

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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

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

Email: kpress@mail.fm

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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PPA Moves to Dismiss ‘Harassing’ Case of PMS

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

Local shipping agent Pohnpei Marine Services on Aug. 10 filed its fifth lawsuit in the last 18 months against the Pohnpei Port Authority.

Martin Jano, attorney for the litigious PMS, says he intends to continue filing suits – indicating he currently has at least 11 more – until appropriate relief is secured for his client.

The most recent complaint – already partially denied by the FSM Supreme Court – alleges PPA refusal of port entry to certain PMS client vessels and seeks remedy.

The string of lawsuits date back to early 2005, the first of which was spurred by PPA denial of entry to a vessel represented by PMS

– similar circumstances to the latest case.

In that case – later dismissed – PPA barred entry to the vessel due to its purportedly unpaid fees.

What followed – and continues to the present – has been a succession of legal maneuvers and proceedings involving both the state and national courts, and leading to allegations of underhanded tactics from both sides.

The contentious relationship between the two entities appears to have even played some role in the PPA board’s recent removal of two of its members.

Michael Sipos, PPA’s attorney, expresses frustration over what has resulted from what he views as basically straightforward cir-

cumstances.

“We’re doing what the law makes us do,” he said.

According to Sipos, the lawsuits – thus far, all initiated by PMS – reflect an attempt to divert attention from PMS’s mounting debts and possibly questionable business practices.

In an effort to curb what it views as PMS’s ongoing and essentially harassing legal moves, PPA currently seeks penalty of PMS for the newest complaint, defining it as an “objectively unreasonable, unfounded and frivolous action.”

Summarizing its unwavering stance, the motion states “. . . PMS has no present lawful grounds to seek relief against PPA designed to stop it from fulfilling its opera-

tional responsibilities.”

PPA says PMS currently owes it in the neighborhood of \$500,000 for outstanding vessel fees and charges including interest and penalty charges accrued to payments not made within 30 days.

The agency is entitled to deny entry to delinquent vessels. Port officials claim they have yet to exercise the option however. Gilbert Halverson, assistant seaport manager for PPA, says outstanding balances have led only to delayed vessel entry.

Though the courts have yet to issue a ruling that favors PMS, Jano maintains PPA’s rigid enforcement of its fee regulations are damaging the reputation of his client and forcing them out of business. He

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Legislator Says Signs Will Solve Fuel Pricing Problems

in Pohnpei

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

If Senator Feliciano M. Perman’s proposed bill (307-05), the “Petroleum Prices Disclosure Act of 2005” passes through the legislature and becomes law, all retail sellers of fuel on the island will have to post two prices at their fueling stations. They would, according to the bill, have to post the sales price and also prominently post the cost they paid for the fuel they are selling.

Section 1 of the bill, findings and intent says, “The Legislature finds that Pohnpeian consumers are being injured by unreasonably high prices for petroleum products. It is the purpose of this act to ensure that consumers receive full disclosure as to prices being paid for

petroleum products, and also to make it more difficult for gasoline retailers to enter into illegal anti-competitive price-fixing agreements.”

A hearing was held on Wednesday, August 23rd to allow targeted retailers to express their views on the proposed bill. Akilino Susaia of Amcres was one of the retailers present at the meeting. “I agree with the premise. The high price of fuel is hurting everybody, even me. People think I get my gas for free...” Frank Panuelo of Panuelo Gas asked, “how is this [bill] going to ‘cure the injuries’...talk to OPEC or Mobil.”

Susaia said, one of the “sticky points is the confidentiality agreement we had to sign [with Mobil].” Of the three station owners interviewed, each one indicated that this factor would be a problem.



Mobil Oil Micronesia, Inc. (MOMI) apparently required each station owner to sign a confidentiality agreement on the terms of their negotiated purchase price of fuel.

Panuelo asked the question, “If I break the confidentiality agreement [in order to comply with the

law] Mobil will sue me. Who will I sue? The Legislature...” He agreed that the price of litigation might eventually have the effect of driving fuel prices up.

The confidentiality agreements hamper more than just the proposed bill. A bill passed into law

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NEWS

Pohnpei Tourism Stimulator Files Suit

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

A lawsuit filed earlier this month could redefine Pohnpei's foreign investment practices and potentially affect how U.S. citizens approach business ventures in the FSM.

The Aug. 2 complaint was brought by local businessman Alloys Malfitani, co-owner of the Pohnpei Surf Club and a U.S. citizen, after he was denied a foreign investment permit to establish an eco-resort on Pohnpei under the name Pohnpei Ocean Park, Inc.

Though officially filed with the FSM Supreme Court, at press time the suit had not yet been served on named defendants including the Pohnpei State Foreign Investment Board and Pohnpei resident Frank Panuelo, in his capacity as representative of the Pohnpei Business Association.

Malfitani and his lawyer, Andrea Hillyer, say they elected this approach to allow maximum time for consultation and resolution – namely a reversal of the FIB's decision – rather than formal legal action.

According to the complaint, the permit denial raises concerns not only about possibly discriminatory actions by the FIB but also about how the FSM interprets certain provisions of its amended Compact of Free Association with the United States.

Malfitani's application was turned down by the FIB in late June, after more than four months of consideration by the board and alleged efforts by PBA to persuade local businesses to oppose the application.

The board denied the application in a letter, stating its opinion that "the hotel sector . . . can not yet

justify the presence of additional hotel rooms in the market."

" . . . it is generally feared," the letter continues, "that granting direct engagement in hotel development and operation at this point may have damaging effect on the many locals who have risked every means and in many cases borrowed money to capitalize the business to advance their dreams."

In response, Malfitani's complaint says "The reasons for denial, and the lobbying efforts . . . from the Pohnpei Business Association constitute an illegal attempt to restrict competition in the hotel, bar and restaurant industry in Pohnpei."

Further, the complaint argues that U.S. citizens should not have to seek foreign investment permits to conduct business in the FSM in the first place.

Section 142 of the amended Compact requires the FSM to adopt – with regards to U.S. citizens seeking to work or invest in the FSM – "immigration-related procedures no less favorable than those adopted by the Government of the United States with respect to citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia seeking employment in the United States."

The FSM government has interpreted the provision to mean that U.S. citizens need investment permits. However, FSM citizens may work and invest in the United States free of permit applications and immigration restrictions.

Panuelo, who chairs the PBA, said he was shocked by the lawsuit's claims. "What libelous, criminal activity did we do?" he said. "I didn't think expressing opinion on behalf of the business community was a sue-able offense."

PBA, which does not have an office or a published phone number,

is identified in the complaint as "an unincorporated association of individuals and businesses in Pohnpei." Panuelo said PBA – less than two years old – is working on its incorporation and bylaws. The association counts around 60 local businesses among its membership.

The FIB meets approximately twice a month to consider applications. Panuelo said PBA was invited to contribute comments when Malfitani's application was considered.

Malfitani's promotion of Pohnpei – on behalf of his surf club – as an attractive tourist destination has drawn the attention of a number of professional surfers as well as numerous publications and television shows.

According to Malfitani's application, Pohnpei Ocean Park – which was incorporated by the state in May – would include a bar and restaurant and offer tourists access to a number of environmentally-friendly activities and tours.

The permit he holds for the surf club expressly prohibits hotel ownership.



Alloys Malfitani instructs over 20 young students from Pohnpei during a free seminar he offered at Nahlap island. The ocean was not cooperative during the day offering only one foot tall waves. The young people enjoyed the experience just the same learning surfboard and body board technique as they were towed around the lagoon by boat all day.

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USCG KUKUI Impacts and is Impacted by Pohnpei

USCG KUKUI Public Affairs

What difference can one buoy tender make in a time period of 70 hours? Well, as the CGC KUKUI proved, a *huge* difference. Working along with Coast Guardsmen and women from the CGC GALVESTON ISLAND, the KUKUI set the standard for international engagement excellence and left an indelible impression on the people of Pohnpei and the host nation's U.S. Embassy. Despite mooring in Pohnpei two full days later than expected due to an exhausting search effort for four Micronesian citizens, the KUKUI crew immediately hit the ground running on a Saturday morning, eager to recapture previously scheduled opportunities. Within 30 minutes of throwing over all lines, the KUKUI prepared 8 sideboys to greet Ambassador Suzanne Hale and shortly thereafter the command and crew met with the Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Missions (DCM), Mr. Arnold Campbell, as well as several other important Embassy personnel. Only minutes later, both cutters readily opened their doors to hundreds of residents of Pohnpei. Nearly 300 men, women and children toured the cutters in 5 hours, amazed by the ships and their crews' hospitality. Not a single child could be found without smile or lollipop in hand.

Concurrently, law enforcement



personnel from both cutters deftly seized the opportunity to conduct a Maritime Law Enforcement symposium with 20 members of the FSM National Police, Maritime Surveillance Wing. In the morning, four members of the KUKUI shared theoretical information on international maritime law, the USCG Use of Force policy, and boarding preparation and procedures. All the while, presenters and participants shared best practices and lessons learned from past law enforcement experiences. In the afternoon, CG personnel were welcomed onboard the FSM vessels, FSS INDEPENDENCE, FSS PALIKIR and FSS MICRONESIA. Law enforcement personnel from

GALVESTON ISLAND spearheaded practical lessons on space accountability, vessel searches and tactical procedures. The members of the National Police were quick to recall previous Royal Australian Navy and U.S. Coast Guard training; they built upon that training to better hone their boarding skills. After an information-packed 6 hours, the Commanding Officers of the U.S. cutters, LCDR Stephen Matadobra and LCDR Michael Schoonover, thanked the National Police for the occasion of the professional exchange and presented participants with a certificate of participation. "I was very pleased that we were still able to carry out the professional exchange in Pohnpei, despite minor

delays. The National Police are extremely sharp and eager to further their capabilities as a maritime law enforcement entity. This exchange was *extremely* valuable in that it increased our interoperability and solidified us as maritime partners," explained LT Peggy Britton, executive officer and coordinator for the professional exchange.

In addition to helping local authorities, KUKUI shifted gears in the afternoon to assist a local high school. Tragically, a wing of the thousand-student high school was burned to ashes by the work of an arsonist. KUKUI was contacted while in Guam by the U.S. Embassy in Pohnpei to facilitate the conveyance of 13 pallets of DRMO'd (previously used) office equipment. Loading and transporting the office equipment was no small task, but KUKUI's deck force personnel did not complain. The buoydeck supervisor, BM1 Tyler True, described his sense of fulfillment, "It is an amazing feeling to be part of something like this, knowing that we helped bring used, military office equipment from a warehouse in Guam to a school in need in Pohnpei. It was great that we could be in the right place at the right time to help all those kids and their school. It really made me appreciate what we have every day." All in all, KUKUI delivered 4 large wooden desks, and 20 file cabinets to re-

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Pohnpei Transportation Authority Under Fire

By **JESSICA CHAPMAN**

The Kaselehlie Press

The Pohnpei Transportation Agency was issued strong recommendations earlier this year by the Pohnpei State Office of the Public Auditor based on findings of continued disappointing performance for FY'05.

