

The KASELEHLIE Press

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PO Box 2222 Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941 Phone 691-320-6547 Fax 691-320-6571 kpress@mail.fm

OPA Says That PUC Management Controls Are Poor PUC Says the Audit Is Not Only Erroneous But Misleading

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Pohnpei, FSM – Pohnpei State Public Auditor Annes H. Leben released on November 13, 2007, an audit of Pohnpei Utilities Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2006. The Office of the Public Auditor undertook the audit with two objectives: to evaluate whether or not management controls over operations were efficient and effective and, to evaluate whether or not PUC complied with applicable laws and regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. According to the audit report there were several areas where PUC fell short on those objectives.

Since PUC's creation in 1991 the OPA has performed only two audits though an independent audit has been performed every year by

a private contractor. This OPA audit was highly contested by PUC when Governor Johnny David directed it earlier this year. PUC sought a temporary restraining order to keep the office from auditing until after the external and private auditor had completed its audit. Since that time former General Manager Marcelino Actouka was relieved of duty by the Board of Directors after Governor David removed Anna Mendiola as chairperson of the PUC board.

The audit conducted by the OPA was conducted beginning on August 20 and was completed on October 6, 2007. PUC responded to the audit which resulted in some changes to the auditor's findings. One audit exception was removed and two others were reworded.

According to the auditor's Ex-

ecutive Summary the office, after adjustment identified nine internal and management control weaknesses, "of which, three (3) (*sic*) of them resulted to non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations, contract agreements, policies and procedures of PUC."

Audit exception one said that management should reduce operating costs when revenues are not sufficient to support them. It provided a table with operating revenues compared to operating expenses from 2002 to 2006. OPA did not provide an amount for customers who had not paid their bills (Accounts Receivables). Pohnpei State is one of those customers.

The audit showed that PUC operated at a loss for at least the last five years. In 2005 PUC spent \$10.6 million on revenues of \$7

million for a loss of \$3.6 million. In 2006 PUC earned \$9.9 million and spent or obligated \$11.9 million, a loss of nearly \$2 million.

The auditor said that management's approach to controlling expenditures was not effective. "As a result, actual revenues were not sufficient to cover all expenditures and PUC may not be able to sustain the operation's cost for long and may have less capacity to address future service needs.

The second audit exception says that the Board of Directors had not monitored the performance of management in terms of controlling expenses. It says that it is the board's prerogative to do so.

"The condition occurred because the Board has not made

See "PUC Audit" on Page 14

FSM President Emanuel Mori Meets with Japan's Top Leaders

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Tokyo, Japan – On November 30 President Emanuel Mori was granted an audience with His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. He conveyed the wishes of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia for continued good health for the Emperor and Empress and Mem-

bers of the Imperial Family and for the people of Japan and congratulated them on the birth of the new Prince.

The audience was productive for the good relationship that has been enjoyed between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia for at least 87 years. The two countries did not establish formal diplomatic relations until 1989.

President Mori is currently in Japan taking part in the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Beppu, Oita, Japan. President Mori thanked the Government of Japan for hosting the meetings. He particularly thanked the former Prime Minister of Japan, Honorable Yoshiro Mori who is the President of the Asia Pacific Water Forum.

He thanked the Emperor for



President Emanuel Mori shakes hands with Prime Minister of Japan Yasuo Fukuda

Japan's generous and steadfast support of the FSM's nation building efforts saying that Japan has made significant contributions to the economic and social development of the FSM especially in the important sectors of fisheries, human resource development, economic reform programs, energy, ports development, technical assistance, cultural progress, environment, information technology, and scholarship schemes.

President Mori expressed appreciation for the keen interest of the Imperial Family in the Islands of Micronesia. He invited members of the Imperial Family to fulfill their previously stated desire to visit the Federated States of Micronesia saying that the FSM would welcome such a visit and

See "Japan's Leaders" on Page 6



FSM President Mori in a meeting with Japan's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, the Honorable Masatoshi Wakabayashi.

AUSTRALIA'S PACIFIC PATROL BOAT PROGRAM: FSS PALIKIR

Australian Embassy Release

FSS PALIKIR returned to Pohnpei on Friday, 30 November 2007. It was right on time pulling up to the wharf in a precision berthing at 0915 exactly. FSS PALIKIR recently completed the Life Extension Program (LEP), which will extend its life by 15 years. The LEP which took place in Townsville, Australia from June to November 2007, cost around 3.1 million AUD and was funded by the Australian Government as part of its on-going commitment to the Pacific Patrol Boat Program. Major work undertaken on FSS PALIKIR included an overhaul of the engines and diesel generators. As part of the LEP package, Australia also provided refresher training (fire fighting, communications and damage control) for the crew of FSS PALIKIR at the Australian Maritime College in Launceston, Tasmania.

On site to welcome the FSS PALIKIR was FSM National Police Chief, Pius Chotailug, the Australian Ambassador, Susan Cox and Commander Mick Sanders, who is in charge of the LEP program in Australia, as well as fellow crew members from the FSS INDEPENDENCE and FSS MICRONESIA.

The FSS PALIKIR is one of three Pacific class patrol boats gifted to FSM Government under Australia's Pacific Patrol Boat Program and was handed over in 1990.

According to Australian Navy Chief Petty Officer, Chris "Johnny" O'Keefe who is based in Pohnpei, the crew worked very hard to assist with the restoration of the boat together. He said that it took them 6.5 days to sail back home and that everyone is very happy to be home. There were a total of 14 crew members, including the boat's Captain LCDR David Marar.

Earlier this year, FSS INDEPENDENCE underwent its biennial slipping in Cairns, which is a part of the regular maintenance cycle. Australia contributes to FSM's biennial slipping and appreciates the ongoing support provided by the FSM Government for the routine maintenance of its Pacific Patrol Boats.

Australia is pleased to continue its engagement and support to FSM through the Pacific Patrol Boat program, including the Maritime Surveillance Officer and his two Chief Petty Officers, who provide ongoing operational and technical support to the Pacific Patrol Boats.



From L to R: Australian Ambassador Susan Cox, Maritime Wing Commander Robert Maluweirang, FSM National Chief of Police Pius Chotailug and Commander Mick Sanders.

Many Thanks (Kaping Lap Mwuledek)

November 29, 2007



Mom took her last breath from this life on Earth at 5:30 a.m., Thursday morning, November 22, 2007, a departure from her family to her eternal rest. Our precious Mom had gone and no one is left to be called "Mom". With deep grief and sorrow inside us, we were consoled and comforted by your loving presence and supports.

It is with this regard this letter is written to convey the family's utmost gratitude and appreciation to all of you for your participation, assistance, contribution and in any ways, one way or another and especially for your prayers during our Mom's funeral. We are unable to express and describe our "MANY THANKS" to you for the supports and thoughts rendered to our family during this grief-stricken and mournful moment. We ask and pray to the almighty God to bless and reward you and your family with His unselfish giving and unending love. It is only through Him everything is possible.

Once again, on behalf of the Lambert's family, relatives and friends, we thank you so much for all your support.

Nohnno tungoalenikihdi ah keimseklahn esingek sang mouren sampa wet kuloak 5:30, ninsorahn en Niepeng, Nopempe 22, 2007, eh patohdasangehr ah tungoal peneinei ohng ah tungoal kemmoal poatoapoat. Aht tungoal Nohnno kesempwal patohdahr oh solahr me se pahh patohwan ekerki Nohnno. Loalet dirikilahr pahtou oh sengiseng ahpw sang ni sapwelimomwail limpoak me kumwail ketikihdo oh sawas/utuht lap me sansal, peneinei patohwan tungoaleniki insenemwahu oh maiauda sang nan kahpwal wet.

Iei sang ni kahrepe wet me kisin likou wet wiawikihda pwehn kak idan kaping lap oh mwuledek me peneinei tungoaleniki ohng kumwail koaros sang sapwelimomwail ketido, sapwelimomwail sawas oh tehteh kan me kumwail ketikihdo oh soahng tohrohr teikan ahpw mehleh kupwuren lolou me kumwail sapwelimaniki nan erein doadohak kan en kapinsalehdahn Nohnno. Sohte mehkot me peneinei pahh kak patohwan oh kawehwe wen "KAPING LAP MWULEDEK" ohng kumwail pwehki sawas/utuht oh kupwuremwail me sansal ohng peneinei nin doken ansou me se tungoaleniki pahtou oh sengiseng loalet unsek. Kapai en Kauno en ketin kupwurei kumwail oh katingi kin kumwail oh sapwelimomwail peneinei kan kupwure ni ah sohte kin ketin lipilipiki ihs me epahn ketin katingi oh ketikiheng kumwail sapwelime limpoak poatoapoat me sohte imwi, met wia aht tungoal pekipek oh kapakap.

Pwurehng kapwurehieng oh weliandi peneinei tik, peneinei lap oh kempoakepahh peneinei koaros aht tungoal kaping lap pahh kupwuremwail pwehki kupwuren sawas oh utuht me sansalehr.

