

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

P.O. Box 2222, Kolonia Pohnpei, FM 96941

Tel: (691) 320-6547 Fax: (691) 320-6571

Email: kpress@mail.fm

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Fishing Vessel Said to Have Left Chuukese Stranded in Open Ocean Master of Vessel Zhang Xiaohui charged with the crime

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

On August 5, four days after they were lost in the open Pacific Ocean, the deputy mayor of Oneop of Chuuk and three other passengers (see The Kaselehlie Press, Vol. 6, Issue No. 17) who were adrift in the Pacific Ocean said that they motored with reserve fuel to a place within 40 feet of a fisheries support vessel which according to court documents is alleged to have been the vessel Hai Shun. Crew members according to an affidavit from Mr. Tender Haser Ricky Sach "stood on her side and looked down on them." As they tried to ask for help the ship steamed away from the hapless castaways who spent another 29 days at sea.

A cooperative and intensive search involving the FSM National Police, the US Navy, the US Coast Guard, and Chuuk Police departments was conducted. After a full week of search and the absence of any sign of the boat or the drifters, the search was called off. According to the



The Hai Shun docking at the Pohnpei dock

FSM National Police Press Release the cost of the search was reported to be in the vicinity of one million US dollars.

The Chuukese castaways were rescued in waters off Majuro by a Chinese fishing vessel. Ritako RickySach, wife of Tender and fellow castaway said in a phone inter-

view, that vessel also nearly left them but turned around and came back for them.

On Tuesday, November 21, the FSS Micronesia, one of the Pohnpei based Pacific Class Patrol Boats under the command of Lt. Kodak David, boarded Hai Shun, which is registered in St. Vincent and the

Grenadines. The vessel was boarded in the vicinity of Sapwuahfik (Ngatik) Atoll approximately 80 miles south of Pohnpei in the FSM and was escorted to the port of Pohnpei on suspected fisheries violations. The Hai Shun was apprehended based on information from the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) aboard the Hai Shun that the vessel was in violation of FSM laws.

As of last year VMS must be in use at all times on fishing vessels within FSM waters. VMS are electronic devices that utilizes Automatic Locator Communicator (ALC) and Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking to pinpoint the journeys of vessels. Information from the VMS is downloaded to a computer located at the Police Maritime Wing Headquarters in Pohnpei. Officials say that the information is held in strict confidence in order to protect the proprietary commercial interests of a vessel's company and owners. Locator information is strictly used for monitoring and enforce-

See "Hai Shun" on page 21

PPA Issues Letter of Eviction to Pwohmaria Beach Resort Kolonia Senator Fernando Scaliem blasts the agency, claiming the complex to be a landmark.

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlie Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – "Dear Ms. Edwin," begins the Notice of Eviction from the Pohnpei Port Authority, dated November 14, before going into a long list of factors for the decision to not renew the lease on one of Pohnpei's most recognizable public spaces: the Pwohmaria Beach Resort, otherwise known as Misko Beach. "This is to inform you that the Board of Directors has decided not to renew or extend the commercial land lease for the 24,774 square meters of Port property you presently occupy."

The PPA generally is a government agency tasked with operating and managing the ports of Pohnpei state. It has a Board of seven, with a general manager and staff. PBR is a 24-room resort, bar, and restaurant complex situated on six acres between the Pohnpei International Airport and the harbor wa-



Pwohmaria Beach Resort from the air

ters of Sokehs and the signature granite cliffs of Sokehs Rock. It has been owned and operated by Misko Edwin and her family since 1985.

In 1987, the Transportation Zone Law went into effect. The law generally defines the uses for the Transportation Zone (TZ) area, and although hotels and resorts are not expressly mentioned as one of them, the law does allow for "any activities and complimentary services" that relate to the "promotion and development" of sea and air transporta-

tion

PBR, according to the lease termination and eviction notice, "does not conform with the requirements of the PPA Act, which mandates that leases may be extended only for port-connected purposes." The PPA Act was passed in 1991 by the 2nd PSL during its seventeenth special session for the primary purpose of establishing the PPA. The law gives the PPA the "exclusive jurisdiction to plan, establish, develop, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain,

equip, operate and regulate the ports within the State... [and are] authorized to purchase, lease and sell real or personal property" under its jurisdiction.

The PPA, through its counsel, states that the PBR constitutes a "nonconforming use" of the six acres of land that it oc-

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NEWS

Pohnpei Legislature Impeaches AG Santos

"They want somebody who will listen to them," says AG.

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlle Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – The Pohnpei State Constitution gives three grounds for impeaching a public official. The first is misconduct in public office. The second is neglect of duties. The third is a conviction of the crime of moral turpitude. Attorney General Edwel Santos of Kitti feels that he is guilty on none of those grounds, and further, that the articles of impeachment leveled against him may not be the actual reasons for his benching on the eve of Thanksgiving by the 6th Pohnpei State Legislature.

"On the face it is purely prosecuting," said Santos at his home. "Persecuting and prosecuting... it's a civil rights violation and we may have to go to the FSM Supreme Court over this violation."

Edwel Santos has served as the AG for Pohnpei State during the tenure of Governor Johnny David's second term administration, which is now closing out its third year. Santos was nominated by David after his first term in office, and subsequently confirmed by the 6th PSL in early 2004.

This is the second impeachment of an AG in the state's history. The first came during Governor David's first term, and was aimed at Santos' predecessor, the late Delsin Ehmes, who, according to a decision made by the Pohnpei Supreme Court in 2003, was found to be wrongfully impeached by the 5th PSL.

Santos filed his own countersuit with the state's highest court on November 28.

The 6th PSL passed legislative resolution #130-06 on an 18-1-1



Edwel Santos

vote, with three members absent. Senator Epert Mikel of Kitti was the lone dissenting vote. Senator Bellarmine Helgenberger of Madolenihmw abstained on the resolution of impeachment.

Senator Peter Lohn is Chairman of the Judicial and Government Operations committee that held the hearings and came out with the report that showed its membership to be "satisfied that the Articles (of impeachment) are substantiated." There are 24 articles of impeachment. In general, the articles allege a host of misdeeds, including the misuse of fisheries enforcement funds, the breaking of laws related to the selling of land "to citizens who are also *pwilidak*", not representing state clients, a "failure to execute the laws of Pohnpei State", a failure "to investigate serious discrepancies" in certain government agencies, "alleged violations of duty and law", and "continuing violations in the use of government vehicles," and undermining the "boundaries" of the Constitution in the "declaration of emergencies", amongst other issues.

Both Senator Lohn and AG Santos, when asked why this impeachment came about, stressed the "PFC case." PFC refers to the Pohnpei Fisheries Corporation,

which, according to Santos, has mounted millions of dollars in losses over the last few years. The losses were so large, he stated, that something had to be done "to re-shape this defunct" organization.

"My view was that when something that drastic happens, whether by natural causes or economic costs, the Executive has the responsibility to act." On this advice, the Governor declared a state of emergency, allowing him to issue an executive order in 2005 disbanding the PFC Board of Directors in order to, as Santos put it, "get it (PFC) back in order."

The Legislature passed two resolutions declaring the order unconstitutional and it ultimately ended up in litigation, where the Judiciary sided with the Legislature on the issue. "Pohnpei's Constitution," Article 19 of the impeachment resolution states, "provides easily determined boundaries on the (four) circumstances under which (emergency) declarations are allowed (and the PFC order) was clearly not allowed."

Senator Lohn said from his desk that "to put (the AG) out of office will be less costly and less detrimental to the state" in terms of the costs and time associated with continuing litigiousness over the PFC issue, "knowing full well that his term is almost up."

The Articles of Impeachment repeatedly use terms such as "betrayed," "subversive," "injury," "unlawful," "ignored," "undermined," "disrepute," "carelessness," and "misconduct" to characterize AG Santos as incompetent and unfit to continue.

Santos also made the statement – first publicly reported by Baptist Radio – that select state senators "did not want (the AG's office) publishing their names on the ra

See AG Impeached on Page 21

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ph: (691) 320-6547 fax: (691) 320-6571

email: kpress@mail.fm

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

Olivier Wortel
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NEWS

FSM Congress Overturns Presidential Veto to Establish New Gross Revenue Tax Law

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Business owners in the FSM have been granted a tax break this year. The FSM Congress, on November 8, overrode President Urusemal's veto of their amendments to Title 54 of the FSM Code which defines gross revenue taxation (GRT) laws. The new amendments will allow businesses in the FSM to deduct from reported gross revenue, all expenses relating to salaries, withholding tax, social security, and benefits. According to the Assistant Secretary of Customs and Tax Administration John Uwas, just before Christmas, new GRT forms should be ready for the fourth quarter filing which is due on January 30, 2007.

President Urusemal said in his letter designating the Congressional Act as Public Law No. 14-90, "I remain concerned that this legislation will result in a significant shortfall in public revenue without any

indication of the positive effects of reduced taxation."

The original bill CG 14-06 was introduced by Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Senator Isaac V. Figir of Yap. Other members of the committee are Senator Roosevelt D. Kansou, Vice Chairman, Senator Dohsis Halbert, Speaker Peter M. Christian, Senator Manny Mori, Senator Claude H. Phillip, and Senator Simiram Sipenuk.

As an example of how the new law works, imagine that a business owner took in \$100,000 in gross revenue for the year. \$60,000 of that money was used to pay salaries, withholding tax, and Social Security taxes. Under the former system, the tax due would be \$3000. Under the new law the business owner would deduct the \$60,000 she paid for payroll expense from the gross revenue amount before calculating her tax. The new tax would be \$1200, a savings of \$1800 on



Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee Senator Isaac V. Figir introduced the Gross Revenue Tax Law to the FSM Congress.

the tax bill, or about the price of a good sized big screen television with a surround sound system.

The Audit of the National Government prepared by Deloitte and Touche covering fiscal year 2005 showed that the National Government took in over \$11 million in taxes last year, up from over \$9.5 million in 2004 (see inset graph).

Before the public hearing on the bill involving local business people and governmental staff, the Ways and Means Committee appeared not to have done an impact assessment.

When asked in the hearing for an impromptu impact assessment, the Acting Secretary of Finance testified that the impact of the legislation would be "somewhere between minimal and substantial".

See "GRT" on page 7

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Namakin Shares His Passion for Solutions to Global warming with US Audience

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Talk to 26 year old, Ben Namakin about anything at all and soon the conversation will turn to environmental issues but his favorite topic seems to be rising sea levels that result from global warming. Namakin is passionate partly because he is from Kiribati, a group of Pacific Ocean equatorial atolls that because of rising sea levels appears to be sinking. He wants to share his passion with the rest of the world. Toward that end he made considerable progress when he spent five weeks on a whirlwind lecture tour of the United States from September 18 – October 20 of this year.

When he was a high school student at the now closed Pohnpei Agricultural and Trade School (PATS) in Madelonihmw, Pohnpei, Ben became familiar with an island known as Nan Deketik not far from PATS. On one of his visits to the island in 2001 there was only one island. Due to rising sea levels, by 2005 there were two. His video footage of the split island along with his passion for a solution to the problem led to his selection from amongst hundreds of applicants as the only Pacific Islander to be selected to join as a youth delegate, the "Beyond Kyoto/It's Us!" Youth Summit at the United Nations' 2005 Climate Change Conference in Montreal, Quebec.