The recent audit cites a number of violations of laws and regulations, among them the agency's pursuit of projects without contract or approval of its board of directors, including one project controversially involving pavement of a road to a private naahs.

The audit also cites the agency's failure to convene regular board

meetings and to comply with monthly reporting requirements. It also notes that the agency is currently named in 10 lawsuits.

The audit further indicates 93 percent of audit recommendations from the agency's FY'03-04 audit were not implemented in FY'05. It notes some offenses have been specified in audits as far back as 1998.

The agency is also identified as carrying significant debt, owing the state more than \$500,000 for advances it has been issued.

PTA is a state agency, responsible for promotion, development and

improvement of transportation services for the state. Its work mainly involves road construction and maintenance.

Its operating budget was approximately \$1.7 to 1.9 million for 2004 and 2005.

PTA Commissioner Victor Edwin was unavailable for comment. Edwin was appointed by Gov. Johnny David.

The audit cites a partial explanation by Edwin in response to the agency's failure to gain board approval for contracts, in which he acknowledges the infrequency of board meetings and indicates

projects would be unnecessarily delayed while waiting for their approvals.

Among its recommendations the audit says ". . . management should implement the audit recommendations promptly as well as establish controls to correct the deficiencies."

"In addition," it states, "there is no assurance whether management intends to resolve the recurring weaknesses."

Responsibility of enforcement for the audit recommendations rests with the state attorney general's office.

Secured Transactions Act

Department of Economic Affairs
Press Release

Congress passed a new law last November that will make it much easier and less expensive for businesses in FSM to get bank financing for start-up, purchase of new equipment and continuing operations. The new Secured Transactions Act will make capital available to more businesses at lower rates than has been possible until now. The law will take effect later in August 2006.

One of the major problems facing FSM businesses is that they cannot get financing at reasonable rates of interest. The reason for the problem has been that the risk of lending has been so high that banks either cannot lend at all, or they lend less money than needed at very high interest rates. The risk

is caused by the inability of a lender to recover on a loan if the borrower fails to pay. Lenders have been unable to take collateral for loans because few small and medium-sized businesses have land and buildings they can mortgage, and there has been no way to secure loans with movable property.

The new Secured Transactions Act fixes the problem for movable property. It gives lenders a way to take security interests in movable property to secure repayment of loans. The property can be equipment, inventory, accounts receivable, or any other type of movable property. A lender and borrower simply agree that the lender can take and sell the property if the borrower fails to repay. The agreement does not need to

be notarized, and can even be done by an exchange of e-mails or faxes.

The law also reduces the risk to lenders by protecting them against other parties such as other lenders or buyers of the collateral. The law establishes the priority of all parties that have competing claims to the property. In general, the first party to make its interest public has the highest priority in the property if the borrower fails to pay.

The most important way of making a security interest public is for the lender to file a simple notice in an electronic filing office via the internet. The notice includes only the name and address of the borrower, the name and address of the lender, and a description of the collateral. The description of the

collateral can be very general, so the security interest can cover future collateral such as replacement inventory or future accounts receivable of a merchant. All that is needed to file notices and to search is an internet connection.

The filing office is being established in the Department of Economic Affairs, and will be found on the website at www.filingoffices/securedtransactions. It includes instructions on how to file notices and to search for existing notices in the filing office database. There is no fee for searching, and the fee for filing a notice is \$15.

This new law and the filing office give new opportunities to FSM businesses to grow and prosper with greater access to capital at lower interest rates. To learn more, see the filing office website.

Weno Harbor Funding

Embassy of Japan

A brief ceremony was held at the Conference Room of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs for the Signing and Exchange of Notes for the Project for Rehabilitation of Weno Harbor in the State of Chuuk. Acting Secretary Lorin S. Robert signed on behalf of the FSM Government while the Ambassador of Japan to the FSM Masashi Namekawa represented the Government of Japan.

The project, which was approved by the Government of Japan in July 2006, will provide funding in the amount of ¥725,000,000 for the rehabilitation of Weno Harbor in Chuuk State which experienced extensive damage as a result of a Typhoon that hit the State in 2002. Following the signing of the Notes, statements were given by both governments expressing their gratitude and hopes for continuation of the strong and healthy relationship that exists between Japan and the FSM.

The event was even more memorable due to the presence of H.E. President Joseph J. Urusemal and Japan's Minister of State for Disaster Management, Honorable Tetsuo Kutsukake who is currently visiting Capital State and also scheduled to make a stop in Chuuk State. Also present to witness the signing ceremony was Chargé d'Affaires Toshio Omura, Secretary of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure Andrew Yatilman and other concerned staff from the Embassy of Japan and Department of Foreign Affairs.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Suva, Fiji



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Applications should be addressed to the Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Private Mail Bag, Suva and should be sent to jobs@forumsec.org.fj. Applications close on Friday 8 September 2006.

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PMS

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points out that PMS is presently making regular payments to PPA.

Jano, who has published pieces of the ongoing struggles in his Da Rohng newspaper, claims all he seeks is flexibility of PPA's 30-day time limit on payments. According to Jano, requiring fishing vessels to remit payment within such a short period of time is unreasonable.

"All we want PPA to do is to extend the time and then everything will be normal," he said.

"What's sad is that PMS will have to divert vessels," he said. "The whole fishing industry will be affected." Jano sees PPA efforts as part of an overarching aim to inhibit the island's private sector development.

He said PMS intends to shift its operations to the Marshall Islands if it goes out of business in Pohnpei.

Joe Vitt, manager of Pohnpei Transfer & Storage – a Pohnpei shipping agent since 1983 – admits vessel payment can take up to several months. However, PT&S has avoided debt accumulation due to the inconvenience.

Behind the lawsuits remain two businesses. PMS was established in the last 5-6 years to provide services to fishing vessels in the area – an increasingly popular destination for international fishing companies.

Every vessel entering Pohnpei's

port must have a local agent. Agents arrange for appropriate officials to meet and clear the vessel – such as customs, quarantine and the Environmental Protection Agency – as well as provision of supplies and cash advances.

PPA, was established in the early 1990s as a financially self-sustaining agency, free of any state subsidy. It remains attached to the state, however, via its board of directors, who are appointed by the governor.

Among other duties, such as oversight of the Pohnpei International Airport, PPA also regulates the port and imposes certain fees, for example, for docking and anchorage services as well as for piloting vessels into the port.

Each visit to Pohnpei's port costs a typical fishing vessel thousands of dollars for services rendered by its local agent and PPA. A listing of recent port charges indicates bills ranging from \$1,000 to \$16,000. PPA regulations require payment within 30 days.

Timakio Ehsa, owner of PMS, and PPA General Manager Ieske Ieshi were unavailable for comment.

Three of the five suits against PPA remain pending. A hearing date on a remaining matter contained in the most recent suit has been set for Sept. 12. PPA also faces an additional suit from former harbor pilots.

Pohnpei Gov. Johnny David has nominated Ricky Cantero and John Sonden to replace PPA board members Leon Senda and Robert Andreas. Their names currently remain pending before the legislature.

FSM Basketball Federation

By Heinrich Palik

In the midst of competition during the Micro Games, the four FSM states' basketball stakeholders met and elected the following as their new officers: Heinrich Palik (Pohnpei) President; Aurelio Joab (Pohnpei) and John Waathan (Yap) Vice Presidents; Clark Graham (Chuuk) Secretary and Lilian Sewell as Treasurer.

The officers quickly met the next day and decided to pursue the following goals:

1. Develop basketball at both el-

- ementary and high school levels;
2. Use basketball as a mean to address some of the youth and educational issues in the four states;
3. Empowering the State Basketball Associations;
4. Preparation for both FSM (Pohnpei) and SPG (American Samoa) Games in 2007; and
5. Improving federation's by-laws.

"Evidently, the shopping list is long, but the federation must take one step at a time to ensure that the process is continuous with good results," offered Heinrich Palik.

Fuel Price

continued from front page

in 1973 (3L 72-73) established a Price Control Commission for the State of Pohnpei. The law also established a maximum percentage rate markup for each sale of any product imported into Pohnpei. An importer is allowed to mark up prices by a maximum of 50%, while the retailer who buys from the importer is allowed a maximum markup of 20%. Even if the Price Control Commission was active, which it has not been for some time now according to Legislative Counsel, the confidentiality agreements with Mobil would make enforcement of that law difficult if not impossible. A question exists as to whether or not retail fueling stations were, under that law, ever legally allowed to sign confidentiality agreements with MOMI.

All of the interviewed station owners asked why they were being singled out as the cause of the high price of fuel in Pohnpei. In an interview in his office Perman said that he had intended that the legislation would also cover MOMI but a letter from Kamal Singh, President of MOMI said that since "it does not set retail prices charged at those [service station] sites...it is inappropriate for MOMI to comment on [the] bill...". Perman indicated that the

proposed legislation might need to be modified in the Resources and Development Committee of which he is acting chair to include MOMI within its purview.

Yosuo Phillip of P.I.T.C. said that he was charging no more than 8% markup on the fuel sold at his station. Mihpel of Amcres said that their station charges between 7% and 8% markup on fuel purchased from Mobil Oil. Panuelo said, "we're well below what we're allowed to charge. We're not the problem."

Senator Perman said when asked about the reportedly small markup rates, "That's just not true and anyway how would we know with the confidentiality agreements?"

He commented on Yoshie's practice of listing two prices for many of their items as an example of why the bill should not be a problem for gasoline vendors. The management of Yoshie's said that one price was a per piece price and the other was a bulk "case" price but that they do not display their cost on items.

All the vendors interviewed said that if a Price Control Commission were to be reestablished they would be able to stand against the scrutiny but that a public posting of their markup amount would detrimental to the competition that currently exists.

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NEWS

KUKUI

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store the counselor's office at the school. To formally present the equipment, the Ambassador, DCM, LCDR Matadobra, Ms. Carolyn Ridderman- District 14 International Affairs, and other members of the KUKUI humbly handed over the office furniture to the principal of the high school. The high school staff was elated, openly showing their appreciation for donated equipment they could not have otherwise afforded. Similarly, KUKUI enabled the SeaBees on Pohnpei to continue with their well drilling operations by transporting critical hoses and other needed equipment from Guam. For this, the SeaBees were extremely grateful. Hired transport of these materials would have been extremely costly to the project and likely extended the operation several weeks. KUKUI's timely delivery was invaluable.