Ni wahu, The Lambert's Family



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Statement by the US President on Energy Security and Climate Change

US Embassy Media Release

"I was pleased to receive the Energy Information Administration's final report today, which includes U.S. greenhouse gas emissions for 2006. The final report shows that emissions declined 1.5 percent from the 2005 level, while our economy grew 2.9 percent. That means greenhouse gas intensity - how much we emit per unit of economic activity - decreased by 4.2 percent, the largest annual improvement since 1985. This puts us well ahead of the goal I set in 2002 to reduce greenhouse gas intensity by 18 percent by 2012.

My Administration's climate change policy is science-based, encourages research breakthroughs that lead to technology development, encourages global participation, and pursues actions that will help ensure continued economic growth and prosperity for our citizens and for people throughout the world. Since 2001, we have spent almost \$37 billion on climate science, technology development, and incentives and international assistance. Recently, we convened representatives of the world's major economies - the largest users of en-

ergy and largest producers of greenhouse gas emissions, from both developed and developing nations - to discuss a new international approach on energy security and climate change. Our aim is to agree on a detailed contribution for a new global framework in 2008 that would contribute to a global agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change by 2009. The United States looks forward to working with partners to reach consensus on a "Bali Roadmap" at the upcoming UN meeting on climate change in Indonesia in December.

Energy security and climate change are two of the important challenges of our time. The United States takes these challenges seriously, and we are effectively con-

fronting climate change through regulations, public-private partnerships, incentives, and strong investment in new technologies. Our guiding principle is clear: we must lead the world to produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and we must do it in a way that does not undermine economic growth or prevent nations from delivering greater prosperity for their people."

KP Anniversary Bike Give-away winner

The Kaselehlie Press

Christmas came early this year for one lucky KP reader. Kelvin Pedrus of Kolonia was the winner of the KP 8th Anniversary bike give-away competition, drawn last Saturday morning at Scooby's Wholesale in the PAMI Building.

The 100cc Honda Bravo motor scooter, valued at \$1,500, was the first prize in the competition which has been run in the KP for the last three editions.

Over 1,000 coupon entries were received in the competition drop box which was drawn by KP Board member Ms E Musrasrik. Many competition entry hopefuls were at Scooby's to watch the draw hoping

to ride away on the brand new motor scooter, kindly donated to KP by Scooters and Cycles of Micronesia.

Mr Pedrus was at home at the time his lucky coupon was drawn from the drop box. When a telephone call was made to him at his home by Ms Cel Figueras of Scooters and Cycles of Micronesia / Scooby's Wholesale, Kelvin at first was surprised that he was the winner by asking if it was a joke.

"I think he was in a state of shock when I told him he had won," Ms Figueras said.

Before the drawing, Mr Bob Spegal of the KP acknowledged the progress of the KP over the last 8

years. He also stressed the importance of a free press in communities. During his speech, Bob paid tribute to the contributions made by the late Gene Ashby in making the KP the success that it is today. The recent move to publish the KP electronically, an initiative of current managing editor Bill Jaynes, has resulted in over 10,000 per month, all over the world, reading the KP.

Our congratulations go to Mr Pedrus in winning the competition. We at the KP also take the opportunity of thanking Scooters and Cycles of Micronesia for supplying

See "Giveaway Winner" on Page 11

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The Pacific Island Tuberculosis Controllers Association Meeting

The Kaselehlie Press

Sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, in conjunction with the national government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the 5th annual Pacific Island Tuberculosis Controllers Association (PITCA) workshop was held November 26 through 30, 2007, at the College of Micronesia-FSM. An important milestone was reached for this PITCA meeting with the event being moved for the first time out of Honolulu and into the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPIs).

Over 90 individuals attended this meeting, with representatives from each of the six USAPIs:

American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the FSM, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Not surprisingly, more PITCA participants were sponsored from the four FSM States than from any other single USAPI. In general, USAPI PITCA representatives include TB administrators, TB controllers, TB nurses, and TB laboratory staff. This year, PITCA participants benefited from professional faculty from a variety of organizations, including CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination in Atlanta, Georgia; the Health and Human Services Region 9 Office of Pacific Health and Human Services; the World Health Organization's Western Pacific Re-



Over 90 individuals attended the PITCA meeting, first time out of Honolulu and into the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands

gional Office in Manila; the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in New Caledonia; the Australian Respiratory Council; the California State Microbial Disease Laboratory; the new Pacific TB regional reference laboratory, Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc., based in

Honolulu, Hawaii; the Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii; and the Francis Curry National TB Center in San Francisco, California.

The format for success that PITCA organizers employ each year involves 3 days of plenary sessions as well as 2 days of breakout sessions. The first day's plenary session includes a report back from all of the USAPIs and represented agencies on the status of reaching the past year's goals, objectives, measures of indices, and specific barriers and challenges faced by each presenter. PITCA's day 5 plenary session concludes with the USAPIs setting and reporting on goals, objectives, activities, measures of evaluation, timelines, and the office or person responsible for attaining each goal for the next year. The 2 days of breakout sessions are concurrent sessions specific for the laboratory, nursing, and clinical staff attending the meeting. Major concerns raised at the meeting are discussed with the expert faculty and many are resolved prior to the conclusion of the PITCA meeting. The issues not resolved are addressed as goals, objectives, and activities the following year.

Sessions presented at this year's Pacific Island Tuberculosis Controllers Association meeting included monitoring and evaluation of TB program data, TB drug issues, review of shipping protocols from the International Air Transportation Association, issues from TB laboratory onsite evaluations, genotyping, contact investigations, problem-based learning for clinical cases, and expert medical consultation. Participants were treated to a premier of a new TB educational movie developed by the Micronesian Seminar, made possible in part through funding by the U.S. Office of Minority Health. In addition, attendees were able to make side trips to the Pohnpei State Hospital, laboratory, and public health clinics. The next PITCA meeting will be in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 2008.



CALL FOR PROJECT CONCEPT PAPERS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

December 2007



The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme/New Zealand Aid Pacific Environment Fund Partnership is accepting Project Concept Papers requesting grant funding for community projects that meet the relevant Country Program Strategy and addresses at least one of the GEF Environment Focal Areas:

- biodiversity conservation and sustainable use,
- climate change mitigation and adaptation,
- protection of international waters,
- prevention of land degradation/sustainable land management, and
- elimination of persistent organic pollutant (POPs).

Eligible Recipients:

- Any non-government organization, community-based organization/group, or community in Palau, FSM or Marshall Islands that is chartered OR if not chartered, have evidence of legitimacy.
- Government agencies at National, State or Municipal level.

Grants:

- Full Grants are up to US\$50,000 (average \$20,000) for projects of 1-3 years duration (preferably 2 years).
- Planning Grants - proponents may apply for a grant of up to US\$2,000 to use in assisting them to develop a full project proposal. This is subject to approval of Concept Papers.

How to Apply:

- Contact the National Focal Person (see address below) and obtain a Format for Project Concept and also the general criteria, country program strategy and other relevant documents.
- Fill out 3-page Concept Paper and submit to the National Focal Person anytime.
- If Project Concept Paper is approved, Proponent is then asked to submit a full Proposal.

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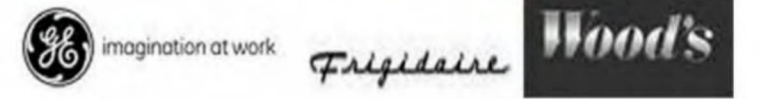


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...JAPAN'S LEADERS

continued from front page

that it would further strengthen Japan FSM relations.

The Emperor was aware of President Mori's Japanese heritage. President Mori told him that the families of Japanese descendants have made important contributions to the political, economic, and social advancement of FSM people. President Mori told the Emperor that there is growing interest in establishing a Japanese Descendants Friendship Association in the FSM—an association that can play an important role in strengthening the friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and the FSM.

Immediately following the meeting with the Emperor, President Mori met with the honorable Masatoshi Wakabayashi, Japan's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. He said that the FSM considers Japan as its most important fisheries partner. "Fish is the FSM's main resource and that we would like to seek Japan's continued support in assisting us in developing the fisheries sectors of the two countries", the Presi-

dent said.

He sought the support of the Japanese Government as they go through the process of joining the International Whaling Commission.

Japan is a member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. President Mori said that the FSM will continue to work with Japan and other member states for successful implementation of the programs under the Commission.

Members of the Press were allowed in for the first 10 minutes of President Mori's meeting with Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda at the Prime Minister's Official Residence. Cameras clicked and news film rolled as the Prime Minister and the FSM President shook hands for the first time.

President Mori congratulated Japan for hosting the G-8 Summit next year in Hokkaido and wished for the success of the meetings. He committed the FSM's support for Japan's bid for the Non-Permanent and Permanent seats on the UN Security Council. He said that they will continue their close collaboration with Japan at other

international and regional forums.

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda sought the cooperation of President Mori in promoting Japan's proposal to launch a post-Kyoto Protocol framework for negotiations to tackle global warming in which all major greenhouse gas emitters will take part.

In their 20-minute meeting at the prime minister's office, Mori thanked Japan for its leadership on the climate change issue and expressed hope that it will take the initiative as a country that shares the same Pacific climate as island nations that are easily affected by weather conditions.

Fukuda told Mori he is fully aware that global warming is a "serious issue" for island nations such as the Federated States of Micronesia and said that Japan is proposing the negotiating framework while taking the situation of island states into account.

