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THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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PUC's 90-10 Policy Angers Customers, Leaves Some in the Dark

Mobil Oil's New Policy Requires Desperate Measures for the Cash Poor Utility

By **BILL JAYNES**

The Kaselehlie Press

They are the providers of what have become essential services in Pohnpei. Pohnpei Public Utilities (PUC) provides electrical power, and in some places water, and sewage systems on Pohnpei. Like many businesses in Pohnpei the Utility has had a problem for a long time with bad customer debts. In 2005 they wrote off nearly \$2 million dollars of uncollectible debts. At the end of Fiscal Year 2006 they still listed as an asset \$2.6 million in Accounts Receivables from customers that have not paid their bills, some of them for years. The figure now stands at \$4.013 million dollars.

PUC has an advantage that other businesses don't since the service they offer is practically indispensable to its customers and it can be curtailed if payment is not made. The utility has been loath to exercise that advantage at least in terms of electricity



PUC's "luxurious" Administration Building in downtown Kolonia. The building's sign above the door long ago disappeared and at least one of the walls has collapsed.

service but new developments with fuel supply have forced their hand.

PUC needs cash and they need it quickly. Mobil Oil, the island's only source of fuel has changed its policy and has the utility scrambling to meet the needs of its paying customers. By the end of May PUC must pay the over \$650,000 that it currently owes

for fuel and buy another \$750,000 (one month's supply of fuel) in advance in order to keep the power on under Mobil's new "no credit" policy.

In an effort to generate the cash it needs, starting April 20 customers with outstanding balances who come to PUC to buy cash power will have 90% of their purchase applied to their

outstanding balance (arrears) and will take home 10% of the power they intended to purchase. According to PUC the collection policy will be in place for 3 months.

Under the new policy, a customer who has a past due balance with PUC who comes to purchase the recently mandated \$5 minimum cash power purchase (3.7 times the current minimum wage of \$1.35 per hour) will receive 50 cents worth of cash power. The remaining \$4.50 will be applied to their outstanding balance. 50 cents worth of cash power at the current rate of 36 cents per kwh will allow a customer to power three 40 watt incandescent light bulbs for 15 hours. If the customer turns on a fan or any other appliance in their home they will watch their 1.39 units of cash power dwindle away by morning.

Customers need power. If they have outstanding balances, whether those

See "Arrears" on page 2

Taiwanese Vessel Escapes Multi-Million Dollar Fine...for Now

Fishing the FSM for Nearly Six Months Yields Only Six Fish? Maybe Not

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

On April 14 in FSM waters near Yap but outside of the 12 mile zone, FSM National Police officers from the FSS Micronesia boarded the Jinn Feng Tsair 1, a longliner steaming under Taiwanese flag with a valid license to fish FSM waters issued on January 22, 2007 and valid for a year. According to the vessels log book the longliner had been fishing FSM waters since January 31, 2007 with their crew of 2 Taiwanese and 9 Indonesian nationals.

Officers examined the catch as compared with the logbook and found serious discrepancies there. In the ships refrigerated compartments they found only 6 tuna. The logbook showed they had caught 100 fish. When the Captain of the vessel was confronted on the discrepancy he admitted that they had transhipped 42 Albacore, 104 Big Eye Tuna, 84 Marlins, 29 swordfish, some sharks and other fish.

He told the officers they had a problem with their refrigeration units. Upon examination the officers found all units to be in working condition.

The FSS Micronesia was on its way to another operation in Palau and according to Chief Pius Chotailug, was late for their assignment. The passports of all crew members were confiscated. The Captain of the Jinn Feng Tsair 1 was asked to sign a document agreeing to steam to the harbor in Yap unaccompanied and to report to law enforcement officers there. The FSS Micronesia continued on to its assigned patrol area.

The Jinn Feng Tsair 1 was monitored by the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) which is required to be operational at all times while in FSM waters and is a condition of the license under which they operate. When the vessel passed Yap, the PSS President H.I. Remliik was diverted from the



joint operation they were participating in to intercept the Taiwanese Vessel. The vessel was lost from view by the monitors when they steamed out of FSM waters.

US Navy planes were sent to the area to look for the vessel but no trace was found.

The fines for the violation of transshipping fish on the high seas and other charges resulting from what the Captain's boarding report called a routine boarding would be in the millions of dollars. The cap-

tain and crew of the Jinn Feng Tsair 1 are still at large.

FSM National Police Chief Chotailug said that since the FSM has diplomatic relations with China and not with Taiwan the problem of finding the Captain and crew is more difficult but not impossible. He said, "I don't know how people without passports returning from the high seas without a passport will be able to enter anywhere undetected...there are ways," he said with a big, confident smile.

...Arrears

continued from page 1

balances are just a few dollars, in the hundreds, or in the thousands of dollars they have little choice. They must pay, but they're not happy about it by any stretch of the imagination.

More customers have complained about what has come to be known as the 90-10 policy than complained about the 50-50 policy mandated months ago and the \$5 minimum cash power purchase policy combined.

PUC employees report that they have received threatening phone calls and many loud confrontations have taken place at the cashier's booth at the PUC office. At least some angry customers, landowners in Kitti and Madolenihmw have threatened to remove PUC power poles from the easements on their land.

Kelly Keller, Comptroller for the utility said that the 90-10 policy is a better solution than turning off power or water which the utility is within its rights to do.

Keller said, "We're trying to keep power on for everyone. That is the priority." If the Utility can't come up with the \$1.4 million in cash it needs by the end of May there will be interruptions in power service for everyone, even those customers who are fully paid up because PUC will not have the diesel fuel required to run its generators.

Of 5,992 customers with cash power meters 1,476 of them have arrears. He said, "We've been too lenient in the past."

Water bills are another source of the apparent cash problem. Commercial customers owe \$125,000, the Government owes \$24,000, but residential water customers owe \$1.2 million. If customers who owe back water bills would stand in a queue at PUC and pay their arrears the Utility would have no trouble meeting the fuel obligation at the end of May but that will not likely happen.

Many water customers in Pohnpei have not been used to paying for their water and so they have open faucets in or outside of their homes that run constantly. Perhaps they don't realize that the meter is running all the

How Do Pohnpei's Utility Rates Compare to US Rates?

It's apples and oranges but in March of 2006 the average rate for power in the huge power market of the United States, including its non-contiguous states was 9.86 cents per kilowatt hour. The average customer used 888 kwh per month and paid \$87.56 for it then. In March of 2006 a Pohnpei customer using the same 888 kwh per month would have paid \$248.64. PUC didn't print the per kilowatt hour price on customers' receipts at that time.

The rate in the US at the end of December of 2006 was even lower at an average per state of 8.49 cents per kwh. Pohnpei's rate at the same time was 31 cents per kwh, over 3 and a half times higher. Hawaii had the highest rate in the US at the end of the year. Customers there were paying an average 19.28 cents per kwh, about 1 1/3 less than Pohnpei customers were paying. The lowest price at that time was in Idaho whose customers were paying 4.78 cents per unit, or over 7 and 1/2 times less than Pohnpei customers.

while, clicking the expensive gallons away. Another problem is standard water delivery systems between the meter and the home or business. Above ground PVC conduit pipes can be stepped on or hacked through with a machete while clearing land causing an expensive leak that can quickly run into the hundreds of dollars if it does not get repaired or the valve at the meter shut down until repairs can be done. Leaks between the meter and the home or business are the responsibility of the customer.

The disconnection of water services for non-paying customers was scheduled to begin on April 16 according to an announcement on Pohnpei State Radio Station V6AH. Many customers have received notices about eminent disconnection because of overdue bills causing further outrage and furious phone calls from customers.

At a public hearing at the Pohnpei State Legislature on the 26th of April concerned citizens wanted to know everything from why the Utility could come and cut down fruit bearing trees on their land that might interfere with power lines to whether or not PUC employees received free power.

Participants wanted to know about overhead costs for the utility. They seemed especially to want to know about salaries because of the many rampant rumors about them. PUC has 185 employees. In 2006 they paid a total of \$2.021 million in salaries and benefits to its employees or an

average of under \$11,000 per year.