Members of the KUKUI and GALVESTON ISLAND were apt ambassadors of the U.S. and U.S. Coast Guard during their visit. On the first evening, the command cadre were invited to the breathtaking residence of the U.S. Ambassador, Ms. Suzanne Hale. The Ambassador, as well as Embassy

staff, FSM Senators, local dignitaries, members of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), and professional exchange participants from the National Police shared an artfully prepared local dinner and unparalleled fellowship with the visiting CG cutters. Similarly, the FSM Maritime Surveillance Advisor, LCDR Mark Sorby, RAN, generously opened his home the following evening to the commands and crew of the KUKUI and GALVESTON ISLAND. The camaraderie and overwhelming hospitality demonstrated by the Australians was first rate, paving the way for future joint-maritime ventures.

The capstone event of KUKUI's Pohnpei port visit, however, was a heart-wrenching visit to a local family. Through the U.S. Embassy, the KUKUI learned of a destitute family who experienced the ultimate sacrifice—their eldest son was killed in service to the U.S. Army in Iraq over one year ago. Since that time, the family of 15 fell upon hard times triggered by a turn in the father's health and the loss of the son's financial assistance. Upon hearing this story, the KUKUI crew responded with unparalleled, awe-inspiring generosity. In less than two days, the crew collected 12 full bags of beautiful new and used clothing for 13 children of all ages. They donated shoes, pocket knives, a sleeping

bag, brand new sheet sets, and a 5 ft surfboard! MK1 Bob Walker, a talented surfer by Hawaii standards, humbly explained, "I just wanted to put a smile on the kids' faces...sometimes, something as little as a surfboard can make a huge difference." And, what a huge difference it *will* make. Additionally, crew members poured forth much-needed essentials. They brought bags of bar soap, toothpaste and tooth brushes, enough to last years. They selflessly donated hundreds of dollars to purchase food for the family whose staple is coconuts. With the crew's donations, KUKUI purchased 150 pounds of rice, 100 pounds of flour, 4 cases of ramen, sugar, over 80 cans of Spam, canned mackerel, Vienna sausages, and fruit cocktail. To deliver the contributions, LCDR Matadobra, LT Peggy Britton and Ms. Carolyn Ridderman were escorted by U.S. Embassy personnel over an hour away to a remote, jungle destination on Pohnpei. Accessible only by four wheel drive, the home was far from the beaten path. The reaction of the family was indescribable.

"It was one of the most moving experiences of my Coast Guard Career," LCDR Steve Matadobra, CO of KUKUI remarked. "I shook the father's hand, and as I pulled away, he held my hand tighter...despite his deteriorating

health and inability to speak, I could feel his gratitude through a simple handshake. It was very emotional."

Pohnpei will not soon be forgotten by the men and women of KUKUI, nor will those dramatically affected by KUKUI forget the professionalism, hard work and generosity of her command and crew. In only 70 fleeting hours, a dedicated group can make a profound difference through effective international engagement. The Pohnpei port call was wholly successful, paving the way for future professional exchanges, enhanced regional security and increased maritime cooperation between the U.S. and FSM.

KUKUI's work in Pohnpei, FSM, was sidebar to her larger mission since July 10, 2006, escorting two patrol boats to Guam, and returning one to its new homeport in Honolulu, Hawaii. KUKUI is a 225' buoy tender homeported in Honolulu that services Aids to Navigation throughout the Hawaiian Islands and the Western Pacific Ocean. Other primary missions include Maritime Law Enforcement, Homeland Defense, and Marine Environmental Protection. KUKUI's next voyage will be Aids to Navigation mission to Barber's Point. The ship is on the web at <http://www.uscg.mil/d14/units/KUKUI/homepage.htm>.

PREL Program Specialist Invited To Participate in International Visitor Leadership Program

By **TIM MOLINE**
PREL

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) Program Specialist Marcela Sakaio, located on tiny Ebeye Island in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), was recently selected to represent the RMI in the International Visitor Leadership Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The Regional International Visitor Leadership Project for East Asia on Primary and Secondary Education in the U.S. is administered by the Graduate School of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and was conducted this year from July 24, 2006 to August 11, 2006.

Ms. Sakaio joined participants from all over the world in this 3-week adventure, meeting and conferring with professional counterparts and international and national dignitaries and visiting schools from Washington, DC

to Los Angeles, California.

The 3-week tour took Ms. Sakaio to cities across the country, where the project addressed the following themes:

Washington, DC:

Introduction to the U.S. system of education
Role of the federal government in the education system

Raleigh, NC:

Textbook publishing
Classroom administration
Role of state government in the education system

Phoenix, AZ:

Teacher training
Curriculum development
Community involvement in education
Role of local government in the education system

Los Angeles, CA:

Impact of technology in education
Special education and gifted programs
Final evaluation

Participants who are current or potential leaders in government, politics, the media, education, and other fields, are nominated by U.S. Foreign Service Officers stationed at U.S. embassies and other Department of State offices overseas—they cannot apply to participate in the program. Ms. Sakaio joins more than 200 current and former heads of state, 1,500 cabinet-level ministers, and many other distinguished world leaders in government and the private sector who have participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that serves the educational community in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands, the continental United States, and countries

throughout the world. PREL bridges the gap between research, theory, and practice in education and works collaboratively with schools and school systems to provide services that range from curriculum development to assessment and evaluation.



Program Specialist Marcela Sakaio

NEWS

ROTARY CLUB OF POHNPEI AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

By **STEVE FINNEN**
Rotary Club of Pohnpei

Higher education is such an important need for students to develop the skills and training to improve the nation.

The Rotary Club of Pohnpei annually provides scholarships for post high school education to deserving FSM students. The funds for these scholarships are provided solely from local fundraising efforts, and the Rotary Club has received extraordinary support from the community and local businesses to make these scholarships possible. The largest scholarship awarded is for \$1,000.00. However, because of the need and the deserving students who have applied, lesser amounts are also awarded.

The criteria for the scholarships are grades, course of study, community service, financial need, a

willingness to return to the community with their education, and presentation in their applications. This year due to its fundraising success and generous support the Rotary Club was able to award \$4,500.00 in scholarships.

The Rotary Club is proud to announce the award of its annual scholarships to the following students:

1. Loveleen James, Bryman College, Medical Assistant \$1,000.00
2. Carleila Carl, Uof Hawaii-Manoa, Political Science \$1,000.00
3. Joycelyn Roby, Michigan State, Parks & Recreation \$1,000.00
4. Lil Nedlic, COM-FSM, Pre-Medical, \$500.00
5. Mad David, COM-FSM, Business, \$500.00
6. Rhennay Leben, COM-FSM, Business, \$250.00



Photo by Jim Tobin

Smiling "Rotary Scholars" that were able to attend the awards ceremony along with proud Rotarians

7. Auslynn Lambert, COM-FSM, Business, \$250.00

Congratulations are extended to all of these students, and we wish them the best of luck. For the community at large, the Rotary Club of

Pohnpei will be holding a fundraiser, which is a quiz night, full of trivia questions and prizes, on November 25, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., so please come and support us, so we can continue to reward these fine students in the years to come.

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NEWS

COM Student Wins Japanese Essay Contest



Six essays were submitted by students at the Chuuk, Kosrae, and National Campuses. A panel of 4 judges reviewed the essays on July 23, 2006, and determined the winning essay from among the six that were submitted. The winning essay was submitted by Mr. Dandeen Johnson, a sophomore student from Pohnpei majoring in the Health Career Opportunity Program.

He will receive a one week all expenses paid trip to the University of Ryukyu in Okinawa, Japan and other sites in Japan during the week of October 9, 2006. Mr. Johnson will be accompanied by Mrs. Jean Thoulag, Vice President for Instructional Affairs. Mrs. Thoulag's trip expenses will also be paid for by the Ryukyu University.

Johnson will be presenting his paper at a water issues seminar at the University of Ryukyu.

The entire winning essay follows.

Animal Waste Management

By Dandeen Johnson

In Pohnpei and all of Micronesia, it is a common tradition to raise pigs. Micronesians basically raise pigs for religious and cultural purposes. In Pohnpei nearly everyone raise pigs. Each resident can raise an average of 2-10 pigs. Consequently, it has become a major issue in water pollution. On Pohnpei, piggeries are placed near rivers systems, streams, and coastal shores. Each day, the pig's waste is washed into the surface waters creating water quality issues, economic concern, and health problems. Pohnpei is well known for its many water resources. As the second rainiest place in the world, its surface and

ground water are promising to the island. Pohnpei has numerous abundant river systems that connect throughout the whole island. The rivers are basically used for washing clothes, for swimming, and most importantly for drinking. There have been many reports from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) based on a detection of unhealthy pathogens and an increase in turbidity levels. Due to this, Pohnpei is losing its water quality.

Treated water comes very rare on the island. The only source of treated water is from the Pohnpei Utility Corporation (PUC). Based on an interview with Mr. Kelly Keller, PUC's CPA, says that PUC gets its water supply from ground water. During dry seasons they also have a few deep wells (10 feet or more) to assist in water supply, but it is seldom used. Ground water is naturally clean, but sometimes contaminated surface water can also end up in ground water. The water offered from PUC is often treated, but turbidity affects the distillation process. The highest risk for water quality issues are found in areas that are largely populated. One of the densely populated areas is located in the Kolonia municipal. In the 1990's, the Pohnpei Island Resource Study, it was estimated that 470 out of 603 homes in Kolonia raised pigs. This is where PUC is located. In Kolonia, Turbidity Test results ranged from 1.2-1.5 Nephelometric turbidity units. Due to the high turbidity level standards of the EPA, which is 0.5 Nephelometric turbidity units, we use the World Health Organization's standard of turbidity levels, 5 Nephelometric turbidity units (98).

In Pohnpei, turbidity has a great impact on the island's water quality. By dumping the pig's waste into the surface waters, turbidity levels increase. In the water, solid waste absorbs heat increasing temperature in the water. This can cause an endangerment to sea creatures that cannot survive in warmer waters. It also blocks away sunlight limiting photosynthesis in marine plants under water. Pig waste is known as a source of nitrogen and phosphorus which helps the algae in the water grows. As the algae grow in size, it reduces the amount of oxygen in the water. Turbidity limits the minerals and elements such as calcium, magnesium, sulfate, chloride, fluoride, iron, magnesium, and more that are important in maintaining high water quality. From 1971 and 1982, the United States Geological Survey chemically analyzed 53 water samples from 19 different streams in the island.

