

# The KASELEHLIE PRESS

*This bi-weekly publication is only \$1.00*

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## Governor responds to allegations in lawsuit over PUC emergency executive order

[Editor's Note: The allegations of the Perman et. al vs Ehsa lawsuit were thoroughly covered in the last issue of The Kaselehlie Press. Unfortunately, we did not receive the large stack of court documents containing the Governor's responses until over 24 hours past our deadline and will not be able to do quite as thorough a job on the Governor's responses as we did for the Perman lawsuit, at least not in this issue. This is NOT a matter of bias in any way shape or form. It is strictly a matter of timing and we will be doing complete coverage of those responses in the next issue of The Kaselehlie Press which is scheduled for publication on October 29. We will also cover any results of hearings that are scheduled for next week.]

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

October 11, 2012

**Palikir, Pohnpei**—On October 5, Pohnpei State Attorney General Judah Johnny filed answers and motions to the allegations contained in the law suit against Governor Ehsa with plaintiffs Feliciano Perman, Francisco Mendiola, and Wilbur Walter. The lawsuit that FSM Petroleum Corporation later filed against the Governor was ordered to be combined with the other suit. Both of the suits were demanding essentially the same outcomes, the setting aside of the Governor's Executive orders regarding PUC.

One of the more incendiary allegations against the Governor was that when he assumed the powers of the PUC board he also had arrears at Pohnpei Utilities Corporation that would have disqualified him to be a member of the board. "Defendant Governor Ehsa states...that he has no knowledge and information as to the truth of the Plaintiffs' allegation that he owes utilities bills in delinquency and therefore denies," the response to the amended complaint says

The complaints allege unfair bid selection practices. Initially, after Governor Ehsa issued his Executive Order on September 3, Mr. Robert Hadley did evaluate all of the bids that came in response to PUC's Request for Proposals. An affidavit attached to the Governor Ehsa's response to the now combine lawsuits says that he ranked the top bidders in the following order: 1) EIG, 2) Balance Utility Solution (an Australian company), and 3) FSM Petroleum Corporation.

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## Surprising results of FSM Survey on migrants in U.S.



By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

October 11, 2012

**Pohnpei, FSM**—It is no secret that the governments of some of the U.S. States and territories where FSM migrants have settled have complained about the cost of hosting FSM immigrants; the so called "Compact Impact".

Just last week, representatives of the U.S. Government Accountability office held a press conference in Guam to answer questions about a nearly year old report on that very subject.

Within three months of the release in GAO report in November 2011 entitled "Compacts of Free Association: Improvements Needed to Assess and Address Growing Migration", work began on an FSM commissioned survey of FSM citizens living in the U.S. and its territories.

The FSM survey report was released this afternoon. The FSM Public Information Office press release on the survey said that it is a "scientific random sampling of emigrant households in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Hawaii, and various mainland United States cities and regions."

The contractors for the survey, Francis X, Hezel, SJ, and Michael Levin were quick to point out that the "survey was not undertaken to credit or discredit the claims of the host states or territories for Compact Impact funds." The footnote to their claim says, "We cannot and do not wish to assess the claims of the states or territories to Compact Impact reimbursement, but we can and will offer an estimate on how many FSM citizens are dependent on government benefits in the three island sites."

The study was a survey and not a fully fledged census of FSM citizens living in the U.S. and its territories. Just the same, it cited some pretty exact numbers saying that the FSM population living abroad as counted in the survey is 49,840 people including children who were born in the U.S. and its territories. 13,558 of them live in Guam. 4,286 of them live in CNMI. 7,948 of them live in Hawaii and, 24,048 live in the U.S. mainland, the report claims.

Essentially, the survey shows that nearly a third of people from the FSM live in the U.S. and its territories. The survey said

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# Governor speaks on hospital renovation and PUC

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

October 1, 2012

**Pohnpei, FSM**—This afternoon Governor Ehsa held a press conference that was aired live on V6AH radio, the Pohnpei State radio station. His main topics for discussion were the Pohnpei State hospital renovation project scheduled to begin October 20, 2012, and what his single sheet briefing called "PUC [Pohnpei Utilities Corporation] Power Generation Improvement".

A previously scheduled press conference that had been set for September 9 was postponed until September 14. The September 14 press conference was "delayed until further notice."

As is traditional the Governor spoke first in Pohnpeian and then quickly translated his content for the benefit of the media and diplomatic representatives at the press conference who have not yet learned to speak the language.

On the hospital renovation project the Governor's primary aim was to give notice to the people of Pohnpei. He said that some services would need to be shut down for short periods of time in order to facilitate the renovation of the roof and ceiling of the Pohnpei State Hospital.

Information about hospital services and facilities that will be closed will be carried on the State radio station, V6AH AM 1449.

He said that the \$1.9 million project is being funded by the U.S Department of the Interior and will be carried out by the 6th Engineer Battalion (USARAK). He also said that 75 locals will be hired to assist and to learn about the trade of construction.

"Obviously I did not talk about the period between September 3rd and September 9 or 11 because that's 'null and void'," he said at the end of his summary translation. "But I am willing to answer any and all questions about PUC; any and all questions about anything that I know and deferring

questions to experience when I should."

On the matter of PUC power generation, the Governor announced that he had received word earlier in the day that the two generators that had to be taken off line due to the "burn out" of the cables in August would be back in service within 24 hours. He said that the generators had not been put back on the grid but they were undergoing final testing. Engineers assured him they would be back in service on the following day so that PUC's power generation capacity would be restored to "pre-August burn" capacity.

He later said that EIG had reconnected the generators at the request of PUC as a "side project" above and beyond the requirements of their memorandum of understanding [MOU] with the utility.

He informed the public that an MOU was signed between PUC and EIG "to bring two units of Two megawatt Caterpillar generators to stabilize the power." He said those two generators should be online by January. After that point he hopes that what he called a "BOT" [build, operate, and turnover agreement] similar to the one that would provide the two Caterpillar generators would be signed to develop solar power, diesel generators, and hydro-electric power generation for the State.

"At the end of all of these processes we can expect major, major reduction in power costs to the customers," he said.

He stressed the "BOT" concept often during the question and answer session during the press conference. "The Build, Operate, and Turn-Over way of doing things actually frees Pohnpei State from initial capital [expense]," he said. "The company finances everything and recovers the cost by the rates so instead of us doing a loan...to pay them, they recover."

"Obviously BOT is going to be expensive right up front because financing is going to come from that private company. However, because we are moving to alternative energy,

and Pohnpei is the only State that is blessed with this natural resource," he claimed, "at the end we will have cheap power. When this company has gotten their money back and provided the services to our people. They're going to build it and operate it for a while and turn it over to our people."

KPress was privy to a previous incarnation of an EIG proposal in which the company estimated that it would be able to sell cash power to PUC for approximately 39 cents per kilowatt hour it generates with a 3 percent annual escalation rate. That per kilowatt price was in no way set in stone and we have no way of knowing whether or not the bid proposal they ultimately submitted for the sealed bid process exactly matched the earlier unsolicited proposal.

"There are pros and cons about that [the BOT concept] but I think it's important for a Governor to make a decision rather than waiting, and waiting, and waiting..."

Two sets of plaintiffs filed suit against the Governor in his official capacity in the week prior to the press conference. Each suit asks for a temporary restraining order [TRO] and a preliminary permanent injunction that would set aside the results of the Governor's Emergency orders. Those orders ended with the suspension of the PUC General Manager, and the firing of two PUC board members. The second of the two orders mandated that the Acting PUC General Manager sign the MOU with EIG for a "BOT" for power generation.

We asked the Governor what the ramifications would be if the court decided to issue a temporary restraining order and whether or not that would mean that EIG would then also have legal recourse in the matter.

"I have not been advised as to what the ramifications are but to me it's very simple. If TRO is granted for us to stop what we're doing, we stop," he exclaimed.

"The concern would be 'where does that take us?' Because my understanding is that

the TRO is asking that the effort be stopped so, if we stop the improvement of power even the plaintiffs will not have power. So that's my simple answer," he concluded.

Dave Arthurs of the Baptist radio station informed the Governor that the President had signed the FY2013 budget act and that it included \$1.56 million dollars designated for Pohnpei's power situation. He wanted to know how the Governor was going to use the money.

The Governor seemed surprised about that appropriation and said that all of his requests for funding to the FSM Congress, to PPA, to CFC and to other funding sources had been for power generation capacity. But because of the MOU with EIG and the "new work approach" it might not be needed specifically for that purpose. He said that he intends to use it for PUC but not for power generation.

Arthurs then asked if the Governor had any idea how much power leakage was caused by vines and other foliage overhanging the power lines.

The Governor said that if PUC has the capacity to determine how much leakage is taking place from power lines they have not previously passed that information on to his administration. He said that if money were made available he would consider bringing in an outside company with expertise on the matter to evaluate the situation and to make recommendations so that they could take corrective action.

Arthurs said that Congress received two other funding package to consider, one of them, Arthurs said was for a million dollars for each State to install 2 megawatts of solar power on each island. Arthurs wanted to know if that plan was in addition to his current plans or instead of what he already has planned. Based on history Governor Ehsa expressed his doubts that any of that funding would ever be received by the State.

"If this happens that will make history," he said, "because none of the funding that has

*See "Press Conference" on next page*

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**Bill Jaynes**  
*Managing Editor*

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## Congress mourns death of longtime member Claude H. Phillip

FSM Congress News

PALIKIR, POHNPEI. October 1, 2012 – The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia today mourn the passing of late Senator Claude H. Phillip who died on September 30, 2012, in the State of Kosrae after a long period of extended illness. He was 64.

Congressional Resolution 17-183, adopted today, conveys condolences from Members who mourn a valued colleague and true friend. Speaker Isaac V. Figir shared that the late Phillip had “contributed a lot to the nation and at Congress we are deeply saddened by the loss of a deeply respected leader.”