A dispassionate analysis of financial data for the last eight years, available for free download at <http://www.fsmpublicauditor.fm/audits.htm>, yields interesting results. Despite local rumors of mismanagement, huge salaries, exorbitant travel budgets, and waste, the audits don't show any of those things. To the contrary, it shows that in a financial environment where fuel oil has increased in price by nearly 3 and a half times, the operating expenses for the utility were actually \$1 million lower at the end of 2006 than they were in 1999. The non-fuel operating expenses have decreased every year since 1999 and were at their lowest level at the end of 2006.

Keller said, "We have really had to tighten our belts."

Apparently that is the case if the ramshackle PUC building with outside walls actually collapsing in downtown Kolonia is any indication.

Another interesting fact that the financial data showed is that every year since 1999 the utility has operated at a loss. The lowest loss figure was \$1.15 million, the highest was \$3.56 million. During that same period of time the lowest end of year amount that customers owed to the utility was \$2.33 million. The highest figure was \$4.84 million. Every single year since 1999, if all customers had paid their bills the Utility would have operated in the black.

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Oil price shocks drive Pacific Ministers to endorse action

SOPAC Press Release

Significant potential damage to vulnerable Pacific economies from world oil prices has prompted Pacific Energy Ministers to endorse a new approach to energy use and consumption.

Energy ministers, representatives and officials from 17 Pacific countries concluded four days of discussions in the Cook Islands this week, with a Ministerial Energy Communiqué declaring a joint commitment to overcome serious energy security challenges.

Director of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) Cristelle Pratt, said Pacific Island countries are deeply concerned about their extreme vulnerability to even moderate increases in oil prices.

"If oil rises by just \$10 a barrel, some countries in the Pacific face

a loss of up to 14 per cent of gross national income. This will have a major impact on the social welfare of local communities and this concern has generated a commitment to urgent action," Ms Pratt said.

Ministers endorsed a regional fuel procurement strategy as a matter of urgency, after reviewing regional and national energy initiatives and policies, and listening to technical reports on bulk petroleum purchasing, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

Minister from the Federated States of Micronesia, Akillino Susaia, said that because of high costs and big risks for oil companies operating in smaller countries, there is a need to examine bulk petroleum purchasing to increase bargaining power and help provide security, affordability and stability of energy supplies.

The Communiqué highlighted a greater need for comprehensive donor technical assistance and for biofuel and petroleum strategies to be integrated. Regional institutions such as the University of the South Pacific will be invited to increase technical capacity support for emerging renewable energy initiatives such as wind, solar, hydropower and biofuels.

"Energy is also a key driver of economic growth that has a significant impact on education, environment and health in the Pacific, so energy must be integrated and prioritised in national development plans for economic development," Ms Pratt said.

Other commitments included a need for sustainable energy policies and action plans to ensure initiatives progress in line with national expectations, and that power utilities and distribution facilities improve efficiency and

governance of pricing and services.

"Having countries from all over the Pacific endorse a whole of government approach to energy as a development imperative is a great outcome. We are now all committed to sharing regional experiences and expertise in renewable sources, and energy efficiency and conservation," Ms Pratt said.

Energy Ministers will urge Pacific Forum Leaders to incorporate energy issues into the economic planning and reform agenda of Forum Economic Ministers from 2008.

Participants were Australia, Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Tonga, PNG, FSM, Nauru, NZ, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the Marshall Islands.

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NEWS

DTC&I, PMU, GMP...Lions, and Tigers ,and Bears, Oh My!

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

What Really is Going On?

DTC&I, PMU, and GMP, it seems that whenever those letters appear in close proximity to each other many FSMers scramble to share their most insidious conspiracy theories. They talk about designs with square foot costs that would be better suited to Donald Trump scale projects. Rumors fly about contract irregularities and some even say the GMP Hawaii (the contractor hired to be the consultant to the Project Management Unit) is inappropriately setting itself up to benefit financially from building projects it has been hired to coordinate.

The most recent rumor is that GMP Hawaii's contract expires on

May 9 and that it won't be renewed. Mr. Robert Westerfield the retired U.S. Navy Civil Engineer who once oversaw the construction of billions of dollars of construction projects and was until recently, the head of Yap's Utility company is now the Contracting Officer's Representative at the Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure (DTC&I or simply TC&I) at the National Government. He made it clear that he wasn't a lawyer but said, that GMP's contract is for five years but it was only funded for two. "No one seems to know what that means", he said.

A GMP representative, intimate with the details of current nego-

tiations said that the contract is for five years and that funding was only given for two years because it was unclear how much infrastructure money there would be. It is not a new contract that is being negotiated between the government and GMP.

FSMers also talk about the lack of progress on infrastructure projects in the FSM. Since the beginning of the renegotiated and amended Compact II only a hand full of projects have been funded by infrastructure funds. FSM Director of the Office of Compact Management, Mr. Epel Ilon confirmed that the FSM is currently receiving and average of \$17 million per year for infrastructure projects.

Westerfield said that when the FSM evaluated its infrastructure needs for the following 23 years they came up with a figure of \$743 million that would be needed. Very little of what has come in to the FSM has been spent. When both Ilon and Westerfield were asked about why there was such slow progress in getting projects off the ground both said that States had been slow in submitting their infrastructure needs and goals to TC&I. They both said that another difficulty is that it has taken a long time to establish construction standards under which design should proceed. They said that the establishment of a standards committee has solved that problem and that standards now exist.

Though the Kaselehlie Press had set up an appointment for an interview at GMP Hawaii it had to be canceled because the owner felt that it was an inopportune time to discuss who was at fault for what appears to be foot dragging on infrastructure projects.

GMP Hawaii has been criticized for the design of airport projects in the FSM that included things like sleeping quarters for firefighters at the airports, and elevators. GMP won the design bid

for the design of airport facilities separate from their function as PMU consultant.

According to Westerfield, the project, funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had an FSM Government estimated total price tag of \$45 million dollars. When the bids came back within the last few weeks, the lowest one was for nearly twice that amount.

Westerfield explained the design features that GMP designed into the projects. He said that Compact II money is not being used for the airport projects but that the multiple projects will be funded by the FAA. He said that there is a thick stack of regulations and construction standards that the FAA requires for airports and that GMP simply designed under those specs as they were required to do. Westerfield said that if they don't build to FAA specs they will simply not allow planes to fly to those non-conforming airports.

The FAA funding is in question. The time to utilize US funds through the FAA is set to expire. Though EPIC has written to the US Congressional committee that is currently considering the renewal of the plan authorized by President Bush authorized in 2003 for airport improvements nothing is guaranteed. The committee that is considering the extension of the plan did not include the FSM in its list of airports the plan would fund. If the funds expire as they are set to do at the end of 2007 without inclusion of the FSM in the renewed plan, no airport improvements will be made. The plan itself is not guaranteed to be renewed.

Infrastructure projects that are nearly ready to begin include the improvement of Chuuk's atrocious roads, now that all of the land issues seem to have been resolved. A plan for an elementary school has also been submitted for approval.

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BLUNDERS

The Kaselehlie Press received a phone call from the Acting Attorney General who said that there is in fact a law prohibiting the killing of the large Micronesian Pigeon. I reported that there was no law against the activity in the article on the front page on Dr. Pratt, ornithologist. We hope that no birds needlessly died as a result.

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NEWS

ANZAC Day in Pohnpei



April 25 Kangaroo Court - Australians recognize 25 April as an occasion of national commemoration. Commemorations services are held at dawn, the time of the original landing of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on Gallipoli, a tiny windswept beach in Turkey in 1915. Thousands of soldiers from both armed forces lost their lives in the subsequent conflict.

After the services which begin at 5:30 in the morning, servicemen and women meet and join in marches though major cities to the

smallest of country towns. It is when Australians reflect on the many different meanings of war to the first and second world wars and all conflicts up to and including the current conflicts in Iraq.

In Pohnpei there were no parades but there was the traditional Gun Fire Breakfast commemorating the breakfasts that the soldiers had during the original battle. Each soldier was given a ration of rum for their coffee to bolster their spirits.

AWARDS NIGHT AT KANGAROO COURT



Meikie Flach receives her award



The Award recipients

The Australian Naval Compound, aptly named Kangaroo Court, was the scene for the presentation of Australian Service Medals and Long Service Awards recently.

In the presence of the Australian Ambassador Ms. Corinne Tomkinson, visiting Senior Australian Naval Chaplain Garry Lock presented the medals and awards to Chief Petty Officers, Brenton Cartwright and Christopher O'Keefe. The Maritime Surveillance Adviser in Pohnpei, Lieutenant Commander Mark Sorby, read a brief synopsis of their service during the presentations. From the

impressive range of postings and duties they have undertaken in their careers to date, it was obvious that these two senior sailors have served in places where nobody in their right mind would necessarily want to visit.