He spent a week with all of the other international delegates at the conference hashing out the International Youth Declaration "Our Climate, Our



Ben Namakin lectures at San Francisco State University

Challenge, Our Future". From that group he was selected as one of the five that would address the Convention of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (COP) in their plenary session. 10,000 people from all over the world heard him speak with his typical passion that day. Former US President Bill Clinton gave the keynote address after the youth delegation including Namakin had spoken their minds at the conference.

The Kyoto protocol was adopted on December 11, 1997 in Kyoto, Japan during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Countries that ratify the protocol commit to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases, or engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gases. Fossil fuel usage is a big contributor to greenhouse gases. The U.S., led by President George W. Bush who recently said that Americans have an oil addiction, has not signed the Kyoto Protocol.

During COP, representatives of Global Exchange, a non-profit group out

of San Francisco heard Namakin speak. Apparently they were impressed with what they heard and began making arrangements for Ben to come to the U.S. for a speaking tour on the issue of global warming and its affect on the Pacific Islands.

This was no four star hotel speaking tour. Namakin said that he slept on floors and couches in fourteen states. He said, "I went to the U.S. and put myself at risk... It was exhausting but I felt I had to speak to as many people as I could." Eyes flashing, he spoke of the people of Kiribas, many of whom have dug up the bodies of family members and moved them further inland because their grave sites were nearly under water.

Many of the residents of Tuvalu, another Pacific island group, have already become refugees in New Zealand. "Sure, the people of Kiribas could probably evacuate but what about our culture? What about our home?"

He said that Pacific Islanders contribute less than 1% of greenhouse gases but that islanders pay the heaviest price for the excesses of the world.

During his travels Namakin spoke at college campuses, including a presentation at Harvard. He spoke with Francine Romine the Manager of Sustained Business Strategies for Ford Motor Company in Detroit, MI about the possibility of the production of clean energy vehicles. ABC news did an interview with Namakin when he presented a pledge to the campaign manager for Senator Joe Lieberman to sign.

Many in the US are saying that Lieberman will be running for President in the next election as an independent. Global Exchange has still nothing from Lieberman since the visit.

The pledge, which was also presented to former Congressman Pombo of Stockton, California and to Congressman Elect Jerry McNerney, asked the candidates and incumbents to agree to refuse campaign donations from oil companies as part of an "Ending Our Addiction to Oil - Separation of Oil & State" campaign.

By the time Namakin arrived in Greenville, South Carolina some who doubt that there is a problem with global warming had organized a "Global Cooling Party", cooling themselves down with beer and other beverages. "I was afraid that I'd have a crowd of protestors at my speech but I only had one who asked me questions after my speech. I guess the rest of them changed their minds."

Changing minds and attitudes in a country that is one of the last holdouts on the Kyoto Protocol was the goal of the trip but Namakin said that there is still much work to be done at home. He said that significant deforestation and dredging is still happening in the FSM and that the number of cars burning fossil fuels has increased at an alarming rate. He said of Pacific Islanders, "If we want people [of the world] to care about us we're going to have to show them that we take care of our islands."

Assessment Development Centers for Pohnpei Police Captains

Identifying the senior executive skills and areas for potential further development of Pohnpei Division of Police and Security Captains was the focus of the recently conducted Assessment Development Centers (ADCs) at Pohnpei Police Headquarters.

Last Wednesday, the four (4) Police Captains participated in a series of assessment exercises which were designed to assess their development needs against the developed six Pacific Police Leadership competencies. These competencies have been accepted by Pacific Region Policing agencies as the key skills an officer at the se-

nior rank of Captain needs to have in order to properly perform the required job.

Those officers participating in the ADCs were Captains Joseph Abraham, Kerley Aracle, Benito Gonzala Obtaia and Runold Phillip.

Community members Kevin Phillip and Frank Semens were provided training along with Chief Joe Roby prior to the ADCs being lead. They received instruction in performing the role of assessors.

The ADCs were facilitated by the Pacific Regional Policing Initiative (PRPI) an Australian

and New Zealand Governments initiative which is centered in Fiji. A local FSM resident was engaged to assist in holding the ADC in Pohnpei.

Chief Joe Roby told the Kaselehlie Press he was very happy when advised by the PRPI they wished to conduct ADCs for his staff. "I have been told that ADCs have proven very effective in identifying the particular strengths and areas of further develop for officers who participate. I like the fact they are very reliable in measuring the work related skills and abilities of officers," he said.



Participants and assessors at last weeks Police Assessment Development Centers

He also said he intends to conduct further ADCs focusing on middle management level officers in the near future.

Tuna Commission off to Samoa for annual meeting

Pohnpei, 30th November: The Pohnpei-based Secretariat of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission departed for Apia, Samoa this week to prepare for the 2006 Annual Session of the Commission. During the week 11-15 December between 200 and 250 government and fishing industry representatives are expected in Samoa for the third annual session of the Commission. The Commission will meet at the

National University of Samoa.

The Commission has 28 members – all the members of the Pacific Islands Forum, Tokelau, the world's major fishing nations including Japan, the USA, Korea and Chinese-Taipei and France's Pacific territories. A record 2005 catch of tuna of 2.145 million tonnes from the Western and Central Pacific Ocean accounted for 49% of the total global catch of tuna last year. The catch was a 5% increase on the

reported catch for 2004.

This year's meeting comes at the end of the Commission's first full year of operations after establishing at its headquarters in Pohnpei. Mr Wright said that the issues for discussion will include progress with establishing the Commission Secretariat headquarters in Pohnpei, a review the current catch from the tuna fisheries in the WCPO, consideration of means to reduce threats to over-exploitation of bigeye

and yellowfin tuna, ways to reduce the impacts of tuna fishing on the catch of non-target species such as seabirds, sea turtles and other by-catch and will review progress with developing the Commission's regulatory framework including the development of a satellite system for monitoring fishing vessel activity and the design of a programme to place observers on fishing vessels operating in the WCPO.

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NEWS

...Misko's

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copies, and as such, citing the TZ law, a "lease for any nonconforming use may not be extended or renewed upon its expiration." The lease agreement between PPA and PBR expired on October 31, 2005.

Other factors cited by PPA for the termination: that it conflicts with PPA's "long-term plans to expand" the commercial seaport to the northern end of the island; that use of the premises as a resort "could jeopardize airport expansion plan implementation"; that the "lease rate of \$3,711.60 annually... is several orders of magnitude below fair market value"; that "other business activity now taking place from within the premises appears to be in violation of the PPA Act"; and that "setting aside such a large portion of waterfront property under a lease that deprives PPA of control presents a security risk to airport and seaport users."

Sheila Edwin, Manager of PBR, feels

blindsided by the notice, stating that it came as a shock after a year of ongoing negotiations with the PPA. Edwin says that the central issue in the whole affair has to do with money; that the two sides could not come to terms on a lease rate as the primary cause of the eviction. Edwin states that the economic and social benefits to the island in terms of tourism, taxes, and one of the few public spaces that allows families, groups, and visitors to enjoy the beauty and vistas of Pohnpei far outweigh any other considerations. Moreover, says Edwin, is the fact that her family has invested millions of dollars over two decades filling in and developing what used to be a mangrove swamp.

"We've been here for twenty years," says Edwin. "We didn't break any laws and we don't owe PPA anything. We made the land," Edwin states, pointing out toward the grass and sand and coconut trees of the resort grounds. "It took \$3 million to fill the land alone, but they don't want to consider it because they feel the law is in their favor. We have to fight this. We can't just pick

up and leave everything we have, all of our labor and investment."

Edwin has said that she would prefer to continue negotiating with the PPA, and to continue to operate the resort, even if it means an increased lease rate. She states that the rate should be reasonable and that "the court is the last resort," and that she will not move, "even if they come with a bulldozer." Edwin has sought support within the Legislature, and she has promised "to involve the traditional leaders" as well.

An original draft lease between the PPA and PBR that was produced during the course of negotiations shows a \$71,349 annual rate request by the PPA Board for a "Hotel, Offices, Restaurant and Picnic site." A "second offer", according to Edwin, after PBR made a counter proposal to continue paying the annual lease fee of \$3,711.60, shows a "minimum rate" of \$35,631.36 that the PPA would allow as an annual lease rate for PBR.

"Going below this rate," the PPA stated in January 2006, "will cause other tenants to squawk about disparity of rates being applied to them." The PPA noted at the time that it was "mindful of (Edwin's) past and future efforts in developing the premises."

A 1992 study instigated by the U.S. Embassy, supported by FSM President Bailey Olter, and carried out by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, with the primary aim of determining the security issue of the resort and the airport, came to the conclusion that the PBR "does not pose a security threat" to the airport, and that the airport in the future should take into consideration appropriate safety measures and designs in any further development activities.

Section 2-14 of the PPA Act does allow for "any person substantially interested or affected in his rights as to person or property by a rule or regulation adopted by the Authority" to petition for a "reconsideration, amendment, modification, or waiver." The PPA is then required to grant a public hearing within 30 days after filing of such a petition, and the authority's decision to be "publicly released not more than 20 days after the final public hearing held upon the petition."

Edwin has stated that she was considering coming up with a petition to the PPA Board.

In 1995 the Pohnpei Public Lands Trust (PPLT) transferred all 18.5 million square feet of Transportation Zone land on Dekehtik Island to the PPA. Today Dekehtik Island holds a number of significant structures, including the Airport

and the Dock, as well as other businesses such as the Caroline Fisheries Corporation, the Mobil Oil fuel facilities, Harborview Hotel, China Star Restaurant, the FSM Maritime Surveillance Unit, as well as a host of other developments.

Representative Fernando Scaliem blasted the proposed eviction and potential closure of the Pwohmara Beach Resort (PBR) by the Pohnpei Port Authority this month, during the opening days of the 6th PSL's ongoing special session.

Scaliem, the 6th PSL's Floor Leader, expounded on the virtues of the considerable private capital invested into the development of the resort area, and as one of the precious few places that offers "a convenient place for Pohnpeiians and resident foreigners alike to enjoy a family picnic as well as other social functions." In a sarcastic overture, he added, "Should we also remove the famous Sokehs Rock while we are at it?"

Scaliem noted the area to be "one of the biggest development undertakings by a local person in Pohnpei," and "nobody in her right mind, who has invested so much, would give up such investment without just compensation."

Scaliem has introduced legislation providing for the renewal of leases of submerged public lands in an effort to address the issue. More specifically, fellow Kolonia Senator Marvin Yamaguchi has also introduced legislation that would revert the PBR land back to the supervision of the Pohnpei Public Lands Trust (PPLT), and "designate as available for commercial lease with the developer of Pwohmara Beach" the six acres in question.

Resort owner Misko Edwin, in a letter to Speaker Nelson Pelep dated on the same day of the eviction notice, implored the 6th PSL to intervene. "I am utterly shocked and disappointed," the letter starts. "Please help me and my family with this situation," the letter continues, adding, "I am dependent only on your kind support."

Edwin has been asked to "peacefully vacate the premises" by December 14. In addition, the eviction letter from the PPA suggests, "Please also notify all other businesses operating from the subject property that they too must peacefully vacate the premises within the same period." The other business operating is the increasingly popular Pohnpei Surf Club, which caters to world-class surfers from around the world.



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Applications close on **15 December 2006** and should contain education and career details and the names, addresses (postal & e-mail), fax and telephone numbers of three employment referees.

* Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, FIJI, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, PNG, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Vanuatu.

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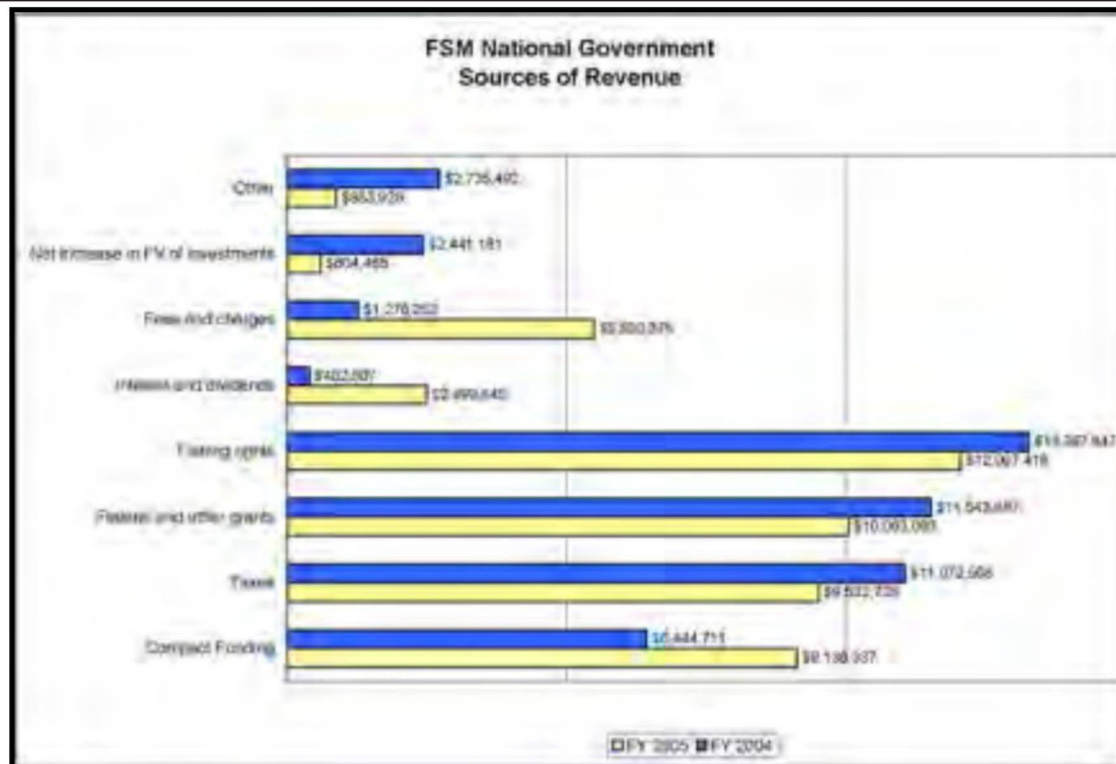
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Staffers put their heads together after the hearing and hurriedly developed a preliminary impact assessment of a loss of \$5 million in GRT. The Ways and Means Committee reported that figure to Congress before the bill was passed. The impact figure has since been recalculated conservatively downward to \$1.7 million.

GRT is shared on a 50% basis with the states of the FSM based on where the taxes were derived. For instance, if GRT filings from Yap amount to \$750,000, Yap State Government would get \$375,000 back from the National Government to apply to their budget. State Governments have projections on what they will receive from GRT filings and they have put those projections into their budgets. When the National Government passes a measure such as public law 14-90 that ultimately results in decreased GRT revenues, State Governments also take a hit in the wallet.

The hope, according to Ways and Means Committee reports is that the initiative will result in more jobs and better qualified employees for the jobs that are available. The report said, "...prudent business people – the overwhelming majority – would" use the savings productively.

Some Senators are saying that increased withholding taxes that would result from the creation of jobs will eventually offset the loss of revenues from decreased GRT revenues. One government source said that if every penny of the \$1.7 million that is projected to be lost in GRT rev-



enue was paid out directly in wages for new jobs, the government would realize around \$170,000 of new tax revenues, 10% of the projected total of lost revenues based on 10% wages and salaries taxes paid on the \$1.7 million dollars of wages.

In 2005, withholding taxes were based on over \$94 million of salaries that were reported to have been paid to employees in Micronesia. Nearly half of those salaries were paid to government employees. Larry Adams, FSM business owner said what really needs to be done is to "decrease the size of the Government."

The Ways and Means Committee said that the new law is a temporary measure pending the institution of a comprehensive tax reform plan. They expressed con-

cern about the lack of progress on the reform process. "If the President is concerned about this legislation, he should expedite the comprehensive reform."

The plan being developed would revoke the Gross Revenue Tax and establish a Net Profit Tax in which all expenses including depreciation expense for a business would be deducted from income and the remainder, the profit, would be taxed at a substantially higher rate. The tax reform plan would also include a Value Added Tax which would change how customs operates and would eliminate "cascading taxes" (taxes on the same goods paid more than once by different entities) that exist under the current tax plan. Businesses would be able to deduct from income the cost for allowed

VAT in a net profit tax plan.

According to sources involved in the planning process the least intrusive and best way to implement the net profit tax and the value added tax will be at the same time. Each taxation method is complementary to the other.

Another bill signed on October 18 allows for a tax amnesty which will be in effect until January 1, 2008. In an effort to stimulate the payment of tax by delinquent taxpayers, Congress has waived civil penalties and interest on taxes that were due before October 18 but only if a taxpayer pays the full amount of the tax owed by the end of the amnesty period. No amnesty is provided penalties assessed due to fraudulent filings.

Australia-Sponsored Medical Team visits Yap

Australian Embassy

Last month a medical team of Ears, Nose, and Throat (ENT) specialists visited Yap under the AusAID funded Tertiary Health Care Services program.

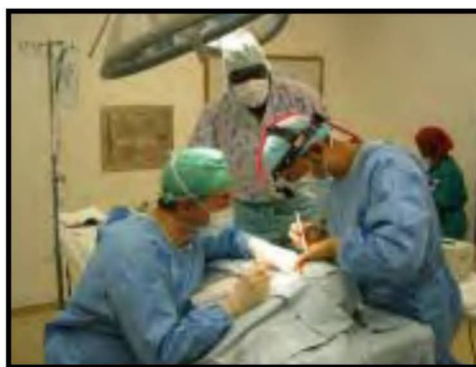
This Australian health initiative provides short term visits for a variety of medical specialties to 11 Pacific Island Countries. Medical specialties include cardiac surgery, ENT, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, paediatric surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, psychiatry, urology, radiology, and a diabetes training program.

The ENT Team consisted of Dr. Markus Dahm (Team Leader/Surgeon), Dr. Philip Jumeau (Surgeon), Dr. Wayne Morriss (Anaesthetist) and Ms. Lyndal Ringrose (Nurse). All

Tertiary Health Care Services project team members volunteer their time, and are not paid to provide these services.

During their 11 day visit to Yap, over 300 patients, many from Yap's outer islands, with a wide range of ear, nose and throat problems, were seen by Drs. Dahm and Jumeau. Twenty-nine operations were performed – 13 myringoplasties (repair of perforated eardrum), 4 adenoid operations, 2 tonsillectomies and several other operations. The age range of the patients were between 2 to 59 years old, where 9 patients were less than 10 years old. The team also worked as closely as possible with the Yap doctors and medical staff to help increase their skills so that they can be able to continue to provide these types of medical services in the future.

Previous AusAID funded medical visits to the FSM include a Laparoscopic



Drs. Dahm and Jumeau performing surgery while Yap State Hospital Staff observe.

Surgery training visit to the Pohnpei State Hospital (April 2006), ENT visit to the Pohnpei and Chuuk State Hospitals (November 2005) and a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery visit to the Pohnpei and Chuuk State Hospitals (July 2005).

The Australian Embassy would like to acknowledge Continental

Micronesia Airlines for their support and assistance in waiving the excess luggage fees for the traveling medical ENT team.

For more information on AusAID's Tertiary Health Care Services Program, contact the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei – (691) 320-5448 or at australia@mail.fm

NEWS**U. S. NAVY SEABEES DRILL TEN NEW WATER WELLS IN POHNPEI***The Embassy of the United States of America*

Outstanding teamwork between 24 U.S. Navy Seabees and the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation has increased Pohnpei's supply of safe drinking water by over 610 thousand gallons per day. Ten new water wells were drilled during the Seabees' recent four month deployment in Pohnpei, include seven sites in Palikir, Sokehs, and three in Lukop, Madolenihmw. The new wells, which will increase the island's supply of drinking water by an estimated 35%, will reduce the threat of water-borne diseases and help assure adequate water supplies in the event of a drought.

PUC Board Member Ringlen Ringlen explained that as PUC moves from surface water to well water it will meet its objective of improving the quality of Pohnpei's drinking water

to meet the standards of the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act. He explained that the funding, technology, knowledge, equipment, and materials PUC gains from this project will support PUC's mission of improving the standard of living of the people of Pohnpei.

The \$2,000,000 well-drilling mission was the first project financed under the amended Compact's new Humanitarian Assistance program for the FSM. This new scheme enables local governments to use the Compact's Infrastructure Sector Grant to implement civil engineering projects with the help of U.S. military engineers. The new approach provides greater flexibility and better access to specialized skills than the former Civic Action Teams which were deployed through-



Captain Janice Wynn, USN Chief of Staff for COMNAV MARIANAS with Marcelino Actouka of Pohnpei Public Utilities Corporation

out the FSM during the original Compact.

The Seabees, who are en route back to their home base in Gulfport Mississippi, all enjoyed their stay in Pohnpei. Senior Chief Roger Wiley, who led the group, said, "I have



Water streaming from a well dug by the U.S. Seabees

worked in over ten countries all around the world during my 20 years in the Navy, but I have never been anywhere where the people are as friendly as in Pohnpei." Although the Seabees were busy drilling 16 hours a day, they also performed community medical visits and found time on weekends to enjoy the island and to show movies at local community centers.

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CONSERVATION**U.S. EMBASSY IN FSM AWARDS \$250,000 GRANT TO
MICRONESIA CONSERVATION TRUST*****The Embassy of the United
States of America***

The U.S. Embassy in Kolonia is supporting the Micronesia Challenge with a \$250,000 grant to Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). The grant, from the U.S. Department of State, will support the development of marine protected areas in Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap States by funding scientific and policy support. MCT Director Willy Kostka signed the grant agreements at the U.S. Embassy on Friday, November 17, 2006, with Deputy Chief of Mission Richard Pruett.

As the Conservation Society of Pohnpei has demonstrated, marine protected areas can play a critical role in protecting fish and other reef resources. Community-based marine protected areas help ensure that fragile ecosystems and native species are preserved for future generations by assuring that rules designed to protect the environment are enforced. Director Kostka ex-

pects MCT to commence projects with partners in these three FSM states in February 2007, when grant proceeds will be disbursed.

The grant will focus on three strategic goals: (1) mainstreaming environmental considerations (including climate change) into the FSM's national policy, planning and economic development activities; (2) managing and protecting the FSM's natural environment by protecting, conserving and sustainably managing a representative group of the nation's marine ecosystems; and (3) improving public environmental awareness and increasing the involvement of FSM citizens in conserving their nation's natural resources.