The late Senator Phillip was one of the nation’s longest serving Member having been first elected to the Third Congress of the FSM in 1983 as the two-year representative of the State of Kosrae. And for the next 28 years, the late Phillip was consecutively re-elected to the national Body where he served as the two-year representative

for the State of Kosrae. In 2007 he ran as a four year at-large member from the State of Kosrae and was seated to the 15th Congress as such and served in the same capacity for eight years May 2011 when he retired from the political arena.

Phillip devoted most of his lifetime as a public servant, with extensive services to the nation, as an elected representative. As one of the most senior members of the Congress, he was the longest serving Vice Speaker of the Congress – over 10 years and is one of only two Members to have held both a two-year and four-year seat. He also served as Floor Leader for the Fifth Congress and had at one time served on each of the Congressional Standing Committees either as the Chairman, Vice Chairman or as member.

Phillips services to the nation began right after his graduation from Doane College in Nebraska in 1971 with a BA in Political Science. He was

immediately hired by the Government of the Trust Territory in 1971 as an instructor of Social Studies at the Micronesian Occupational College (MOC) in Palau. As a young college graduate, Phillip was highly sought after and served in Palau for only three years. In 1973 he was promoted to be the Civic Affairs Office for the Marshall Islands and held this role for another three years.

After his role in the Marshall Island, in 1976, Phillip took on an intensive training course on legal defense offered in Kosrae and his successful completion of the course led him to join the Kosrae Public Defenders Office as a District Public Defender.

Phillip served the State of Kosrae in various roles and numerous capacities in its progress towards democracy. Among his more prominent roles is that of Chairman of the Kosrae Education for Self-Government task force where he was instrumental in the transition to self-governing. In 1978, he was appointed to the position of Land Commissioner for Kosrae and served in that capacity until his election to the Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia on March 8, 1983.

Claude H. Phillip is buried at the family cemetery in Lelu. He is survived by his wife Betty Olkeriil Phillip, their children and many grandchildren.

## ... Press Conference

*Continued from previous page*

come from China has reached the State of Pohnpei. Our plan has always been to do it on our own because year after year, request after request to the National Government has fell on deaf ears.”

In an unrelated comment in conclusion of his answer to Mr. Arthurs question Governor Ehsa seemed to have changed his mind on his earlier evaluation of the role that FSM Petroleum Corporation should be playing in Pohnpei power generation. It was difficult to tell from his statement, if that was the conclusion to which he had come.

“You may have read the KP Press where I repeated a conversation I had with the President in regard to FSM Petro. If there was cooperation at that time with Petro, no need for RFP or nothing because it would be a public corporation to a public corporation,” he said. “However, at the time I was discouraged, so was my cabinet because of the expression from the President of the National Government that Petro should stick to what they do, the supply of fuel. We’re always smarter in hindsight which I do believe that’s the case now.”

FSM PetroCorp is a plaintiff in a suit against the Governor that claims that he essentially usurped the legal bidding requirements for Pohnpei power generation.

Currently the representatives of FSM PetroCorp including its CEO are in Guam to train personnel who will be managing the fuel farm there. That venture will bring several million dollars into FSMPCs coffers and will significantly increase tax revenues that the FSM will receive from the corporation. This year FSMPC also retires its five year obligation to purchase fuel exclusively from Mobil and the corporation has begun its search for more competitive fuel suppliers.

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## Yap CES train prisoners to maintain sustainable gardens

**RULL, Yap (COM-FSM News)** — The public safety garden has a long history with the Yap Campus Cooperative Extension Services (Yap-CES). ANR Agent Gabriel Garamnang who retired on March 31, 2008, began a garden plot with mixed vegetables upon request from the Yap Chief of Public Safety. With the aim to provide year-round fruits and vegetable supplies for the prisoners, it was found that there were periods of low crop yields. The prisoners appealed to Yap-CES for a solution to their problem.

After a two-month intervention by the CES staff, the prison farm started producing year-round supplies of fresh vegetables such as string beans, Chinese cabbage, water spinach, snake beans and okra leaves. The farm was situated on an 18' x 40' plot. More than half of it was dedicated for planting Chinese cabbages, which was further divided into three sections. Chinese cabbages are planted and harvested in each section within three months before alternating to the other sections. This planting system ensures that the prisoners receive year-round supply of fresh vegetables.

Martin Ruwniyol, Steven Young Ukh and Stan Fal'Mngar of Yap CES conducted two formal gardening workshops for the prisoners on November 2011 and June 2012. The workshops

provided an overview of the programs and services provided by the CES as well as gardening principles and the review of skills already practiced by the prisoners.

The prisoners were trained to plan their garden carefully to include vital support like nursery, compost making, soil bed preparation and watering. Other skills such as trellising, crop rotation, container gardening, calculating production costs, environment and pest surveillance were also reinforced during the training.

The prisoners manifested the learning outcomes of the training through their skillful application of the gardening skills, concepts and practices that they were trained on. Their outlook on agriculture as a vocation improved through pre/post interviews and most of the prisoners considered starting their own farms after serving their terms in prison. Currently, prisoners' meals contain minerals, proteins, vitamins and other nutritional contents.

Twenty-six prisoners completed the training and received certificates of completion signed by Campus Dean Lourdes F. Roboman and the Vice President for CRE Jim W. Currie.

## 2012 Joint Committee Meeting: FSM and the USA

*FSM Information Services*

**October 3, 2012**

**FSM Dept. of Foreign Affairs (September 30, 2012):** The 2012 Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America was hosted by the US Ambassador to the FSM, Her Excellency Dorothea Maria Rosen and Rear Admiral Tilghman Payne from September 20-21 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Heading the FSM delegation was Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Honorable Lorin S. Robert, accompanied by Ambassador of the FSM to the US, His Excellency Asterio Takesy, and various officials from the National and State governments. The venue of this annual consultation rotates between the two nations to discuss and report on issues under the umbrella of the Title III provision dealing with security and defense as provided under the Compact as Amended.

On the 20th of September, Ambassador Rosen and her delegation invited the FSM delegation members to Pearl Harbor for a boat tour of the USS Arizona Memorial. At Pearl Harbor, the FSM delegation members met with high-level officials from the Department of Defense and were also given an historical presentation of the harbor, which included a short film on the events leading up to the surprise attack on the US Pacific Fleet stationed in Pearl Harbor in 1941. The visit to the USS Arizona Memorial was solemn as both delegation members paid respect to the many lives lost with a moment of silence.

The US hosted a dinner afterward, which gave both delegation members more time to interface and discuss matters of mutual interests.

The next day on the 21st, the official part of the JCM proceeded at Pearl Harbor Naval Base with exchanges of views, comments and reports from both the FSM and US delegations. The US side reported on its activities in the FSM since the last JCM in 2011, which included the Search and Rescue operations, the Construction Civic Action Detail projects and the ROTC program with the FSM Upward Bound students, to name a few. The FSM side delivered a presentation on the FSS Unity donated to the FSM by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The presentation specified on the capabilities of the new boat in assisting the Search and Rescue operations and combating transnational crime in the FSM. Secretary Robert commended the assistance and engagements of the government of the United States in the FSM, especially the Department of Defense, and stressed the importance to continue to build upon the strong and fruitful partnership.

On the occasion, Lt. Governor Carson Sigrah, head of delegation of Kosrae State was given the opportunity and delivered a statement on behalf of the people of Kosrae State, especially the family of the late SGT. Sapuro B. Nena. He stated that "Specialist Nena is among many in Micronesia, or the Federated States of Micronesia, who fell victim to the war on terrorism and it is the hope of many in our nation, that these casualties are testimony to our commitment to be one with the United States".

## JEMCO adopts three resolutions at annual meeting

*FSM Information Services*

**October 03, 2012**

**Palikir, POHNPEI (FSM Office of SBOC)** – The Joint Economic and Management Committee (JEMCO) met on September 19, 2012 in Honolulu Hawaii for its 2012 Annual Meeting.

Out of the three unanimous resolutions passed, the most notable was the retraction of a previously adopted resolution capping scholarship funding. JEMCO Resolution 2011-4, passed by the Committee at the 2011 Annual Meeting, resolved to limit Compact-funding for scholarships at \$1 million, which would have been a one-time cut of over \$1.2 million and affected more than 100 current scholarship recipients. Given efforts by the FSM Office of SBOC and National Department of Education to further clarify previously submitted data to OIA, JEMCO has now resolved to phase-out the funding cap over a four-year period rather than instituting a one-time cut-off.

Vice Chairman Lorin S. Robert began his opening remarks with a moment of silence in honor of a recently fallen FSM soldier in Afghanistan, Army Spc. Sgt. Sapuro Nena of Kosrae. Vice Chairman Robert assessed that "despite unflagging US assistance and the dedicated hard work of both governments, we are approaching the halfway point of the Amended Compact's financial provisions and the momentum toward our social and economic goals has yet to be established." He went on to note that the challenges that the FSM faces in nation-building have been made more difficult by the global economic downturn of the past few years. "But whatever has brought us to the point where we now stand, the message is clear: Ten more years of business as usual, ten more years of focus by this Committee primarily on unaccountability without more practical and direct encouragement with our economic development, is certain to leave us standing far short of our mutual Compact goals in 2023."

Chairman Nikolao Pula noted during his opening remarks that at this half-way point of the Amended Compact, several challenges need to be considered. First, the FSM as a whole must better manage the annual Compact funding decrements through a long-term fiscal framework. Second, serious reform is needed in Chuuk, particularly in education. To this end, Chairman Pula indicated that he looks forward to meeting with the Chuuk State Leadership in November to discuss a credible education reform process, appropriate ways of tracking and necessary monitoring with the end goal of delivering better education to the children of Chuuk. Third and finally, Chairman Pula expressed concerns regarding the timing of the JEMCO Meeting and reiterated his appeal to staff and relevant officials for the timely submission of information in order for JEMCO to make informed decisions and avoid unprecedented unfunding of programs.