There was also a surprise for the Deputy Head of the Australian Mission, Meikie Flach, when she was presented with the Australian Defence Medal in recognition of her former service with the Royal Australian Navy.

The evening was "rounded off" with a buffet and refreshments.

Operation Rai Balang

By **Colonel Pius Chotailug**
Chief of National Police

A small but important Maritime Surveillance Operation designed to bring Palau and FSM Pacific Patrol Boats together along our common sea borders concluded on Wednesday 25 April. The two patrol boats FSS MICRONESIA and Palau's PSS PRESIDENT H.I. REMELIHK, joined with a United States Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft to sweep the sea in search of illegal activities. The operation was the result of months of joint planning by Australia's Maritime Surveillance Advisers in Pohnpei and Palau, Palau's Marine Law Enforcement Division and the FSM National Police.

The Operation commenced when FSS MICRONESIA, under the command of Lieutenant Steward Peter, rendezvoused at a pre-determined position at sea with PSS PRESIDENT H.I. REMELIHK at around 1000 hrs Palau time on Mon 16 April. The two patrol boats exchanged crew members and then split up with MICRONESIA operating in

Palauan waters and PRESIDENT H.I. REMELIHK in the FSM waters.

In total FSS MICRONESIA conducted 6 boardings of Foreign flagged Fishing Vessels in Palau's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with PSS PRESIDENT H.I. REMELIHK boarding 9 vessels in the FSM EEZ. While there were no vessels apprehended by the patrol boats, several vessels were cited for various minor infringements.

In a statement by the Chief of Police, Colonel Pius Chotailug, he said that Op Rai Balang was a continuation of FSMs strategic maritime focus in the region which is to engage with our neighbors in maritime operations under the Niue Treaty and to develop a regional deterrence to illegal fishing and other criminal and security threats at sea. He said that this successful operation is a followup to Operation Island Chief hosted by FSM in 2006 and Exercise Sea Guardian hosted by the USCG in



FSS Micronesia arriving alongside in Koror, Palau with HI President Remiliik berthing outboard

Guam in December last year.

The Niue Treaty is a tri-lateral subsidiary agreement between Palau, FSM and RMI which allows each nations patrol boats to enforce the laws of their neighbors and escort suspected illegal ves-

sels into port for further investigation.

Operation Rai-Balang gained its name from the stone money that used to be traded between Palau and the FSM State of Yap and represents the bond between the two Micronesian nations.

French Ambassador Presents Diplomatic Credentials to FSM



Ambassador Gerard Chesnel, Ambassador of France formally presented his diplomatic credential to President Urusemal on Friday April 27th in the President's Conference room in Palikir, Pohnpei. Ambassador Chesnel is accredited from Manila unlike his predecessor who was accredited in Suva, Fiji.

President Urusemal and Ambassador Chesnel have met before

when Urusemal paid a state visit to France for the opening of the new Branly Museum in Paris France. On that occasion the FSM donated Yap Stone Money to the museum which displays items of significance on Pacific Islands history and culture.

Ambassador Chesnel plans to make another visit to Pohnpei later this year.

Rotary Club of Tokyo Seijo Shin Donates Fire Truck to DPS

Photo by Jim Tobin



The sister club to the Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Rotary Club of Tokyo Seijo Shin has helped the local club to make donations in Pohnpei before. Four solar powered water purifiers in Madolenihmw, Kitti, and Parem were installed because of their help. Last year they donated an equipped ambulance to the Pohnpei State Hospital and on April 16 of this year they presented a fire truck to the Department of Public Safety.

ment of Public Safety.

The vehicle donations began to be considered when Mr. Sadami Ogai visited Pohnpei two years ago. Mr. Ogai told Freddie and Vida Ricafrente, Pohnpei Rotarians that fire trucks, ambulances, and school buses were being donated to the Philippines via Rotary clubs there and in Tokyo.

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NEWS

Proposed Bill Would Mean a loss of Greater than \$2 Million to Pohnpei Coffers

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei Legislative Bill 395-06 introduced by Senator Marvin Yamaguchi specifically proposes "Waiving rental payments on commercial leases of public trust lands; and for other purposes."

The tiny bill is worded as follows:

"Section 1. Rent and other charges on commercial leases waived. The current balances of rent and other charges due to the Public Lands Trust Board of Trustees on all commercial leases are hereby waived. Future rent

payments on existing leases are hereby temporarily waived; PROVIDED that such payments may be reinstated by statute."

Mr. Finley Perman, who was not made aware of the proposed bill until The Kaselehlie Press called him to question on it said that since the beginning of his term as Director of Treasury and Administration in Pohnpei he had been pursuing back payments from holders of the leases. He said that the outstanding lease payments due had dropped during that time from over \$4 million to just over \$2 million. He said that many of the holders of the leases are try-

ing very hard to meet their payment schedules

One Public Land Trust holder said, "What about us? I'm up to date. Are they going to give me my money back? That's not fair! I paid!"

The bill was introduced on August 30, 2006 and had not been passed by the legislature at press time. It was signed by five senators whose signatures could not be deciphered.

The State employee who brought the bill to our attention said that a great number of the businesses in Kolonia have been built on property owned by the government



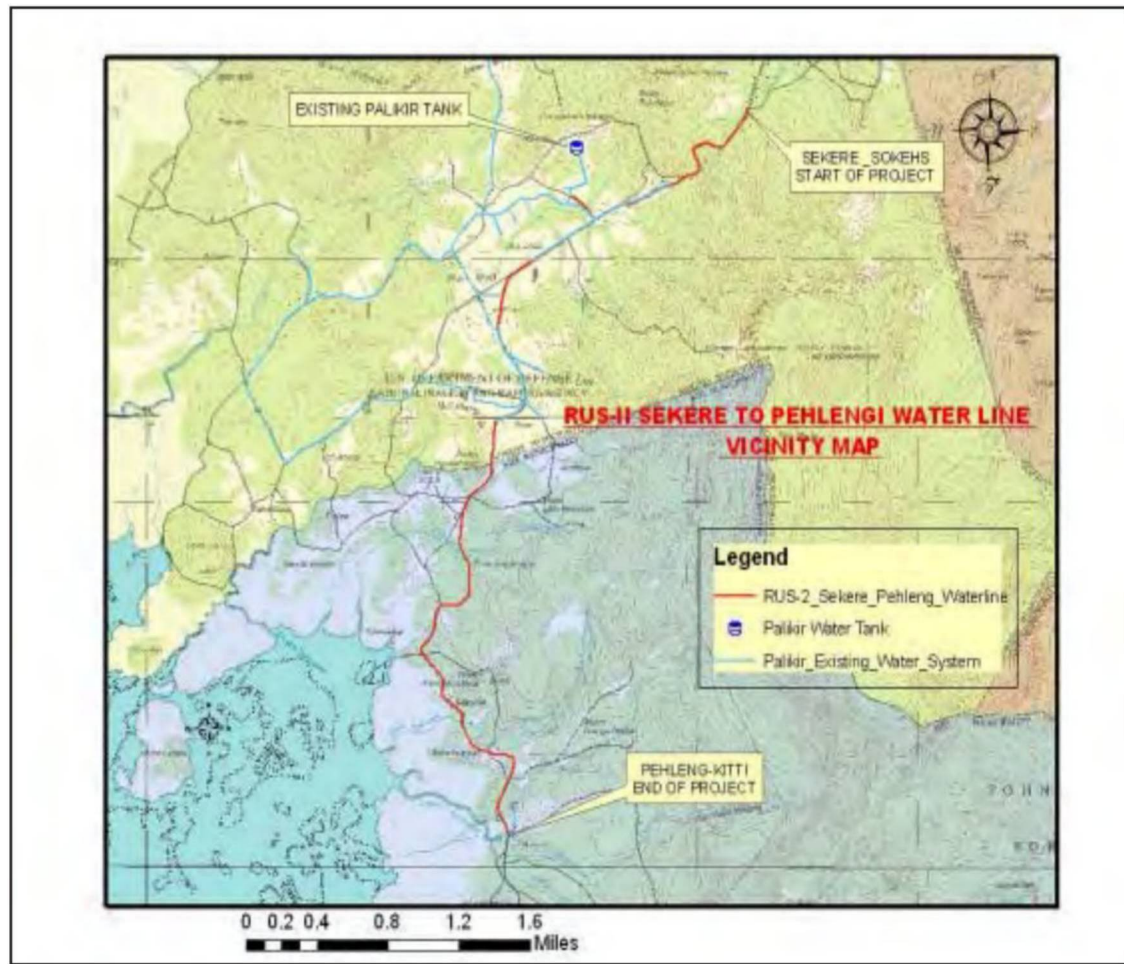
The Kaselehlie Press tried to contact Senator Yamaguchi for his comments for three weeks but received no response from him despite repeated and exhaustive efforts.