"Scientific and Policy Support for the Development of Marine Protected Areas in Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap States, Federated States of Micronesia" was made possible by U.S. Department of State Economic Support Funds for Environmental Programs in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.



U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Richard Pruett and Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust, Willy Kostka

**FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. Box M
KOLONIA, POHNPEI, FM 96941**

**Opening Date: December 01, 2006
Closing Date: December 31, 2006**

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 12-01-06LO**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT 12-01-06LO**

It is the policy of the FSM Development bank that FSM citizens be given first priority for employment consideration with other Micronesians, U.S. citizens, and other nationals utilized in positions for which no qualified citizens are available.

POSITION & GRADE: Loan Officer, Grade 4

LOCATION: FSM Development Bank, Pohnpei Branch

SALARY: \$16,515.20 - 26,000 per annum Depending on Qualification

GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Illustrative only):

1. Provides information regarding the Bank's services, functions, loan procedures and business advantages to potential customers and clients.

2. Interviews applicants for loans and compiles all necessary data regarding the client's proposed project. Informs clients regarding the Bank's requirements and standards for loans. Negotiates and explains terms and conditions of loans to applicants. Issues applications and other lending documents. Assists applicants in completing the documents and/or direct them to appropriate agencies for assistance. Ensures that all loan applications are properly documented.

3. Assesses the economic and financial viability of proposed projects in terms of management experience, technical abilities, marketing, and financial capabilities. Conducts detailed feasibility studies regarding proposals as necessary.

4. Compiles information and prepare loan packages in standard formats for review by the Branch Manager and Credit Committee.

5. Administers the disbursement of loan funds to approved projects.

6. Ensures that borrowers fulfill the terms and conditions set out in loan document and lending guidelines. Monitors projects progress via reports and with visits to the project.

7. Pursues the collection of loan payments on current and delinquent loans. Provide assistance to clients with problem accounts within the established policies and procedures of the Bank. Report progress regarding such loans to the Branch Manager and implements instructions accordingly.

8. Promotes Bank's business and develops recommendations to market the Bank's services in the local community.

9. Other responsibilities as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Economic or related field from a four-year college or university; plus one to two years related work experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ability to read, analyze, and interpret general business proposals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations. Ability to perform economic and financial analysis on loan packages. Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from clients/customers, and the general public. Ability to work with mathematical concepts such as fractions, percentages, ratios, and proportions to practical situations. Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in writing, oral diagram, or schedule form.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications, curriculum vitae, and at least three letters of reference shall be completed and submitted to: The FSMDB Pohnpei Branch Office or to the FSMDB Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei with mailing address as follows: FSM Development Bank, P.O. Box M, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941 by mail; by fax to 320-2842 or in person at the FSM Development Bank's Corporate Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei on or before December 31, 2006.

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KP-Perspective**So, You Want to Keep a Story Out of the Paper?**

Shortly after I arrived at The Kaselehlie Press I was told by a wise board member who was probably only half joking that if I didn't get threats then I probably wasn't doing my job properly. Apparently, I'm now officially doing my job right. Isn't that interesting? I certainly thought so after the thirty minutes it took me to stop shaking, partly from pure loathing of confrontation and partly from rage.

I really don't like journalistic success or failure to be measured in terms of how many threats we have acquired. We are not here to hurt but to help. Our goal is not to make you look bad but to get facts into the hands of the public. Of course, if you make yourself look bad that's an entirely different story. We won't pass judgment we'll just report it. That's it. That's our goal.

Here are a few things we've discovered and they may help you when we're on the phone or on your doorstep. I have found that it is not possible for a reporter to be completely objective though we try. Admittedly, when we come to you we come with kind some kind of agenda or an angle on the story we are researching. We have found however, that our angle can be adjusted depending on what you have to tell us. We don't know everything and that is why we come to you. We hope that you know the facts and can enlighten us so that we can help enlighten the FSM.

Here's an example, when I started researching the story in the last issue on used "sharps" at the dump I truly believed that sharps containers were not being properly used according to the word of at least one visitor to my office who, though he never told me so, didn't want to be named in the story. He's why I went to the hospital. I needed to find out what the real deal was. What I discovered was surprising. The problem wasn't the doctors and nurses at the hospital. The problem came from a completely different source. My angle changed. It happens a lot.

Here's another newspaper caveat: the more you try to keep us from writing about a particular subject the more we wonder why. We ask ourselves, "Is there something

deeper we're not seeing?" If you want to kill a story, convincingly show us the story's not important and there's nothing to talk about. Don't try to kill it. Trying to kill a story nearly guarantees that we will pursue it through all ethical means. It also elevates the importance of the story and you may find that the story you were trying to kill is on the front page.

You can refuse to comment on a subject and you may have valid reasons for doing so but that will probably only insure that your side of the story will not be represented. It may be painful to give us your side but it's usually much better to do so. I've had a couple of stories die because no one from any side wanted to talk about them. Many more of them contained the line, "so and so was unavailable for comment". In other words, we wanted to talk with "so and so" but because they didn't return messages and were perpetually "out" their side of the story went entirely unrepresented. That's almost never a good thing.

We love leads on "juicy stories" but please don't ever use us. Perhaps I have become cynical but it seems like people have tried to use us on a few occasions. We will promise the same.

This next is painful to write since The Kaselehlie Press is a non-profit organization. If you give the paper money or goods charitably or through a business arrangement it will not exempt you from negative coverage if it is warranted. Your donation will not move your stories closer to the front page. I just need you to know that even though it might mean that I may be even further away from collecting a salary.

One last thing, we will never, even in desperation, make up facts. On occasion we may get them wrong as humans will do but we will never make up facts. Former U.S. President "Give 'em hell" Harry S. Truman once said, "I never give them hell. I just tell the truth and they think it's hell." Good point...

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**IF we don't change now... THEN WHEN?**

Dear Editor:

Often times the views expressed by those that are not so sure of what is happening within the governmental system raise serious and sensitive questions that disclosed certain truth about our current leaders. The views expressed in these set of circumstances are collected from what goes around in the sakau bars, community festivities, between friends, among others, that might represent in most cases the truth but conveyed according to how one perceives and understand the situation. This derives from the non-transparent attitude of our government, which every so often reflects to some degree how ineffective and unreliable our system has been in terms of information sharing and in interacting with the people of Pohnpei.

I always believe that in our private and individual roles in a democratic society it flourish on free and open speech that gives us the right to express our opinion in any form or manner so long as it does not invade the right of others. However, because of the non-existence of open and free communication between our government and its people, it questions the truth of how we individually express our views because of the little we know or the lack thereof and thus necessitated the question of reliability of our leadership.

In this fashion those that are at the helm of our leadership must be accountable to the wider Pohnpeian populace as their opinions shape their constituency and

have serious consequences for the rest of us. Our leaders time after time preach "government transparency and accountability" but in all honesty are they committed what they preach? So the question is, "What are you going to do about it?" Case in point, the seriousness of the allegations brought upon the FSM as a result of the Inspectors General's Report, which raised questionable links between PMU and GMP once again negates the integrity of our leadership and the FSM as a nation. I am rightfully horrified by the tone and language of the report used that uncover information to describe how you overtime had ignored the importance of your role as leaders to provide the glowing opportunities and protection the people deserve.

Is it because of "Politics?" "What is Politics?" In my personal opinion it is about possibilities based on reliable, honest and trusted representation. Politics have a big effect on how society functions and can give a voice to people who may not have supporters. And, in all fairness, politicians do not always have answers for everyone and for everything, but that does not give you the right to disregard your duties and responsibilities as true representative of the people. I feel a deep personal relationship with the people of Pohnpei because most of us are experiencing emotionally all that one never has and perhaps will never experience. IF we do not do something now I wonder what will happen THEN!

Mohner A. Esiel

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mom and Pop Gas Station Problems

Dear Sir/Madame:

My family has a small mom's and pop's gas station in Kitti, Pohnpei. For many years now, we have been buying gasoline from the bigger gas stations in Kolonia and reselling the gas in Kitti. Recently, however, we decided to purchase fuel directly from the Mobil Kolonia Bulk Plant in order to meet the high demand of the consumer and the chance to lower the price to the customer as well (which was then \$4.00 per gallon). When we started purchasing fuel from the Bulk Plant sometime in late September 2006, the price of gasoline at the plant was a few pennies above \$3.20 per gallon (added were sales tax, excise tax as well as a filling charge of \$0.15 per gallon). That amount dropped to slightly above \$2.96 per gallon. The price rose again from \$2.96 to \$3.20 something. Less than one week later, the price of one gallon went up further to the current \$3.60 per gallon. Again, all prices herein relevant are inclusive of taxes and this filling charge. Unfortunately, these charges do not stop with the taxes and the filling charge.

Mobil Oil (Micronesia), at least Pohnpei Branch, requires that all purchase be made with either a money order or cashier's check. Well since late this summer, the United States Postal Services stopped issuing money orders in the Federated States of Micronesia and no other place in this country, at least in Pohnpei, provides money order service as well. The only choice for the fuel buyer is to get a cashier's check from the local banks (only two banks in Pohnpei) and both are not available to sell cashier's checks on weekends and/or holidays. The banks also charge a whopping \$7.50 per cashier's check. Again, this amount may seem insignificant but a starting business that averages about 10 to 15 purchases in a two-week period, the amount becomes significant enough to reach a three-figure number.

It is common knowledge that Mobil services the bigger gas stations during weekends also (definitely on Saturdays). This privilege is not available to small-scale gas stations as we are not able to come to the Bulk Plant during weekends and holidays and if we ran out of

gas on Sundays then we have to wait until the next working day. November is riddled with 4 holidays (in least in the FSM) and Mobil and the banks are all closed on these days. Again, no special treatment is being sought but if Mobil is available to cater to the bigger gas stations during the weekends and holidays, then the small ones are asking to be included.

I have no gripe with the taxes as taxing is a needed government function to ensure revenue for governments to function and so forth. However, I do not understand the filling charge that is being imposed (I know for a fact that this is a new charge as it did not exist in the 1990s and even perhaps in the early 2000s). I ask that this charge be taken off as it would provide us with another option to lower the price of fuel to the customer. Obviously, we would not object to this charge should it be clearly justified to the consumer.

When I started buying fuel from Mobil directly, the regular price of fuel at the pump (at the regular gas stations) was \$4.00. Because of then lower price to the "walk-in" customer, as we are told that we are called, I dropped my fuel to \$3.99. I immediately dropped my fuel again to \$3.85 when I realized the profit margin was big. That was again dropped to \$3.75 when Mobil went down to \$2.96 per gallon to the walk-in customer. I finally started selling gas at \$3.65 per gallon when I again realized that the profit margin was strong. While selling gas at these rates the service stations crept down to \$3.90 and stopped. This being the case, a certain Pohnpei Senator stated during a Legislature hearing (right after public mourning of Pohnpei second fatality of the War in Iraq), of such significant price differences (transcript available but in Pohnpeian). Shortly thereafter, one of the local vendors went on the radio waves to announce, to the effect, that a mistake has been committed by Mobil and that Mobil had been inadvertently selling the "walk-in" price to the bigger gas stations and vice-versa. I cannot say if there is any impact of the announcement but what I

know for a fact is that the fuel to "walk-in" customers jumped to the current \$3.60 per gallon. Again, no special treatments are being sought but it would be disturbing if only the "walk-in" customers were given increases. I can only think that because instead of going up, the bigger gas stations went down to the current \$3.80 per gallon.