The one month postponement of this year's annual JEMCO Meeting allowed more time for both FSM and US staff to exchange necessary information that would help guide decisions and budget allocations. Both Chairman Pula and Vice Chairman Robert expressed appreciation for all the work that went into making information available prior to the meeting. Chairman Pula concluded the meeting by congratulating the three governments that have completed the LTFF exercise and indicated that he looks forward to hearing about the remaining two, Pohnpei State and the National Government.

To request a full copy of the JEMCO Outcome document or for further information, please visit the Office of Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance & Compact Management Division of Compact Management's website at [www.sboe.fm](http://www.sboe.fm) or contact the SBOC Division of Compact Management at (691) 320-6260 or email [slowe@sboe.fm](mailto:slowe@sboe.fm).

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## Yap lab open day a great experience for students

**RULL, Yap (COM-FSM News)** — The Yap Health Services Department headed by its laboratory manager Maria Marfel, in coordination with several other agencies including COM-FSM Yap Campus, held a Lab Open Day Event to promote the field of medical laboratory science last Thursday, September 27, 2012 at the Small Business Development Center from 9:00am to 1:30pm.

The event featured speeches and poster contests among students from three of Yap State's high schools. Fourteen students from Yap Catholic High School, Outer Island High School and Yap High School Upward Bound students participated in contests with the theme: Medical Laboratory Science – The vital key

linking health history and diagnosis with a final confirmation.

In keeping with the main purpose of the Lab Open Day which is to promote awareness and interest in medical lab science careers, Deputy Director Dominic Tairuwemai of Yap Health Department challenged and encouraged students to pursue careers in this critical field during his opening remarks.

Contest participants from Yap Catholic High School included Austin Folbuw, Emmenuela Pugruw, April Laabrug, Kevin Sacres, Mercy Kentun, Kobe Sacres and Annalyn Tareg. From Yap High School were Dyanna Keiji, Kapiolani Gregorio, Vivina Tinmad and Dorinda Laayow.

Evaristus Junior Yolwa, Aprilyn Mangilwol and Sharlet Letul represented Outer Island High School. Although the contests were limited to high school students, Joy Guarin's Physical Science class from COM-FSM Yap Campus participated in the Lab Open Day event by observing the contests and getting free health screenings and lab tests at the site.

Dyanna Keiji won first in the speech category followed by Evaristus Yolwa and Kobe Sacres. For the poster contest, Sharlet Letul won first prize followed by Evaristus Yolwa and Aprilyn Mangilwol. First place winners for both contests will travel to Pohnpei in November this year to participate in the FSM-wide Lab Open Day event. Second and third place

winners each received \$200 and \$100 cash prizes, respectively.

According to Father John Mulreany, one of the teachers at Yap Catholic High, the event was a great experience for their young students. In her closing remarks, Maria Marfel thanked Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA) and Association of Public Health Labs (APHL) for their generosity in supporting and sponsoring this event. Senator Jesse Ragmar-SUBOLMAR, Chairman of Committee on Government, Health, and Welfare, also thanked all the students and encouraged them to seriously consider careers in this field which are greatly needed in the FSM. In her final address to the students, Ms. Marfel stated, "whether or not you were selected a contest winner...you are all winners in what you have accomplished today."

## Solid waste composition surveys completed in FSM

*Japan International Cooperation Agency*

JICA Micronesia Expert Volunteers in the technical fields of Environmental Education has completed the 2nd phase of J-AWARE (JICA Activity on Waste Audit Research) Project as part of their assignments with FSM's Environmental Protection Agencies. This second phase was a survey which aims to improve FSM's waste collection methods and management of public dumpsites.

Phase 1 of J-AWARE reported on the generated volume and weight of wastes collected per household in June 2011. In February 2012, J-AWARE 2 reported on the generated volume, weight, and kinds of wastes brought to the public dumpsites. JICA Expert Volunteers in all four States of the FSM implemented the basic survey at existing dumpsites to investigate the amount of garbage composition brought to the dumpsite.

With the assistance of EPAs and KIRMA staff the surveys were conducted in one week. The mean weight of wastes collected per day in Chuuk is 2.9tons, Kosrae is 0.7ton, Yap 2.7ton, and Pohnpei stands out at 13.8tons. JICA Expert Volunteers from EPA and KIRMA submitted their report to the Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) on July 4, 2012. "This collaboration with JICA and the State EPAs/KIRMA on J-AWARE project has been a success for us as it established good baseline information on waste collection. We are very happy to be part of this successful initiative," according to Director of OEEM, Mr. Andrew Yatilman.



JICA Volunteers in FSM get together at OEEM to report on J-AWARE 2

## - Pohnpei Public Library -

### New activities going on at the library

*Pohnpei Public Library*

October brings new programs to the libraries as three groups of GEAR UP students start their library skills program that will run through December. The staff welcomed all of them and talked to them about the policies and services of the library on their first visit. The Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library and the staff are so grateful to be able to work with GEAR UP this year. Ms. Freya Hoppert, a Peace Corps Volunteer, has prepared the lesson plans for this semester for the GEAR UP teachers to use during their visits to the library. The program is intended to help students learn how the library is organized and how to research topics using the resources at the library. This program meets Monday-Wednesday after school during GEAR UP.

Another new program that has just started is the College Prep Program. It's a program for interested seniors who are planning to further their education abroad after graduating. Volunteers from WorldTeach, Peace Corps, and Jesuit Volunteers International are working with students from PICS and OLMCHS to take needed entrance exams, explore educational options, and prepare applications. Students were chosen for the program through essays that explained why they wanted to study abroad and what they hoped to gain from the experience. This program meets weekly on Thursday evenings.



Pohnpei Public Library received \$107.00 from the Pohnpei Fishing Club as a donation. The money was raised from the Blue Nile Fishing Tournament raffles. The Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library, Board members and the staff, would like to express their sincere gratitude to the PFC and everyone who have contributed to this donation.

L-R, Mr. Andy Mursasrik-PFC, Mrs. Penny Weilbacher-FPPL President & Lester Ezekias-Head Librarian.

## ... Survey

*Continued from front page*

that of the 49,840 people living in the U.S., 16,790 of them were born on U.S. soil. It added that no effort was made to distinguish post-Compact and pre-Compact migrants.

It listed FSM average population growth statistics for the last five years for each of the areas covered by the survey. According to the executive summary:

- Guam has received 375 new FSM migrants per year and FSM families had 355 births per year.
- CNMI has received 80 new migrants per year and there were 80 births on average each year.
- Hawaii has registered 450 migrants per year and has 140 births yearly
- The U.S. mainland has been getting 1,200 new migrants per year, with a third of them coming from Guam and Hawaii. Migrants there report an average of 555 births per year.

Report authors added the words, "minus whoever is leaving or dying" only to the statistics for Hawaii and it is not clear whether those words also apply to the other regions.

Their summary also said that there is clear evidence of step migration from other places. For instance, a migrant family may have initially emigrated from the FSM to Guam and later to Hawaii. The

executive summary reported only step migration to the U.S. mainland. We did not see any reference to step migration amongst any of the other geographic locations in the report itself.

For each of the four geographic areas covered in the survey, the authors of the report listed the six topics they expected to cover in the report. Each section of the comprehensive study and report includes a category for each of the following topics:

- household size and composition, educational background of members, and financial status;
- major difficulties migrant groups may experience in getting affordable housing, access to health services, remedial education for children, salaried work, etc;
- extent to which migrant households depend on welfare programs and state support, in particular housing benefits, unemployment and other direct aid, as well as health benefits for the chronically ill, especially those on dialysis or in chemotherapy;
- contributions that migrant households may be making to their adopted homes (by volunteer work or other services) and to their native homes (through remittances and through participation in FSM activities such as elections);
- major adjustment problems experienced by migrant communities, especially as indicated by homelessness and crime rates;

- degree to which the migrant community appears to have taken on a stable form and become responsible for its own welfare by providing an authority system, a support system, and regulation of its own members.

The report was posted today on the website ([www.s boc. fm](http://www.s boc. fm)) of the FSM Office of SBOC [FSM Office of Statistics, Budget and Economic Management, Overseas Development Assistance, and Compact Management]. The report is lengthy and offers a wealth of statistical information and analysis of the statistics it presents, some of it quite surprising.

For example, contrary to the long held and mostly anecdotal belief that FSM migrants live in over-crowded quarters the survey revealed that "the size of the migrant household was rather small in comparison to the FSM." In FSM the household size according to the 2010 FSM Census ranges from 4.9 in Yap to 6.3 in Chuuk for an overall FSM average of 6.0 people per household. Migrant households ranged in size between 4.0 people in the U.S. mainland and Hawaii, to 5.4 people in Guam (down from 7.2 people 20 years ago.)

The report also suggested that the first signs of the "long awaited 'brain drain'" have arrived. It said that 5 percent of FSM migrants in Hawaii hold a bachelor's degree. 6 percent in the U.S. mainland obtained a Bachelor's degree. Only 4.3 percent of residents in the FSM hold at least a bachelor's degree. Clarification was not made as to whether the term "resident" included expatriates who were residents in the FSM at the time of the 2010 census.

The amount of reported remittances to family members still living in the FSM seemed to surprise the authors of the report most. The survey showed that only about \$3 million in cash and gifts per year [about \$60 per FSM migrant] is being sent back to the FSM. They found that migrants are not sending remittances on a regular basis but are instead responding to special requests from FSM family members.

The survey found that "only 10 percent of the households on Guam, 20 percent in Hawaii, 7 percent in CNMI, and 4 percent in the US mainland" claimed to be sending remittances.

Their surprise is understandable. "There is a large disparity between the remittance data in this survey and data collected in FSM. The 2010 FSM Census (Table B 19) records the total yearly remittance value as \$14,144,000", a footnote to the survey report says.