Notice of the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

The USDA, Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from **Pohnpei Utilities Corporation**. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Rural Utilities Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment that evaluated the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposed project. This notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment for public review and comment.

The proposed project consists of constructing approximately 28,200 linear feet of 8" water line along the highway between Sekere and COM-FSM Palikir Campus to Pehleng. This includes development and connection of five (5) new wells drilled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, connecting power lines to the wells, connecting the wells to the distribution line, and rehabilitating existing storage tanks. This is to be constructed on the road shoulder where the allowable right-of-way is located. The allowable easement is fifty (50) feet from the centerline of the road. Utilities are dedicated within this limit. Waterline will pass along shoreline and suspended over few streams or rivers. Trenching, grading, and soil stockpiling will be performed in accordance with approved grading plan. The alternatives considered to the proposed project include: No-Action, Extending the system, Additional Surface water Collection, Rain water Catchments and Individual Community Water System.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review at the office of Mr. Ted Matsuo Community Programs Director, Room 311, Federal Building, 154 Waiuanue Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720 or Pohnpei Utilities Corporation, P.O. Box C, Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941, Telephone 691.320.2374. For further information contact Ms. Genevieve Runningwind, SSFM International, Inc., SSFM, 101 Aupuni Street., Suite 315, Hilo, Hawaii, 96720, Telephone 808.922.2727 or Mr. Ralph Hayashi, SSFM International, Inc., Suite 204, 1757 Rout 16, Harmon, Guam 96929, Telephone 670.646.7736. Any person interested in commenting on this proposed project should submit comments to the address above by June 2, 2007. A general location map of the proposal is shown to the right.



STREET TALK

Street Talk!

The new FSM president is about to be selected. Who would you like to see selected and why?



Rebecca Ledaro

I say Resio... If he's president, he CAN help the people of Pohnpei. I can only speak about the people of Pohnpei because that's what I know!



Benito Dannis

Resio. He's good as president I think. I mean he's a senior citizen who has been in congress for a long time. If they put Manny in, it won't fit because he's young and still new to it..



Dusty Samuel

Well I think that it should be anyone who can do the job! Someone who cares about the FSM. They need to not misuse the compact money..



Box Robert

I choose Manny Mori. He's young, but he has experience. I cannot list his experience... people just know! You have to know the person you're voting for. You don't just vote for no reason.



Glorida Samuel

Resio - I choose him because he's a good man and helps people in Pohnpei. He's older too! He's been in Congress since long before until now..



Elson Eliam

Resio Moses because I want our speaker to remain the same. He's been in congress for more than eight years, so I believe that he would be a really good president. He know's what's been going on up to now.

photos by Nigel Jaynes



Dangken Sosua, Cornelio Manuel

We think Resio Moses. He has the most background. Mori is a business man. Resio is a straight man. He knows the people of the FSM.

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In 2009 Global Warming will be Priority in the EU According to Swedish Ambassador



Grazyna Noreén (center) and Ambassador Stefan Noreén (right), pictured with President Urusemal.

Ambassador Noreen of Sweden presented his credentials to the FSM in a ceremony in the President's conference room in Palikir.

Sweden will take the Presidency of the European Union in 2009. The Ambassador who is accredited in Tokyo said that when that happens, the problem of global warming will be one of their priorities.



"Where Pohnpei comes to eat!"

VALUES FOR LIFE International Essay Contest

Presented by the Asia Pacific Leadership Program of the East-West Center in partnership with the Nisei Veterans Endowed Forum Series of the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

BACKGROUND

The Hokule'a, "star of gladness," is a voyaging canoe that has rekindled a cultural renaissance throughout the Pacific. In January 2007, the Hokule'a set sail on a historic voyage from Hawai'i to Micronesia and Japan, utilizing traditional navigation techniques without scientific instruments. This voyage invites us to examine how universal values bind us together as "One Ocean, One People" in a peaceful, harmonious, and sustainable world.

ESSAY QUESTION

The writing prompt for the inaugural VALUES FOR LIFE International Essay Contest is:

***What values are essential for a world characterized by peace and social justice?
Provide examples that support your ideas.***

For more information on the 2007 Hokule'a voyage, please visit: Polynesian Voyaging Society <http://pvs.kcc.hawaii.edu/> and the 2007 Voyage <http://pvshawaii.squarespace.com/>.

PARTICIPANTS

The VALUES FOR LIFE International Essay Contest is open to students world-wide (ages 14-18).

PRIZES

Finalists and winners will receive certificates of commendation. Finalists will be invited to attend the Pacific Educational Conference (PEC, <http://www.prel.org/pec2007/2007.asp>) from July 9-12, 2007 in Honolulu, Hawaii. International winners will be announced and have the opportunity to present their essays in a student forum.

TIMELINE

April-May 2007: Students prepare essays.

By June 1, 2007: Schools submit essays for international judging to hokulea.outreach@gmail.com.

PARTNERSHIP

Applicants to the VALUES FOR LIFE Hawaii Regional Essay Contest will be automatically entered into the International Essay Contest. Please do not reapply.

CONTEST DETAILS

For complete details and to download the application packet for the VALUES FOR LIFE International Essay Contest, please visit <http://pvshawaii.squarespace.com/international-essay-contest/>.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Furuto at lindafuruto@apl.eastwestcenter.org.



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College Of Micronesia Founding Day

COM Public Information

Palikir – The College of Micronesia – FSM National and Pohnpei campuses celebrated the college’s founding day by showcasing colorful cultural exhibits.

Faculty, staff, and students formed eight cultural groups and paraded on floats from the Spanish Wall in Kolonia to the PICS High School track in celebration of the founding of the current college system in 1993.

The college’s Pohnpei campus faculty, staff, and students formed a Pohnpei campus team. Four more teams representing the four

FSM states were formed from National campus students. The National campus students from the Pohnpei islands of Nukuoro and Kapingamarangi teamed up to form the NuKap group while the two other Pohnpei islands of Pingelap and Mwoakilloa performed together as the Ping-Mwoak group. Another group was the Mortlocks team with membership by Mortlockese from Chuuk and Pohnpeians of Mortlockese descent.

The other COM-FSM campuses in Kosrae, Chuuk, and Yap held their own observance of the day on their respective islands.

This year the college celebrated fourteen years of providing higher education for the people of the FSM.

In 1963 the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the University of Hawaii created the Micronesian Teacher Education Center (MTEC) to provide in-service teacher education.

In 1970, MTEC became the Community College of Micronesia (CCM) and started to offer more degree choices for its students.

History was made when an agreement was signed in

1991 between the governments of FSM, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau restructuring COM to allow more local autonomy. This was followed in 1992 by the formation of a new FSM public corporation named the College of Micronesia - FSM.