Japan is proposing a forum in which all major emitters will take part in negotiations with a view to building an effective future framework for addressing climate change after the expiration in 2012 of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol for curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

The move is part of the inter-

national community's efforts to build a new regime to fight global warming. Japan earlier announced an initiative to halve greenhouse gas emissions from current levels by 2050.

As previously announced, the Prime Minister said that Japan has decided to post a full-time Ambassador to Micronesia as part of efforts to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

"Japan and Micronesia have a historically long relationship and there are many people in your country who are of Japanese ancestry, including yourself, Mr. President," Fukuda said. "We have a particular affinity and affection for your country."

Fukuda said Japan is planning to decide shortly on the provision of grant aid to Micronesia for improvements to Pohnpei International Airport and will also consider further assistance measures for the country.

Mori expressed hope that the upgrading of Japan's diplomatic mission in Micronesia to an Embassy will help to enhance bilateral ties and thanked Japan for its continued economic cooperation.

FSM National Day Celebration in Tokyo

Top Leaders in Business and Government Join Together to Celebrate

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Tokyo, Japan, November 30 — On the second floor of the Royal Park Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, highly ranked members of Japanese Government, members of the diplomatic corps in Japan, and members from the business community in Japan gathered to celebrate FSM National Day. A notable participant in the reception was the Honorable Yoshiro Mori, Japan's former Prime Minister, President of the Asia Pacific Water Forum, and Chairman of the Japan-FSM Parliamentarian

Friendship League.

FSM President Emanuel Mori asked FSM Ambassador to Japan, Kasio E. Mida and his staff to delay the celebration until the 30th so that he could be present at the event though the actual day for celebration is November 3rd.

President Mori arrived in Japan on the 29th of November to take part in the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Beppu, Oita on the 3rd and 4th of December. He spent the time previous to the summit, meeting with high ranking Government officials discussing common inter-

ests and planting seeds for future cooperative interests.

During the trip he also arranged time to meet with some of the business leaders that have expressed interest in establishing corporations in the FSM. The FSM program allowing incentives for Japanese Corporations to register in the FSM is new but is already attracting attention from major Japanese corporations.

Ambassador Mida introduced President Mori to the gathered dignitaries.

President Mori took the podium

and spoke to the crowd saying that he intended on his trip not only to address water related issues but to also further "nurture and strengthen the special and friendly relations between our peoples and countries."

He said that the FSM will support Japan's candidatures for important posts at the United Nations and stressed that the FSM will support Japan's bid for the non-permanent and the permanent seats on the UN Security Council.

He thanked Japan for their support both bilaterally and multilaterally and for their support for the Pacific Plan.

Japan recently announced that they would be posting a full fledged ambassador at its embassy in the FSM located in Pohnpei. President Mori said, "This enhanced representation will give a high profile and prominence to our relations and further strengthen the close ties between our countries...for our mutual benefit."

He said that legislation enacted to establish a "world class and very Japanese friendly Corporate Registry and Captive Insurance Regime," is "one of the most important initiatives the FSM Government has recently taken."



Former Prime Minister Mori, Ginger Mida, President Mori, and Ambassador Mida before the reception at the Royal Park Hotel in Tokyo.

See "FSM Day on Page 12

Sokehs Rocks in Tokyo

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

(Tokyo, Japan) - A large carved shark hangs above the bar, and the words "Welcome to Sokehs Rock" is in lights behind every band that plays on the small stage of the cramped second floor night club in Tokyo owned by Kobayashi Akira, formerly of Phoenix in Pohnpei, FSM. The Pohnpei name is prominently visible around the too small room, particularly on the bottles of Saki that bear the label of "Sokehs Rock". Two young ladies were sharing a bottle of it at the table next to mine.

"The Good is Good" occupied the stage on the night that I was there, though I didn't find out the band's name until after they had played two encores. I have left Tokyo and as I write this article I am in Beppu, Japan for the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit but the memory of the band's sound and vibe still raises the hair on my arms. They were good; very good. I don't know if the Japanese rock songs they were playing were original or cover tunes but I liked every single thing they played without exception. The person who brought me to Sokehs Rock asked me what I thought. My mouth hung open. He knew what I meant.

Lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist, Rokuji Hasegawa, Japan cool personified with his hair hanging to the middle of his spectacled eyes, fronted the four piece band. He played a semi-hollow bodied Rickenbacker guitar through a Roland Jazz Chorus amp, a combination I'd never seen before that worked so well that I want a setup just like it. Throw a blues driver overdrive pedal in front of it all when it's needed, a chorus every now and then and the tone is unbelievable, especially when combined with the heavier sound of the Les Paul and Marshall combination that the lead guitarist was using. I couldn't understand a word Hasegawa said even when the crowd tittered at a song he dedicated to me, the sole outsider. I did know that he owned the audience and loved them even though there were just a few of them. He performed for the small crowd as if he were playing to a stadium. It's a rare talent.

The lead guitarist; what can I say about the lead guitarist? I know. "He rocked!" His rhythm, crunch, and underplayed showmanship were features for me. Even when he stood on top of a table in the second encore his face was serious, or maybe it was a smirk. That's what it was. No matter, he deserved to wear either face. He was playing some serious licks unconfined by scale patterns as a good number of us guitarists are. He played what was right for the song. When my

two companions and I walked into the tiny room, the band was playing. When the lead guitarist took off for a solo I thought, "That's nice; not too tough to play but nice." Later I realized that he had played a very easy solo on that song because that was what the song demanded not because he didn't have chops. He had those in spades. Occasionally I found myself looking around the room for a fire extinguisher just in case he accidentally set his gold top on fire with his fingers.

The bass player, wearing John Lennon styled shades and playing a Music Man bass, anchored the band's rhythms with authority and power. He provided a funk I haven't heard in a rock band in a long time. He worked tightly with the excellent drummer who was playing effortlessly on a four piece



"The Good is Good" band playing at the Sokehs Rock in Tokyo club.

drum set. If "The Beatles" Ringo Starr had been Japanese, his stage presence would have been similar I'm sure.

If you ever get to Tokyo (Don't write it off. It could happen.) I would recommend that you find out from anyone you can where "The Good is Good" is playing and go! Even if you can't find them, find out how to get to Sokehs Rock in Tokyo and enjoy the live bands

there. They have one every single night. Young bands go there to hone their act for bigger stages and established bands go there just to have fun. You will too!

There's a new decoration at Sokehs Rock; a business card from the Editor of The Kaselehlie Press. See if you can find it the next time you're in Tokyo and drop me a line. Don't rip it off the wall though. It took 45 years to put it there.



Before it became conveniently referred to as a Holiday Season, this time of the year in our islands is known and celebrated as Christmas Time.

Christmas is a time in our islands that have always been held in high regard because it is a time to individually and collectively reflect on and strengthen the love, peace and goodwill among families, friends and strangers alike. It is a time to renew faith in the goodness of mankind. It is also a time afforded to each one of us to pause and reflect on the past year.

This past year has been a momentous time for our nation as we held elections for both State and National Leaderships. We have a new President, a new Congress, and for some of us, new Governors and new Legislatures.

New leaderships oftentimes effect changes in the working environment with new bosses and new challenges. These challenges may sometimes become overwhelming and discouraging with spill-over effects into our private and personal environments. It is precisely times like these that the true meaning of Christmas is appreciated.

Christmas is hope realized, faith reaffirmed and life celebrated.

In the City of David – two millennia ago, a child was born, bringing love, faith and hope to the world. That event has since been the one day of the year that the world unites in remembrance and celebration of the goodness of the Lord, the Savior of us all.

Therefore, no matter how daunting our challenges become, we can always take comfort in knowing that His birth will always remain a reaffirmation of faith and a realization of our hopes. Comforted by this fortitude, we can prevail over those challenges of temporary.

In this spirit, the Vice Speaker, the Floor Leader and members of the 15th Congress join me, in urging all citizens - individually and severally, to take ownership of true peace and love in our common humanity in the Federated States of Micronesia and the world over.

On behalf of your 15th FSM Congress, I extend Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to the Leadership and the People of the Federated States of Micronesia.

May the Blessings of Christmas be with you and your family always

&

May peace be yours the New Year through

/ S /
Resio S. Moses

/ S /
Isaac V. Figir

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Lecture on Chinese Culture at COM-FSM



On November 30, 2007, Mr. LU Shihua, Chinese Language Instructor of College of Micronesia-FSM delivered a lecture on Chinese culture at the campus. Mrs. Jean Thoulag, Vice-President of COM-FSM and about 40 teachers and students attended the Lecture.

The Lecture was divided into three parts of 'General Knowledge', 'Brief Introduction' and 'Chinese Culture & Arts'. Mr. LU presented his speech on Chinese history, culture, social & economic development, and education, through varieties of video programs, pictures, music and articles. Diplomats from the Chinese Embassy also briefed the audience on procedures of application for the Chinese Government Scholarship.

The Lecture was highly welcomed by the teachers and students, who expressed their wishes that this kind of lecture be held ever and again to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries.

BALI ROADMAP: PROGRESS THROUGH A GLOBAL EFFORT

US Embassy Press Release

On December 3, the United States joined the other 191 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bali, Indonesia, for an important meeting that will be a key step for the global community in addressing the serious global challenge of climate change. At this two-week conference, the United States will work with other nations to help develop a "Bali Roadmap" that will chart the way for agreement on a new global climate change framework by 2009.