Like the filling charge, the "cashier's check" factor has become a serious monetary concern, as stated above. Nothing in the FSM law seems to bar Mobil for charging a great amount of "service charge" for returned checks in order to allow persons to use checks to purchase fuel. Pohnpei law makes it a crime to write a bad check without clearing the same in five days after notification. These could be utilized without creating the unnecessary charges. And like the filling charge, we hereby request, on behalf of all "walk-in" customers to be able to purchase fuel with checks and pay the penalty of writing a bad check, IF ANY. These charges (filling and the "cashier's check" factor) could perhaps become constitutional and statutory unfair business practice concerns at the backdrop of Mobil's stature as the only fuel provider to the entire four corners of Pohnpei.

The bigger gas stations are able to get fuel at least six days out of the week at much greater quantities (using tankers provided by Mobil) whereas the small gas stations have to bring in their own barrels (which must be at least six) and transporter (usually a flatbed). Weekends and holidays are closed to the small gas station owner. Mobil Oil (Micronesia) is being requested to allow the smaller gas stations to be able to purchase fuel at the Pohnpei Bulk Plant on Saturdays and holiday (if the latter is available to the bigger gas stations). This would strongly enhance the ability of the smaller gas stations to maintain a competitive edge as recognized by Pohnpei Government leaders.

There are no big gas stations that are located outside of town and many Pohnpeians rely on the small gas stations when these small stations are unable to provide, people drive 10 to 20 miles to get gas. It must be remembered that I have shown undisputed tract record that I am willing to lower the prices of gasoline to the consumer to the point that the Pohnpei Legislature would recognize such generous act during a public hearing. Pohnpei Legislature or at least that one

Senator, has made tacit conclusions that this benevolent attitude is not shared by the bigger gas stations.

It is public that <http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/exxonmobil/index.jsp?epi-c> has conveyed ExxonMobil's statement that ExxonMobil had made nearly \$10.5 million in net profit in one quarter. It is also not a mystery that Pohnpei's economy is weak at best (*Pacific Magazine*, May/June 2006—as compared along with FSM's economy with other nations of the Pacific) and Pohnpei greatly depends on mom's and pop's types of businesses. Pohnpei has at least 10 to 20 small gas stations trying to operate at the same time. Although insignificant to Mobil, erasing of these charges would mean a saving of \$0.15 to \$0.25 to the consumer even without lowering the current charges. This is a lot considering that the filling charge and the cashier's check factor could be absorbed by this huge and majestic company.

Again, no one is asking for special treatment but simply for a more reasonable recognition.

*An open letter to Mobil
Solomon Saimon*

Tuna Commission Supports The Kaselehlie Press

On Monday, November 27, the Tuna Commission provided a donation of US\$500 as seed funding to start a fund raising initiative for a new press for the Kaselelei Press. In handing over the funds, the Executive Director of the Tuna Commission, Mr Andrew Wright said that a regular independent newspaper was an important asset for any community. It assists with promoting learning and understanding of a broad range of issues of general interest to the community ranging from local political issues to developments of interest to FSM elsewhere in the region and internationally. A strong local newspaper will be used by the Tuna Commission to assist with the dissemination of information throughout FSM and to Micronesians that subscribe to the newspaper service living elsewhere, for public announcements and to advertise employment opportunities.



Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia

Notice of Inactive Bank Accounts

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

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

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

Kosraean:

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

Chuukese:

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

Yapese:

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

Pohnpeian:

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

MEMBER FDIC

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

KP Mand Women Cook with Charcoal Ovens

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

As part of the Traditional Food for Health Project in Pohnpei coordinated by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei, an innovative cooking competition was held on 21 November, 2006, in Mand. All dishes entered into the competition had to be baked in one of the new energy-efficient charcoal ovens,

which were built in order to provide environmental, economic, and health benefits.

Of the 20 entries, 13 were in the Giant Swamp Taro (*Mwahng*) Category, and seven were in the *Daiwang* Banana Category. In the Giant Swamp Taro Category, the prizewinners were (starting from 1st Prize): Merlain Pony, Ihser George, Sanihser Abraham, Maria Edward, Rekihna



Merlain Pony of Mand shows her first prize entry in the Giant Swamp Taro Category of the Mand Energy-efficient Charcoal Ovens Cooking Competition.

Abraham. In the *Daiwang* Banana Category, the prizewinners were: Rosiana Semes, Melissa Jose, Lohla James, Mesihner Jose, and Serly James.

Below we share with you the First Prize Recipe for taro provided by Merlain Pony. Thanks are again extended to the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program for their support of the development of the energy-efficient charcoal ovens.

Taro and Young Coconut Meat Baked in Coconut Shell

Ingredients:

- 2 cups diced taro
- 3 tablespoons young coconut meat
- ½ cup coconut juice
- 5 teaspoons sea water

Methods:

1. Mix all ingredients together.
2. Put the mixture in a coconut shell and bake until done.

Funny Exam Answers

In the Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java.

Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was cannonized by Bernard Shaw. Finally Magna Carta provided that no man should be hanged twice for the same offense.

Soon the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.

NOTICE OF INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

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

CHUUK BRANCH

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

POHNPEI BRANCH

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

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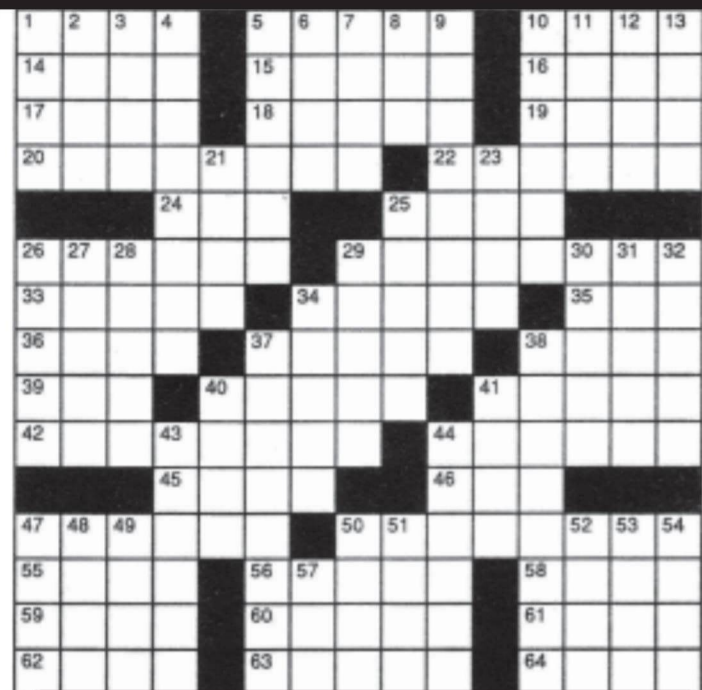


The deadline for submission of items for the next issue of the Kaselehlle Press is 6:00 PM December 1, 2006

LAST Issue's Solution

WIMP	DUKE	HOPPY
ALAR	IRON	EVASE
DUNE	SAND	SERGE
EDIT	ALE	WINTER
SECTORS	HIS	
YAM	LITTERED	
GEL	REPER	SPADE
ACES	DOMES	IVAN
GRASP	CODES	EMS
SUPERMAN	POI	
AIL	LADDERS	
REMITTS	BAR	IRAN
ERODE	DATA	ONTO
EATER	ABBY	YIER
FLEAS	MERE	SERE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. Dull
- 5. Board game
- 10. Breton or Highland Scot
- 14. Underdone
- 15. Wading bird
- 16. Notion
- 17. Grows old
- 18. Rub out
- 19. Tidy
- 20. Exposes to atmosphere
- 22. Revises
- 24. Rowing device
- 25. Remove from liquid's top
- 26. Makes a monarch
- 29. Moved up and down
- 33. Pits
- 34. Equals
- 35. ___ carte (2 wds.)
- 36. Among
- 37. Assigns position to

- 38. Mix with spoon
- 39. Increase motor speed (colloq.)
- 40. ___ for oneself; manages alone
- 41. Stockholm native
- 42. Small spaces for climbing
- 44. Steeples
- 45. Operatic solo
- 46. Fedora or derby
- 47. Moving masses
- 50. Burned surface
- 55. Back
- 56. Loathed
- 58. Healthy
- 59. Sea eagle
- 60. Oxlike antelope
- 61. Wicked
- 62. College head
- 63. Short simple song
- 64. Close completely

DOWN

- 1. A tie
- 2. Furious anger
- 3. Tract
- 4. Gave as gift
- 5. Shouts hurrah
- 6. Mr. (Ger.)
- 7. Historical periods
- 8. Distress signal
- 9. Tennis shoes
- 10. The movies (British)
- 11. Paradise
- 12. Heavy metal
- 13. Makes lace
- 21. ___ Christian Andersen
- 23. Fail to hit
- 25. Looks for
- 26. Map
- 27. "___ and Juliet"
- 28. ___ drab; camouflage color
- 29. Causes to go
- 30. Essential drink
- 31. Leave out
- 32. Challenges
- 34. Chinese bearlike animal
- 37. Enjoyed
- 38. Sticks for whipping
- 40. Shape
- 41. Box in exhibition
- 43. Become firm
- 44. Poorly done
- 47. Storage building
- 48. Telegram
- 49. "___ Karenina"
- 50. Law (abbr.)
- 51. Penny
- 52. Possess
- 53. Writer-director Kazan
- 54. Small valley
- 57. Actress MacGraw

SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

Word Search - YOU DON'T SAY?

Actions speak louder than words with pantomime, the art of acting with gestures. Popular since the 18th century, the art lives on, with France's Marcel Marceau as one of today's most famous pantomimists.

- ACTION
- ARMS
- AUDIENCE
- CLOWN
- CONVEY
- COSTUME
- DANCE
- DRAMA
- EMOTION
- ENJOY
- ENTERTAINING
- EXPRESSION
- FUNNY
- GESTURE
- GRIN
- HANDS
- IMITATE
- LAUGH



- MAKEUP
- MASK
- MOVEMENT
- MUSIC
- PANTALOON
- PERFORM
- PLAY
- PROP
- ROLE
- SHOW
- SKILL
- SPEECHLESS
- STAGE
- STORY
- THEATER
- THOUGHTS
- TRAGEDY
- WATCH

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TEL: (691) 320-6400
FAX: (691) 320-6485
email: ahillyer@mail.fm

KASELEHLIE PRESS
Olivier Wortel
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Tel: (691) 320-6547 P.O. Box 2222
Email: kpress@mail.fm Pohnpei, FM 96941

KASELEHLIE PRESS
Bill Jaynes
MANAGING EDITOR
Tel: (691) 320-6547 P.O. Box 2222
Email: kpress@mail.fm Pohnpei, FM 96941

RELIGION

And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 1 Kings 19:12, NIV

I was raised Free Methodist. The Free Methodist Church was formed in the mid-1800's. The word Free in Free Methodism was adopted for four reasons: freedom for the slaves, free pews for all, freedom from the influence of secret societies, and freedom in the Spirit. Of course, by the time I came on the scene slavery had been abolished, churches no longer rented their pews, and unprincipled church leaders deciding church business in secret society meetings was no longer a burning issue. Consequently, for me growing up in the Free Methodist Church the last free, Freedom in the Spirit, was the major emphasis.