Few of the FSM migrants living in CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii have health insurance while 67 percent of FSM migrants living in the continental U.S. have health insurance.

"The annual income for the average household also increased as one moved from west to east," the report says. The

average household incomes, as recorded in the survey data, were: CNMI \$25,450, Guam \$24,800, Hawaii \$42,150, and U.S. mainland \$62,800."

"In the U.S. mainland, alone of all the sites, there were more cash earners than non-earners among migrants," the report says.

Other than in Hawaii, access to health care seemed to be low on the list of reasons given for migration. "This survey suggests that, if anything, the magnitude of the burden on the Hawaii health care system has been understated," the report said despite its earlier claims that it would not credit or discredit the claims of the host states.

The availability of government assistance also figured low on the list of reasons given for migration. Most government assistance plans are offered only to U.S. citizens and are not available to FSM migrants though they are available to their American-born children. "On Guam 58 percent of the households received food stamps; in CNMI 53 percent; in Hawaii 46 percent, and in mainland U.S. 35 percent. Other forms of welfare seem to have had minimal impact on FSM households," the report said.

Because of the population of FSM migrants is spread amongst numerous jurisdictions they authors of the report were not able to check crime statistics in the continental U.S. Through focus groups in several locations they could anecdotally say that the crime rate for FSM migrants in the continental U.S. was quite low. Arrests in Guam and Hawaii are high but of the 2,700 arrests of FSM people in Hawaii in 2010, all but 218 were for misdemeanors. In Guam, FSM people represent 8.5 percent of the population but in 2010 that population accounted for 63 percent of all the arrests reported on Guam for that year. "On the other hand, the arrests are mostly for the usual 'payday weekend' offenses," the report characterized the offenses and then listed what they meant by their descriptive term: "DWI, assault, theft, and domestic abuse. Most of the violations of law were relatively minor, and sentences were short."

Again, the survey covers a great deal of information that can in no way be covered comprehensively here. It can be found on the Compact Management Division tab of the SBOC webpage ([www.s boc. fm](http://www.s boc. fm)).

On the whole, authors concluded that FSM migrants who settle in the U.S. mainland appear to fare better on the whole than migrants who settle in CNMI, Guam, or Hawaii. But then the distance and accessibility back to the FSM migrants homeland is just one of the tradeoffs.

In a Facebook posting that gave a very short summary of the report over a week ago, Father Francis Hezel turned Horace Greeley's famous quote around saying, "Go east, young man!"

## TELEVISION PRODUCER TRAINING



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## USDA announces Intermediary Relending Program Loan to Pacific Islands Development Bank

USDA Rural Development

**HILO, HI, September 24, 2012** –USDA Rural Development State Director Chris Kanazawa announced today announced the selection of Pacific Islands Development Bank. (PIDB) to receive an Intermediary Relending Program loan to promote economic development and job creation through increased business lending.

“These funds support the Obama Administrations ongoing effort to bring increased economic opportunity to rural small businesses and communities in the Western Pacific,” Kanazawa said. “We have a long-standing partnership with PIDB and this award is a demonstration of our continued support for the mission of PIDB and to local businesses and business owners.”

The funding is being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Intermediary Relending Program. The total amount of loan announced today is \$400,000. The Intermediary Relending Program provides funds to organizations to establish revolving loan pools that are used to finance business and economic development activity to create or retain jobs in rural communities. “PIDB has had a successful track record in providing assistance to rural small businesses in Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia

(FSM), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands,” stated Joseph Diego, Area Director for USDA Rural Development. “The IRP funds will assist businesses to finance working capital, machinery and equipment and real estate-related transactions.”

“The success of the IRP program is evident throughout the region and many small and medium size enterprises were established with direct financing from this program,” stated Aren Palik, President and CEO of PIDB. Small businesses and entrepreneurial skills are a vital component of economic growth and development, the IRP funds will be utilized primarily for that purpose.”

The Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB) has received over \$2 million under this program and hundreds of jobs have been created or saved. The funds are used to finance approved business proposals from PIDB member islands which includes Guam, Republic of

Palau, FSM States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Republic of the Marshall Islands who attained its membership last year.

PIDB was established in 1989 to help accelerate economic and social

development of member countries. It was created in response to a long-standing desire on the part of these small island nations for a development institution that would focus on the pressing needs and problems of the region.

PIDB helps foster sustainable economic and social development in the member countries through its lending program and operation, technical assistance, business advice and counseling, scholarship and internship program, and collaboration with regional governments and organizations. These programs run the gamut from promoting poverty reduction and improving standards of living to providing support for productive economic activities such as agriculture, fisheries, and small business.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an active portfolio of more than \$172 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

I would like to apologize for any spelling or typographical errors in this issue of The Kaselehlie Press. A few months ago our volunteer proofreader had to resign due to other life commitments. The person who has volunteered to take her place was off island for this issue and to compound matters we had to rush to print due to important documentation on one of our stories we did not receive until well past our deadline. Rather than delay publication we decided to cross our fingers and send it out with only cursory proofreading.

I apologize for any mistakes we may have made. We had to make the decision to pull the trigger and send it out as is.

**Bill Jaynes**  
Managing Editor  
The Kaselehlie Press

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## Stepping stones to gender equality, HIV awareness and coping with climate change

SPC Headquarters

04th OCTOBER 2012

Community participation and decision making are key to promoting gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and an understanding of how climate change affects these issues.

This is the view of Stepping Stones Fiji Project Officer Tura Lewai, who said, 'Sessions on gender are the main sessions in all the communities where we do our advocacy work.'

'We believe that awareness of gender inequalities must come before we can properly undertake HIV awareness work.' Stepping Stones is a series of workshops funded by the Pacific Islands HIV and STI Response Fund and implemented by the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International. The Stepping Stones programme is helping communities see the link between gender inequality, gender-based violence and HIV, and how climate change plays a role in adding to women's burdens.

The Response Fund, which is financed by major donors — the Australian Agency for International Development and the New Zealand Agency for International Development — is managed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). It is financially supporting programmes aimed at making a difference in communities across the region.

With traditional gender roles that influence power and privilege, women's vulnerability is increased by a dependence on natural resources for their livelihoods, resources that are threatened by climate change.

Added to their vulnerability are low incomes and secondary responsibilities, such as caring for the elderly and children.

While acknowledging the importance of culture, Mr Lewai said that raising awareness about gender equality has become a primary objective of the Stepping Stones programme. It is the first step towards implementing a human rights-based approach to raising awareness about HIV and climate change, and is proving to be effective in many of Stepping Stones' outreach programmes.

SPC's Climate Change Advisor Pasha Carruthers said, 'Climatic conditions and extreme events will hurt food security and the well-being of Pacific Islanders, with women bearing the brunt of the impact due to the responsibility they hold in Pacific communities in relation to food security, health and the well-being of a household.' Sixty-two year-old matriarch Priya Wati can attest to the impact a changing climate and extreme weather events are having on her family's lives. For the past 40 years, Mrs Wati has lived in the farming community of Sabeto, between Nadi and Lautoka on the western side of Fiji's main island, Viti Levu.

In the space of three years, she has witnessed a level of flooding and associated destruction that she had not encountered before in a region previously renowned for its fertile soils and hot, sunny weather. Yet in 2012 alone, the family's crops and livestock were twice destroyed by floods.



Stepping Stones health officer, Mr. Tura Lewai

The April flood, described as Fiji's worst, wiped out the family's efforts to replant their crops after the February flood. Mrs Wati said, 'In the past, we didn't have to run to higher ground, because the rain was just enough to water our farms. These weather patterns are very confusing to an old person like me. We used to know how to tell the seasons and forecast changes by observing our natural surroundings. Now it's very hard.'

Mr Lewai believes that increasing community awareness about HIV and climate change will be made easier as people learn to address imbalances in power and control within their communities.

'The increasing demand for Stepping Stones in the Pacific region speaks volumes for the success of the programme. It has been embedded in the National Strategic Plan for Fiji until 2014, and is being implemented in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and the Northern Pacific,' said Mr Lewai.

## ...Lawsuit

Continued from front page

At that time he announced the winning bidder to be EIG and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with EIG. But on the following Sunday the Legislature nullified the Governor's Executive Order and set this back to the position they were in before the September 3 order.

Plaintiffs alleged that Governor then issued another executive order that mandated that Hadley, who was assigned as the Interim Manager of PUC, sign another MOU with EIG. Governor Ehsa's response to the claims of the plaintiffs is that the Executive Order did not order PUC to sign an MOU with EIG. Rather it instructed PUC to execute an agreement with the provider that IT selected.

The affidavits from Robert Hadley and from Nixon Anson that were filed as part of the Governor's response to the lawsuit both say that the events that next occurred differ from what the Plaintiffs allege. On September 12, 2012 the PUC Evaluation and Selection Committee did meet and did rank the bidders.

The committee members included Nixon Anson, Assistant General Manager for Power Generation and Distribution. Anson served as chair of the committee. Initially Robert Hadley was part of the committee but when he assumed the position of PUC's Interim General Manager he removed himself from the committee. Other members were Johnny Adolph, Dackson Solomon, Winfred Yamada, Daisy Nanpei, and Esmond Moses.

The committee evaluated and ranked the bids using the "PUC determined evaluation method." The committee's ranking was 1) Balanced Utility Solutions with a total of 920 points, 2) EIG, with a total of 904.17 points, and 3) FSM Petroleum Corporation with a total of 839.17 points.

"You have the discretion to select and award to a bidder who has the option to relief our current power situation as well as long term solution for Pohnpei," Anson wrote in his letter to Hadley informing him of the committee's results.

Hadley then used a different approach, the "quality-base cost" approach, and averaged the numeric results of the committee with his own numeric findings which resulted in EIG's being the top bidder, Balanced Utility Solutions in second position, and FSM Petroleum Corporation in third place.

"It was a group action and the committee was very much involved," Hadley said by phone today.