We seek a Bali Roadmap that will advance negotiations under the UNFCCC and develop a post-2012 framework that effectively addresses climate change and strengthens our energy security. The United States believes that a post-2012 framework for climate change must be environmentally effective and economically sustainable. Emissions are global, and the solution, to be effective, will need to be global. An approach in which only some are acting is not environmentally effective.

Moreover, a future framework must be flexible and accommodate a diverse range of national circumstances, as well as broad social and economic goals. The United States is working at home and abroad on

a range of initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy security, and cut harmful air pollution. We have devoted \$37 billion to help develop and deploy innovative technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while allowing for economic growth. We know this can be done.

From 2005-2006, our economy grew 2.9 percent, but our greenhouse gas emissions actually decreased 1.5 percent. Internationally, U.S. climate change policies are part of a broader, sustainable development agenda. We have initiated, or participated in many international partnerships - for example, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate and the Methane to Markets Partnership - that address climate change in ways that promote economic growth and help nations deliver greater prosperity for their people.

At the conference in Bali, we will listen carefully to the ideas of others and share our own efforts and commitment to reach consensus on a "Bali Roadmap" that will guide the international community forward over the coming two years.

For further information contact the U.S. Embassy at (691) 320-2187 or usembassy@mail.fm.

U.S. COMPACT GRANTS TO FSM IN OCTOBER 2007

For the first two months of the new fiscal year, the FSM Department of Finance received Compact-funded grants from the United States Government totaling \$10,249,500. These payments were for Compact sector grants for Education, Health, Public Sector, Environment, and Private Sector Development for October and November of Fiscal Year 2008. The breakdown of these grants follows:

Sector Grants for FSM National Government

Education Sector (FSM HESA, Division of Education)	\$ 98,555
Education Sector (College of Micronesia-FSM)	\$ 950,000
Health Sector (FSM HESA, Division of Health)	\$ 137,329
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 550,948
Environment Sector	\$ 8,333
Private Sector Development	\$ 8,333
Total Payment for FSM National Government:	\$ 1,753,498

Sector Grants for Chuuk State

Education Sector	\$ 1,665,062
Health Sector	\$ 1,155,826
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 172,354
Environment Sector	\$ 119,507
Private Sector Development	\$ 152,396
Total Payment for Chuuk State Government:	\$ 3,265,145

Sector Grants for Pohnpei State

Education Sector	\$ 1,260,845
Health Sector	\$ 887,908
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 118,314
Environment Sector	\$ 80,263
Private Sector Development	\$ 23,792
Total Payment for Pohnpei State Government:	\$ 2,371,122

Sector Grants for Yap State

Education Sector	\$ 703,496
Health Sector	\$ 446,034
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 103,620
Environment Sector	\$ 70,193
Private Sector Development	\$ 138,686
Total Payment for Yap State Government:	\$ 1,462,029

Sector Grants for Kosrae State

Education Sector	\$ 376,007
Health Sector	\$ 329,820
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 130,668
Environment Sector	\$ 430,000
Private Sector Development	\$ 94,517
Total Payment for Kosrae State Government:	\$ 1,397,706

TOTAL SECTOR GRANT PAYMENTS FOR FSM (Oct-Nov. FY 2008): **\$ 10,249,500**

The above information is provided as a public service by the United States Embassy.

Kolonia Town Election Results

November 13, 2007: ELECTED

MAYOR		Section 5	
Marcelo Peterson	1477	Atorfine John	105
		Nelsihda Actouka	78
Section 1		Section 6	
Wayner louis	147	Takesy Reim	87
Tony Pernet	107	Perry Perman	53
Section 2		Section 7	
Paulino Perman	197	Carlos Villazon	91
Pelsin Susuia	168	Daniel Norman	68
Section 3		Certified By:	
Yuko Nakasone	281	Lucy A. Solomon	
Rose San Nicholas	221	Date: 11-28-07	
Section 4		Election Commissioner	
Justina Olter	136	Kolonia Town	
Waltis Samuel	120		

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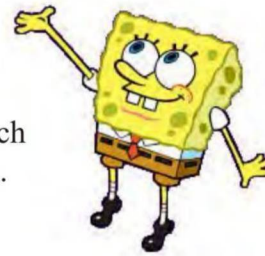
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Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) Meet in Kosrae

(KOSRAE, Micronesia) Delegates from across the Pacific met in Kosrae for the 48th Board of Directors meeting of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) on 27 - 29 November 2007. Legislative representation from 10 island entities were given a warm reception by the people of Kosrae, an island with a population of a little more than 5,000 people, before the official meetings began. Both Governor Robert Weilbacher and Speaker Lyndon Jackson hosted gatherings for the delegates. "We are honored by such wonderful hospitality," noted Walden Weilbacher, APIL Secretariat. "Our delegates were overwhelmed by the graciousness of our host. Kosrae really rolled out the red carpet for APIL, and we are very thankful to Kosrae for this." Kosrae is recognized around the world for its sustainable tourism development and has been awarded the prestigious Blue award by Islands Magazine.

Delegates of the 10 member nations spent two days discussing a variety of issues including humanitarian efforts in the region, tobacco's effects on the health of Pacific Islanders, soil conservation efforts, how climate changes are dramatically affecting the ecosystem of various islands, and economic growth spurred by rural development loans.

"These topics of our discussions are pivotal in the future of Pacific Islanders," said Sabino Sauchomal, President of APIL, "Our delegates are taking home valuable information which we anticipate will prompt policy changes. The gathering also reinforced members' commitment to harmonizing their collective voices for the betterment of the region."

Sen. J. Kalani English, APIL Vice President, along with Rep. Glenn Wakai hold Hawai'i's seat in the organization. "Hawai'i has a strong interest in the Pacific region," noted Sen. English. "We are better served when Hawai'i is at the table for discussions."

Senator Fernando Scaliem, Pohnpei delegate to APIL, pointed out that "dialogue is a key step in bringing attention to our shared struggles. I came away from the gathering with a deeper understanding of challenges affecting our neighbors." He also noted that one of APIL's sister organizations, Reach Out Pacific (REPAC) recently coordinated a large donation of medical equipment and supplies for Pohnpei State Hospital. "Representative Wakai and REPAC have provided us with much needed help. Our hospital received items such as beds and examining tables, as well as sheets, scrubs and other supplies. This came about because of

Pohnpei's membership in APIL."

Legislators and staff listened to presentations, and also debated a number of important resolutions. Aren Palik, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB), updated the organization on the status of its bank. "PIDB continues to expand its lending program and other technical support to its members. We have many successful projects, and have helped lots of small businesses to thrive." PIDB was created by a resolution of APIL in 1987 during its meeting in American Samoa. The Bank serves all member countries that have made the initial equity contribution of \$1 million. "We still have a few members who have not yet purchased their shares in the bank," said Palik. "All shares purchased are reinvested back into the country that made the purchase. This is a boon to the region and is well worth the initial investment by the member countries."

Senator Caleb Otto of Palau, a medical practitioner by profession, made a presentation on the effects of tobacco use in the Pacific. "Our people are slaves to the addiction of tobacco," said Sen. Otto. "There is a dangerous trend in the Pacific to incorporate tobacco into our traditional practices. Since when did we chew betel nut with cigarettes?" Sen.

Otto continued by presenting statistics on the health consequences of tobacco use - cancers, high blood pressure and diabetes - to name a few.

Carlotta Leon Guerrero, former president of APIL and the Executive Director of Ayuda Foundation briefed the delegates on global warming and its effects on Lakinioch atoll in the Mortlocks chain in Chuuk. Recent photos show that high seas and rising sea levels are causing devastating consequences for all of our islands. "Pacific Islanders have done the least to cause global warming and are the first to suffer from it," said Leon Guerrero. "Lakinioch reached out to Ayuda Foundation, and we responded with relief supplies and support." The Chuuk State Legislature passed a resolution thanking Ayuda Foundation for their help, and Leon Guerrero presented the resolution to the APIL board to show the effectiveness of their programs.

Senator David Shimizu of Guam volunteered to help APIL to develop materials on the work of the organization. "APIL has done a lot. Most people do not know that we have a bank and two humanitarian aid organizations - Ayuda Foundation of Guam and Reach out Pacific (REPAC) of Hawai'i. We need to let our people know about what we do."

See "APIL" on Page 12

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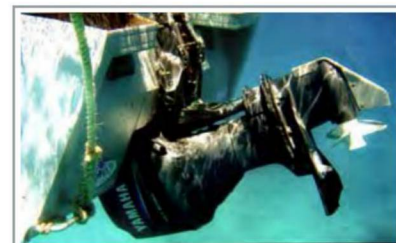
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Peace Corps Volunteers to Assist in Education, Community Development

In a recent ceremony attended by host family members, Government officials, and PC Micronesia Staff, US Ambassador Miriam Hughes swore in Pohnpei's new group of Peace Corps Volunteers. The nine Volunteers arrived in Micronesia in Septem-

ber to undergo a nine-week, intensive training program in language, cross-cultural awareness, and technical skills. All of the new Volunteers will be teaching English as a second language in different schools around the island, with one serving in

Sapwauhfik. They also will help to coordinate projects to address issues raised in their communities.