Major Scott Nicloy of The Salvation Army in Pohnpei

During one evening worship service my dad was so free in the Spirit that the neighbors called in the cops.

My mother was your typical "shouting Free Methodist." She was well known in Free Methodists circles for her agile running of the aisles during church services. Mother could shout down the glory along with the best of them. My Uncle Ralph never believed that preaching was preaching nor praying was praying unless it was done at the top of one's lungs. Once during a time of private prayer he was picked up by the police department for disturbing the peace.

My mother once went to hear her brother preach. After Uncle Ralph finished his sermon Mother staggered out of the church building in a daze, she had a blinding headache, and there was a deafening ringing in her ears. There were seven people in the meeting. My Uncle Ken was conducting a church service when a lady got "blest" and commenced running the aisles, shouting, "Fire! Fire! God send the Holy Ghost fire!" Fire was what the church got when the lady ran into the kerosene stove that was heating the church building.

In some ways I miss seeing the sweet cuddly grandma types coming to church carrying their well worn Bibles and wearing their black oxford running shoes. Admittedly, in some ways I do not. As I have gotten

older I have learned to appreciate the "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) kind of spirituality. Anymore, the old gospel hymn "Blessed Quietness, Holy Quietness" suits me just fine.

In 1 Kings 19 we read where the prophet Elijah went up into the mountains to meet with God. First there was a powerful wind that tore the rocks of the mountains apart. But, God was not in the wind. Then, an earthquake shook the mountain. But, God was not in the earthquake. Then, there was a great fire. But, God was not in the fire. After the wind, the earthquake, the fire Elijah heard a gentle whisper. God was in the quiet moment. "Be still and know that I am God," said the psalmist.

Sometimes when I am playing the old camp meeting songs on the keyboard my mind drifts back to the old saints running the church aisles and shouting down the glory. With fondness I remember stories about my church heritage. There was the time Uncle Ralph prayed kneeling among the chickens in Grandma's chicken coop and Uncle Lyle heard him while working on a farm several miles away. And who can forget the time when a bunch of Free Methodists wanting to die to self and live for Jesus, started screaming during the prayer service "Kill me, Jesus, kill me now!" as the older saints in the fellowship encouraged the seekers of holiness, "Die to self, DIE!" The neighbors hearing the earnest prayers panicked, called in the cops, who raided the church building with guns pulled. Then there was Mr. Truly who visiting my home church announced that the church was so beautiful that he wanted to die there and on his next visit he did. Memories, how they linger. Yet, the memories that remain most precious in my mind are those memories when God spoke to me in a quiet, gentle voice. God does not always speak in the wind, in the earthquake, or in the fire. God often speaks to us in the quiet moments, when we are still and we know that He is God.

Majors Scott and June Nicloy are the Commanding Officers (pastors) of The Salvation Army in Pohnpei, Micronesia.

Tide Table December 6 - 19, 2006				
	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	6 03:44AM 2.6 08:56AM 0.9 03:49PM 4.9 10:53PM 0.6	13 03:27AM 1.5 11:23AM 2.7 03:18PM 2.5 08:24PM 2.8	6 02:36PM 2.5 11:56PM -0.5	13 04:50AM 0.2 03:53PM 1.3
Thursday	7 04:23AM 2.5 09:28AM 1.0 04:25PM 4.7 11:34PM 0.7	14 04:19AM 1.5 12:04PM 3.0 06:09PM 2.3 10:09PM 2.5	7 03:04PM 2.4	14 04:10AM 0.3 02:24PM 1.2
Friday	8 05:03AM 2.3 09:59AM 1.2 5:00PM 4.5	15 05:06AM 1.5 12:33PM 3.3 07:14PM 2.0 11:42PM 2.4	8 12:55AM -0.4 03:36AM -0.3 05:52AM -0.4 03:31PM 2.2	15 03:30AM 0.3 12:57PM 1.3
Saturday	9 12:16AM 0.9 05:46AM 2.3 10:29AM 1.4 05:34PM 4.2	16 05:46AM 1.4 01:01PM 3.6 07:53PM 1.7	9 06:07AM -0.3 03:54PM 2.1	16 02:50AM 0.3 12:39PM 1.5 10:18PM 0.1
Sunday	10 12:59AM 1.1 06:38AM 2.2 10:59AM 1.7 06:08PM 3.8	17 12:47AM 2.4 06:24AM 1.3 01:30PM 3.9 08:27PM 1.3	10 06:11AM -0.2 04:12PM 1.9	17 12:48PM 1.7 09:49PM -0.1
Monday	11 01:44AM 1.3 07:48AM 2.2 11:31AM 2.0 06:42PM 3.5	18 01:38AM 2.4 07:00AM 1.2 02:00PM 4.1 09:01PM 1.0	11 05:58AM -0.1 04:23PM 1.7	18 01:10PM 2.0 09:53PM -0.2
Tuesday	12 02:34AM 1.4 09:40AM 2.4 12:23PM 2.3 07:22PM 3.1	19 02:22AM 2.4 07:36AM 1.1 02:32PM 4.4 09:36PM 0.7	12 05:27AM 0.1 04:21PM 1.5	19 01:37PM 2.1 10:12PM -0.4

UCCP Preschool Fundraiser
Do you have a child attending UCCP?
Do you have a grandchild attending UCCP?
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Do you plan on sending any of your children or grandchildren to UCCP sometime in the future?
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Let's make it a better place for all of our children and for those who will follow in their footsteps.
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Lydia Musana 320-3119


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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantor Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office at 7:00pm. Public welcome. For details, call 320-2123.
- ❧
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Namiki 2nd Floor Restaurant at 6:30pm. Public Welcome.
- ❧
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei State meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantor Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- ❧
- FSM Veterans Association meets the first Friday of every month at 6pm at The Rusty Anchor.
- ❧
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Baha'i Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- ❧
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meeting every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- ❧
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30p.m. Everyone welcome.
- ❧
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15p.m. at PCR/Nantehlik.
- ❧
- St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.

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

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HEALTH & NUTRITION

U.S. Ambassador Hale Hosts Local Food Potluck

By Dr. LOIS ENGLBERGER
Island Food Community

Over ninety people turned out for the Local Food Potluck Dinner, hosted by US Ambassador Suzanne Hale, at her residence on the evening of 24 November, 2006, along with assistance by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei. The purpose was to promote island food, encourage the development of innovative recipes made with 95% local island food, and enjoy a good time.

Over 30 dishes were brought, including: grouper fish with tumeric (kisinioang) soup by Bermin Weilbacher, giant swamp taro prepared with local duck by Merlain Pony, malungaay (drumstick leaves) casserole by Jazmin Gonzales, banana fruit salad (*Utin Iap, Utin Menihle*, and lime juice) by Patterson Shed, and papaya pudding by Jim and Totoa Currie, and many other delicious dishes, for which we hope to provide the recipes in further articles and a recipe collection.

A local foods song was performed by the ladies from Mand. The Sight and Life video "Batting the Double Burden of Malnutrition", filmed in Pohnpei, was shown, and the Let's Go Local Club performed a skit promoting local foods.

Ambassador Hale also presented some meaningful words about healthy eating. She said, "Food is really important to families...it brings them together and nourishes them. My grandmother loved her family. And the way she showed us that she loved us was to serve what she thought was very good food...lots of cream and butter...pastries, ice cream and chocolate milk." But she explained that what her grandmother thought was good food was not really that good, and her family later suffered greatly from diabetes and nutrition-related problems.

She added, "tonight I urge all the

women in the audience to be careful how you show your families that you love them...Show your families that you love them by serving healthy food...and to the men...I say watch what your mothers and wives are feeding you or better yet learn to cook healthy food yourself and work together." She stressed that local food and growing your own food is good and explained that she and her husband have been growing vegetables for about twenty years: "In addition to providing fresh, healthy food, we find that growing our own food keeps us healthy by providing good exercise. It also saves money, something that is important with today's higher energy costs. Finally, growing your own food is good for the environment...there is no need for packing."

The Island Food Community of Pohnpei would like to thank again the Ambassador and all her staff for hosting the Local Foods Pot Luck Dinner and all those attending and sharing their great recipes.



US Ambassador Suzanne Hale presents some meaningful words on healthy eating and local foods at the Local Food Pot Luck dinner at her residence on 24 November 2006.



Meriam Prens (left) and Welsiher Hagilmai (right) present Banana Flower Salad and Stir-fried Skipjack Fish Liver, both covered with chaya leaves (a green leafy vegetable grown widely in Pohnpei)

Ambassador Hale's lemon grass tea attracted attention. She explained, "One of the reasons that I often serve lemon grass tea instead of sodas is that there are no aluminum cans that could cause environmental problems. Here is her recipe:

Lemon Grass Tea

- 1 quart boiling water
- 1 cup fresh lemon grass coarsely cropped
- Sugar (optional)
- Fresh mint (optional)
- Ice (optional)

Place lemon grass tea (and mint if used) in boiling water and steep for 30 minutes.

Tea can be served hot or cold, with or without sugar.

Dollar Up Enterprises

Ramen 10 4 pkg
\$3.00 case

Island Soda
& Flavors
\$8.25 case

Angel Large
Insect Spray
\$2.25 each

NEWS

Red Fire Ants and Rabies for Christmas?

SPC representative says that "quarantine is first line of defense."

By *Oliver Wortel*
The Kaselehlie Press

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – Konrad Englberger, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Plant Protection Advisor to Micronesia, would like to remind citizens of a few "pests" during this holiday season. Consider it an end-of-the-year Christmas bonus.

The number of outside influences grows by the day as Pohnpei in particular continues to attract investment, development, commerce, and a myriad of foreign pressures by plane and by boat.

Bird Flu, Bud Rot disease, Banana Bunchy Tip disease, and the Brown Tree Snake should be familiar to most people, as awareness campaigns of one degree or another have been promoted in the past in the FSM.

Let's recap.

Bird Flu, or Avian Influenza, is a highly contagious disease that affects domestic poultry, such as chicken and ducks, and other wild birds, including migratory birds. It can spread to humans. The most recent outbreak resulted in 232 cases in humans, resulting in 134 deaths. Micronesia has had no known cases.

The Banana Bunchy Tip (BBT) disease is caused by a virus called *banana bunchy top virus (BBTV)*. The disease was recorded as causing serious damage to bananas in the Fiji Islands as early as 1889. The virus is widespread across the Pacific Islands region. It is present in many South Pacific Islands such as, Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, and New Caledonia. In the North Pacific it is present in Guam and the CNMI.

The disease is transmitted by an insect. This aphid species is already present in the FSM. The disease could potentially lead to "significant yield losses," according to Englberger.

The Brown Tree Snake was accidentally introduced into Guam in the late 1940's. The Brown Tree Snake is native to eastern Indonesia, northern parts of Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The BTS has caused extensive economic and ecological damage to Guam, where it has exterminated most of the native forest birds and greatly reduced the population of fruit bats and native lizards. Snakes coming in contact with power lines have caused more than 1,000 electrical outages per year, costing millions of dollars and inconveniencing residents. It is mildly venomous.