They found out that the water hardness, pH, and signs of important elements were in good condition, based on World Health Organization (WHO) standards. Since they summarized their data in 1984 most of their stream monitoring stations became inoperative when they were destroyed by Typhoon Axel in 1992. Since its destruction, water quality have not been monitored and tested. The Pohnpei Utility Corporation (PUC) is planning engagements into bringing them back.

Due to the improper waste management, it is bad for residents that don't have access to PUC plumbing. The island is set up with 24 large community water systems to provide water supply for residents who don't have access to PUC. Each water system is equipped with a concrete dam that may or may not include water tanks. Each water system may also have a sand filter to help cleanse the water. The main source of water supply comes from the surface waters, especially rivers. The tanks are set up for runoff water collection. Because most the rivers are interconnected, they share the same concentration of pollution caused by the pigs waste. Due to lack of plumbing, some residents don't have access to these community water systems. People buy a huge tank that costs \$500-\$2000. These tanks also collect runoff water that comes from roofs. These runoff systems are not quite different from the community water systems because they both provide untreated water supply and they both take in harmful substances that are carried down by the rain. Substance such as motor oil, gasoline, kerosene, and many other harmful vapors are included.

The pig waste washed over coastal shores has caused marine life on Pohnpei to decrease in numbers. When fecal matter is washed into the water, it settles there. If there is too much fecal matter for the corals to consume, it affects their growth leading a catastrophe for fish settlements. People of the FSM rely mostly on fishing for food. Now that people place piggeries near the coastal shores, there are only pig feces to fish. The only place to find fresh fish is in the public markets. They supply fish that is caught beyond the coral reefs of the island.

Washing down fecal matter down the rivers has created a negative influence on the economy. The Kepirohi falls is one of the famous tourist sights in Pohnpei. This tourist sight is a water fall. When fecal matter is drawn from

"Pilap en Mahnd", one of the most contaminated rivers in Pohnpei, it passes through the village of Mand, and into the Kepirohi falls. (See map on p. 6) After it passes through Kepirohi falls it extends to our second popular tourist sight, Nan Madol. Nan Madol is an ancient ruin that is built with large massive stones carved in a unique way. It is very unpleasant to see our tourists caught up by animal feces or to be affected by them.

According to the local EPA, pig waste is also a contributor to health diseases (NRCS 98). The EPA claims to have found Leptospirosis in Pohnpei's water supply. They consider pigs waste to be primary sources of leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a common bacterium that lives in fecal matter of warm-blooded animals, or in this case, pig's waste. Another common suspect of leptospirosis is the rat. The relationship between the two is that the pigs attract the rats. People or animals are affected by leptospirosis when they are in contact with contaminated water. Leptospirosis can cause many types of diseases. There have been epidemics associated with contaminated water. For example, In 1992, there were 15,766 outpatients in Pohnpei. 1441 of the patients were treated for intestinal parasites, 49 for hepatitis, 2094 for intestinal tract diseases, and 1235 for diseases originating from digestive system. In addition, 6 people died from intestinal disease and diarrhea in 1992. Due to Pohnpei's vulnerability to contaminated water disease, the FSM was warned by the WHO when the new lethal cholera specimen, Vibrio Cholera 0139 that reached the western pacific, because it is fatal to 5% of treated patients and 50% of untreated patients.

With the cost of treatment expenses, and the declining of our natural resources, it would be more wise and appropriate to promote preventive measures (something that will reduce expenses, preserve our natural habitat, and to promote health). We can raise a fund for an expensive water system project that would provide healthy and treated water for everyone; and still cut back on the annual cost of treating illnesses associated with water contamination. People of the island are now using septic tanks to collect pig manure. This prevents the manure from contaminating the surface waters. Responsibility and dedication is needed to preserve our natural habitat and will make a lot of difference in the world. Why provide treatment for something that can be prevented.

NEWS

Police Chiefs produce Community Road Safety

Booklet

FSM Chiefs of Police Conference

On the same week that many students recently started back at school, FSM Chiefs of Police launched their Community Road Safety booklet. The message to drivers is to be careful on the road and watch out for children, particularly young children walking along or crossing roads on their way to and from school.

The FSM Community Road Safety Booklet is an initiative of all FSM Chiefs of Police. At their annual conference in Kosrae in 2005, Kosrae Chief Robin Noda identified the need to improve community knowledge on road safety and proposed the development of a booklet which can be given to the community.

Over the next 12 months, police chiefs actively searched for funding to develop the booklet. In mid 2006, funds were made available through the Specialized Public Safety Training Program. This program is managed by the FSM National Police and the FSM Department of Justice.

Captain Benito Gonzaga-Optaia of the Pohnpei State Traffic Section told the Kaselehlie Press that the booklet will be of special interest to those young people who are about to receive their first driver's licenses. "Young people

wanting to get their driver's license have to pass a written exam to show they know the rules of the road and how to drive a motor vehicle safely. At the moment, up to date information to assist them is fairly limited. This road safety booklet has been designed to help learner drivers develop the skills and knowledge they need to safely operate a vehicle", he said.

Pohnpei State Police Chief Joe Roby is very enthusiastic about the release of the booklet. He added that the Community Road Safety Booklet can also be used as a learning resource when police deliver road safety education to school students.

The Booklet is aimed at providing information on important rules of the road for all the FSM States. In addition, a number of sections in the booklet focus on improving actual driving skills. Readers are told what is needed to get a driver's license; how alcohol and drugs impact on driving skills; how to drive defensively and avoid being involved in traffic accidents; what to consider when driving in hazardous situations such as driving in rain or at night; and looking after your vehicle to ensure it is safe to drive on a road.

Chief Robin Noda of Kosrae State said he believes speed and drunk driving to be two of the major causes of traffic accidents. "We

found research sponsored by the Australian National Road Safety Strategy which shows that even small increases in speed have a dramatic impact on braking distances. In the time it takes a vehicle traveling at 30mph to come to a complete stop, a vehicle traveling at 37 mph will in that same time still be traveling at 25 mph." Australian road safety research indicates that a pedestrian hit by a car traveling at 25 mph has almost a 60% chance of being killed.

FSM National Police Chief Pius Chotailug said the Community Road Safety Booklet is an excellent example of how the yearly gathering of FSM Chiefs of Police can make real progress in dealing with safety and security needs within FSM communities. Chief Chotailug said, "The Chiefs of Police Conference is a forum which encourages police chiefs to identify crime and safety issues and then work with all other police agencies to find the right solutions."

Yap Police Chief Frank Ramngen was pleased that officers from all the 5 State and National police departments were able to contribute to the development of the



Senior FSM Police executives at the launch of the Booklet.

(Front row) Left to right – Captain Phillip, Chief Pius Chotailug, Chief Robin Noda, Chief Joe Roby, Chief Frank Ramngen, Captain Benito Gonzaga-Optaia. (Back row) Deputy Chief Tony Pernet

booklet. He said, "Each police department was consulted and officers were able to make comment on the type of information contained in the booklet. This is something we, as police officers, can be very proud of."

Copies of the Community Road Safety Booklet will soon be printed and available at police stations in all states. Chief Chotailug told the Kaselehlie Press the booklet will in the near future be able to be viewed on the FSM National Police Web site. "Community members need only to go to <http://www.fsmnationalpolice.org> if they want to read the booklet."

UN agencies to open eight Pacific offices

MARIANAS VARIETY PACNEWS

25 AUGUST 2006 MAJURO (Pacnews) - Responding to island leaders' calls for a greater onsite presence, the United Nations will establish its first local offices in eight Pacific island nations during the next year, including in the north Pacific area.

Marshall Islands President Kessai Note, Palau President Tommy Remengesau and Federated States of Micronesia President Joseph Urusemal had earlier asked the United Nations to step up its presence in the north Pacific, which has never had a U.N. office.

In response, U.N. agencies would

be establishing offices in Majuro, Pohnpei and Koror shortly, according to Najib Assifi, the United Nations Population Fund's representative for the Pacific who is based in Fiji, the headquarters for most of the UN agencies active in the region.

UNFPA is taking responsibility for establishing the Majuro and Pohnpei offices, but is doing so in partnership with the United Nations Development Program and UNICEF, the U.N. Children's Fund, said Mr Assifi.

"The move to establish field offices in the region is part of broader reforms within the U.N

system.

"These three UN agencies — whose offices for the Pacific are based in Fiji — have been directed to develop a unified programme for the Pacific to reduce duplication" Mr Assifi said, *Marianas Variety* reports.

UNICEF is taking the lead to establish offices in Kiribati and Vanuatu, while UNDP is moving ahead to establish offices in Palau, Tuvalu and Nauru.

Each office would represent the three U.N. agencies. A bigger office for the three agencies will be established in the Solomon Is-

lands, he said.

The plans to open these offices still have bureaucratic hurdles to leap, he said. But once a letter from U.N. headquarters is sent and "the governments respond, we're ready to come," said Mr Assifi.

He said UNFPA intends to initially hire two local staff to run the Majuro and Pohnpei offices.

"It is going to help a great deal," he said of the on-site support of the three U.N. agencies' projects in these countries. "It's a major step forward."

PACIFIC WORLD NEWS

FSM citizens will soon need passports to enter CNMI

MARIANAS VARIETY
PACNEWS

24 AUGUST 2006 SAIPAN (Pacnews) - All citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) will be required to present valid passports to enter the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in line with stricter U.S. security guidelines.

The FSM is composed of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.

Immigration Director Melvin Grey yesterday said "consideration" was still being given to CNMI-bound FSM citizens who do not have passports, *Marianas Variety* reports.

They could still present birth certificates or expired passports in lieu of valid passports.

"But times are changing and we

need to ensure security and provide integrity to the (immigration) system. We tell the airlines not to board any FSM citizen for entry into the CNMI if they don't have a valid passport on 01 October," Mr Grey said

The FSM has a Compact of Free Association with the United States, allowing FSM citizens to freely enter, reside and work in the U.S. and its territories like the CNMI and Guam.

It was not mentioned if Palau and the Marshall Islands — the two other Pacific island nations with Compacts with the U.S. — are included in the new rule.

There were about 3,000 FSM citizens living in the CNMI, based on the 2000 census.

"This requirement is in keeping

with the worldwide requirements for passports for travelers and the ever increasing potential for security breaches in today's environment," said Mr Grey

He said an FSM traveller with a valid passport is not required to have an authorization to board.