Governor Ehsa's response included rebuttals to the allegations that he acted above and beyond the authority given to him as Governor on a large number of points, all well reasoned and backed by legal interpretations. Unfortunately we will have to delay coverage of all of those points and authorities for the next issue of The Kaselehlie Press.

A hearing on the motion for a TRO is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2012 at FSM Supreme Court.

Meanwhile the Governor has sent his nominations for PUC Board members to the Pohnpei State Legislature. The nominees are Inos Bonapart, Reed Oliver, Nelpet Perec, Trevayne Esiel, Kamoperson Asher, Frank Rosario, and Justina Olter.

### NOTICE TO MICARE MEMBERS

5% Patient Share of Air Fare Cost

*Part 5.4 (a) of the  
MiCare Regulations,  
as amended effective  
October 1, 2013.*

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## Conservation easement underway for the world's last remaining intact stands of Ka forests in Micronesia

*TOFOL, KOSRAE, FSM, October 02, 2012*— Of the unique island ecosystems found across Micronesia, the still-reputed and unspoiled Yela Ka Forest in Kosrae has set a precedent to terrestrial island ecosystem conservation across the region. The recent passage of a bill by the Kosrae legislature approving two grants totaling in the amount of USD505,000; gives island conservation entities and collaborators of Yela Environmental Landowners Authority (YELA), a green-flashy “GO” signal to request and implement funding support from the US federal government for a Forest Legacy Program (FLP).

According to Katie Friday, US Forest Service, FLP Manager for Micronesia, “Kosrae has marked another milestone of the forest legacy program in Micronesia through the passage of this bill by the island legislature”.

“Despite the several legislative hearings held, a significant turnout of 13-0 votes received from members of the legislature has implied a strongly conservation-minded body of island legislatures towards the state’s greater vision of conserving areas of biological significance which includes our remaining and ancient stands of terminalia trees and landscapes in the world; found only here in Yela, Kosrae”, said Director Robert H. Jackson of the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA).

Kosrae’s forest areas are becoming destroyed, and mostly threatened to make way for economic development and modernized living; as evident from construction of roads, in-filling of mangrove areas for residential, and deforestation of natural intact landscapes. The remaining intact and undisturbed forest lands in Kosrae supply wood products for local needs, improve habitat for birds and wildlife animals, increase protection for soils and important plants that support and contribute to ecosystem services and supply food, enhance watershed protection and enrich recreational opportunities. As these areas are deforested, further developed and disturbed, so do the benefits they will provide for future generations.

With the 2008 passage of the US Farm Bill, FSM has become eligible for getting assistance of the FLP. An Assessment of Need (AON) was required and completed prior to the initiation of the FLP in Kosrae state with a principle goal to aid in the protection of high priority native forests that are currently owned in private or will be transferred back to private in the future; with more emphasis into protection aimed at reducing conversion of forest to non forest uses. The FLP meets its goal and objectives by purchasing land or development rights of willing private landowners through legally-binding conservation easements.

KIRMA as a semi-autonomous agency of the Kosrae State Government with duties equivalent to the Environmental Protection Agencies of the other states of the FSM. Its mandate is to "Protect the environment, human health, welfare and safety; to abate, control and prevent pollution or contamination

of air, land and water in accordance with Title 19 of the Kosrae State Code, and is overseen by a board of commissioners engaged to balancing the needs of economic and social development with those of environmental quality; and to ensure that economic and social development in Kosrae State is environmentally sustainable, and preserve the State's forests and wildlife and regulate activities that affect them."

As the environmental protection and conservation arm of the Kosrae State Government; KIRMA, with full support of Governor Lyndon H. Jackson is implementing the FLP in partnership with the USDA Forest Service to identify areas of biological significance or high priority native forest for conserving from degradation, and conversion to non-forests uses; in perpetuity through purchasing of conservation easements. A legally-binding agreement transferring a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another, without removing the property from private ownership until the end of time; a conservation easement is underway to prove its success on the first time ever to the Yela Ka Forest of Micronesia and greatly contribute to Kosrae’s commitment to effectively manage 20 percent of forest resources declared under the Micronesia Challenge.

YELA as the grantee and KIRMA would be a party as the grantor to the Conservation Easement, charged with the duty to enforce compliance under special circumstances described in the terms and conditions set forth when approved by both parties to the easement.

The Yela Ka Forest Legacy project site contains a single parcel with an area of 316,375 square metres owned by 10 families that make up the heirs of Alik Kufus, as stated in the Kosrae Land Court issued certificate of title. The parcel is amongst several that occupy the lower Yela valley encompassing approximately 41 acres of the dominating terminalia forest. The legacy project site covers almost entirely the gateway into the Yela valley and comprised of three distinct ecosystems: from a view from the ocean towards the valley; a portion of the mangrove forest located south at the drainage area of the property, with a large portion of the only remaining stands of terminalia carolinensis trees, locally known as “Ka” dominating the central part of the property and upland-broadleaf forest within the elevated areas. The landowners will receive revenue from the sale of the permanent conservation easement but still maintain the right to own, use and enjoy their property as agreed to and stated in the easement. Additionally, a landowner’s forest stewardship plan will be developed to identify the landowner’s objectives and describe actions to protect and manage soil, water, aesthetic quality, recreation, timber, and fish and wildlife resources and other conservation and management values identified on the legacy parcel.

By sale of the easement, the YELA organization has made plans to set up a generational equity endowment that allows



the organization to meet the needs of future generations. The endowment may also provide future opportunities such as providing scholarships for coming generations of the Yela family members are only some plans made available and known to date.

The FLP is a competitive grant program with 50 US participating states and territories annually competing for Federal funds under the program. A participating parcel will become a forest legacy project when approved locally and ranked high nationally in the program. FLP-funded projects serve public purposes identified by participating state’s AON and agreed to by the landowner, such as providing and preserving open space, protecting state watershed areas or rivers, and providing sustainable forest products to support the local or regional economy.

The Yela Ka Forest Legacy Project, was approved locally and ranked well at 18th nationally, in the United States, and is supported by FSM National Government, The Nature Conservancy, US Forest Service Review Appraiser, the Micronesia Conservation Trust, Lucille & David Packard Foundation, US Forest Service, the Micronesia Challenge, Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization and KIRMA to conserve in perpetuity the ancient and intact terminalia trees and landscapes in the Yela Ka Forest. With the approval of two grant proposals, an administration grant in the amount of USD 5000, and an acquisition grant of 500,000 dollars, submitted by KIRMA; further work accomplishment must strive to meet a dateline of one year by the project collaborators and the state agency.

“It has been over five years that the YELA organization seeks to get support from the state and the US federal government to put in place a concrete measure that will protect if not in perpetuity the only remaining intact stands of terminalia carolinensis trees in the world”, said YELA Executive Director Tholman Alik.

A forest legacy project focuses on private forest landowners and must rank high, nationally in the US to participate and receive funding under the forest legacy program. To maximize the public benefits it achieves,



the forest legacy program targets mainly acquisition of interest in privately owned forest lands, by which 75 percent is granted funding with 25 percent coming from participating state, local or private sources.

With the bill passing the scrutiny and gaining support of the legislature, the full-fledged acquisition grant proposal which comprised of dollar amount based on the land appraisal value, whereby 75 % will be US federally funded and a matching 25 % coming from other sources. This 25% required matching is already committed by the Lucille & David Packard Foundation and will be administered by the Micronesia Conservation Trust based in Pohnpei State, FSM. Both funding source allocations have already been committed with pre-defined expiration dates. KIRMA, YELA and main collaborators from The Nature Conservancy and the Micronesia Conservation Trust are working currently hard to accomplish requirements and due diligence processes required under the FLP.

Spearheaded by the US Forest Service FLP Manager, at a three week interval; an international call conferencing has been in success since the early part of May of this year to bring up to date all requirements including due diligence processes from both parties of the conservation easement with full support from its main collaborators.

## K Press Perspective

### A small matter of respect

For a few weeks I have been following a thread on the Micronesia Forum ([micronesiaforum.org](http://micronesiaforum.org)). The participants in that thread discuss the fact that raw sewage is consistently being dumped into one particular river in Colonia. I know that river and when I took photographs near the pumping station to accompany a story I wrote about the problem a few years ago I was disgusted to see wads of used toilet tissue hanging from brush on the banks and damningly dangling from the lip of the overflow pipe.

PUC representatives then told me that the overflow pipes at each of the pumping stations had been designed into the system when it was first built and that the only times they overflowed into the river were when the power was out or the pump was broken. Both of those events happened then and still happen quite frequently.

Of course those of us who live here are all aware that there certainly is more than one overflow pipe that spills its detritus either into a river or straight into the lagoon most especially those who live close to a pumping station.

In some ways EPA's hands were tied on the matter. They issued notices of the environmental hazard to PUC. PUC in turn told them they were working on it and just needed a little bit more time before fines kicked in. They worked on it and fixed it temporarily and that was that; over and over again, a seemingly constant series of reboots, and repeats.

It seemed to me at the time and it seems to me

still that EPA is legally empowered to enforce the law but simply lacks the will to appear mean while doing so, whether that be in the eyes of corporations like PUC, or those of residents with shoreline benjos or pig pens. EPA just seems to lack the political "want to", to really carry out the harsh things that seem to be necessary in order to protect the environment.

But if the 23 or so comments on the Micronesia Forum are any indication, perhaps the political environment is changing. Most of the comments on that thread essentially screamed for the removal of government executives, legislators, and others, so that someone who cares enough about the damage to Pohnpei's environment to actually do something about it could come in and do it.

It seems to be something similar to what happened in the United States in the 1960's that led an infamous Republican President, Richard M. Nixon to establish the Environmental Protection Agency in the U.S., an agency with real legal teeth. Republicans, as a party have never been particularly famous for their "green" leanings. So why did a Republican President establish such a ferocious watchdog agency when certainly that agency would be required to go after big business polluters? He did it because there was a groundswell of discontent amongst the U.S. citizenry about the condition of the environment that started at the grass roots level.