A havoc-causing fungus that thrives in rainy weather known as bud rot disease can destroy the betelnut tree, a valuable cash crop in the FSM, particularly for Yap and Pohnpei. Parts of southern Guam – particularly Malessa and Inalajan – have lost hundreds, if not thousands of trees to the disease, which affect flora of all ages. The spores of the fungus spread easily through human touch or can be blown by wind and rain to surrounding areas, starting new infections. The only way to rid trees of the disease is to destroy them, the preferred method being cut and burn.

But how about Red Fire Ants and Rabies? Not something one would like Santa to bring as a stocking stuffer to be sure. And Englberger would like to add these to the growing list of threats to watch out for



Konrad Englberger

in the FSM.

Rabies is a fatal viral disease of warm-blooded animals, including humans. It is usually spread by the bite of an infected animal such as a dog, cat, or bat. There are two types: "furious" and "dumb" rabies. Furious rabies causes an animal to foam and drool at the mouth, and it will act crazy, become vicious, or snap at imaginary objects. It usually ends in paralysis and death within four to five days. Animals with dumb rabies remain quiet, are unable to eat, but will frequently try to drink water, followed by drooling and death.

Human symptoms include headaches, fever and lethargy, insomnia, anxiety, confusion, hallucinations, excessive salivation, and difficulty swallowing. Rabies signs usually appear 30-50 days after exposure, but can occur between 10 days to a year later or longer. The only hope for those bitten by a rabid animal is vaccination before symptoms appear. For those holiday celebrators this year, the literature available makes no mention of any danger associated with eating animals that have rabies. Englberger says he has not heard of a case of rabies within the FSM ever.

Red Fire Ants. Fire ants are seri-

ous pests that inflict a fiery sting and can cause severe ecological damage. In Australia, they have been declared "the greatest ecological threat" to the country since the introduction of the rabbit and cane toad. They can be easily identified through their nests, which appear as dome-shaped mounds up to 40cm high, but can also be found underneath other objects such as logs and rocks.

Fire ants are omnivorous, feeding on almost any plant or animal, although insects seem to be the preferred food. Fire ants have a major impact on ground nesting animals from insects, to reptiles, and potentially could harm the extremely rare and endemic Pohnpei Short-eared owl. Fire ants also attack young saplings and seedlings of plants and trees. They destroy buds and developing fruits. Home invasions can threaten small children and the elderly. They are also attracted to electrical currents and have been known to cause considerable damage to air-conditioners, water pumps, telephone junction boxes, transformers, traffic lights, and gasoline pumps.

So remember to be vigilant as to what you expose yourself to outside the country, and careful what you bring in.

U.S. NAVY SEABEES DONATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO POHNPEI HOSPITAL

(U.S. Embassy: Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM) On Monday, November 13, 2006, U.S. Navy Seabees paid a special visit to the Pohnpei State Hospital. Chief Orlando Phillips and Corpsman Freddy Parra brought sacks and boxes containing numerous hospital items including crutches, IV bags, bandages, gloves, scrubs, assorted medicines and other specialized medical and surgical supplies. The two visitors are part of a 24-person Seabee detachment that has been drilling water wells on Pohnpei for the past four months

as part of the U.S. Government's ongoing Humanitarian Assistance program for the Federated States of Micronesia.

Director Wincener David received the donation on behalf of the Pohnpei State Department of Health Services. U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Richard K. Pruett was also on hand to assist with the delivery. After accepting the medical supplies Director David expressed "the State of Pohnpei's deep appreciation for the donations that the United

States Government through the Navy Seabees contributed to the Pohnpei Hospital...in the form of...assorted medicines and other specialized medical and surgical supplies. Pohnpei State is deeply grateful for these gifts which will greatly help the work in the Pohnpei Hospital."

While in Pohnpei, the Seabees also contributed significantly to the community in many ways. Well-drilling teams provided professional development training to Pohnpei Utilities Corporation

employees. The unit's corpsman also provided medical support for the Pohnpei Department of Health Services through field trip missions to the island's municipal dispensaries. During their off-duty hours, sailors screened free movies two nights a week for the children and families of two different local communities. The Seabees also contributed significantly to the local economy by patronizing many private businesses for supplies and services during their assignment here.

...Hai Shun

Continued from page 1

ment and only shows a vessel when it is in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the FSM or in waters where the FSM has agreements. When a VMS is switched off or has a malfunction within the EEZ, National Police in Pohnpei know about it because a computerized alert is issued. An alert showing that the Hai Shun had switched off their VMS caused the scramble to Sapwuahfik to intercept the ship. It is alleged that the ship's VMS may have been switched off several times for extended periods during recent voyages through the FSM's EEZ.

RickySach on November 9 gave National Police Officers a description of the vessel that abandoned them in the open ocean which matched the description of the Hai Shun. In the course of the investigation into the suspected fisheries violations, officers discovered, in the ship's log book, information that corroborated the story that Rickysach had given them. Master of vessel Zhang Xiaohui was charged on November 29th with failure to render assistance to persons in distress within the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Hai Shun received a permit to operate in the FSM as a fisheries support vessel on June 20. The permit requires a vessel to operate within the boundaries of FSM law when in FSM waters. Zhang Xiaohui faces a penalty of \$100,000

and/or one year in jail if he is convicted of the offense. It is not clear whether the passengers of the abandoned vessel will additionally have civil recourse for the alleged abandonment. None of the National Government officials we spoke to could remember a similar prosecution any where in the world saying they are extremely rare.

The vessel "Hai Shun" is owned by Hua Heng Refeer Company (a member of the China Shipowners Mutual Assurance Association), and was licensed as a carrier vessel in the FSM by Lianoning Foreign Trade.

It's not clear how often Micronesians or other Pacific Islanders are abandoned by vessels fishing or supporting fishing within the FSM EEZ when they are adrift which happens frequently. Nemensio Sardis was a Chuuk State Police Officer in 1986, when he and his wife Susan were adrift in the open Pacific Ocean for a period of seven days. During the time they were adrift, Sardis says they came into contact with fishing vessels throughout the EEZ. He said they had contact with at least 10 vessels during their trial at sea. The description he gave sounds more like dozens. He said that whenever their small open boat came near a fishing vessel sometimes in groups of three or four, each one of the vessels left them to their own devices. Even when the contact was at night and by flashlight they were left. The message seemed to be clear then, "deal with your own problems, we're busy making

money." Nemensio said that he was "really lucky" because their open boat drifted within sight of Onari, an island approximately 100 miles from where they started in Chuuk and that there was enough fuel left to motor there.

Larry Adams said that in 1997 the crew of one of his fishing boats was set adrift with no radio when they used their emergency batteries to try to start the engine which they failed to do. There was no battery to power their radios or the GPS. The crew of 8, consisting of Koreans, Filipinos, and Kiribati, drifted for 10 weeks and was found in Palau waters. The crew had already been presumed to have been dead. Adams said that during their drift the crew came into contact with a Chinese fishing vessel that steamed away and made no attempt at rescue. He said that he didn't know that charges against the vessel could have been made or he would have asked for them to be made.

Not all fishing vessels leave stranded Islanders when they encounter them at sea. This year there have been a number of Kiribati islanders who have been rescued by fishing vessels in FSM waters and brought into port.

Colonel Pius Chotailug, Chief of FSM Police issued a strong statement:

"This matter is one of the most deplorable and disturbing incidents I have ever had to deal with during my 21 year career as a Police officer. All Pacific islanders should be justifiably concerned when visitors to our islands who we welcome

in partnership abuse our trust by breaking the law. What is even worse is failing to render the most basic humanitarian assistance to our islanders in obvious need at sea and this should be condemned very strongly. This is a very clear breach of not only national and international law but it is a fundamental obligation of all mariners to render assistance to one another in distress.

"All mariners should take heed that the FSM Maritime Law Enforcement authorities will not tolerate breaches of our maritime law and as we have done in this case, take quick and effective action to locate, track and apprehend anyone or any vessel who breaks the law.

"This matter has been a very positive example of inter-agency cooperation between NORMA, FSM Justice Department, National Police and Pohnpei Ports Authority but also with significant assistance and cooperation with the Forum Fisheries Agency, The United States Coast Guard and the Australian Navy Maritime Surveillance Adviser to the FSM for which we are very grateful indeed".

At press time the Attorney General's office was in the process of researching whether or not charges could be filed against the vessel itself for the VMS violations. The question seems to be whether or not fishing support vessels are required to utilize a VMS within FSM waters or whether the law applies just to fishing vessels.

...AG Impeached

continued from page 2

dio" in relation to the issue of squatters on public lands, some of which include state senators (see Kaselehlle Press, Vol. 6, Issue 10 - "Squatters on Government Land Include Officials"). "That triggered the impeachment," said Santos at his home in Kolonia last week. In order to avoid the ongoing investigations, prosecution, and removal of squatters, said Santos, "they had to get me out first." Santos stated that he has advised the acting AG and Governor Johnny David "to continue with this, and not to give up."

Santos is currently on paid leave. Leonito M. Bacalando Jr., the Assistant Attorney General, currently serves as acting AG for the state. Santos, who claimed he is "not happy" with being out of the office and collecting a salary, already has a case pending with the state court, and has vowed to take it to the FSM Supreme Court as a civil rights case if necessary.

A lawyer within the AG's office made this statement regarding the impeachment: "If we fire every AG for bad advice...we never will have an AG. No one is a perfect advisor. Advising a Governor, even if it is wrong, is not misconduct."

At the Legislature, another source stated that the alleged misdeeds and miscues by Santos and the Executive branch "has been an issue for some time."

Several sources, as well as recent precedent, predict that the impeachment process - now in the courts - could last from between nine months and two years.

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Habitat for Humanity Finishes It's First House

By **KOISIMY RUDOLPH**

Habitat FSM and Pohnpei Lions Club celebrated their first house dedication on November 18, 2006. Renovation work started has been going on since March 2006. Habitat FSM has taken the lead in coordinating the construction work on the five homes approved under a grant through the Lion Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

The grant was specifically earmarked for disabled families who meet the criteria set forth in the Agreement between Habitat for Humanity International and Lion Clubs International Foundation.

Although many have come from different segments of the community to help, the primary work force on this home has been through the gracious efforts of the COM-FSM National Campus students. Their leadership wove together a very colorful network of

students from all the four states to work together despite the language and the cultural differences. They have certainly committed themselves to the task of combating poverty housing by sparing half-day on Saturdays for the construction of houses. The next home dedication is set of December 8, 2006.

COM-FSM Vice President Ringlen Ringlen was the guest speaker who spoke highly of his appreciation of the College student's work on the home. He advised the Campus Chapter advisors to arrange transportation with the College to transport students to the work site after he learned that students hitched rides with local taxi on their own expense. He added that since the Campus Chapter is a recognized club on Campus, it is entitled to this College service.

Erlihna, from the partner family said, "I only have my children from Pingelap but after the stu-

dents from Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae helped to build her house, she joyfully announced that they too, have become part of her family. Habitat is viewed in many ways as a unifying factor. Through this community service, broken relationship can be mended and restored. This first dedication drew over one hundred people. The partner family provided food and entertainment.