The process was completed on April 1, 1993, the founding day for the College of Micronesia-FSM



Prince and Princess Candidates



Prince and Princess



Mortlok



Nukuoro & Kapingamarangi



Pingalap & Mwoakilloa



Yap



Kosrae



Chuuk

Photos by Dana Lee-Ling



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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION (at December 31, 2006 / \$ in thousands)			
Assets		Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	
Cash and due from banks	\$ 27,691	Liabilities:	
Federal funds sold	36,000	Deposits:	
Interest bearing deposits with banks	7,702	Non-interest bearing	\$ 178,722
Total cash and cash equivalents	71,393	Interest bearing	515,565
Investment securities available for sale	179,213	Total deposits	694,287
Investment securities held to maturity	73,081	Accrued interest payable	1,606
Federal Home Loan Bank stock, at cost	2,198	FHLB advance	10,000
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses	414,472	Long-term borrowing	-
Accrued interest receivable	4,592	Other liabilities	3,237
Premises and equipment, net	23,908	Total Liabilities	709,130
Goodwill	783	Commitments and contingencies	-
Other assets	14,849	Stockholders' Equity:	
Total Assets	784,489	Common stock	1,792
		Additional paid-in capital	12,595
		Retained earnings	62,453
		Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(1,481)
		Common stock in treasury, at cost	-
		Total Stockholders' Equity	75,359
		Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$ 784,489

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA BRANCHES STATEMENT OF CONDITION At December 31, 2006 / (\$ in thousands)			
Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,458	Deposits:	
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses	5,230	Non-interest bearing	\$ 12,875
Accrued interest receivable	44	Interest bearing	40,482
Premises and equipment, net	219	Total deposits	53,357
Other assets	-	Accrued interest payable	149
Due from Headquarters	46,579	Other liabilities	24
Total assets	\$ 53,530	Commitments	-
		Total Liabilities	\$ 53,530

STATEMENT OF INCOME Year ended December 31, 2006 / (\$ in thousands)	
Interest income:	
Loans	\$ 649
From related parties	2130
Total interest income	2779
Interest expense:	
Savings deposits	269
Time deposits	499
Total interest expense	768
Net interest income	2011
Provision for loan losses	144
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	1867
Non-interest income	
Service charges and fees	473
Other income	211
Total non-interest income	684
Non-interest expense:	
Salaries and employee benefits	379
Occupancy	164
Furniture and equipment	43
General, administrative and other	406
Total non-interest expenses	992
Net income	\$ 1,559

KP-Perspective

An Open Letter to Candidates

The new Congress is seating itself and everyone is wondering who will be the next President, Vice President, and Speaker. People keep asking me about my opinion on the matter. Rest assured, I do have one but there is no way in the world that I will share it with you, not because I am selfish but because I'm not stupid despite what some people might be saying. That's not my job and it's not what this K-Press Perspective is about anyway.

Some people, at least in Pohnpei have already moved on in their thinking to the next big election which will take place in November. Maybe that's because they figure they can't influence the deals potentially already made by their Senators. All of the FSM will be very carefully watching what happens in Congress this early May.

It's the big one where every elected official in Pohnpei State Government is under the gun to prove why they should be back in office if that is their desire. All the while challengers will be snapping at their heels trying to gain voters' confidence.

At least one office holder cannot go back to his current office. Governor Johnny P. David will have completed 8 years in office by inauguration time, the maximum amount allowable. That leaves the field wide open for his position. Anyone could go for that office as well as for the office of Lt. Governor. I have to wonder why they would.

I've probably wondered that about politicians all of my life. What really, is in it for them? I mean a person that is truly qualified to be in an elected office of the State should be qualified to run nearly anything in the state at a potentially higher salary. Are politicians truly altruistic in their ambitions? Is anyone?

We all have agendas, from the lowliest, least conspicuous us to the loftiest, most powerful of them. The question voters will really need to answer for themselves in the next Pohnpei State election is, "Which of the candidates has the agenda that best matches what the people of Pohnpei need most." (Notice the words, "NEED most", rather than

the weaker, "WANT most".)

How will your possible future constituents know what your agenda is unless you tell them? In politics they call it your platform. Are you going to tell voters what you believe in and what you think they need or are you afraid of your opinion? Are you going to buy them sakau every night; maybe buy their pigs for your banquets and assume that's good enough?

It's not. It has been said, "Pohnpei voters can be bought but they can't be bought for long."

Voters, in terms of the election process, have come to a new level of sophistication. They want to know what you will do for the health of the state for which you are running. They listen to what you have to say and they take negative notes when you don't say anything. They ask questions you might not be terribly excited to hear them ask, and they expect an answer from you. If you duck their questions they take note of that and it counts against you.

FSM voters seem to have decided that there is no one too big to answer their questions and they are expecting honest answers from you. Are you ready for that?

Some of the questions you will get in this campaign will be frivolous; just plain silly. How are you going to deal with that? Some of the questions will be based on rumor; not a shred of truth to them. Are you going to say, "Time for sakau," or are you going to be a statesman and deal with them anyway?

I suppose this will be where political men are separated from boys; statesmen from whiners. Can you honestly answer, with complete transparency, the questions of concerned citizens, your potential voters?

If you are invited to a debate, even at a High School, are you going to attend, or will you disregard it as unimportant? How about a debate at the College? The students there are voting age. Are they important?

Do you think that "going on record" means that other candidates will snipe your opinions or do you believe in them confidently

enough to let the voters decide?

Do you want the seat you're going after because it would be great to have the job or because you feel that you truly have something good to offer to your potential constituents?

Before you run, for the sake of Pohnpei, perhaps you should take a moment and consider these and other things.

*Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor*

BNN

Tracking the sale of electricity in your Cash Power

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in the BNN COLUMN are those of the author - Bermin F. Weilbacher bnn_fsm@yahoo.com

If you live in the FSM, chances are that you have heard of the Cash Power Program where the power company takes away the familiar power meter from the side of the house and replaces it with a system that operates much like the vending machine, and it's indoors, somewhere in your house. You pay into the program, it delivers electricity. It's no longer you use the electricity and pay for it later. There are gripes about the new system especially here in Pohnpei. Recently also, the power company added another program for its own convenience, never mind that there are customers who find it difficult. That new program is a minimum \$5.00 payment for Cash Power Vouchers.

But the bigger picture here is with the way the fuel cost is being used to regulate the cost of electricity being sold to consumers. It (cost of electricity per kilowatt hour) works exactly like the gas pump station where the price changes constantly but unlike the gas stations, the electricity price is not posted publicly, not until an article about it appeared in BNN PROS N CONS, below.

Take a look at my situation for instance. During the entire year of 2006 I purchased cash power vouchers worth \$50 every so often for my residence. The tabulation is shown below, with the fluctuating fuel rate:

PUC CASH POWER TRACKING—2006

Date	Amount paid	kwh	Cost per kwh (in cents)
Jan. 13	\$50	174.9	28.6
Jan. 21	\$50	185.5	27.0
Feb. 17	\$50	185.6	27.0
Mar. 16	\$50	187.1	26.7 LOW
Apr. 24	\$50	182.9	27.3
May 27	\$50	178.6	28.0
Jun. 14	\$50	167.4	30.0
Jul. 30	\$50	159.6	31.3
Aug. 1	\$50	150.8	33.2 HIGH
Sep. 20	\$50	158.0	31.6
Oct. 25	\$50	172.9	28.9
Nov. 22	\$50	156.3	32.0
Dec. 06 average for	\$50	157.9	31.7

Note how the dollars remains steady but the kilowatt hours continue to plunge from a high 187.1 down to 150.8. At this writing (March 26, 2007) the rate has further dropped to 140.2 kilowatt hours meaning that the fuel/electricity ratio had jumped up to 35.6 cents per kilowatt hour; the highest ever.

In summary, in 2006 PUC charged me and its customers an average of 31.94 cents per kilowatt hour.

See "BNN" on page 14

...BNN

continued from page 12

After November 22, 2006, I stopped paying for \$50 Cash Power Vouchers. Instead, I paid 10 or 20 dollars at a time while the rate per kilowatt hour remains.

I wanted to share with my readers what the FSM or the Pacific Power Association region's rates was like and got these research results:

PUC	36 cents per kwh
Chuuk Utilities Corporation	33 cents per kwh
	<i>Residential. There is a commercial rate also.</i>
Kosrae Utilities Corporation	34 cents per kwh
Yap State Public Service Corporation	39 cents per kwh

I wanted to get the rates of other power companies in the region so I called the FSM Department of Economic Affairs and asked for the person handling fuel matters. I was told it was the Energy Division or Branch, but they don't keep regional electricity rates. In fact they "depend on the local utilities" to get the data for them.

In an undated Public Announcement, PUC announced that Mobil Oil Micronesia has raised the price of diesel fuel for \$3.15 per gallon. PUC also came up with the following information:

Utilities Co.	Tariff	Fuel Price	Govt
PUC	36 cents/kwh	3.15	None
KUA	20	2.70	Yes
CUC	36	2.35	None
YSPSC	25	2.23	Up to Nov. 06
Palau	25	1.99	None
Marshalls	25	1.8	Subsidy from fuel sales

I also contacted the Pacific Power Association in Fiji but it took two email requests to the PPA Secretariat at ppa@ppa.org.fj to get a discouraging response, similar to the FSM National Government, "...we don't have such information as the utilities companies keep their own rates depending on their fuel consignment deliveries.."