Mr Grey said birth certificates and expired passports "will not qualify as a substitute for a passport."

"Conditional authorizations to board may be issued to those who are exiting the CNMI without expired passports or certified birth certificates.

"These conditional ATBs will be valid for assisting entry into the CNMI only if the traveler presents a valid passport issued by proper authority in the same name as appears in this conditional authorization to board," said Mr Grey.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. government announced that effective 08 January 2007, even citizens of the United States, Canada and Mexico must present passports.

According to the U.S. State Department, this is a change from prior travel requirements and would affect all United States citizens entering the U.S. from countries within the Western Hemisphere.

"This new requirement will also affect certain foreign nationals who currently are not required to present a passport to travel to the United States. Most Canadian citizens, citizens of the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda, and to a lesser degree, Mexican citizens will be affected by the implementation of this requirement," it added.

Mexican fishermen found near Marshall Islands

MARIANAS VARIETY
PACNEWS

17 AUGUST 2006 MAJURO (Pacnews) — Three Mexican fishermen who drifted more than 5,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean were found by a Taiwanese fishing boat last week.

Marianas Variety reports the men from the Pacific coast village of San Blas in Mexico were found between Tarawa, Kiribati and Majuro.

They are believed to have been adrift for at least three months and possibly much longer, according to their rescuers.

The vessel that found the fishermen is one of the six Koo's Fishing Company tuna purse seiners registered in the Marshall Islands.

The Mexican trio was found on August 9, Muller said. The purse seiner, "Koo's 102," is expected to return to Majuro to off-load its catch of tuna and the Mexican fishermen in two weeks.

"They were skinny and hungry when they were picked up last week, but otherwise healthy," said Muller. He added that they survived by eating sea birds and catching rainwater.

The three fishermen have been identified as Salvador Ordonez Vasques, Jesus Eduardo Vidana Lopez and Lucio Randon Bacerra. from San Blas, a city of about 12,000 located between Puerto Vallarta and Matzalan on the west coast of Mexico.

No talks yet on Russia diplomatic ties

MARIANAS VARIETY
PACNEWS

18 AUGUST 2006 KOROR (Pacnews) - Palau's Minister of State Temmy Shmull is not aware of any communication regarding Russia's intent to establish diplomatic relations with Palau.

Mr Shmull was reacting to a news report posted on the Internet by *Itar Tass News Agency*, the official state news agency for Russia, titled "Putin Signs Decree on Diplomatic Relations with Republic of Palau."

The report said Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved "the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Palau."

The report added: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation shall hold talks with the Republic of Palau on the establishment of diplomatic relations and sign corresponding documents on the results of the talks."

But according to Mr Shmull, "I am not aware of any formal communication from Russia requesting establishment of diplomatic relations with Russia. We haven't had a discussion whatsoever with Russia."

Mr Shmull added that Palau has just established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Turkey. Turkey is the 40th country that Palau has diplomatic relations with.

"Our official record says that we have a total of 40 countries that we establish diplomatic relations with," Shmull said. Russia is not on the list.

Mr Shmull said should Russia express interest to have diplomatic ties with Palau it would go through the same process.

"We will review it and do our assessment before we make a decision," Shmull said.

Russia is the largest country in the world in terms of landmass and has the seventh largest population.

Seven nightclubs in Apia closed by authorities

PACNEWS

09 AUGUST 2006 APIA (Pacnews) — Samoa's Liquor Board has ordered the closure of seven nightclubs in the capital, Apia.

Government's information unit re-

ported that the seven nightclubs identified were the RSA nightclub at Savalalo, Crabbers, Bad Billy's, Blue Lagoon and The Lighthouse at Tauese and Paddles nightclub at Matautu.

According to Board Secretary Fuimaono Poufa Te'o, the order was a result of continued breach of rules

by the seven establishments.

"These include excessive volume of music which is beyond what is acceptable with residents nearby and the continued breach of operating hours.

"We've received numerous complaints from Police of these nightclubs

operating beyond the standard 12.00am closing time.

"As a result of that there have been spates of fights and brawls outside these places resulting in serious injuries, even deaths, because nightclub owners are not abiding by the rules.

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Pohnpei Team Attends Global Health Meeting in Montreal

By **Dr. Lois Englberger**
Island Food Community

From August 10 to 13, 2006, a four-member team of the Pohnpei Traditional Food for Health project attended the Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems for Health: 2006 Meeting of Case Study Partners, in Montreal, Canada. This included Mr. Adelino Lorens and Mr. Kiped Albert as the Community Partners, Dr. Lois Englberger as the Academic Partner, and Ms. Amy Levendusky, Peace Corps Volunteer.

This global health meeting was hosted by the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE), based at McGill University, as directed by Professor Harriet Kuhnlein, who recently visited our Island Food Community of Pohnpei-coordinated project, June 3-9, 2006, accompanied by Chief Bill Erasmus, Chair of the CINE Board (see KP July 5-18, 2006).

Pohnpei was invited last year to join this project as the 12th of the 12 case studies from around the world. The other case studies include the Nuxalk, Inuit, and

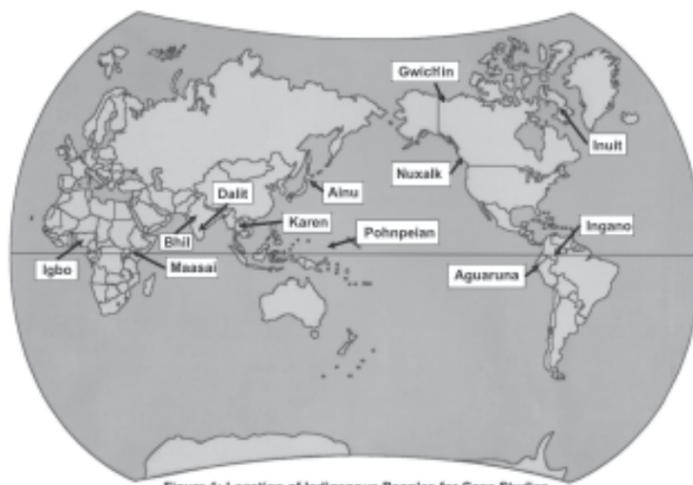


Figure 1: Location of Indigenous Peoples for Case Studies

Gwich'in from Canada, Igbo from Nigeria, Dalit and Bhil from India, Karen from Thailand, Aguaruna from Peru, Ingano from Columbia, Aino from Japan, and Maasai from Kenya. The purpose of the overall project is to improve health through the increased use of traditional foods and to produce scientific documentation of the impact of this for presenting to the United Nations in order to help indigenous peoples.

The overall plan of the project includes 3-4 months of documentation of the traditional food system and assessing the health and diets, and then 2 years of an intervention to improve diets and health, followed by a final assessment of the diets and health. The meeting in Montreal focused on producing the first documentation paper of the project, which will be published by the Food and Agricul-

ture Organization of the United Nations.

The Pohnpei case study was centered in Mand Community, in Pohnpei. One of the major findings was that the traditional food system is greatly neglected. Yet, there is a great diversity of foods, 381 distinctly different food items. The study has raised great community interest and signs of project impact have already been recorded.

At one session, participants were asked what the greatest change has been in the respective communities. Kiped Albert, Community leader in Mand, said this, "We have to value our own things more than what is coming in from outside."

Much was shared about the many similarities as well as the differences between the case studies and respective traditional food systems.

Warm thanks are extended to the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE) for their hospitality at this meeting and involving Pohnpei in the project!

Bird Flu and What It Means To You

By **Konrad Englberger**
SPC Plant Protection Advisor

Bird Flu, also known as Avian Influenza (AI), is a highly contagious disease that affects domestic poultry, such as chicken and ducks, and other wild birds, including migratory birds.

The Pacific region is currently free of Bird Flu, but it has been known to cause illness and death in flocks of infected poultry in countries throughout Asia, the Middle East, Europe and parts of Africa. Bird Flu is also responsible for 232 cases in humans that have resulted in 134 deaths. There is currently no specific treatment and being aware of the signs of Bird Flu is very important to keep it from spreading to the FSM. Experts are saying that this current outbreak of Bird Flu could turn into a similar situation as that of the pandemic outbreak in 1918 in which 40-80 million people around the globe were killed by influenza.

In order to keep Bird Flu from spreading to the region it is important for all countries to have appropriate quarantine regulations and procedures that are strictly enforced. Quarantine must also ensure that no poultry products or live poultry is allowed to enter the FSM from any countries that have had cases or suspected cases of Bird Flu. It is also important to prevent contact between farm birds and wild birds and other potential carriers of the disease.

The four FSM states and the National Government have in place draft Emergency Response Plans for outbreaks on human pandemic influenza and animals. There are still some very important activities which are required for a good Avian Influenza prevention plan. This includes the availability of stockpiles with materials and equipment needed for bird flu control and prevention and funds for compensation to poultry owners if birds need to

be destroyed. Another very important activity is to test and update the plans.

There are some specific things that you can look for to identify Bird Flu. Many of the infected poultry may die suddenly without any sign of disease or sickness. The birds

may stop eating which will lead to a lack of energy, loss of coordination, reduction of amount of eggs laid and the laying of eggs with softer or misshapen shells. The usually red comb and other parts that have no feathers will become a blue color and the neck, head, comb and eyelids may swell.

Infected birds may also have breathing problems, watery eyes and sinuses and diarrhea. **NOTE: Do not** handle any sick or dead birds with any of these symptoms!!!

If you notice any of these symptoms you should **IMMEDIATELY** call the following agencies or organizations: Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs at 320-2400, COM-FSM Land Grant at 320-5731, or SPC Regional Office North Pacific at 320-7523.

For additional information on how Bird Flu is spread and how to prevent it, call one of the above numbers.



GUEST VIEWPOINT

Moving toward a creative partnership

By Daisaku Ikeda
By permission

Daisaku Ikeda is president of Soka Gakkai International, and founder of Soka University and the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research. This is the last of three articles submitted to the K-Press

Valuing the wisdom and capabilities of women is critical to the development of any organization or society. Organizations where women are full, contributing participants are open and energized by a wide range of opinion and approaches. This is clearly apparent in the business world, where trends show that corporations that actively embrace diversity are more creative responsive and profitable.

Embracing diversity does more than assure the protection of individual rights. Bringing together the intelligence and perspectives of a wide range of people unleashes new creative energies, enabling society as a whole to move forward in a richly harmonious manner. In this sense also, empower women is crucial.

Women would appear to be particularly adept at bringing a patient, focused and flexible approach to resolution of complex problems. The economist and activist Dr. Hazel Henderson has brought just these skills to bear on the problems of organizing to protect the environment.