Habitat FSM and Pohnpei Lions Club extend their profound heartfelt appreciation to the following for the generous contributions in this humanitarian service. **Matson Guam, Guam Port Authority, Pohnpei Rock Products, Pohnpei Arts and Crafts, LP Gas, VCS Building Erectors, Governor's Office, Department of Public Works, Pohnpei Transportation Authority, Porakiet Youth Group, COM-FSM National Campus, Micronesian Bound, Inc., COM-FSM Campus Chapter of Habitat, COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus.**



Before



After

Cabinet meet to discuss Fiji army demands

FIJI TIMES/PACNEWS

04 DECEMBER 2006 SUVA (Pacnews)- Fiji's cabinet will meet tomorrow to discuss the military's "ever-changing" long list of demands, said Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase yesterday.

He revealed this following the conclusion of a national security meeting he convened.

As in the recent past, the military was again not represented at the council meeting.

"The council has agreed because of the seriousness of the situation we are facing at the moment, I will call a cabinet meeting on Tuesday (05 Dec) and the main agenda of the meeting is the discussion of the ever changing demands of the military," said Mr Qarase.

He brushed aside speculation that the military would take over the administration of the government today.

The scheduled meeting

would be the cabinet's first since the Friday deadline of a "peaceful transition" of government.

Cabinet members were accused by the military of being in hiding, but Mr Qarase denied this. However, he revealed that it was part of their strategy to not be together in one location.

As such, the meeting is expected to heighten the security risks for cabinet despite the Commodore Bainimarama's assertions on radio that the military means no harm. Mr Qarase said the commander's threats were nothing new and this was why he had not beefed up his security.

Yesterday, the commander reiterated on *Fiji TV's* Fijian programme *Viti Ni Kua* that Mr Qarase and his government should resign. He again threatened that if they did not resign then the military would have to conduct their "clean up campaign" because Mr Qarase's government had to go to allow for a new in-

terim government to be in place.

He said after the peaceful transition of the government, those who felt they had the qualifications could apply for the interim posts.

He repeated that he still had no desire to be interim prime minister and he maintains that he has the public's full support.

Commodore Bainimarama said the people should not underestimate the strength and capabilities of the military in trying to deal with the situation.

He claimed that the government attempted 11 times since 2001 to remove him from the military's helm. The commander said former Home Affairs Minister Jeketani Cokanasiga understood the life of the military and looked after its interests.

He said he could not say the same for the Home Affairs Minister Josefa Vosanibola, who he believed was chosen

for the main mission of trying to remove him.

Further on the "clean-up campaign", he said it would allow for the country to become a prosperous one.

Meanwhile, Attorney-General Qoriniasi Bale says the government cannot understand the military's anxiety and need for its troops to patrol the streets in full combat gear given the repeated reassurance from all quarters that there would be no foreign intervention.

"The Government has neither the slightest intention nor the capability nor the willingness to engage in any violent hostile confrontation with the military," he said.

"We have no reason to, neither does the government have any plan or intention to invite foreign armed intervention in Fiji now or in the future.

"Again, we see no reason or logic for it," he said

PACIFIC WORLD NEWS

Loneliest refugee finds a home

THE AGE/PACNEWS

04 DECEMBER 2006 YAREN (Pacnews) - More than five years of offshore detention, most of it on the tiny island of Nauru, is almost over for Mohammed Sagar one of the world's loneliest refugees after a Scandinavian country agreed to resettle him, *The Age* reports.

The last of about 1500 asylum seekers who tried to come to Australia by boat in 2001 to still be detained offshore, Mr Sagar is undaunted by the prospect of having to learn a new language and adapt to a new culture.

"I am just glad I will be able to get my life back," he told *The Age* yesterday. "I feel like it is an imaginary thing and cannot take it as reality"

After four rejections by countries deterred by a disputed adverse security assessment by ASIO, the

United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, negotiated a new future for Mr Sagar, who has always maintained he is no threat to anyone.

Describing the news as his "moment of survival", Mr Sagar expressed his gratitude to those who have supported him in Australia, particularly lawyer Julian Burnside and advocate Susan Metcalfe.

But he also expressed concern about Mohammad Faisal, the Iraqi refugee who was with him on Nauru until he was evacuated to a Brisbane hospital in August after becoming suicidal. Both men were found to have genuine fears of persecution if they returned to Iraq but were given adverse security assessments by ASIO that are being challenged in the courts.

The security assessments are at odds with the reputation both men established in their time on Nauru, where they were described by

Nauruan Government ministers as of good character. The assessments meant they were not offered resettlement in Australia and that no other country would take them until the breakthrough for Mr Sagar late last week.

A spokeswoman for the UNHCR's regional office in Canberra said the agency was "very happy to confirm that a resettlement solution has finally been found for Mr Sagar".

Ms Metcalfe and Mr Burnside said they were overjoyed for Mr Sagar but even more concerned about Mr Faisal. "Now is the time for Australia to offer some compassion to this caring young man and give him back his life" Ms Metcalfe said.

While Mr Faisal is pleased for his friend, the decision has only added to his torment. "I'm happy about him because he is too long on Nauru, but I am unhappy for myself because we are in the same

situation. How is it different?" The good news has come just in time for Mr Sagar, who expressed his mounting despair in an email to *The Age* only last week.

"There hasn't been any change or any signs of possible change. Every thing is getting worse," he wrote.

While Mr Faisal still hopes to have a normal life in Australia, Mr Sagar's preference has long been to attempt a fresh start in a new country.

He said yesterday that if he was resettled in Australia while the Howard Government was still in power "I would be looking over my shoulder trying to figure out what they would do to me". He was apprehensive about his future, saying his hope would be to complete his studies in computer technology. "It's too early to say. I just want to get out of here."

PM says majority supported democratically elected government

PACNEWS/LEGEND FM

02 DECEMBER 2006 SUVA (Pacnews)- Fiji's Prime minister Laisenia Qarase has rejected military claims that he was hiding after the military deadlines was not met yesterday.

"Absolutely no truth in that infact most cabinet members were in Suva or attending to functions close to Suva. I do confirm of course I that I my self and two senior cabinet colleagues we made very quick visits to the West and also to the North" Mr Qarase said in an interview with *Legend FM*

"One of the reasons I want to travel quickly is to asses the feelings of our people and the grassroots level"

"Based on that assessment it is my view that the overwhelming majority of the people of Fiji want to preserve our democracy, they want the rule of law to pre-

vail in our country, they want to see their elected government continuing to run the affairs of our country and that they are totally opposed to the demands of our military commander"

Mr Qarase said the so called "clean up campaign" the military is advocating was tantamount to staging a coup.

"Any attempt to remove a government, even partially remove a government would tantamount to at least an attempt to stage a coup that would be against the constitution and unlawful.

He was hoping there was still room for dialogue with the military commander Commodore Frank Bainimarama to end the impasse.

"I think the most important thing now is to continue to establish dialogue with the commander there is no point in pointing fingers and say

things against each other. It can only worsen the situation and that's the last thing we want to see at this time so I hope during the next few days or during this weekend there would be more contact between the government and the military to try and sought our problems out as early as we can"

The Prime minister also confirmed that he met today with the Vice President Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi in an attempt by the government to solve the bad blood exists between the two parties concerned.

"This is part of the continuing dialogue with the commander, it is being done through the good offices of the vice president and I'm most grateful for that. I confirm that I had a meeting with him a short while ago.

"And there will be a fair bit of consultation continuing through the weekend and early next week I hope. It is all about trying to resolve the differences that now confront our country"

Mr Qarase has also stressed that the demands by Commodore Bainimarama cannot be met because it would be against the rule of law.

"People must realise that it is going to be a very difficult one to resolve because the demands of the military are against the law if they are carried out. And that is the sticking point but it is something that will actually engage the minds of people who are going to be involved in the dialogue in the next few days"

Mr Qarase also said the dissolution of parliament was not an option for the Soqosoqo Duavata ni Lewenivanua Party (SDL) lead administration at this time.

"At the moment the government offcourse does not contemplate dissolution of parliament. I'm sure it is one of the points that will be part of the dialogue that will take place during the next few days"

FSM High School Basketball Tourney Just Around the Corner

By **JIM TOBIN**

Sixteen high school basketball teams have confirmed that they will play in the upcoming 2006 FSM High School Basketball Tournament to be held at the COM-FSM national campus gymnasium in Palikir from Saturday, December 23 to Friday, December 29. According to Heinrich Palik, President of the FSM Basketball Federation, there will be 10 boys high school teams from PICS, IBC, OCHS, SDA, BCOPS, Xavier, Chuuk, Saram Chuuk, Madolenihmw and Kitti High Schools and six high school girls teams including PICS, SDA,

BCOPS, Xavier, Chuuk, Madolenihmw and Kitti High Schools. Yap and Kosrae high schools were invited but are unable to attend.

The organizing committee for the tournament is chaired by Heinrich Palik and Jim Tobin. The tournament director is Castro Joab. The committee is now drafting the schedule of games, seeking business sponsors and finalizing the logistics of the tournament. The opening ceremony will be at 9:00am, Saturday, December 23. Friday, December 29 has been slated as the tentative date for the championship games.

The five Chuuk high school teams will be arriving in Pohnpei on the Voyager on either December 21 or 22. The Xavier High School teams will be housed at the Pohnpei Catholic Church grounds. Chuuk and Saram Chuuk High School teams tentatively plan to be housed at PICS. The committee hopes that Xavier alumni and Chuukese residents in Pohnpei will assist with feeding the athletes and coaches while they are visiting the island.

The sponsors for the tournament are the Bank of the FSM, Mobil Oil Micronesia, Pepsi Cola (Guam), Gatorade, Western Union, Pohnpei Arts and Crafts, Hornet Sporting Goods (Guam), Asia Pa-

cific Airlines, FSM Basketball Federation, FSM National Olympic Committee, COM-FSM, and the Office of the President, FSM National Government. The organizing committee is still looking for local businesses to donate food for the visiting teams.

Palik stated that the tournament will become an annual holiday event since our youth need more organized activities during the holidays. The goal of the Federation is to improve the grass roots development of basketball in all of the FSM islands. The basketball tournament will be free to the public. Come and watch the future basketball stars of the FSM.

Pohnpei Fishing Club's Catch 8 Tournament



The strange tribal ritual of hanging fish from trees?. Tretnoff's prize winning Giant Trevallie tipped the scales at 27 pounds

By **Andrew Jackson-Calway**
Pohnpei Fishing Club

On a day more suitable for getting a suntan than fishing, ten boats competed in the annual Budweiser catch 8 fishing competition on November 18.

"Boat", captained by Alex Tretnoff won the first prize catching 6 species for a total weight of 92.5lb.

Alex picked up a cool \$500 for his efforts on that hot day.

Pohnpei Fishing Club history was made when when both the "Tygris", captained by Kumer Panuelo and "Uchif", captained by Alex Tretnoff, Jr. caught 5 species at a weight of 68.5lbs. Both laid claim to the second prize of \$250.

"Bavaria" ran a gallant fourth also



Fishing Club members, well supplied by Budweiser anxiously await the results for the day.

with 5 species but with less boat weight than the two seconds.

In the largest fish category which was worth \$100 per species, "Uchif" fared well again with a wahoo at 32.5lbs, a 17.5lb barracuda. Tretnoff, Jr. tied for the tuna prize with his dad in "Boat" who also got a Giant Trevallie at 27lb. "Tygris" also kept up its consistent form, winning the prizes for a 12lb Skipjack Tuna

and a 20.5lb Mahi Mahi. Zac Jackson-Calway on Boomerang 2 caught the only Rainbow Runner at a massive 2.5lbs

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