In her remarks at the ceremony to the new Peace Corps Volunteers, Ambassador Hughes stated, "Your work in the classroom teaching English will make a difference in many children's lives. Your work with your partners will have an impact that lives on long after you have left Micronesia. And as much as you may impact the lives of many Micronesians, you too will be changed by this experience. During the coming two years you will spend countless hours in conversations as you learn about life in Micronesia. You will attend first year birthday ceremonies, weddings and funerals. You will experience Micronesia in a way that few Americans will ever have the opportunity to do."

This past year, after consultation with key local stakeholders, Peace Corps/Federated States of Micronesia & Palau (PC/FSM & Palau) designed a Teaching English as a Second Language & Education for Community Development project. This project reflects national, state & local priorities as well as Peace Corps Volunteer capabilities.

After a more than ten year absence from the schools, Volunteers were again invited to teach English at the

Elementary and High school level and support teachers in FSM and Palau classrooms. The scope of the Volunteers' work, however, will not be limited to classroom teaching. Volunteers will also collaborate with community groups and individuals to develop sustainable community activities to enhance and support community development and service learning projects, especially as they relate to priorities in health education, environmental education and youth development.

"Today symbolizes the starting point for service in the field of education for you," Pohnpei Governor's designate Henry Saimon remarked to the new group. "Relations between the people of Pohnpei and the people of America could not be closer, and Peace Corps is all about relations between people. Bringing Peace Corps to Pohnpei (Micronesia) is a way for the American people to say they are committed to us, the islanders."

The Peace Corps recently celebrated a 45-year legacy of service in the U.S. and abroad. Since 1961, more than 187,000 Volunteers have helped promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of the 139 countries where Volunteers have served. Peace Corps Volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment.

KPress Giveaway Winner



Grand prize winner Kelvin Pedrus with son Kevin.

continued from page 3

this great motor scooter as the major prize for this competition. Our thanks also go to Scooby's whole-

sale for giving a \$25 gift certificate to one of the competition entrants who was at Scooby's for the drawing. That prize was won by Mila Comendador of CCA School.

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PROGRAMME (CEPP)



Federated States of Micronesia



European Union

1. What is the purpose of CEPP?

To build Non-State Actor (NSA) capacity to formulate & deliver environment protection & conservation projects. NSAs are non-government organizations, educational & research institutions, and community-based organizations/groups.

2. How much are the grants?

The grants are a minimum USD \$50,000 to a maximum USD \$100,000

3. When is the deadline for application forms?

31 December 2007

4. Can applications be faxed or e-mailed?

No. They must either be hand delivered or mailed.

5. How many copies of the application form do you require?

1 original and 1 copy.

6. What kinds of projects are NOT eligible for funding?

Those that do not address at least one of the nominated themes of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) www.fsmgov.org: Theme 1. Ecosystem management (Research and Monitoring, Conservation Areas) and Theme 8. Human Resources & Institutional Development (Human

Capacity Building, Institutional Capacity, Public Awareness & Education).

7. Is co-financing required?

Yes. There is a required 10% co-financing.

8. Are stipends for workshop participants eligible for funding?

No.

9. What is the difference between a partner and an associate?

A partner meets all the eligibility criteria and the grant can fund costs incurred by that partner. An associate (e.g. government agencies) does not meet the eligibility criteria and the grant can only fund per diem and travel costs.

10. Does it matter where equipment and supplies are purchased?

Yes. They must be purchased from African, Caribbean, Pacific States and the European Union. Order and purchase from your own local vendor.

For more information, Contact

Mary Rose Nakayama, Program Officer

Micronesia Conservation Trust P.O Box 2177 Colonia, Pohnpei 96941

Tel: (691) 320 5670

Fax:(691) 320 8903

E:mctcepp@mail.fm

W: www.mctconservation.org

...APIL

continued from page 10

On the second day of deliberations, APIL delegates took up seven resolutions and sent them to committees for further deliberations. Six of the resolutions were adopted by the entire body, with one deferred until the next meeting. "Our resolutions address regional issues as well as local ones," explained Walden Weilbacher. "For example, Resolution No. 48-BOD-03 CD1, supports local efforts of our member entities to fully participate in the US National Association of Conservation Districts. Likewise, Resolution No. 48-BOD-07-CD1 thanks the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pacific Centre in Fiji for providing technical assistance to the APIL membership, and invites them to work closely with our membership to achieve our mutual goals of strengthening the legislative branches of government in the Pacific." Other resolutions include Resolution No. 48-BOD-06 CD1, thanking Continental Micronesia for not selling tobacco products on its Micronesian flights. The remaining resolutions were expressions of thanks to the Kosrae Legislature for hosting the APIL Board meeting, and expressions of condolences to the families of the late honorable James R. Palsis of Kosrae and the late honorable Antonio Reyes Unpingco of Guam. The full text of these resolutions are posted on the APIL website at <http://www.pacificlegislatures.com/>.

Additionally, the delegates tackled the sensitive issue of membership and participation in APIL. "We have a few entities who are members of APIL but have not sent delegations to our meetings for a long time," said Walden Weilbacher. Yap State Legislature Speaker Charles C. Chieng pointed out that "APIL must move



Leaders from across the Pacific met in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia from 27 -29 November 2007 for the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' (APIL) 48th Board of Directors meeting.

forward, and we should know if the Marshall Islands still want to participate in this regional body." The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has not sent a delegation to the APIL meetings for over five years. APIL continues to send all the relevant information to the Nitijela as they have never formally withdrawn from membership. Earlier this year, the executive board of APIL sent its Vice President, Hawaii Senator J. Kalani English to the Marshall Islands for consultations with the government on their membership. In his report to the delegates, Sen. English explained, "the Marshall Islands leadership assured me that they will seriously consider returning to full membership in APIL. Yet, they also recognized that they were heading into an election, and wanted to wait until after the elections so that the new members of the Nitijela can be a part of this decision." Guam Senator Jim Espaldon expressed his thoughts this way, "it is not fair to the Marshall Islands if we continue to include their names on our letterhead and in our communications,

and they did not take part in our deliberations." After a productive discussion, Speaker Chieng proposed that APIL continue to consult with the RMI on its status, but if they have not made a decision by our General Assembly next May, their membership will be considered lapsed. The leadership of APIL will continue to reach out to the RMI. APIL President Sabino Sauchomal stated, "even if the RMI does leave APIL, they will always be welcomed to rejoin at any time."

Delegates also discussed the important role of tradition in our islands. "Our tradition is our future," said Sen. English. "At the same time, change must be embraced." As part of APIL's commitment to bettering the conditions of the region, and to thank the people of Kosrae, Senators and Representatives spent a morning picking up trash around Tofol. "The project helped to clean up the town," said Senator Gibson T. Siba of Kosrae. With a large truckload of trash collected, Senator Ilai Abraham of Kosrae thanked the delegates for "show-

ing the people of Kosrae that you care."

The next General Assembly of APIL will be held in Guam next May. APIL Treasurer Senator Judith Won Pat of Guam, asked that our next meeting cover the issue of militarization in the region. "The Pacific islands can gain a lot if we position ourselves to benefit from this" she said. "We can employ our people and protect our environment at the same, so we should dialogue with the military now." Senator Jim Espaldon of Guam noted, "APIL is welcomed in Guam. We look forward to hosting the organization."

APIL members in attendance hail from the following countries: American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, FSM State of Chuuk, FSM State of Kosrae, FSM State of Pohnpei, FSM State of Yap, Island of Guam, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Palau, and State of Hawaii.

APIL consists of lawmakers from member countries whose goal is to improve the quality of life for their people.

...FSM Day

continued from page 6

"It is our hope to become the 'Delaware of the Pacific,' serving Japan the way the State of Delaware serves thousands of companies in the United States. To demonstrate our long term commitment to this initiative, we have entered into a 30-year contract with an advisory firm, Micronesia Registration Advisors, Inc., to help promote these programs among legal and accounting professionals in Japan and to identify other opportunities to serve Japanese citizens and corporations who intend to invest overseas.

"We are convinced that these programs currently offer the lowest cost jurisdictions and are tailor made for Japanese Corporations. For example, an individual or com-

pany in Tokyo could view a website in Japanese and, by answering a simple questionnaire and visiting our FSM Embassy here in Tokyo, could establish an FSM corporation in a single day at no cost.

"I am pleased to say that we have already had both Japanese individuals and Tokyo Stock Exchange listed companies establish such corporations in the FSM."

President Mori reiterated his inaugural address saying that it is still a priority of the FSM government to develop a national Information and Communication Technology plan and to develop for the people of the FSM comprehensive broadband connectivity.

He said of his visit with His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan that it was a personal dream come true and an opportunity that he would always

treasure. He said that he reminded the Emperor of the importance of the fact that the FSM and Japan have special historical links, blood relations that have enriched both countries, links that have made the FSM and Japan strong as friends and partners in the Asia-Pacific region.

Former Prime Minister Mori said that his father instilled a special warm feeling in him for the FSM. His father was serving in Chuuk when World War II ended. Mori said that his father always told him never to forget Chuuk and the many kindnesses the islanders showed him when he was there.