Henderson was, in her own words, "an ordinary housewife" when a seemingly small incident changed her life. This was in the 1960's and she was living in New York City. One day her young daughter came home with soot on her skin that no amount of scrubbing

would remove. The air around them, she realized, was terribly polluted.

Moved by the simple desire for her child to breathe clean air, she began speaking with other housewives in the neighborhood, often opening with the simple question, "Don't you think the air here is bad?" Her efforts at one-to-one dialogue gave rise to friendship, trust and a growing circle of solidarity.

She started using the time during her daughter's naps to write letters to the mayor and other city officials. After some time, she receive a response from the mayor suggesting that what she thought was pollution was probably just "mist rolling in from the sea." Undiscouraged, she continued her research until she found that the city actually kept daily measurements of soot particles in the air. She lobbied TV stations and other media, eventually getting them to include New York Air Pollution Index in their weather reports.

Henderson questioned models of economic growth the justify destroying the natural environment. She initiated efforts to challenge and change these. But politicians and the so-called experts refused to take her seriously. Because she repeatedly lobbied large corporations and the government on a range of related issues, she was lampooned as "one of the most dangerous women in America." Letters criticizing her were sent to her husband's employer. She was subjected to humiliating ridicule: What could a housewife who hasn't graduated from college know about the economy?

Spurred by such critiques, she in-

tensified her efforts to educate herself in economic and ecological theories until she could hold her own debate with world-famous scholars, clearly saying what needs to be said. Her courage and conviction were pivotal in enabling other women to find their voice.

Citizen's for Clean Air, which she founded with her neighbors, was one of the pioneering groups in the environmental movement. Important legislation was passed. The way people think and the way companies and government operate was changed forever.

Henderson focuses on the concrete realities of people's health, safety, and happiness, rather than empty abstractions. This is why she is never distracted or thrown off course. With persistence like the steady, ceaseless flow of a river, she always sees things through to the end. As she recalls: "Since we knew what a big task bringing children up is, we were anxious for our children to have the best futures possible."

Because hers is a "life-sized" approach—rooted in the realities of daily living and issuing from the fundamental desire to protect and nurture life—Henderson's message has resonated widely among people concerned about the future. This kind of gradual transformation amidst the continuity and consistency of daily life stands in sharp contrast to the violent upheaval of revolution by which men have so often sought to effect change.

Throughout history, men have paid too little attention to the views and efforts of women. And we have all paid the price for this

arrogance in the form of a world of constant conflict, a society that is, at best, challenging to live in.

As Henderson puts it with a generous laugh: "Women today are engaged in cleaning up the problems created by men, just like they clean up the dishes!"

The wisdom and power of women—their attentive commitment to reality, their care and concern for the people in the immediate surroundings, their capacity to treasure life itself—must be fully reflected throughout society. Only then will we see solid progress toward the resolution of critical global problems and realization of peace. To this end, a revolution in men's consciousness is absolutely essential.

At the same time, I am reminded of these words of Eleanor Roosevelt, who played a key role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Writing in the dark years of the 1930's she asserted:

"If ten million women really want security, real representation, honesty, wise and just legislation, happier and more comfortable conditions of living, and a future with the horrors of war removed from the horizon, then these ten million women must bestir themselves."

Dr. Henderson expressed to me her hope that the 21st century will be an era of partnership between men and women. I fully concur. Women and men should work together in relations of mutual respect to forge a new path for future generations. Together we can create an era in which all people are valued for their humanity, as unique and irreplaceable manifestations of life. This will be an era in which we will enjoy the full richness of human diversity.

DID YOU KNOW???

THAT...The cost to produce one U.S. Penny is 1.23 cents. It costs 5.73 cents to make a nickel.

THAT...The FSM has 607 islands but only 65 have people living on them.

THAT...If I gave you a penny today, and you doubled the amount every day for a month, on day 31 you would have \$10.7 million.

THAT...A recent closure of an Alaska oil field cut U.S. supply by 400,000 barrels a day - a barrel is 42 gallons.

THAT...The Marshall islands is working on a bid to host the 2010 Micronesian Games.

THAT...The all tackle world record for Ahi - Yellowfin Tuna is 390.4 pounds. Fish on!

THAT...The national constitution of the FSM does not allow FSM citizens to also be citizens of another country.

THAT...The first capital of the USA was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 1790-1800

LAST Issue's Solution



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**“Condomania?”**

Dear Editor,

Concerning the article, “Aids Alert for Promiscuous Pacific”, it is obvious that Mr. Watson is following the UNAIDS philosophy of “Condomania” to address the spread of AIDS and other STDs (STIs). Being an organization promoting secular-humanistic solutions, they are unable to recognize the important role that religion has played in promoting abstinence for singles and fidelity in marriage.

Over the years studies have shown that condoms can be defective, slip or break. The previous “safe-sex” attribute to condoms has been changed to “safer-sex”, implying that they cannot be trusted implicitly. This it becomes like a game of “Russian Roulette”.

In one study of 204 couples in Brazil – where the male partners were HIV positive and using condoms – within 17 months 23% of 1 in 4 female partners had become HIV positive. Other studies found that the failure rate of condoms range from 2.5% to 4%.

In conclusion, condoms offer limited protection from HIV/AIDS, about 50% protection, for men, against gonorrhea, and no protection for women against HPV (Human Papilloma Virus).

In Africa and other countries it was shown that even with the availability of condoms, many men didn't like using them and were prepared to make an irresponsible, life threatening choice.

In Uganda where the HIV/AIDS infection was 21% of the population, the government introduced in abstinence-based education program, and after 5 years the statistics reflected a reduced rate of new infections down to 5% of the

population – a reduction of 16%.

The Uganda success in reducing the problem so significantly can be attributed to the responsible education program of abstinence-based sex education; which also can be supported by most Catholic and Protestant Churches and other religions.

In contrast, giving condoms to everyone is send the wrong message – especially when they are being freely given to school children with detailed instructions on how to use them! This has the effect of condoning sexual activity at any age with no moral responsibility. This contributes to the breakdown of marriage and family life which has been shown to greatly impact on the society – increasing crime rates and occurrence of civil unrest.

The U.N. philosophy on the HIV/AIDS problem reflects a deeper vacuum in the organization and its inability to be pro-active in providing and facilitating positive solutions to diminished families and societies.

It may be time to re-think the way that the U.N. is structured and give thought to the idea of a ‘Senate’ within the U.N. composed of religious leaders who can discuss and make recommendations on the morally based decisions of the voting members in the United Nations. If this happens, the U.N. may become what was hoped for at its inception: an organization that could work constructively for world peace and protect communities in every nation from war, violence, starvation, and disease. Unfortunately, they have fallen short of measured success in most areas.

Michael Treacy
Universal Peace Federation

Pump Prices

Dear Editor,

I was watching CNN on television on the night of August 15, 2006 to realize surprisingly that the price of fuel has gone down drastically to \$72.95 a barrel compared to the previous weeks when the price came to its peak at \$78. I was totally stunned because the reduction in price was made within less than two weeks. During this high-

est period, the pump stations, the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation as well as the Pohnpei Transportation have increased their price probably to correspond to the world market price. The pump stations have gone up to \$4.00 a gallon while cash power kilowatt has diminished. Government vehicles have filled with less gas to operate with. At this point in time of hardship and difficulty people had

*continued next page***KP-Perspective****Who sets fuel prices?**

Who controls the price of fuel in Pohnpei? I asked Mobil Oil Micronesia, Inc. (MOMI) that question and got this response “...Mobil does not control the price of crude oil or the retail price for gasoline. World market forces determine crude and product prices...”

Same ol' gobbledygook that we always get, or is it?

We know how prices work for a container of pig feed. The importer makes a deal with the supplier and agrees to a certain price for that feed. The container arrives in Pohnpei along with an invoice and the invoice is clear. “This is the price that you owe.” The retailer puts a markup on the pig feed and tries to sell it to the public for a certain fixed price. The value of that container of pig feed does not change and if a new container arrives and the price is higher or lower the retail price reflects the new price of pig feed, cut and dried and simple. If fuel worked that way we would see a price change whenever we got a new shipment of fuel, but it doesn't.

MOMI's response was giving me more credit for smarts than I deserved until I remembered a micro economics class I took 21 years ago.

As I understand it in simplified terms, even before crude oil is extracted from the ground its value is changing and readjusting moment by moment influenced by many factors, all of those factors reflected on the price boards at commodities

trading centers all over the world. You'll see those numbers on CNN and they will go up and down, sometimes wildly, depending on which sheik sneezed in which OPEC nation.

Whoever holds the commodity at any moment in time gets the benefit of the current worldwide price changes. That's true all the way up and down the fuel delivery system. When fuel is loaded in Singapore the refinery sets the current price for the fuel and they are no longer in the loop, they've made their money and will make no more or less from any further transactions involving that load of fuel. They will want as much as they can get.

MOMI bought the fuel from the refinery at the best price they could get at the time. After the purchase the world market value of that purchased fuel will change many times before it reaches the Bulk Oil Storage Plant in Pohnpei even though their cost on it never does. If the world market valuation has increased by 10% by the time they offload, the new supposed more expensive fuel is mixed with the old fuel left in the bulk storage tanks before the ship started unloading. The value of all of the fuel left in the tanks is now 10% higher. There is no more lower priced fuel in the tanks that you can buy. It no longer exists. Minute by minute all of the fuel in the tanks and on the ship has the same world market value when the price is up.

It is when the retailer accepts delivery of fuel that Mobil makes a

continued on next page

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

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

More Guidelines from the Center of the Universe

Even a casual reader will be able to tell from my former column that I am fully qualified to give you these guidelines from the center of the universe. Who else but someone firmly situated at the center of the universe would devote an entire page to a preachy little column called "Guidelines from the Center of the Universe". I don't deny it. The universe has always revolved around me and it's not likely to change anytime soon.

Even editors at the center of the universe must on occasion accept the fact that there should be some level of decorum and so this column will be quite a bit shorter than the last but there is plenty of time so we'll take it slow. Keep those ideas coming.

I thought it would be interesting to explore, just for a moment, what would happen if two people at the center of the universe collided which, of course never happens

since there really can only be one person at the center of the universe, right? One of the great places this clash of the titans occurs is on the telephone. Here are a couple of possible scenarios:

Scenario one:
ring, ring

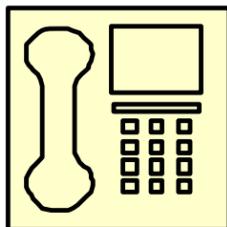
Editor: "The Kaselehlie Press how can I help you."