Maybe the few comments of those who posted on the "sewage" thread don't amount to an actual "groundswell" yet but I guess it's a start. EPA can't actually do its job effectively unless it has the support of the public; a citizenry mandate that says, "our environment is so important to us that we're willing to let you do

whatever you need to do to help us preserve it, even if it's a bit painful."

My feeling is that there is still a long way to go toward that end. The Micronesia Forum thread was encouraging but everyday life reminds me that people in Pohnpei are still not truly ready to let EPA do the job it is required to do by law.

Once again this weekend, neighbors across the river from me in Sekere dumped their non-biodegradable trash into the river where some of it sat and still sits days later, in the current lodged firmly behind a downed banana "tree". The rest of it floated off down river never to be seen again by the offenders but certainly to be seen by their neighbors downstream; neighbors they apparently don't care about, not to put too fine a point on it.

That mentality is a real surprise coming as it so often does, from people whose culture not only demands "respect for the land upon which we stand, Pohnpei Sarawi", [a phrase that Secretary Lorin Robert began to include in his speeches in Pohnpei several years ago] but also for each other.

People still chuck their trash into rivers or onto road sides with no regard whatsoever for who will have to clean up after them. Then they wag their fingers at EPA or government leaders demanding them to do something about the problem of environmental degradation in Pohnpei when clearly the responsibility lies with each of us.

If nothing else it's a matter of respect really

I understand that the entire sewer line and the treatment plant are being completely revamped including the pumping stations. It's not really even close to done yet and only time will tell if that will be the solution to the problem of human waste flowing directly into Pohnpei's waters. They say that it will be.

Sewage dumped into rivers may well be out of our personal control although I feel that we should never cease our efforts to try to influence those who can control it to do so. But neither the government nor the utility is throwing trash in the rivers...we are. That should stop too, and it's easy. It starts with each one of us.

Expecting EPA or anyone else to do something about a problem that we obviously care so little about will never work and is nothing short of hypocritical. The law says it should work; that EPA is empowered to issue fines to environmental violators but then fines are just a means of external motivation for a problem whose solution will only come about when we are internally motivated. A fine is just a way to make the problem important enough to do something about it.

In a perfect world the EPA would not even be needed. Too bad it's not a perfect world.

*Bill Jaynes*  
*Managing Editor*

### PTS resumes temporary bus service to affected areas

*Yap Department of Youth and Social Affairs*

*October 10, 2012*

The Public Transportation System has opened new bus routes to those areas that have been affected by the heavy rain associated with the bad weather condition surrounding the island.

The weeklong of heavy rain which has deteriorated parts of the secondary roads in Tomil and Maap has cut access to Colonia for residents from certain villages in both municipalities.

The condition of the roads has forced the Public Transportation System to temporarily suspend bus service to those areas until it has come up with a solution. The temporary suspension took effect since last week at the beginning of the monsoon.

Temporary bus service to those affected areas has resumed in both municipalities today, October 9, 2012.

In Tomil municipality, a bus started picking up riders from within the village this morning and dropped them off in Tomilal and everyone walked from there to catch a second bus at a location in Mathanoo' area. That second

bus has transported them to Colonia to drop off government and private employees and continued on to drop off students at Yap High School.

According to the Public Transportation System, the bus temporary bus schedule will continue until such a time the road conditions are improved. However, the Public Transportation System had mentioned it will discontinue the service if the number of people riding the bus is not sufficient enough or is less than 15 passengers.

The Public Transportation System had also resumed bus service to Maap today, October 9, 2012. However, the bus service to Maap is limited to only those people living closer or within the area where the Windmill is situated.

Bus service to Wenad, Waloy or Bechyal village is still not possible. According to a statement by PTS, it will resume its normal routes to those villages once the road conditions have shown improvement.

In addition, the Public Transportation System has made a slight change on service route to the Yap Catholic High School. Starting today, bus will be dropping off and will be picking up students at Bla'ar until the road conditions gets better.



### These people are among those not making payments at Village Travel

Frank Darra

Mathson Mathew

Sam Gallen

Kent Cheipot

Aiorihda Enicar

Kedsem Lihpai

Ihper John

Wanita Obispo

Samuel Nathan

Mary Ann Phillip

Martina Poll

Sinisio Sarafin

Osao Saimon

Mike Robert

Kisako Hans

Carmina Salle

Lorna Manuel

Thelma Johnson

Mat Kuor

John Weilbacher

# U.S. honors fallen soldier from Kosrae

*Embassy of the United States of America*

SGT Sapuro Brightley Nena, 25, was an FSM citizen killed in action while manning his observation post on September 16 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. His body was flown to Kosrae on a military transport plane along with a Military Honor Guard from Fort Lewis, Washington.

The funeral and memorial service were held October 8. The memorial service was held in the Moses T. Mackwelung Gymnasium. Speakers at the memorial service included the U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, Doria Rosen, the FSM Vice President, Alik Alik, the Kosrae Governor, Lyndon Jackson, and the Deputy Commanding General of the 7th Infantry Division, Brigadier General Billy Don Farris. After the memorial service his body was transported to his family's cemetery for burial. The service was held with full military honors.

SGT Nena was born in Kosrae and educated in Hawaii. His last four years were in the U.S. Army where he was stationed at Fort Lewis with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. This was his second deployment to a

combat arena. His first was in Iraq.

SGT Nena was a highly decorated soldier. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal (twice), Army Achievement Medal (twice), Meritorious Unit Citation (twice), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Driver's Badge.

He is survived by his wife, Sherlyn Nena; his mother, Mary Ann Nena; his father Brightley Nena; three brothers, and one sister.



*SGT Nena*



*SGT Nena's body arriving at Kosrae Airport*



*SGT Nena's mother and wife receiving the American flag*

## TARIFF CHANGES ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The Board of Directors and Management of the FSM Telecommunications Corporation would like to inform the general public that Phase II of its tariff change schedule will begin October 1st, 2012. New rates that will take effect are as follows:

- Landline Residential. . . . . \$12 per month**
- Landline Business. . . . . \$24 per month**
  
- Calling 411 from Landline. . . . . \$0.25 per call**
- Calling 411 from Mobile. . . . . \$0.25 per minute**
  
- Local Cell Calls Voice. . . . . \$0.15 per minute**
- Cell SMS (Text). . . . . \$0.10 per message**

All Value Added Services (VAS) features (caller ID, call waiting, call forwarding, speed dialing, etc) will be available to customers free, as part of the basic landline service.

**ALL VALUE ADDED SERVICES WILL BE FREE!**

CALLER ID AND ALL OTHER VALUE ADDED SERVICE (CALL WAITING, CALL FORWARDING, SPEED DIALING, 3-WAY CALLING) WILL BE PART OF THE BASIC SERVICE.  
Note: We do not provide or sell Caller ID units.

Customers can block their landline phones from calling 411 for a service connection fee of \$6.00 and monthly charge of \$2.00 for 411 block. Cell block charges are separate.

Should there be any questions or comments regarding this public announcement, please do not hesitate to contact any of your local FSMTC offices. Thank you for your support and continued business.



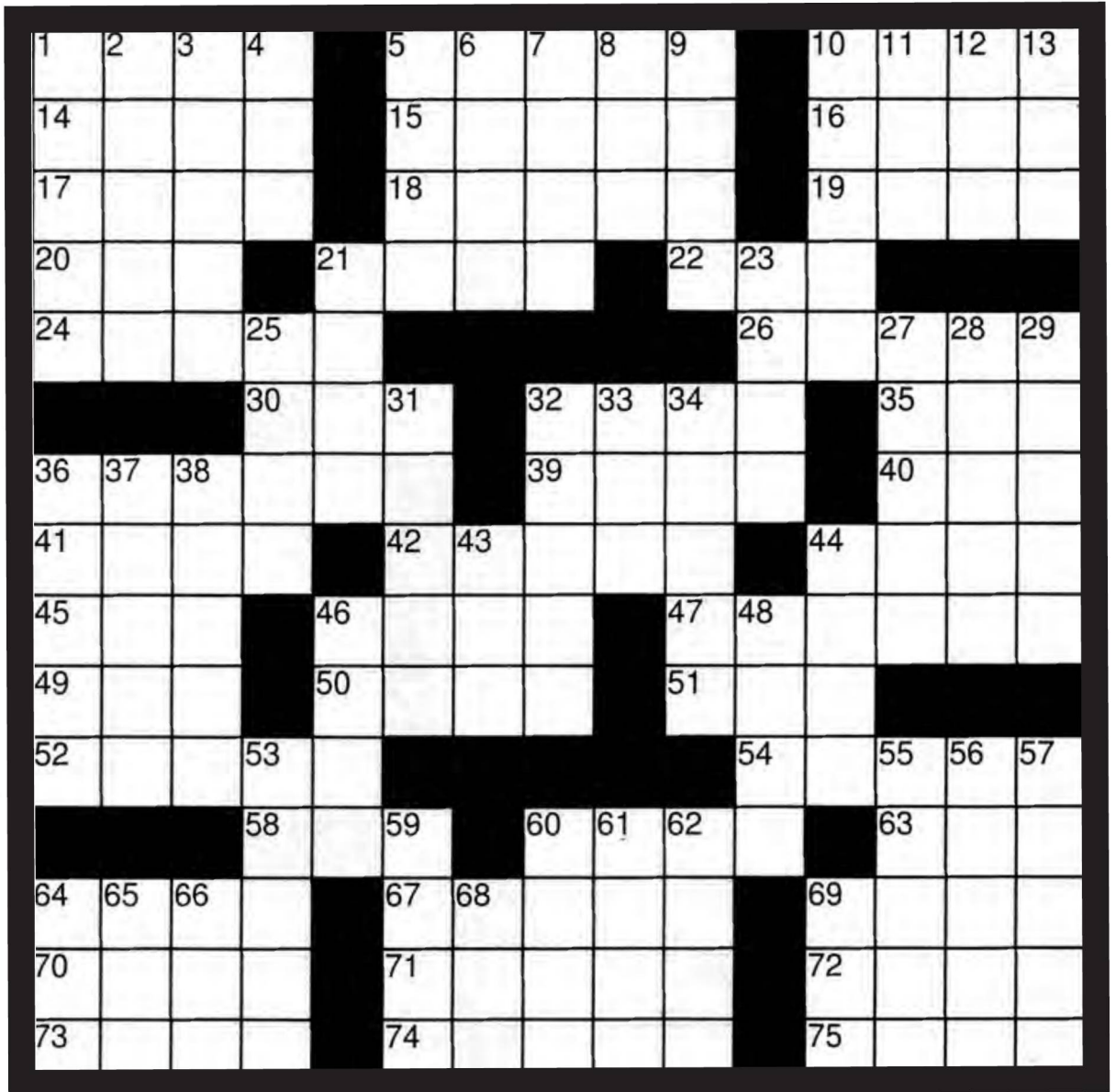
# Crossword - Plenty!