He said that the Emperor likes to visit many countries and promote relationships there. He said that he hoped that a member of the Imperial Family would have an oppor-

tunity to visit the FSM soon.

President Mori talked and shook hands with the guests of the reception.

It is not clear whether or not the Presidential visit was the deciding factor for a multi-billion dollar corporation registering a new corporation in the FSM within days of the reception but the visit does appear to have bolstered a sense of confidence in what the FSM will be able to provide for Japanese businesses.

At least one company is ready to immediately invest in the FSM if the Venture Funds Bill passes in the next session of Congress.

MRA Advisor Steven Baker said that the first FSM income tax payment from an FSM registered Japanese corporation will be made in January.

The opinions expressed in the BNN Column are those of the author.

They made the ultimate sacrifice...

On November 11, 2007, we honored 11 of our heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war against terrorism. **For this, the US Government must never forget us.** When you consider that we are a tiny dot on this planet, 11 dead soldiers is, by ratio comparison to other coalition member populations, 11 is very significant.

Of the eleven fallen comrades, 7 are from Pohnpei State, 3 from Yap State and 1 from Chuuk State. All but one of them were in the US Army. The lone U.S. Navy casualty is one of those from Pohnpei. Here, below, we honored them in a ceremony held at the American Ambassador's Residence in Nanponmal:

1. PFC Wheat Poll, U.S. Army, Pohnpei State, June 24, 1991
2. SA Frank Yoma, U.S. Navy, Pohnpei State, January 8, 1996
3. SPC Richard R. Oliver, U.S. Army, Pohnpei State, June 1, 1999
4. SPC MacBeth Lengsi, U.S. Army, Pohnpei State, October 21, 2002
5. PFC Michael J. Dabaw, U.S. Army, Yap State, January 1, 2004
6. SGT Skipper Soram, U.S. Army, Pohnpei State, September 22, 2004*
7. SSG Steven G. Bayow, U.S. Army, Yap State, February 4, 2005*
8. SPC Darence Weilbacher Jack, U.S. Army, Pohnpei, October 31, 2005*
9. PFC Glen H. Nery, U.S. Army, Yap State, September 23, 2006
10. PFC Henry Paul, U.S. Army, Pohnpei State, September 26, 2006*
11. Sgt. Iosiwo Uruo, U.S. Army, Chuuk State, May 24, 2007*

*Combat related, Operation Iraqi Freedom

The new leadership on the horizon...

By the time you read this, the run off election would have been over and a new political leadership will have emerged on the horizon. Whichever combination of Governor-Lt Governor emerges, I give my sincere congratulations and also thank the losers and all other political candidates in this election for demonstrating that this tiny speck in the Pacific Ocean just demonstrated the completion of a fully peaceful and transparent democratic function, not only once but twice. **YOU ARE ALL WINNERS IN MY BOOK.**

We are doomed...

The **REAL LOSERS** in this and any other election are those who fleece the candidates with tricks like "selling land, asking for cash, rice, sakau or tickets for their children going to school, etc, etc, the list goes on and on that one candidate said, "If this continues, we are doomed."

Now shall we roll up our sleeves and get to work?

Certain issues worth noting...

.....On the Kosrae Audit about CFMS pork barrel projects, reported by in the last edition of the Kpress with revelations of questions costs and/or activities. You think the new administration with a new AG will have the guts to investigate and prosecute those responsible or is it going to be same song, entitled. The **DO NOTHING AUTHORITIES**.....

.....Two alien residents who complained of discrimination and lack of or delayed justice...so what else is new and exciting?

.....That Hiroshi Santos guy taking up the Public Broadcasting for forcing him into retirement, now that is news. Kudos to Mr. Santos.

.....And kudos to the new management of PUC. For the quick changes made to the dilapidated office. And the night standby service is superb. One night two guys went to fix the broken meter of a customer within 10 minutes of getting the call. The customer was none other than Stevick Edwin, the Legislature Chairman of the Public Works Transportation and Communications, who was out at night observing

Letters to the Editor UCCP Parking lot nears completion

A year ago a fundraising effort was begun to renovate the parking lot beside UCCP Preschool. Many of you who attended or have had children attend the school over the past few years will know what bad condition the parking lot was in.

Mr. Larry Adams was the first to help us and consulted with us on what initial steps needed to be taken and the estimated cost to complete such a project. He kindly offered to do the construction for a fraction of the cost. Parents of current pupils at the school got together to try to raise money to build the new parking lot. Parents and friends of the school donated money from their own pockets. Organizations in Kolonia also stepped up and donated money. Parents ran a stall at the COM Fall Madness Sale last year, 2006, which also brought in a considerable sum. Altogether, the parents raised over \$3000 through their fundraising efforts.

At the end of 2006 Mrs. Agnes Etscheit came forward and told us she would complete the project using her construction company. The work to even out the surface, concrete it and put in a swale was completed at the beginning of 2007. Her very generous donation of labor, and materials saw our dream come to fruition. UCCP Preschool staff, parents and children are very grateful to her for her kindness.

The money raised by the par-

the two dedicated PUC fellows at work. He was very happy at the quick response of PUC. BRAVO!!

.....And then, there is the fuel price, at the pump and in the power meter. I don't recall the gas price in January 2007 because I never kept any record and am too lazy to research but knowing that it could not be less than what it is today—a few cents from \$5.00 per gallon or maybe more in the rural pump stations?

.....For the power meter, I keep records and in January 2007 I paid \$50 for 159 kilowatts or \$1 dollar for every 41.3 kw (41,300 watts). And now that same \$50 buys 131.5 kilowatts or \$1 dollar for 38.02 kilowatts. That's like having electricity consumed by a string of 506, 75-watt light bulbs burning in my house for house per hour. **BOY! THAT IS A LOT OF LIGHT BULB (I MEAN ENERGY) CONSUMPTION!!!!**

.....While the fuel matter keeps going up, the fastest thing on earth—electrons traveling in cyber space to my computer is going the opposite way. While I used to step outside the house to smoke a stick of cigarettes while waiting for my email to download, now I have to eat a bowl of ramen or watch one episode of Seinfeld.

.....I am not repeating my beef about the cell phone service. It has its own track record.

Finally.....You ever noticed kids sitting along side the road selling baskets of mangoes? Great, you might think but in reality the parents are too embarrassed to do the hawking so they send their kids out there—same as those kids walking around town with empty bags of pig feed, collecting empty bottles for the sakau bars...

ents is being used to extend the parking lot, to build flower beds to protect the children from cars driving up to the school and to finish a walkway around the parking lot.

The school wishes to thank everyone who helped, particularly Mrs. Etscheit, the parents and all those who donated time and money to the project.

Thanks go to:

The Eischeit family
Janhabi Nandy
The Adams Family
Kayo Nagasaki
J P Construction
Grace Willis
Rotary Club of Pohnpei
June Vann
Tuna Commission
Mary Strabala
MedPharm
Staff of UCCP Preschool
Caroline Fisheries
Parents of the Class of 2006
UCCP
ICTV
Jade Ford
Kaselehlie Press
Emy Musrasrik
Meikie Flach
Peter Ainslie
Carrie Boylan
Mae Adams
Denise Boylan
Cathy Smithson
Ana Saber
Lydia Musana

Submitted by UCCP Preschool.

...PUC AUDIT

continued from front page

management accountable to the results of operations. In addition, the Board does not contest the reliability of management forecasts, reports or analysis where its decision is based."

The auditor said that expenses are increasing faster than revenues. They said that combined obligation debt had increased by 70% in the last five years. That period of time coincides with the period time when PUC experienced more development than at any other time since their inception.

The auditor did mention that there is a problem with Accounts Receivables. The audit said that the utility is owed \$3.3 million and that only 56% of that will likely ever be collected. Sources say that Pohnpei State owes as much as a third of the current accounts receivables for back utility bills.

Exception three of the audit regards salary. The Auditor said that he agreed that salary increases could be important motivators for personnel but that those salary increases should be within the ability of the corporation to pay and should have been budgeted.

The audit said that the total cost of the salary increases was \$40,000 for 2006. The increases were only for a few select managers and the percentages of the increases were different and widely disparate. The increase were not budgeted nor approved. Salary increases ranged from an \$853 annual increase to the \$29,999 annual increase that the General Manager received.

According to highly placed government officials the increases were mandated by the US government in an effort to professionalize PUC. The salary amounts and percentages were set at their current levels in order to meet those requirements.

The auditor said that "The management is not concern (*sic*) with

the financial problems facing PUC.

The auditor found that PUC had overrun its budget by \$621,910. Nixon Anson said in his audit response that they will change the method of the budget process from function based to financial analysis based budget so that this type of overrun does not occur in the future.

PUC is required to put out for bid all projects with a cost exceeding \$25,000. The auditor found that in the cases of Nan Pil hydroelectric plant, the Water extension project, and the Water well projects the jobs were not put out to bid. The possible reason for this, the auditor says were the constraints of time involved and the reputation of the vendor. Because of this, there is no reasonable assurance that the best deal was achieved.

PUC hired an engineering firm to rehabilitate the Nan Pil Hydro Electric Plant. The work was supposed to have been completed by September 1, 2005. The work has

still not been completed and the engineer has left Pohnpei. The payment plan for the engineer has resulted in \$7200 of accumulated interest and a default on a \$367,040 payment to the Engineer.