The general perception about the fuel price is that whenever there is a fuel price increase out there, we feel it right away but when a fuel price reduction is announced, we tend to not get the effect for a while after, if at all.

There has been a National Task Force on fuel matters (called Fuel Harmonization) for the past 10 years. It is chaired by the Vice President but I have to admit that I have no idea what it has done to the country's fuel price changes.

Oh well, the talk in the coffee shops and sakau bars has it that the Chinese are getting into the fuel business in the FSM but the picture is not yet clear if the Fuel Harmonization Task Force has anything to do with it or if the talk of the town has any teeth. Sources tell me also that other foreign donors are also in the loop and might up front the huge investment (\$100-300 mil?) to buy out the current fuel farm owners in the FSM.

Apparently there has been some effort to own and control the fuel farms in the country but the details are sketchy at the moment. Only Kosrae State owns and operates its own fuel farm.

A frog telephones the Psychic Hotline and is told, "You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you."

The frog says, "This is great! Will I meet her at a party, or what?"

"No," says the psychic. "Next semester in her biology class."

Pacific Island Conference of Leaders Meeting in Washington, D.C.

In the second week of May, leaders from around the Pacific will gather in Washington D.C. for the Eighth Pacific Island Conference of Leaders. This special gathering of Pacific leaders takes place every three years under the auspices of the Honolulu-based East-West Center and provides these leaders a forum to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the region. This year, for the first time, the Conference will be held in Washington D.C. The Department of State is pleased to work with the East-West Center to make this event a success.

This meeting of the Pacific Island Conference of Leaders will mark a milestone in what we are calling the "Year of the Pacific," a focused effort by the United States Government to expand our engagement with the countries of that vast and important region. The Conference will provide a forum for senior U.S. Government officials from the Departments of State, Defense, Interior, Commerce, USAID, and the U.S. Trade Representative's office to discuss regional and global issues with the region's leaders and hear directly about their interests and concerns. Secretary of State Rice will meet with Pacific Island leaders to discuss how we can work together to promote closer political, economic, and cultural ties.

Among the attendees at the Conference will be the governors of Hawaii and the three U.S. Pacific territories, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Marianas, underlining the fact that the United States is truly a Pacific Nation. We also have long-term ties through our former trusteeship relations — and now Compacts of Free Association — with the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau. President Note of the Republic of the Marshall Islands is co-chair of this special Conference.

The United States' ties with the independent countries of the South Pacific go back centuries, to the days of the Nantucket whaling boats that sought safe harbor in Fiji and Tonga, continuing through the island campaigns of the Second World War. As the countries of the Pacific became independent between 1962 and 1994, we established formal diplomatic relations with each of them and then welcomed them as members of the United Nations.



The Pacific is a vast, strategic region whose safety and stability is crucial to the security of the United States. Many countries in the region face growing political, environmental and economic challenges, compounded by longer-term transnational threats. In response to these threats, the United States is working to promote prosperity, good governance, and the rule of law in the region. We are reaching out to the people of Fiji and supporting the efforts of Fiji's Pacific Island neighbors to help that troubled nation quickly return to democracy. The Pacific cannot become an area where strongmen unilaterally decide the fates of their countries and weaken the democratic underpinnings of Pacific societies.

Reflecting the U.S. determination to play an active role in this vital region, during that same week in May, the U.S. will also host a meeting in Washington of the many countries with strong interests in the Pacific, including Australia, New Zealand, China, France, Germany, Korea, and Japan. These "Pacific Core Partners" will discuss and, we hope, endorse a set of donor principles calling for transparency, responsibility, and accountability. We will discuss the importance of good governance and the rule of law in the region and how to help Fiji return to democracy. The Conference of Leaders and the Core Partners meetings will be linked in a celebration of the region's culture at the annual "Pacific Night" reception for Washington's diplomatic corps, senior U.S. Government officials, and others with an interest in Oceania.

We look forward to working hand-in-hand with the leaders and peoples of the Pacific Island nations and their partners both in the region and around the world to face our shared challenges and, together, to solve them.

*Ambassador Suzanne Hale
United States Embassy to the
Federated States of Micronesia*

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Next FSM

President?

On May 11, 2007, the FSM Congress will elect the next President of Federated States of Micronesia from among four candidates; Resio Moses of Pohnpei State, Manny Mori of Chuuk State, Alik Alik of Kosrae State and Joseph Urusemal of Yap State who is the current sitting President.

If you believe the rumors and speculation going around, Resio Moses is not interested in the President or Vice President positions while Manny Mori publicly stated that he is only interested in the Presidency and will not accept the lesser Vice President position. Alik Alik would accept the Vice Presidency but only if Joseph Urusemal is re-elected as President for a second term.

In Chuuk the talk is all about Manny Mori being the next President of the FSM because it is Chuuk's turn. Well, it has been Chuuk's turn before and the FSM Congress has had several opportunities to elect a qualified Chuukese as our President.

The people of Chuuk Elected Redley Killion as our 4-year term Congressman 3 times knowing that this put him in line to be selected as the President of the FSM.

Congressman Killion accepted the position of Vice President twice, serving as our Vice President for 8 years. He was denied the Presidency because all except one of our representatives from Chuuk decided that he should not be President.

Not since 1987, 20 years ago, has the State of Chuuk held the Presidency of the FSM. A few Chuukese voted against the whole State of Chuuk and denied Chuuk State the honor of having our second President. They did this because they individually were unhappy with Mr. Killion.

Manny Mori, who wants to be the next President of the FSM, did defeat Mr. Killion in the recent election for the Chuuk State 4-year seat in Congress. However, it was reminiscent of the political maneuvering that denied Chuuk State, and Mr. Killion, the Presidency.

In the most recent election Mr. Mori and supporters managed to convince people of Chuuk that Mr. Killion was behind the arrests and convictions of several former national congressmen, a former mayor and a major businessman from Chuuk. Even after convicted and sentenced to prison, Mr. Killion could have helped them get out of jail if he had wanted to help them.

At the same time, Congressmen Mori led the families of these convicted felons to believe that if he were elected to the 4-year seat in Congress, he would then be selected President and, in a position to help these convicted felons, obtain pardons. Mr. Mori wrote glowing letters on behalf of these convicted felons in efforts to help them obtain early release from prison.

While Congressman Mori was falsely accusing Vice President Killion of being responsible for the convictions and imprisonment of these Chuukese, Vice President Killion refused to respond and attended to his national duties. In the end, and with the help of the convicted felons serving prison terms for graft and corruption while in office, Congressman Mori defeated Vice President Killion for the 4-year seat in Congress.

Now Congressmen Mori only needs to be elected President to make good on his promise of pardons to the small group of felons who were numbered amongst those who helped him to be elected.

Is it also possible that a President Mori would pardon a certain Chuukese felon and then appoint him the next Attorney General of the FSM? Will OIC be raised to the National level? Stay tuned for more.

Francis Suda

More PUC

With all due respect I have made this contact to humbly request your assistance and support in enlightening the general public with our concerns today concerning the service of the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation.

Editor, I am in a stage of wondering, I would describe myself as a confused low wage citizen that would not accept an oral explanation for an answer. Like all government offices and corporations, I believe the general public also deserves transparency and accountability. Therefore, I have made this to humbly request the assistance of the press to provide the general public on, What problem PUC has or expecting that made PUC and the State Government to be so self-centered to collect debts from its people at such an outraging rate (10%customer -90% PUC) when they truly understand that it would be difficult and a hardship to the most people (low wages & unemployed) of Pohnpei?

Editor, I believe all PUC customers today are using the prepaid power. And it has been prepaid power since year 2000 and 50% has been paying the arrears. Where is the problem coming from? Is it from individuals' debt, businesses' or governments' or PUC itself? How much? Is water debt included in these debts? Do they truly believe the rate of 90% collection is the best option suits both PUC and its people? What is PUC's annual operation on salaries and benefits? Why couldn't the State Government assist on the problem?