## ACROSS

1. Baja rahs
5. Stamps
10. Pts. and qts.
14. Cap-\_\_\_
15. Trash
16. Sand
17. Jazz fans
18. "Halt, salt!"
19. Blvds. and rds.
20. Map abbr.
21. Plan part
22. Tarzan's pal
24. "Walk away \_\_\_"
26. Warms
30. Small flap
32. Las Palmas cash
35. RSVP part
36. Cash back
39. Latch \_\_\_
40. Jazz gp.
41. Track path
42. Bad lad's grab
44. Bawl
45. Ran
46. Charlatan
47. Warns
49. Change and \_\_\_
50. Aardvark snacks
51. Garland
52. Harsh
54. Warmth
58. Flap
60. Nana
63. \_\_\_Baba
64. Smart
67. Hallway
69. Dash
70. 24-Karat
71. Gap
72. Staffs
73. Marsh grass
74. ADAs and TAs
75. Flank

## DOWN

1. AMPAS award
2. Strand
3. Had
4. Grad. class
5. Bat a gnat
6. Mansard part
7. Stat
8. AF rank
9. \_\_\_ trap
10. Match
11. D.C. Cab star
12. Draw
13. AL and WA
21. Pants part
23. "Rats!"
25. Catchall abbr.
27. MTMs
28. Lama's land
29. Smacks
31. Start
32. Standard and \_\_\_
33. Naval grad
34. Snach
36. Play parts
37. Match
38. Pass
43. \_\_\_ bran
44. Small dam
46. Catch
48. Slant
53. Ran a 10K
55. \_\_\_ Lama
56. Chan man
57. Wash
59. Man \_\_\_  
Mancha
60. Scams
61. Nap
62. Mars
64. Y class
65. Cast
66. Wrath
68. 1948 pact
69. 911 abbr.



K Press Puzzle Pleasure K Press Puzzle Pleasure

## RESTAURANT DINING

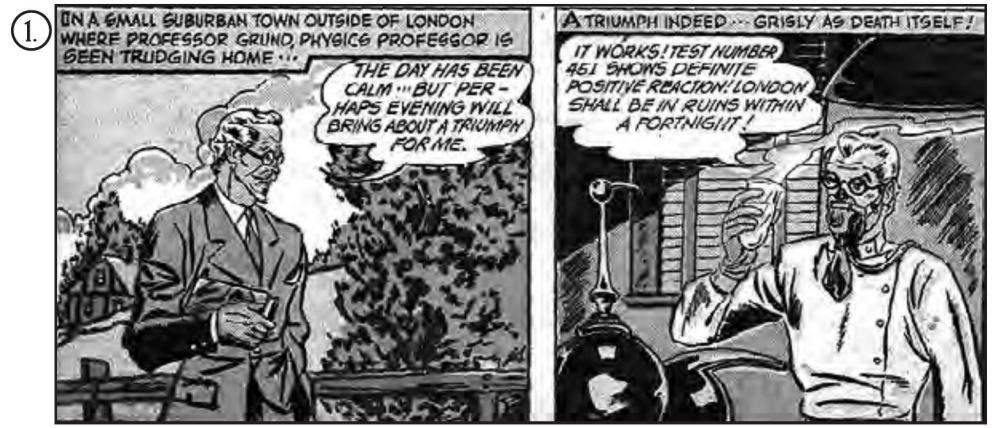
Is all this solving making you hungry? Then treat yourself to a nice meal at your favorite RESTAURANT. The 38 terms in this puzzle are all associated with dining out.

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

BOOTH  
 BREAD  
 BREAKFAST  
 BUSBOY  
 CASHIER  
 CHECK  
 COFFEE  
 COOK  
 COURSE  
 CUISINE  
 DINNER  
 DISH  
 DRINK  
 ENTREE  
 FARE  
 FISH  
 HOSTESS  
 KITCHEN  
 LUNCH

MAITRE D'  
 MANAGER  
 MEAT  
 MENU  
 MUSIC  
 NAPKIN  
 ORDER  
 PLATE  
 RESTAURANT  
 SALAD  
 SEAFOOD  
 SERVICE  
 SILVER  
 SOUP  
 SPECIAL  
 TABLE  
 TRAY  
 UNIFORM  
 WAITER





See what becomes of London and the mysterious Liquid X in the next issue of the Kaselehlie Press on October 29!!

This comic was released in January 1944 in a 50 page book and was sold for 10 cents. Let us know what you think of our comic page. Email us at [kpress@mail.fm](mailto:kpress@mail.fm)

# New Chuuk Post Office opens – new substation to open at Pohnpei airport

FSM Postal Service

**Weno, Chuuk**—A new Chuuk Post Office was officially opened Sept. 06, 2012. About 200 people showed up for the opening. Governor Johnson Elimo of Chuuk State, Speaker of the Chuuk Legislature Mr. Innocente Oneisom, Mayor of Johnny Pintas of Weno Chuuk all spoke during the opening and each one thanked President Manny Mori for a great accomplishment for the State of Chuuk. Having suffered for the past years has definitely changed the feel of the people of Chuuk regarding the mail.

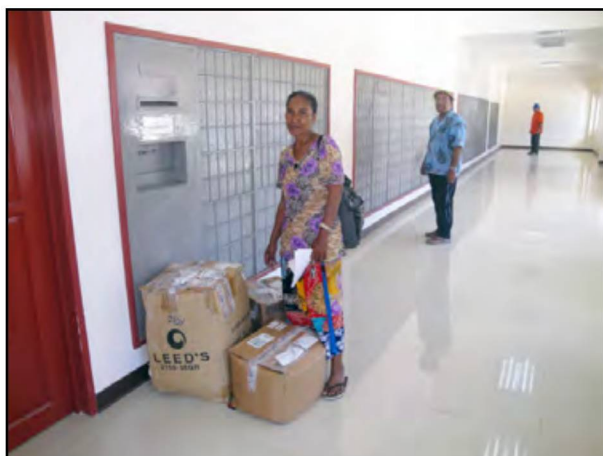


to the Chuuk International airport.

Two officials from Washington DC Mr. Leo B. Tudela Director Asia Pacific Intl Relations, Global Business, USPS Headquarters, Washington DC, and Mr. Randall F. Sobol, Operations Specialist, Global Business, USPS Headquarters, Washington, DC also attended the opening. Mr. Tudela assured the FSM Post Master General Ginger Porter Mida that the USPS will continue to cooperate and support the FSM Postal Service as best they can.

The Chuuk Post Office presently has more than 2000 active post office boxes. They will soon have additional 2000 or more post office boxes in addition to the existing boxes which are all taken. There are more than 200 post office box applicants waiting for the arrival of the new boxes which USPS has shipped to Chuuk and will soon be arriving for additional installation to the existing boxes.

In addition to the newly opened Chuuk Post Office, FSM Postal Service will open a new sub-station at the Pohnpei International airport next month. This sub-station will serve as a regular post office where customers can ship parcels. It will also sell Philatelic items for collectors. It will also be there to aid customers who may find that they have excess baggage and would like to be able to ship those items. This will save instead the hassle and worry about having to come back into town to have them shipped to your destination. It will also help avoid the extra fee for additional weight since customers will be able to send their items at a cheaper rate to be delivered to your door step at your destination if they are traveling to the USA.



The Post Office is located in front of High Tide Hotel next

## MICARE 5K FUN WALK/RUN

October 27, 2012  
(Saturday) @ 7:00 A.M.

\$5.00 Registration Fee/T-Shirts to all Finishers

Medals to the Top Finishers

First prize to Overall Winner

Free Medical Check-up

Start and Finish at Palm Terrace Shopping Center  
Proceeds will go toward MICARE Humanitarian Trust Fund  
For more info, please contact MiCare @ 320-2549/3415/5865 or  
FSMNOC @ 320-8914



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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Pohnpei, FM 96941



phone to: (691) 320-6547  
email to: kpress@mail.fm



- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Kia's Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-4015.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- 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 Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at PCR Nantehlik.
- 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

ANOTHER CLASSIC

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# TRASHBUSTERS

As I contemplate living in sin,  
And wonder just how to begin,  
Although I am aging,  
My hormones are raging,  
I've got a dang zit on my chin!

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## The legend of Dr. Lois Englberger is passed on

By Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP)

It has been one year since Dr. Lois Englberger, one of the founders of Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), passed away.

The slogan, which Dr. Englberger and Mr. Bermin Weilbacher developed, "Let's

Go Local" and its campaign of promoting local food for its CHEEF (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food Security) benefits is now widely known throughout not only the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) but also the world.

The slogan "Let's Go Local" aims to bring back Micronesian indigenous lifestyle and traditional food crops to fight against

health crisis in the FSM and put the brakes on the current trend of unhealthy lifestyle (insufficient daily physical exercise and diet heavily depending on imported processed food).