Caller: "Iawasa mehn" [what's the name of this person]

Editor: (who the !@#%#@#!@#\$ did I just say you called?!) "um, The Kaselehlie Press. How can I help you."

Caller: Click

Editor (to the room):
"\$%^&@#%&f#\$^&*.I'm



writinganarticle
on! @ # \$ # @ #
phonemanners"

Scenario two:
ring, ring, ring, ring,
ring, ring, ring, ring,
ring...(phone answering)

Called party: (...leen, you can't believe what he did...long pause, heavy breathing,...) 'Lo'

Editor: Hi, how are you today?

Called party: (silence)

Editor: um, it's Friday, it looks like we're going to make it to the weekend. Looking forward to it?

Called party: WHO IS THIS?
(youinterruptedmyconver...dip&%!#%)

Editor: (Gulp) Um, this is Bill Jaynes. I guess you just want to get down to business then (loud exhalation) I need to speak with

John Jacob Jingleheimerschmidt.
(\$@#!)%%*rude@#\$@can't
do@#%\$smalltalk)

Called party: He didn't come back from lunch yet.

Editor: But it's 3:00? Can I leave a message for him?

Called party: Just call back in three hours. (waddy think I am, a !@#%&# answering machine?)

Editor: Can you please just take the message?(yousackof*^!@#*%*#%\$)

Called party: Just call back...click

That's it until next time when we'll get into even more advanced guidelines from the very epicenter of the universe,

Bill Jaynes
Center of the Universe

Fuel Prices

continued from previous page

set amount of money. Now they're out of the loop. They are understandably motivated by profit to sell it at the highest price they can get as long as it's within the 50% markup ceiling the law allows.

Just as at the bulk storage plant the delivered fuel is mixed with the stored fuel and it's all worth the same amount of money. The next time there will be a price change is on their next delivery because they are the new owner of the commodity. The sign is changed at the gas station and the cycle ends when our car pulls up to the pump and we fork over 2 and a half hours of wages per gallon of fuel. If we don't like the price at one gas station we may drive to another that is a penny or two lower because that vendor is gambling that you'll buy your fuel from him if the price is a bit lower. He hopes he'll sell more gas that way.

If worldwide prices for fuel go down the forces that act on how long it takes to see it reflected at the fuel pump are much slower and are consumer driven. Those forces are slowed down even further when there is only one supplier for the fuel commodity. Remember that all of the fuel in all of the tanks is now worth the same lower amount and

the supplier is still motivated by profit to get the best deal it can to keep it profitable. The worldwide market may say that the value of that fuel is now 10% lower but if they can sell the fuel down the line at the same price that it was able to get last week when the value was 10% higher why wouldn't they as long as they stay legal?

In a competitive market the retailer might just pick up the phone and call another supplier because that supplier is willing to take a lower profit margin. In our monopolistic market, Mobil Oil has no motivation to decrease the price until the world market price has stayed low for a long period of time and people are starting to scream and yell. Actually, you can scream and yell all you want, you can claim that the retailers have "price fixing" agreements but until Mobil starts to have decreased sales because the price is too high there will be no decrease in price. It's actually not Mobil but our monopolistic fuel supply system that keeps our fuel prices artificially higher than they should be.

Mobil Oil, like all other fuel suppliers are not charities or public utilities and I'm afraid until there is a big enough market to attract competition we will all just have to "deal with it."

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

Pump

continued from previous page

no choice, but to purchase as it is now a living necessity in today's Pohnpei. You know what I mean. Without it, you don't get to work. The kids and students don't get to school. The kids don't study and do assignments well. The meat and water don't refrigerate. You don't have air to sleep well and so on and so forth....

...It is unfortunate we do not have control over the international phenomenon that drives the world market price. Did Mobil increase its price to the pump stations, PUC, and PTA when the world price reached its peak? I would be inclined to assume so as they all had their mark ups at about the same epoch. Was there any tanker porting Pohnpei during this sad-den period? If there was none that actually ported Pohnpei, then what was the reason behind the increase? What if the answer was in the affirmative, was the tanker filled with max out price?

Now that the world market price has come down, will the price remain at the level as they are at the moment? I guess humanity will dictate otherwise.

Ausen T. Lambert

Tell the Truth

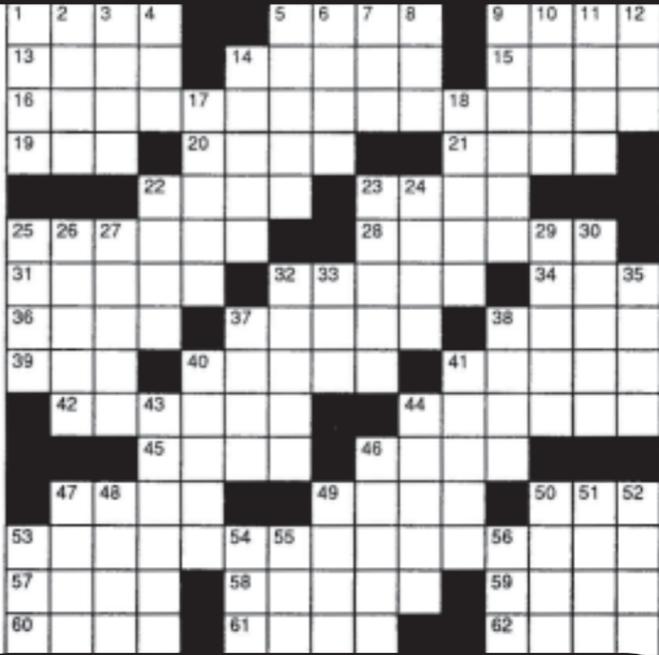
Dear Editor,

Let's tell the truth! We seem to be fabricating information to mislead the general public. This is totally propaganda although I hate to put it in this context.

In November of last year, the Pohnpei Legislature filed a lawsuit in the Pohnpei Supreme Court against the Governor originating from the fact that he issued an Emergency Executive Order (EEO) removing the Board of Directors of the Pohnpei Fisheries Corporation (PFC) for reason of financial distress. This is basically what triggers the lawsuit. The Pohnpei Supreme Court in issuing its oral decision stoke down the EEO as unconstitutional. Meaning the Governor could not remove the board members using an EEO basing his reason for financial distress; therefore and as a result, the board members that were allegedly removed are the only legal and lawful body to run and operate the PFC, not the Governor or his designee(s). All other motions that the Court had orally ruled upon resulted from this case. Otherwise, the Court oral ruling on the other motions should not have surfaced at all. Let's tell the truth!

Ausen T. Lambert

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Volcanic molten rock
- 5. Operatic solo
- 9. Red earth
- 13. Bullring cheers
- 14. Aroma
- 15. In this place
- 16. Indoor sport groups (2 wds.)
- 19. N.Y. time (abbr.)
- 20. Christmas carol
- 21. Cautious
- 22. Scent
- 23. Narrow opening
- 25. International business group
- 28. Knotted fringe
- 31. Stay away from
- 32. Foremost part
- 34. Throw high
- 36. Stables street
- 37. Face-down
- 38. Melody
- 39. Before (pref.)
- 40. Group of rooms
- 41. Allied
- 42. Hypnotic state
- 44. Domesticators
- 45. Performs
- 46. Rational
- 47. Acidic
- 49. Obligation
- 50. Tear
- 53. Fruit dessert with ice cream (5 wds.)
- 57. Orderly
- 58. Lecture
- 59. Fruit beverages
- 60. Leather punches
- 61. Armed conflicts
- 62. Turf fuel

DOWN

- 1. Rounded part
- 2. Alack
- 3. Chest garment
- 4. Inquire
- 5. Yellow
- 6. Actual
- 7. Sick
- 8. Every one
- 9. Defrauds
- 10. Shakespeare's king
- 11. Military group
- 12. Affirmative
- 14. Backless chair
- 17. Ceased
- 18. Bend
- 22. Elevator inventor
- 23. Rock
- 24. Highway part
- 25. Use a tent
- 26. Ward off
- 27. Boat paddler
- 29. Evade
- 30. Solitary one
- 32. Sautes
- 33. Decay
- 35. Sleeping places
- 37. Brownish purple
- 38. Clock
- 40. Sleep loudly
- 41. Mr. Claus
- 43. Grown-ups
- 44. Dining room
- 46. Chairs
- 47. Eject
- 48. Iridescent gem
- 49. Expensive
- 50. Was a passenger
- 51. Notion
- 52. Nuisance
- 53. Collection
- 54. Bang
- 55. Retirement account (abbr.)
- 56. Chart

Word Search - Missing Vowels

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALARM | <input type="checkbox"/> IGNORE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMAZE | <input type="checkbox"/> OATH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BROWSE | <input type="checkbox"/> PEDDLE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAPTOR | <input type="checkbox"/> PUREST |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CASTLE | <input type="checkbox"/> RECOUP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DAZE | <input type="checkbox"/> SHEAF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EDGER | <input type="checkbox"/> SONAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENDING | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEASY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GENIUS | <input type="checkbox"/> VERSE |

S O O N O G O S V G O L
 F Z B Y Z Z Y S P D D H
 R O Y V O S O O W N G V
 P W O M D R R G M O O V
 O G O H Y O V T N R R O
 D W Z T S T P P S O L B
 D C H T O O V O L T R Y
 L Z H D O H N G S P T O
 O N D O N G Y **A L A R M**
 B N F P O O C O R C H C

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 KASELEHLIE PRESS

JESSICA CHAPMAN
REPORTER AT LARGE

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

Marshalls to revamp school year

**MARIANAS VARIETY
PACNEWS**

22AUGUST2006MAJURO (Pacnews) - Marshall Islands public schools will soon shift to a school year that follows the system used in most islands in the South Pacific to eliminate conflicts with cultural and religious activities, *Marianas Variety* reports.

Education Secretary Biram Stege said a February-to-November school year would fit the needs of the Marshall Islands better than the United States system of school from August-to-May.

"It's an excellent idea," Education Minister Wilfred Kendall said of the new plan that is in the pipeline.

Educators have expressed concern for years that with the cultural and religious focus in the Marshall Islands centered on Christmas and New Year's celebrations, much of the instruction time scheduled in the December and January period is wasted.

Christmas in this heavily Christian society is celebrated by dozens of groups singing and dancing in churches throughout the country. Practicing for the Christmas events starts as early as November.

"At Christmas time, people are busying preparing their singing and dance groups," Mr Kendall said. "Teachers, students, parents — they're all involved."

When the students come to class in December, "they're all sleepy because they stay out late practicing."