Editor, I strongly believe that you can enlighten us on our concerns and I beg for your sincere assistance and support. Thank you,

Respectfully,
Michael Lieman
Sokehs, Pohnpei

Call For Bids



The Leo Etscheit foundation is seeking bids so that they can provide the following to Pohnpei State Hospital:

- 1 - Hematology Analyzer
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Bids are due by June 1st

For more information contact:

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Pohnpei State Hospital
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Belated Happy Birthday Estle Oliver



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SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

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|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| ACROSS | | DOWN | |
| 1. A long time | 27. Type of | 1. Restaurant | 22. Anger |
| 4. From | liqueur | patron | 23. Fall |
| California to | 30. Remove | 2. Talks to be | flower |
| D.C. | the unartistic | heard | 25. Concert |
| 8. Cushion | part | 3. Sibling's lad | need |
| 11. We be | 33. Apiece | 4. Expensive | 26. Body art |
| 12. Wildcat | 35. Family | movie | 28. |
| 13. "A long time | 36. In need of | 5. Subtle | Graduate's |
| 14. Dance like | a drink | quality | frill |
| Gregory Hines | 39. Combine | 6. Slow burn | 29. C to C |
| 15. Pants presser | 40. Ninny | 7. Result of | 30. Fleming's |
| 16. Cherry | 41. Tree juice | sun worship? | footwear |
| center | 42. Golf ball | 8. Like some | 31. Apple |
| 17. With morals | perch | religious | drink |
| 19. Barroom | 43. Lounge | decrees | 32. Beneath |
| drink | 44. Night | 9. Able to | 34. Oyersold |
| 20. Oboe | before | move about | 37. Opening |
| attachment | 45. To is | easily | 38. The bad |
| 21. Called on | human | 10. Loved to | stuff |
| the phone | 46. | excess | 40. It'll make |
| 24. Clothes for | Applications | 18. Perfect | you sick |
| cool weather | 47. Administered | | |

Word Search - BUCK STOPS HERE

Many of the books by author Pearl S. Buck reflect a keen understanding of China and its people. Her best-known work is her second novel, "The Good Earth," which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1932 and was adapted for the screen in 1937

"A BRIDGE for
Passing"
"A HOUSE Divided"
AMERICAN
CHILDREN'S books
CHINA
"DRAGON Seed"
"EAST WIND, West
Wind"
"EXILE, The"
FICTION
"FIGHTING Angel"
"GOOD EARTH, The"
HILLSBORO, W.Va.
"IMPERIAL Woman"
"LETTER from
Peking"
LITERATURE

I	P	U	L	I	T	Z	E	R	V	F	R	G	L	H
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"LIVING Reed, The"
"MANDALA"
"MY SEVERAL
Worlds"
NOBEL Prize
NOVELS
"PATRIOT, The"
"PAVILION of
Women"
"PEONY"
POETRY
PULITZER Prize
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RELIGION

Thoughts On Suicide From Job

A close personal friend of mine just lost another family member to the number one killer on Pohnpei, suicide. As a result of losing yet another island youth to this killer I thought it timely to reflect on the subject from the book of Job. Let us consider some of the lessons we learn from this book.

First, everyone has bad days. In Job chapter one we are introduced to a man that is the wealthiest in his area (Job 1:3). Also this man was the most upright of any person on earth (1:1). It is likely that Job's friends and neighbors thought nothing bad could ever happen to him. However, Job had about the worst day in recorded history. Imagine, losing everything in a single day. Not just all your money, but your house, your animals, all your children and to top it off, your health. I don't know about you, but my problems pale in comparison to his. When you have had a bad day, week or

month, consider the fact that you are not alone. Your problems may seem like the end of the world, but they are not. Others have dealt with the same problems successfully and you can deal with them too.

Second, we learn that sometimes those closest to us let us down the most when we are having a hard time. After Job lost everything his very own wife came to him with the great advice "curse God and die" (2:9) Now, we should take it easy on Mrs. Job keep in mind she lost everything too. However, Job probably turned to his wife looking for support and comfort through this difficult time. Imagine his surprise at the advice she gave. Also, Job had three friends that came to "comfort" him. I imagine (this is not revealed to us) that Job thought, "Oh good, my three closest friends are here. Surely they will help cheer me up." Well, if that is what

Job thought he was in for a big surprise. Not only did Job's friends not attempt to cheer him up, they in fact blamed all of his problems on him. If you are having a hard time and your friends are not helping you through it find some friends that will.

Third, when bad things happen to us there are things going on behind the scenes that we are not aware of. In the story of Job we learn that Satan went after Job as a challenge not to Job, but to God (1:9-11). The adversary's accusation was that God was not good enough to serve and worship if He did not bless His people. The interesting thing about this is that God allowed Satan to test Job. This shows that God had faith in Job's faith. The Bible tells us that God will never allow us to be tested beyond what we are able to handle (1st Corinthians 10:13). The hard time you are going through is not from God it is from

need to leave it up to God, not ourselves. Job is not the only Bible figure that has wanted his life to end. Moses, Jonah and Elijah all have that in common. However, although they wanted their lives to end they were not willing to take this in their *own* hands. When we have bad days we might feel like praying "God, just take me home now." That is fine as long as we add "thy will be done" (Matthew 26:39).

Fifth, we learn from Job that it is worth sticking around to see how the story ends. Job went through a horrible experience. The experience was so horrible that he wished he had never been born. However, had Job taken his own life he would never have seen how the story ends, with him being more blessed at the end than at the beginning (42:10). The problems you are facing in your life seem insurmountable, however, it is not fair to yourself (not to mention your loved ones) to end it on your own. If you take your own life you will never know what the rest of it could have been.

I hope that someone who has thought of taking their own life will consider the life of Job. I also hope that you will share this article with someone it may help. If you are one that is considering taking your own life I encourage you to run, don't walk, to someone who can help you immediately. If you can't find someone that you already know give me a call at 320-1531. Who knows maybe together we can see how the story ends.

Scott Shanahan
Pohnpei Church Of Christ

Satan. However, you need to take this hard time as a compliment because it is God's way of saying, "I know you can handle this."

Fourth, we learn that when we have days we wish we would die we

Tide Table May 2 -15, 2007				
	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	02 Wed 02:59AM 4.4 09:28AM 1.0 03:09PM 3.3 08:50PM 1.0	09 Wed 06:55AM 3.6 03:27PM 1.6	02 Wed 02:00AM 2.2 09:08AM 0.3 02:09PM 0.9 07:03PM 0.4	09 Wed 05:06AM 2.0 06:41PM 0.0
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Pohnpei Competitors' Association Standings

VOLLEYBALL CLUB STANDINGS

SDA SCHOOL					
Rank	Team	GP	W	L	PCT
1T	Devils	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Bubble Gum	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Barbies	1	1	0	1.000
4T	Mariko	2	1	1	0.500
4T	Tashy	2	1	1	0.500
6	Angels	3	1	2	0.333
7T	Smiles	1	0	1	0.000
7T	All Store	1	0	1	0.000

MADOLENIHMW HIGH SCHOOL

Rank	Team	GP	W	L	PCT
1T	Piece of Cake	1	1	0	1.000
1T	151 Grand	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Why Not?	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Pick-ups	1	1	0	1.000
5	No Rules	2	1	1	0.500
6	Better than Nothing	3	1	2	0.333
7T	Young Stars	2	0	2	0.000
7T	Rebels	1	0	1	0.000

GP=Games Played W=Won L=Lost
PCT=Winning Percentage (W divided by GP)

BASKETBALL CLUB STANDINGS

MADOLENIHMW HIGH SCHOOL

Rank	Team	GP	W	L	PCT
1T	151 Grands	2	2	0	1.000
1T	Rebels	2	2	0	1.000
1T	Dahms Soho	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Better than Nothing	1	1	0	1.000
5	Pick-ups	2	1	1	0.500
6	Young Stars	3	1	2	0.333
7T	Mworo	2	0	2	0.000
7T	Piece of Cake	2	0	2	0.000
7T	No Rule	1	0	1	0.000

COM-FSM POHNPEI CAMPUS

Rank	Team	GP	W	L	PCT
1T	Ball Hunters	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Grand Award	1	1	0	1.000
3T	Fokai	1	0	1	0.000
3T	Cobras	1	0	1	0.000

PICS HIGH SCHOOL

Rank	Team	GP	W	L	PCT
1T	Kiracel	2	2	0	1.000
1T	KBT	1	1	0	1.000
3	Pojel	2	1	1	0.500
4T	Kasaul	2	0	2	0.000
4T	Kenehkeho	1	0	1	0.000

GP=Games Played W=Won L=Lost
PCT=Winning Percentage (W/GP)