PUC says that they are working with the engineer to get the plant on line. Currently one of the units is in operation. The number two unit, according to PUC will be commissioned soon and the engineer will be paid when the work is completed.

The auditor also found that there were significant outstanding travel advances. One employee had over \$30,000 in outstanding advances from the years previous to the audit period. By the end of fiscal year 2006 he had accumulated over \$45,000 in outstanding travel advances. The auditor pointed out that there are outstanding advances from FY 2007 as well but that period was not part of the audit.

continued on page 19

President Mori and Japanese Elementary School Students Share an Afternoon

By **BILL JAYNES**

The Kaselehlie Press

Students of the Beppu Kamegawa Elementary School invited FSM's President Emanuel Mori to take a brief diversion from his trip to the First Asia Pacific Water Summit to visit them in their school.

The President accepted the invitation and on December 4th, with a big grin on his face, walked the hallways of the school filled with first through third graders, each of them waving an FSM flag.

The fourth through fifth graders performed musical numbers for the President culminating with the sixth grade class' performance of Kamagawa Monogatari (Story of Kamegawa). The performance was astonishing and included varieties of musical instruments including xylophones, glockenspiel, electric keyboard, baby grand piano, koto, wadaiko, percussion instruments, flutes, vocals, and other instruments, all of them played by accomplished sixth graders.

President Mori answered a question presented by the students about how people in the FSM brush their teeth in order to avoid



wasting water.

The highlight of the visit was the children posing, grade by grade for pictures with the President who clearly enjoyed the enthusiasm of the young people. After each posed picture the President took the time to shake the hands of the young people. The students equally enjoyed the opportunity and each of the classes lost, for a short time, the amazing discipline and composure they had exercised during the presentation. They welcomed the President as if he were a pop icon.

Message from the First Asia Pacific Water Summit

Beppu, Oita, Japan – December 4
 – We the leaders of the Asia-Pacific, coming from all sectors or our societies and countries, meeting at the historic inaugural Asia Pacific Water Summit, in the beautiful city of Beppu, in the hospitable Oita Prefecture of Japan, do hereby agree to:

Recognize the people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of human security;

- Reduce by half the number of people who do not have access to basic sanitation in our region by 2015 and aim to reduce that number to zero by 2025, through the adoption of new and innovative sanitation systems that are not as water reliant as current methods;

- Accord the highest priority to water and sanitation in our economic and development plans and agendas and to increase substantially our allocation of resources to the water and sanitation sectors;

- Improve governance, efficiency, transparency and equity in all aspects related to the management of water, particularly as it impacts on poor communities. We recognize that while women are particularly vulnerable they are also resilient and entrepreneurial, hence, should be empowered in all water-related activities

- Take urgent and effective action to prevent and reduce the risks of flood, drought and other water-related disasters and to bring timely relief and assistance to their victims;

- Support the region's vulnerable small island states in their efforts to

protect lives and livelihoods from the impacts of climate change;

- Exhort the Bali Conference to take into account the relationship between water and climate change, such as the melting of snowcaps and glaciers in the Himalayas and rising sea levels, which are already having an impact on some countries in the region;

- Establish concrete goals for the 2008 Tokyo G8 Summit to: 1) commit to support the developing countries to achieve their MDG targets on water and sanitation; and 2) take immediate action to support adaptation to climate change by developing countries;

- Empower a high-level coordinating mechanism in our cabinets and where possible, appoint a minister in charge of water to ensure that all issues related to water and sanitation would be dealt with in a holistic manner;

- Respect and strengthen the region's rich history of water-centered community development, including the rehabilitation of urban waterways and protecting the environmental integrity of rural watersheds; and

- Work together with other like-minded institutions, entities and individuals in order to achieve our collective vision of water security in the Asia-Pacific region.

We will support the Policy Brief as prepared by the Asia Pacific Water Forum family.

We encourage all governments to make all efforts to implement its recommendations.

We have the will and courage to realize our vision.

Pohnpei Workshop Focuses on Banana and Pandanus Products

By Dr. Lois Englberger
The Kaselehlie Press

Some exciting value-added banana and pandanus food products were demonstrated at the Pohnpei Agriculture office in Kolonia, Pohnpei, from Friday 30 November to Tuesday 5 December 2007, in a project coordinated by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei,

and supported by the Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs and the College of Micronesia-FSM.

Dr. Conrad Perera, a food scientist originally from Sri Lanka, having wide experience as a consultant throughout the Pacific and other countries, and presently Professor of Food Science at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, led a

1-day workshop on banana food processing on 30 November 2007. He showed 30 participants (including local entrepreneurs) how to prepare dried "banana figs" (see below), banana nectars (juices), and dried banana flour for making pancakes, along with the importance of cleanliness and good food hygiene.

For banana nectars, he demonstrated the use of a blender for mixing banana, a non-acid fruit, with acidic fruits, such as pineapple, soursop, and calamansi (karartek) to make delightful new flavors. He also explained how the nectars can be preserved if mixed with basic preservation substances. The banana flour was prepared by drying slices of green *Karat* (the State Banana of Pohnpei), grinding, and then mixing with wheat flour in a basic pancake recipe.

Ms. Ione deBrum, who is from the Marshall Islands, led a two-day workshop at the same venue, showing 25 participants how to make dried pandanus paste. She presented an inspiring story of how she led the revival of this product in the Marshalls and how many families are now earning money by preparing and selling it. Also she showed how to dry ground giant swamp taro (*mwahng*) and rehydrate this in a tasty dish (boiling and adding coconut cream).

Great interest was shown by participants in all the products and it is hoped that some of these products will later be made available for sale

in Pohnpei.

Directions for Making "Banana Figs"

1. Select a variety with a thin fruit (like *Daiwang*) as it dries well. With good hygiene, peel bananas and place in a dryer (a solar dryer was built locally for the workshop, see the photo).

2. Dry the fruit for about a week or until fruits are about one-third of the original size. If a solar dryer is used for the first day and there are rainy periods, a dehydrator or oven at low temperature can be used to complete drying the fruits).

3. Serve the "banana figs" as snacks. These are good for school lunches and also holiday gifts.

4. Store in tight plastic bags or other containers with lids. This product, if dried properly, can be stored without refrigeration for several months.

Further information on making these products and on the solar dryers can be obtained from the Island Food Community of Pohnpei, Pohnpei Agriculture, and the COM-FSM Land Grant Program. The solar dryers were built by Capitol Fabricators and thanks are extended to them for their help. Warm thanks are extended to Dr. Perera and Ms. deBrum for their help, to all participants for their enthusiasm, and to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Forests and Trees Program and Forum Secretariat for funding support.



Top: Dr. Conrad Perera (right), food processing consultant at a workshop coordinated by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei, points to the "banana figs" made from *Daiwang* bananas, placed atop a solar dryer. Bottom: Ms. Ione deBrum, consultant, and other participants of the Pandanus and Taro Food Processing Workshop, held 4-5 December 2007, at the Pohnpei Agriculture office, pose for photo, holding pieces of fresh pandanus, dried pandanus paste, dried giant swamp taro, and other processed products. Photos by Dr. Lois Englberger.

FSM First in Pacific to Adopt Revised International Health Regulations

Department of Health and Social Affairs Press Release

Medical experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and officials from the FSM National and state governments and other key agencies met in a workshop from November 12-22, 2007 at the Pohnpei State Hospital Conference room to draft FSM and states work plans on the newly revised International Health Regulations (IHR) using the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED). Recent global events such as the SARS prompted the WHO to work with countries to help strengthen their capacity in responding to diseases that may pose international significance. Participants of the workshop worked together to develop work plans in five of the components of the IHR: Surveillance and Epidemiology, Infection Control, Health Risk Communication, Zoonoses and Points of Entry.

The FSM became the first country among the Pacific island countries among States Parties who adopted the 2005 revised International Health Regulations. These regulations were adopted by the 58th World Health Assembly in 2005 and entered into force on the 15th June 2007.

With the help of Drs. Lee Bee Ong and Liu Qiyong from the World Health Organization, Western Pacific Regional Office, key representatives from the states and the national level drafted the FSM Work Plan (FSM IHR/APSED Work Plan, 2007 - 2010).

In her closing remark, Dr. Ong, congratulated the participants of the workshop, and stated that "FSM is the first in the whole Pacific to have completed the IHR/APSED." What's next in the process, according to the Acting Secretary of Health and Social Affairs, Mr. Marcus Samo, is getting the document endorsed by the FSM leaders at both the national and state levels. Once that step is done, resources could be solicited from donor agencies, including the WHO, for the implementation of key activities targeted toward prevention and control of emerging diseases.

Agencies participated in the workshops comprised of key staffs from public health, immigration, port authorities, environmental protection agencies, from the state and national level.