This campaign has been supported by her academic accomplishments and researches, conducting sampling and analysis of local food composition and reporting an issue of vitamin A deficiency in children, in particular.

Through her research, Micronesian local food was scientifically proven to be nutritious.

As she was known as the Karat lady, she put effort into promotion of Karat banana which received global recognitions. It has been proven that Karat banana is rich in beta-carotene, other carotenoids and other nutrients, including riboflavin, thanks to Dr. Englberger.

Dr. Englberger's accomplishments and successes are tremendous. To impart her valuable knowledge to numerous people in the FSM, her collection of research papers and documentations were donated

to the College of Micronesia-FSM by her husband, Mr. Konrad Englberger and her children.

The unveiling ceremony of her collection was held at the National Campus Learning Resources Center at COM-FSM on September 28, 2012.

The collection can be accessed by searching the college online catalog at <http://library.comfsm.fm/webopac/main?siteid=1>.

The library made a master list for all donated documents as well as a list for documents authored by Dr. Englberger.

For an article by the COM-FSM, check <http://www.comfsm.fm/myShark/news/item=315/mod=22:54:06>

IFCP would like to acknowledge the College of Micronesia-FSM.

Special thanks are extended to Pohnpei State Government Subsidy, the US Embassy, UNESCO, Division of Public Health of Pohnpei Department of Health Services, Children's Healthy Living Program (University of Hawaii), Australian Embassy and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their funding support.



The unveiling ceremony at the National Campus Learning Resources Center at COM-FSM on September 28, 2012

## Dispatches from Micronesia: A trip to Chuuk's Shark Island



By Angelo Villagomez  
Pew Charitable Trusts

Chuuk, one of four states that make up the Federated States of Micronesia, is a world-renowned scuba diving destination, boasting dozens of World War II-era shipwrecks. It is also known for its sharks, which are attracted to the marine life that has made a home among the sunken wrecks.

The waters surrounding Chuuk's tiny Shark Island are home to several species of sharks, including the gray, blacktip, and whitetip reef sharks. The island, which is no bigger than a baseball diamond and supports a handful of coconut trees, is circled by dozens of sharks. Shark Island is known as a "cleaning station" where hungry cleaner wrasses rid sharks of dead skin, external parasites, and other pests.

During a recent visit to Chuuk, representing the Pew Environment Group, I had the chance to sit down with Cindy Hall, manager of the Truk Lagoon Dive Center, to talk about shark diving there. Hall is an experienced guide who has lived on the island since 2009. Previously she worked in the Maldives and The Bahamas, Grenada, and Turks and Caicos. Villagomez: Chuuk is known to divers for its wrecks, but on this visit I was pleasantly surprised to hear about Shark Island. A name like that sure conjures up an image.

**Hall:** Well, can you think of a better name? I certainly can't. The cleaning station is a magnet for sharks. You can see up to 25 here sometimes.

**Villagomez:** Are sharks common in Chuuk? How often do you see them?

**Hall:** You can see them on nearly every dive. Beyond the wrecks, there's a good chance you'll see a gray reef shark. A lot of times the divers are so interested in the wrecks that they won't see the sharks swimming right over them.

**Villagomez:** What species do you find most often?

**Hall:** We don't see that many whitetip reefs, but we do see a lot of grays and blacktips. On the outreef, we'll see silvertips and the occasional silky, down to about 30 meters depth. I once saw a tiger shark inside the lagoon.

**Villagomez:** How important are sharks to your business?

**Hall:** It is so important. The tourism industry is the only real industry we have here in Chuuk. One diver can bring in several thousand dollars per trip. They pay the diver fees, including the government's \$30 user fee, but they also stay in hotels, rent cars, and eat in our restaurants. Living sharks are worth far more than dead ones. Shark diving is a sustainable business, whereas commercial shark fishing is not. We can bring divers out to Shark Island


every day, but a fisherman would only be able to fish it once and the sharks would be gone.

**Villagomez:** Are people pleased to see sharks swimming at Shark Island and in Chuuk in general?

**Hall:** I'm always surprised how many divers have never seen a shark, and I'm happy to give them the opportunity to go see them. And even for those who have seen sharks, most have never seen a cleaning station like Shark Island.

Building an Underwater Oasis for Sharks During the Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit in July 2011, representatives from Chuuk and other regions pledged to join a much larger effort to create the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary. The agreement includes all four members of the Federated States of Micronesia—Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae—as well as the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. Once established, it will result in a regional sanctuary covering 5 million square kilometers (2 million square miles).

For more than a year, the Pew Environment Group has been working with communities in FSM discuss the important role sharks play in their waters. On Sept. 21, 2012, Kosrae became the first state of Micronesia to make the commitment to protect sharks in its waters. The unanimous vote by the legislature in Kosrae, a small island of 7,700 people in the Pacific, is an important step toward creation of the regional shark sanctuary. The legislation now heads to Gov. Lyndon Jackson's desk for signature.




**Rotary Club of Pohnpei**  
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Saturday, November 3, 2012  
7:00 PM  
PCR Restaurant

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Tickets are only \$10  
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Airline tickets available for auction!

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For ticket information contact:  
Carrie Boylan at 320-7796  
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JOIN US THURSDAYS, 12:15 PM @ PCR RESTAURANT

## Coast Guard Cutter Washington returns from Pacific deployment

*U.S. Coast Guard  
14th District Public Affairs*

**Apra Harbor, GUAM** – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Washington, a 110-foot patrol boat, returned from a patrol to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau, Sept. 16, 2012.

During their 12-day deployment, the Washington crew conducted community engagements and law enforcement patrols within the Exclusive Economic

Zones of the United States, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau in an effort to strengthen regional partnerships throughout the Pacific.

One visit included a stop in Falalop, in the Ulithi Atoll to deliver humanitarian supplies including four outboard motors, water containers, rice, books and clothing.

The crew visited Koror and hosted the U.S. ambassador to Palau, the Honorable Helen Reed-Rowe. The ambassador thanked the

crew for a fisheries seizure made in May 2012 as part of a joint U.S.-Palau operation to crackdown on illegal fishing throughout the region.

“This mission was a complete success and we hope to make these types of deployments more frequently as we build stronger partnerships throughout the region,” said Lt. Nate MacKenzie, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Cutter Washington. “It’s important to remember that fish stocks are a shared concern. The only way to effectively protect our mutual interests in this region is to work together.”

Throughout the deployment the crew conducted coxswain, ship log, weapons qualifications and navigation training.

Despite the success of the deployment, the crew of the 23-year-old ship encountered foul weather and mechanical issues. The crew had to replace the control unit on the open bridge during the patrol. At one point during the deployment the crew had to seek shelter behind several small islands to avoid a monsoon in the area.

The Cutter Washington is one of many Coast Guard ships soon to be replaced by the new 154-foot Fast Response Cutters. The new ship will give the Coast Guard the dual advantage of state of the art technology and increased sea keeping ability, both of which are much needed in the unique environment of the Western Pacific.



photo by Ensign Chris Jones

Lt. Nate MacKenzie, left, and Seaman Ryan Dixon, right, meet with inhabitants of Mogmog Island to conduct boating safety training Sept. 7, 2012 in the Ulithi Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia.

MacKenzie and Dixon are both crewmembers of the Coast Guard Cutter Washington, a 110-foot Island Class patrol boat stationed in Apra Harbor, Guam. The crew recently completed a 12-day deployment in an effort to strengthen regional partnerships throughout the Pacific.



photo by Ensign Chris Jones

Lt. Nate MacKenzie, left, and Lt. j.g. Tim Ozimek, right, brief the Honorable Helen Reed Rowe, center, the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Palau, on the capabilities of the Coast Guard Cutter Washington Sept. 12, 2012 during a visit to Koror, the Republic of Palau.

## “Tuna Commission” Technical and Compliance Committee meets in Pohnpei

*By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press*

**October 9, 2012**

**Pohnpei, FSM**—Over 200 representatives from members industry and Non-Governmental Organizations of member countries of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC or as locally known, the Tuna

Commission) met in Pohnpei beginning on September 27. Their meetings continued through October 2 with a break on Sunday. The visitors took advantage of the Sunday break to do some individual sightseeing in Pohnpei.

The Tuna Commission sponsored a reception for the members on Saturday evening where they were treated to local

food and dance.

Daily meetings were exhaustive and long running well into the evening hours each day.

The meeting was the Technical and Compliance Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission gathered to make recommendations on fishing compliance measures that will be considered by the whole membership when they meet in Manila in December.

Professor Glenn Hurry, Executive Director of WCPFC, said that that the Commission in December needs to put in place a Conservation measure to reduce the catch of Bigeye tuna by 30 percent and cap the catches of skipjack and yellowfin tuna. The measure is under development by the Chairman Dr Charles Karnella and was discussed in detail at the TCC. It will now be revised and will be one of the Commissions main tasks at Manila.

The TCC reviewed the compliance of all members with the Conservation measures and a comprehensive report on the members’ performance and compliance

will be discussed at the annual meeting along with suggested remedial action.

There was considerable discussion on the Commission Vessel Monitoring System and how to strengthen the system and at the same time to make sure the costs did not escalate. Importantly the members want the Commission’s vessel records for activities occurring within their own EEZ’s.

The other area that contributed to much debate was the Commissions and members Observer programs that now offer around 700 jobs to Pacific islanders to work on observers on fishing boats in the Pacific. The general view was that the program was successful, however would benefit from further training for staff to improve their skills and that this would be an ongoing program as it is an important part of the Commission data collection.

Most of the other work was reviewing processes and practices to make sure the Commission stayed on track, Professor Hurry said.

The meeting of the technical and compliance meeting was preceded by a five day meeting of the staff and members of the Forum Fisheries Agency.



Local Dancers entertain members of the Technical and Compliance Committee