CHESS CLUB STANDINGS

SDA SCHOOL						
Rank	Name of Player	GP	W	L	D	PCT
1	Kaci Samu	1	1	0	0	1.000
2	Ganvies Estar	12	11	1	0	0.917
3T	Mr. Stewart	4	3	1	0	0.750
3T	Samuel Hadley	4	3	1	0	0.750
5T	Alex Pangelinan	3	2	1	0	0.667
5T	Lloyd Yamada	3	2	1	0	0.667
5T	Joel Basig	3	2	1	0	0.667
8T	Danzel Elae	24	15	9	0	0.625
8T	Peter Jesse	16	10	5	1	0.625
10	Alex Terrioff	7	4	3	0	0.571

OHWA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Rank	Name of Player	GP	W	L	D	PCT
1	Nickson Piro	1	1	0	0	1.000
2T	Sinson	3	2	1	0	0.667
2T	Kelson Sepin	6	4	2	0	0.667
2T	Steven Mathias	3	2	1	0	0.667
5	Suptract Sehipin	6	5	3	0	0.625
6T	Person R	2	1	1	0	0.500
6T	Michaelson S	4	2	2	0	0.500
6T	Wayne Wital	4	2	2	0	0.500
9	Arviz Nelbert	5	2	3	0	0.400
10	Any Wital	8	3	4	1	0.375

GP=Games Played W=Won L=Lost
D=Draws PCT=Winning Percentage (W divided by GP)

VOLLEYBALL CLUB STANDINGS

SDA SCHOOL

Rank	Team	GP	W	L	PCT
1T	Devils	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Bubble Gum	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Barbies	1	1	0	1.000
4T	Mariko	2	1	1	0.500
4T	Tashy	2	1	1	0.500
6	Angels	3	1	2	0.333
7T	Smiles	1	0	1	0.000
7T	All Store	1	0	1	0.000

MADOLENIHMW HIGH SCHOOL

Rank	Team	GP	W	L	PCT
1T	Piece of Cake	1	1	0	1.000
1T	151 Grand	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Why Not?	1	1	0	1.000
1T	Pick-ups	1	1	0	1.000
5	No Rules	2	1	1	0.500
6	Better than Nothing	3	1	2	0.333
7T	Young Stars	2	0	2	0.000
7T	Rebels	1	0	1	0.000

GP=Games Played W=Won L=Lost
PCT=Winning Percentage (W divided by GP)

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

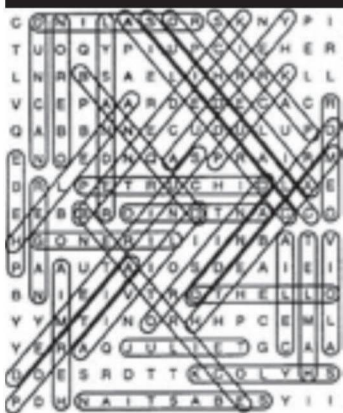
FANGO holds its monthly Issue Base Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The public is welcome.

House for Rent!

A partly-furnished 3-bedroom house with kitchen, living room and one bath will be available for rent starting May 1, 2007. House is located in Nankewi, about 100 feet before Sokehs Shopping Center. Nice location, very private and comes with a nahs, (traditional house).

Asking price \$600/month. For information, call Emy at 320-2531 (work); 920-1829 (cell).

LAST Issue's Solution



House for Rent!

Nan Pohnmal location. Two bedroom 1 bath house, partly furnished, large kitchen, carport, high ceilings, ceiling fans, big yard

Contact 320-8356, 920-7050 or catherinewiehe@gmail.com

The deadline for ads and news items for the next issue is

May 11, 2007

Earlier is better since the editor will be off island!

LAST Issue's Solution



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

International Symposium Stresses the Potential of Breadfruit

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

The First International Symposium on Breadfruit Research and Development, held 16-19 April 2007, in Nadi, Fiji, was attended by over 45 participants from far and wide. This included two from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Adelino Lorens, Pohnpei Chief of Agriculture, and Dr. Lois Englberger of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei. Representatives also came from the African continent, Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, and Tanzania), The Seychelles, Caribbean region (Trinidad and Jamaica), Sri Lanka, along with the Pacific (FSM, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Hawaii and Australia).

This meeting was organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Land Resources Division, Technical Centre for Rural and Agricultural Cooperation, and the Breadfruit Institute, National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) in collaboration with the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), International Centre for Underutilised Crops, Global Facilitation Unit for Under-Utilized species, and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

Adelino Lorens pointed out that one outcome from the meeting was the realization that breadfruit is such an important food in all these diverse regions, providing food security and offering potential for marketing and income generation. Another significant aspect of breadfruit includes its diversity. Pohnpei was commended

for its great diversity of breadfruit varieties.

The grounds of the former "Pohnpei Agriculture Station" in Kolonia are home to a unique collection of breadfruit. These magnificent trees were planted in the late 1950s as part of a regional project to conserve and study breadfruit diversity in the Pacific Islands. This project was coordinated by SPC and numerous varieties from Micronesia, French Polynesia, and Samoa were shared between these island groups. One of those introduced varieties, *Mei Uhpwen Samoa*, has found its way into gardens and farms throughout Pohnpei. Today, two unusual Tahitian varieties (*Afara* and *Piipiia*) can still be found in the breadfruit grove at the station, along with Chuukese and Pohnpeian varieties.

The Symposium covered a wide range of themes from Breadfruit in Society to Product Development and Marketing. It was interesting to see that although breadfruit is considered an under-utilized crop, a significant amount of work has been carried out on breadfruit and there is a lot of information to be shared. This is what the meeting was about - sharing experiences and information in breadfruit, and looking at ways in which

Photo by Jim Wiseman



Adelino Lorens, Pohnpei Chief of Agriculture, points to a breadfruit seedling shown at a field trip during the First International Breadfruit Symposium, Nadi, Fiji, 16-19, April 2007.

the future of breadfruit both as a food security crop and as a marketable commodity (domestic and export) could be strengthened.

The keynote address was given by Dr Diane Ragone, Director of the Breadfruit Institute, National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) whose enthusiasm for, and commitment to breadfruit is apparent to all who meet her. Her efforts have ensured that more than 120 varieties from the Pacific are conserved in the world's largest collection of breadfruit (over 200 accessions) at the NTBG in Hawaii.

Some of the conclusions from the meeting were: 1) that an inventory of breadfruit resources should be established in which information on

breadfruit can be collected and managed; 2) that work is needed on promoting breadfruit, including its nutrient content and potential health benefits; 3) that product development is needed so that minimally processed breadfruit can be made readily available; and 4) that increased work is needed on sharing of information and planting materials of breadfruit 5) that every effort should be made to secure long-term funding to conserve the globally unique collection at the NTBG in Hawaii.

Thanks are extended to Mary Taylor (SPC) and Diane Ragone (NTBG) for their assistance with this article and to the funding agencies and coordinating committee for the symposium.

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SPORTS

Women in Sport Fun Run



Jim Tobin starts 'em up early in the morning

The 3rd annual Women & Sport 5k run was held despite rain in the early morning hours on Saturday, April 21, 2007. More than fifty men, women and children participated in the event. The annual event hosted by Women in Sport hopes to increase awareness and participation of women in sport to foster a more healthy lifestyle.

Here are the Categories & Result:

Top Finishers:		Youth 18 & Under	
Male: Tim Smith	16:33	Male: Kelly Tobin	24.40
Female: Akiko Moribe	26.45	Female: Debra Daniel	40.11
Youth 12 & Under		Master: 50yrs & Above	
Male: Armando Bloom	45.00	Male: Gary Bloom	32.52
Female: Pedra Daniel	40.10	Female: Anca DMA	43.05

We want to thank our sponsors for their endless support to the FSM Women In Sport Activities:

Pohnpei Cancer Program
FSM NOC
Palm Terrace
Western Union & CTSI

National Sports Medicine Workshop



The FSM National Olympic Committee (FSMNOOC) hosted a 3 day National Sports Medicine Workshop from Tuesday, April 17 to noon Friday, April 20 at the Yvonne's hotel conference room in Kolonia, Pohnpei. The workshop participants were doctors, nurses, sport coaches, sport administrators and physiotherapist from all four states. The instructors were David Zuker & Dr. Greg Kolt from Australia

Pohnpei Fishing Club
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