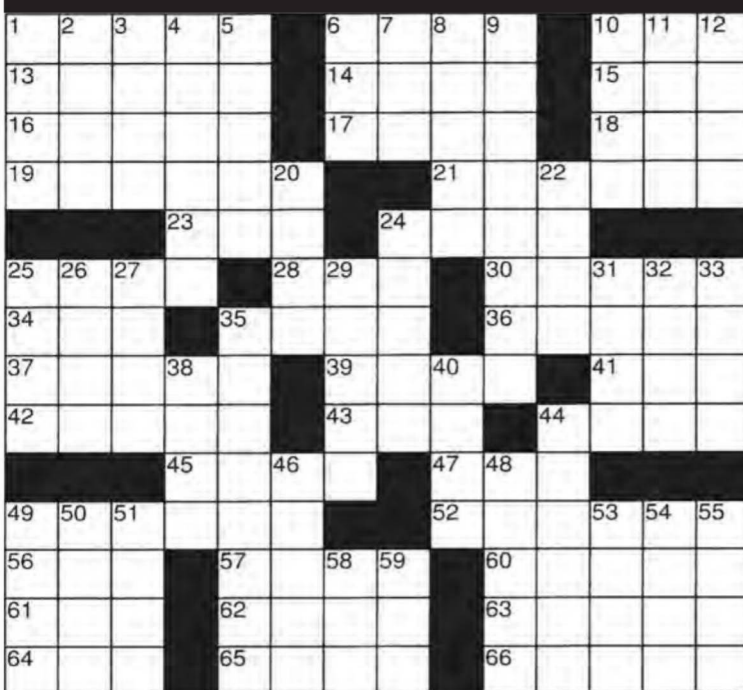
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

GAIN KNOWLEDGE

ACROSS

- 1. Don't match
- 6. Pricy
- 10. Just hang out
- 13. Hard to believe
- 14. Marathon
- 15. Chop
- 16. Ferris Bueller specialty
- 17. Gumbo need
- 18. Place with a pool
- 19. Landlord's customer
- 21. Copy fixer
- 23. Sailor
- 24. Tannery tools
- 25. Willing
- 28. Ailing
- 30. Green hue
- 34. Function
- 35. October gem
- 36. Relinquished
- 37. Gain knowledge
- 39. Corner chess piece
- 41. Straggler's verb
- 42. When bears beat bulls
- 43. Lifter's locale
- 44. Depend
- 45. Credo
- 47. All About ____
- 49. Plot
- 52. Snuggle
- 56. I see what you're up to
- 57. Picture
- 60. More slippery
- 61. Spanish nobleman
- 62. Lymph ____
- 63. Kind of eclipse
- 64. Primate
- 65. Got bigger
- 66. Leaks out slowly
- 20. Vacation
- 22. Vacation spot
- 24. Metal mixture
- 25. Swallow
- 26. On the briny
- 27. Not nice
- 29. "Medium" at the movies
- 31. Keep it in neutral
- 32. Osso buco need
- 33. With jitters
- 35. Like some traffic
- 38. Sushi need
- 40. Sign of bad things to come
- 44. Bring to safety
- 46. Furnishing style
- 48. Hat hangings
- 49. Sweet beverage
- 50. Judo move
- 51. Sharpen
- 53. Fork prong
- 54. Vault
- 55. Makes mistakes
- 58. Honorary writing
- 59. ____ and improved

DOWN

- 1. Informal talk
- 2. Come in less than first
- 3. Similar
- 4. Help to relax
- 5. Laughing one
- 6. ____ football
- 7. Acorn's aspiration
- 8. Boring device
- 9. Wrestling hold
- 10. Expansive
- 11. Convention-like event
- 12. Park or neutral

HERE AND THERE

There are many 6-letter words hidden in the two puzzles below, but only 7 words are in BOTH puzzles! Can you find them?

- Here -

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

- There -

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

•Your List of 6-letter Words•

MARY BERMAN

Attorney

Tel: (691) 320-2210 P.O. Box 163
 Email: mberman@mail.fm Kolonia, Pohnpei
 FM 96941

KASELEHLIE PRESS

BILL JAYNES
 MANAGING EDITOR

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

Law Office of



ANDREA S. HILLYER

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
 P.O. Drawer D, Pohnpei, FM 96941
 TEL: (691) 320-6400
 FAX: (691) 320-6485
 email: ahillyer@mail.fm

THE OLDEST SCHOOL ON POHNPEI

By GARY GARDELL

A question for you: Who is the most famous graduate of Ohwa Christian Training School? "What is Ohwa Christian Training School?", you ask "and is it still around today?" Ohwa Christian High School is now the name and yes the school is still in Madolenihmw on the original site. The buildings have all been re-

cycled by the termites and the elements but new ones are standing very close to the originals.

To answer our first question, Henry Nanpei is the most famous graduate. The first school opened at Ohwa under the leadership of the first Protestant missionaries to Pohnpei, Albert and Susan Sturges. They had a vision to train Micronesians to go to the outer

islands and make disciples of Christ and found churches. According to Birgitt Gehring in Good News Come to Pohnpei, instruction started at Ohwa in 1871. In 1874 the first missionaries trained there were sent with the gospel to the Mortlocks.

The school survived many different political administrations under the Spanish, Germans and Japanese. Miss Annette Palmer, a Congregational Missionary from America is buried near the athletic field. The former boy's dorm is called Azumi Hall after a Japanese, Christian missionary who came in 1921. The school closed for a time and then re-opened after World War II as a three year middle school and later added the Pastors' & Teachers' Training School. In 1967, the school once again closed until 1987 when it was resurrected in its current form.

Rev. Primer Enicar and his wife, Aiorihda, now direct a four year high school with an emphasis on education in Biblical knowledge applied to life. Graduates receive a

college-preparatory diploma and also may participate in the agricultural project raising food and pigs. A new computer lab was installed last spring through funding from USDA.

Ohwa is a ministry of the United Church of Christ, Pohnpei and is financially assisted by some of the churches on Pohnpei as well as other churches in the USA and one in Australia. This allows a tuition cost of only \$75 a month which includes room and board.

The list of famous graduates of Ohwa is too long to include here. Judges, congressmen, businessmen and many pastors have been educated on the hill in Madolenihmw where the round sign announces that you are at Ohwa.

Ohwa currently offers a two year course of study at the college level in Bible with an emphasis on pastoral training. This class will graduate in December and another class will begin in September 2008.

The name Ohwa means "fruitful vine." What better name for a school that prepares students for success in the world while honoring the True Vine, Jesus Christ.



Astronomical Tide Prediction December 12 - 25, 2007

	Pohnpei, Kosrae		Chuuk	
Wednesday	12 Wed 04:30AM 2.4 09:30AM 1.1 04:27PM 4.5 11:37PM 0.8	19 Wed 04:28AM 1.4 11:39AM 3.3 06:20PM 1.8 11:29PM 2.5	12 Wed 03:38AM -0.1 06:15AM -0.2 03:19PM 2.2 11:58PM -0.3	19 Wed 02:46AM 0.2 12:37PM 1.4
Thursday	13 Tu 05:08AM 2.3 10:02AM 1.2 05:01PM 4.4	20 Tu 05:26AM 1.3 12:32PM 3.7 07:31PM 1.3	13 Tu 04:10AM -0.1 06:23AM -0.2 03:49PM 2.2	20 Tu 01:54AM 0.2 12:33PM 1.7 09:30PM -0.1
Friday	14 Fri 12:14AM 0.9 05:51AM 2.3 10:39AM 1.4 05:37PM 4.2	21 Fri 12:51AM 2.4 06:18AM 1.2 01:19PM 4.1 08:24PM 0.9	14 Fri 12:41AM -0.2 04:16PM 2.1	21 Fri 12:51PM 2.0 09:48PM -0.5
Saturday	15 Sat 12:54AM 1.0 06:40AM 2.4 11:23AM 1.6 06:18PM 3.9	22 Sat 01:52AM 2.4 07:05AM 1.1 02:02PM 4.4 09:09PM 0.6	15 Sat 01:26AM -0.1 04:41PM 1.9	22 Sat 01:18PM 2.3 10:18PM -0.7
Sunday	16 Sun 01:39AM 1.1 07:44AM 2.4 12:22PM 1.9 07:06PM 3.5	23 Sun 02:42AM 2.4 07:49AM 0.9 02:44PM 4.7 09:50PM 0.4	16 Sun 02:07AM 0.0 04:54PM 1.6	23 Sun 01:50PM 2.4 10:52PM -0.8
Monday	17 Mon 02:29AM 1.3 09:05AM 2.6 01:58PM 2.1 08:11PM 3.1	24 Mon 03:26AM 2.4 08:32AM 0.8 03:24PM 4.8 10:30PM 0.3	17 Mon 02:36AM 0.1 04:18PM 1.3	24 Mon 02:23PM 2.5 11:27PM -0.7
Tuesday	18 Tue 03:27AM 1.4 10:31AM 2.9 04:23PM 2.1 09:45PM 2.7	25 Tue 04:08AM 2.4 09:13AM 0.8 04:04PM 4.8 11:08PM 0.3	18 Tue 02:49AM 0.2 01:37PM 1.2	25 Tue 02:56PM 2.5

The Kaselehlie Press appreciates the efforts of the Pohnpei Ministerial Association to provide articles for the Religion page. More than anyone we understand how difficult it is to write on a deadline.

If you would like to see this page continue, please take the time to write an article for the page. It is in danger of disappearing due to a shortage of submissions.

ISLAM
A Misunderstood Religion

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