize for her *Mwahng* recipe and for the open recipe category.

Ivy-Rose Edwin of PICS won 1st Prize in the 12th grade Essay Competition, along the theme "How can you and your family promote

local foods for ensuring food security?" Ivy read her essay during the World Food Day ceremony. Rusty Primo of Awak Elementary School won 1st prize in the 8th grade Art Competition, along the same theme.

The World Food Day Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in World Food Day 2006 and the following agencies for organizing/staffing this event: Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs, College of Micronesia-FSM Land Grant Program, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, Pohnpei Department of Education, Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific (DSAP), Pohnpei Department of Health, Natural Resources Con-

servation Service, FSM National Government, College of Micronesia-FSM Media Center, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Foodland, and the FSM National Biosafety Project. The Committee thanks the following agencies for funding World Food Day 2006: Pohnpei State Legislature, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, GEF Small Grants Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Pohnpei Department of Health, Bank of FSM, Pohnpei Island Architect and Construction, FSM Development Bank, Pacific German Regional Forestry Project, Do It Best, New Zealand Government, Telecom, Ace Office Supply, V6AH Radio, and Yoshie Enterprises.



Ivy-Rose Edwin of PICS reads her 1st Place winning essay during World Food Day 2006

Dollar Up Enterprises

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85 cents

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10 Pack
\$3.50

Small Cake
Mix
45 cents

NEWS**..Bank Conned***continued from page 1*

Foster's name or the resort did not even come up during the dinner. No money was handed over during that dinner nor immediately afterwards."

He said that after the dinner the Bank of FSM received three loan enquiry applications from people attending the dinner – none of which have been approved.

Iso Joseph said that the "loan to Kai Viti Liku Beach Limited was drawn down progressively commencing July going into a checking account at Bank of FSM. The first remittance outside of FSM was made in normal manner via bank authorized Wire Transfers on 4 August 2006. The original approved loan was actually \$580,000 and we were fortunate in ascertaining the apparent fraud before the loan was fully drawn."

The bank has already recovered some of the \$300,000 and the loan is now in the low \$200,000's. The main guarantor on the account has contacted the bank and has promised a repayment program of \$50,000 per month until the

disbursed loan amount is fully repaid.

Joseph said that the bank knew about Foster's relationship to the project but that they had received nearly twenty recommendations from governmental leaders, and ministers saying essentially that the project had their support and that Foster had started a new life. The bank hired a Fiji based lawyer to act on behalf of the bank. "All legal documentation, searches, enquiries, lodgements and all matters around the formalization of security were done through this attorney." De Courteney said that a Homeland Security check was done on Foster and that there were no international warrants against him at the time his application was being considered.

De Courteney said that he recommended the loan after management had researched and reported on the proposal. The loan was then approved formally by the Board of Directors based on financial statements and other documentation in part provided by Kai Viti Liku Beach Limited.

Investigation is ongoing into whether or not other professionals in Fiji besides Foster were part of the alleged fraud against the Bank of the FSM. De Courteney said that if the bank relies,

as it must, on outside sources that later turn out to be involved in a scam it is very difficult for the bank to avoid being bilked. He said that crimes against banks insured by the FDIC are necessarily investigated by the FBI. "If you're going to go up against the FBI" he said, you've got to be ready to face up to some very serious charges and be willing to serve some serious time." Fraud against a Bank is a very serious crime carrying some heavy sentences.

Despite local conjecture it is not unusual for the Bank of FSM to give loans to companies in other countries. Iso Joseph reported that although this is the first loan to an entity in Fiji the bank has loans out in Saipan, and Guam and, of course in all four FSM states.

If the Bank of the FSM was duped they are in excellent company. In 2003 Foster was at the center of a scandal which became known as "Cheriegate" in which he bought two apartments at a discounted rate on behalf of British Prime Minister Tony and Cherie Blair. Mrs. Blair denied any involvement with the con man. The false claim was chum for a media feeding frenzy that lasted for months at the height of which Mrs. Blair admitted involvement with Foster. The Sydney Morning Herald described him then as the ultimate, "international man of mischief".

At press time Foster had been on a hunger strike since his Fiji arrest on October 25th. Police cannot interrogate him until he is healthy. He says that he will continue the hunger strike until the Fiji Police look into his claim that he was hit on the head with an oar by police officers while he was being pursued for arrest. The police say that Foster cut his head open when he ducked under the water and hit his head on the propeller of their boat while trying to evade arrest.

He says that he will make the police brutality charges go away in exchange for helping him to go away by deporting him to Australia without arrest. The Fiji police say they are not taking him up on his offer. Since he will likely be facing charges in the US and the FSM it probably wouldn't do him much good anyway. Foster is also facing charges that he forged Fijian immigration documents including his Police record in order to hide his past.

FSM's Acting Attorney General Matthew Olmsted said, "Unfortunately, all we can say at this time is that we are aware of the matter, it is currently under investigation and we are working closely with Australian, U.S. and Fijian law enforcement officers."

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for tide
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1. Create a new text message.
2. Key in the state name, zip code or first character of the state name.
3. Send message to 8433 (TIDE). 4¢ per message successfully sent.
4. You will receive a text message shortly with the tide predictions. Currently, this works only for Chuuk and Pohnpei.

**!!Black Pearl Sale!!****Nukuoro Black Pearls**

The Nukuoro Community is pleased to announce a sale of their Sixth Black Pearl Harvest

The sale will be held at PCR Nantehlik from 9 AM to 3 PM On Saturday November 26th

Please join us to select from hundreds of Loose Pearls, Hand-Crafted pendants and earrings

New this year! A greater selection of bracelets strands and necklaces!

Prices start at \$10 per pearl call 920-3603 or email, nbp@mail.fm