Ms Stege also noted religious activities that extend into the New Year that involve entire communities and impact the ability of Marshall Islands public schools to deliver education services during that period.

She said that the system of education in use here was established by American administrators in the 1950s when the islands were a

United Nations trust territory run by the U.S.

The school year was established without regard for the local situation, she added.

Mr Kendall said that moving to the new system would work with both the U.S. and the South Pacific school years for students continuing on to college.

"It won't disturb trying to go to school in the U.S.," he said. Students will get one month off before starting college in January in the U.S. or two months before starting school in February in the South Pacific, he said. "It will work beautifully."

The new school year, following the August-to-May schedule just started.

Exactly when the revised school year would be implemented is still under discussion although Kendall said it could possibly be put into place as soon as the next school year (2007-2008).

quency radio waves to flush particles from radiation "belts" above Earth and dump them into the upper atmosphere over either one or several days.

This deluge of dumped charged particles would temporarily change the ionosphere from a "mirror" that bounced high frequency radio waves around the planet to a "sponge" that soaked them up, said Dr Craig Rodger of Otago University's physics department.

The ionosphere is one of the highest layers of the earth's atmosphere, starting at about 70km and continuing out to about 640km, and contains ions created when solar radiation tears electrons off atoms in the atmosphere. It is important for reflection of some radio waves.

Dr Rodger, lead researcher on a multinational study also involving scientists from Finland and Britain, said plane pilots and ships would lose radio contact and some Pacific Island nations could be isolated for up to a week, depending on the system's design and how it was operated.

He said GPS services would also likely suffer large-scale disruptions, if signals between ground users and satellites were scrambled in the ionosphere.

The researchers, whose work is published work in August edition of the international journal *Annales Geophysicae*, called for policymakers to carefully consider the implications of the U.S. scheme.

"If the intense radiation belts resulted from a rogue state detonating a nuclear-tipped missile in the upper atmosphere, using such remediation technology would probably be acceptable to the international community," they said.

Many developed countries use HF radio for communicating with aircraft and ships, international broadcasting, amateur radio, and fixed long-distance communications, and developing countries use it for domestic links - national broadcasters and both mobile and fixed point-to-point communications.

U.S. satellite plan will 'knock out Pacific radio links'

**NZPA
PACNEWS**

14 AUGUST 2006 WELLINGTON — Pacific Island nations — and airline pilots around the globe — could lose high frequency radio links for up to a week if the United States goes ahead with a plan to protect its satellite network, Otago University researchers said today.

They warned the Americans plan to protect its satellites from both natural radiation and "airbursts" of nuclear weapons posed a global communications threat.

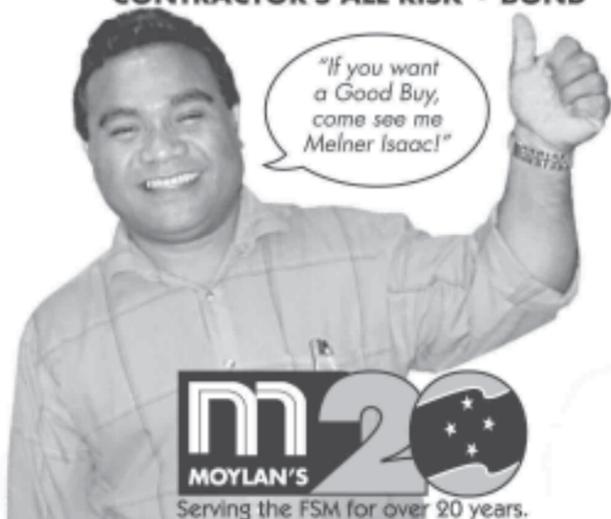
The U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) have proposed using very low fre-

TIDE TABLE August 16-29, 2006

	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	16 01:42AM 1.7 06:47AM 2.4 12:46PM 1.3 08:13PM 3.2	23 03:05AM 4.3 09:48AM 0.5 03:44PM 3.1 09:09PM 1.1	16 09:44AM 0.1 06:18PM 1.6	23 02:11AM 2.1 09:51AM -0.1 03:21PM 0.7 07:12PM 0.4
Thursday	17 12:31PM 1.5 10:13PM 3.1	24 03:30AM 4.3 10:05AM 0.5 04:02PM 3.3 09:37PM 1.0	17 09:34AM -0.3 11:25PM 1.6	24 02:30AM 2.1 09:52AM 0.0 03:19PM 0.8 07:51PM 0.3
Friday	18 08:48AM 1.4	25 03:53AM 4.3 10:21AM 0.6 04:22PM 3.5 10:04PM 1.0	18 09:35AM -0.4	25 02:48AM 2.1 09:54AM 0.1 03:26PM 1.0 08:26PM 0.3
Saturday	19 12:24AM 3.3 08:43AM 1.1 03:08PM 2.1 06:10PM 1.9	26 04:14AM 4.2 10:37AM 0.6 04:41PM 3.6 10:30PM 1.1	19 12:24AM 1.7 09:41AM -0.5	26 03:05AM 2.0 09:55AM 0.1 03:39PM 1.2 08:59PM 0.3
Sunday	20 01:25AM 3.7 08:58AM 0.8 03:01PM 2.3 07:22PM 1.7	27 04:34AM 4.0 10:52AM 0.7 05:02PM 3.7 10:57PM 1.2	20 12:58AM 1.9 09:46AM -0.4	27 03:18AM 1.8 09:54AM 0.2 03:55PM 1.4 09:31PM 0.4
Monday	21 02:05AM 3.9 09:15AM 0.7 03:12PM 2.5 08:05PM 1.4	28 04:54AM 3.7 11:07AM 0.8 05:24PM 3.7 11:24PM 1.3	21 01:26AM 2.0 09:49AM -0.3	28 03:29AM 1.6 09:51AM 0.2 04:12PM 1.5 10:05PM 0.5
Tuesday	22 02:37AM 4.1 09:32AM 0.6 03:27PM 2.8 08:39PM 1.2	29 05:12AM 3.4 11:21AM 0.9 05:49PM 3.7 11:56PM 1.5	22 01:50AM 2.1 09:50AM -0.2 03:52PM 0.5 06:18PM 0.4	29 03:34AM 1.3 09:45AM 0.2 04:32PM 1.6 10:41PM 0.6

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

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

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Tonga Forum Meetings Still On

**MATANGI TONGA
PACNEWS**

23 AUGUST 2006
NUKUALOFA (Pacnews) - Tongan Prime Minister, Dr Feleti Sevele has told the Tongan parliament that the Pacific Islands Forum meeting will still be held in Nuku'alofa in October, *Matangi Tonga* reports

Dr Sevele said there was no security threat in Tonga and Forum leaders have been assured.

The Prime Minister said that only the death of the king might force

a change in venue from Tonga.

He was disputing *Radio Australia news report* that the Pacific Island Forum leaders meeting had been moved to Fiji.

Prime Minister stressed that there had not been any change in venue for the Forum.

He said that the Forum Secretariat had expressed concern over a threat of possible violence but they had been reassured that there was no security threat.

The Prime Minister said the only thing that may stop the Forum

POHNPEI FISHING CLUB

Presents a special half day (family oriented) JACKPOT fishing competition to be held on 9 September, 2006. The tournament will commence at 6.00am with the weigh in between 12.00 - 1.00pm.

Registration: PCR Restaurant 5.30pm-7.00pm Friday 8 September

PRIZES

Div 1: Total Boat Weight 1 st :\$70 2 nd :\$30	Div 2: Biggest Fish 1 st :\$70 2 nd :\$30
Div 3 Lady Angler 1 st :\$35 2 nd :\$15	Div 4 Junior 1 st :\$35 2 nd :\$15

One prize per person in Divisions 2, 3 & 4

The Rusty Anchor will provide barbequed food and salads at the weigh in which will be near the dredge directly beneath the former Nan Madol Hotel (now Rusty Anchor).

As an extra incentive to participate in the tournament or attend the weigh-in, the "Hawaii Goes Fishing" television show will be in Pohnpei to tape a segment.

from being held in Tonga was if the King, who is critically ill at the Mercy Hospital, Auckland, passed away before October.

The Prime Minister said he went to New Zealand last week and had an audience with the king.

Dr Sevele said he had a brief conversation with the king, but according to the king's physician, "the health of the king is deteriorating slowly."

Meanwhile, 'Akilisi Pohiva, a member of parliament and the

chairman of the group who wrote a threatening letter to the Forum Secretariat, told the House that there would be no trouble and there was nothing to worry about.

**The deadline for
submission of
items for the next
issue of the
Kaselehlie Press is
6:00 PM
September 8**

Dollar Up Enterprises

Top Ramen
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Toaster
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75 ¢ ea.

Sunny
Laundry Soap
65¢

SPORTS

BCOPS RULE JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE

By Jim Tobin

The Pohnpei Basketball Association coordinated an 8 team Co-ed junior basketball league and championships the past 4 weeks at the Pohnpei State Gymnasium. The Champion was BCOPS, defeating TSP 69-58. Finishing in 3rd Place was the Striplings and in 4th Place was Island Hoops. The participating teams were: BCOPS, coached by Heinrich Palik; Island Hoops, coached by Nimrod Half; Nan Pohnmal, coached by Charles Lohn; Pako Blax, coached by Mathias Lawrence, Jr.; Sea Siders, coached by Nixon Fred, Silver Bullets, coached by Sos David and Aurellio "Skywalker" Joab; Striplings, coached by Troy Yaingeluo and TSP, coached by Fransisco Simram. The league was a round robin competition followed by a seeded single elimination playoff.



The championship BCOPS Basketball team.

The FSM National Olympic Committee provided trophies for the top three teams.

The league was coordinated by the Pohnpei Basketball Association leaders Benji Peterson (President), Jackie Solomon (Vice President) and Bollie Ludwig (Secretary). The association wished to thank all of the volunteer referees and scorekeepers especially Ramsie Joab, Kelvin and Jason Sam and BCOPS members. According to Benji, the association is now running a Pohnpei Men's Municipal Basketball League with 10 teams, with the championships to be held on Pohnpei Liberation Day September 11th. Benji also stated that other upcoming basketball competitions will be the Men's Open Basketball League and possibly a Holiday Junior Basketball League in December.

Pohnpei - "World Class!"



Josh Klimas of Australia cutting it up in the lagoon. Top professional kite surfers will soon be arriving in Pohnpei to kite surf and write an article about Pohnpei kite surfing.



Mcabery Luther (Left) and his younger brother Triston Luther at Alois Malfitani's free surf seminar at Nahlap. Mcabery was awarded the surfboard he is standing next to for best performance of the day at the seminar