

The KASELEHLIE Press

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Pump is Primed for FSM Buyout of Mobil Assets in FSM

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 16, Palikir, Pohnpei – Congress, on September 7, 2007 passed the “Federated States of Micronesia Petroleum Act of 2007.” The bill, which President Mori has signed into law establishes a new public corporation under a new title 27 of FSM Code entitled “Essential Services”.

The law allows for the President to appoint a transitional Board of Directors, a task he has already begun. The transitional Board is to serve for six months and will have the power to execute contracts on behalf of the corporation. The final Board of Directors will by law consist of one member appointed by the President with the advice and consent of Congress. It will have one member each from each of the four States appointed by their respective Governors. The final two directors will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of Congress from a list of private sector candidates nominated by the four State governors.

The specific activities of the FSM Fuel Task Force have been shrouded in secrecy since its creation. Mobil Oil Micronesia, Inc. (MOMI) has an obligation to

avoid the possibility of being accused of price fixing and so follows strict confidentiality policies. As for the FSM, good negotiators always keep their cards close to their vest. The secrecy surrounding negotiations between the FSM and MOMI has sparked within the FSM rumors and speculation circulated as fact at sakau bars and any other place where people gather to “talk story”.

During a public hearing on the proposed new bill, numbers and prices were cast around the room that had remained confidential for a long time. Even though the hearing was public it was attended only by Senators and their staff, those involved in the Fuel Task Force in one way or another and by the FSM Chief of Staff. Peter Christian, Chairman of the FSM Fuel Task Force asked those in attendance at the hearing to keep the numbers to themselves until the contract with MOMI could be signed which it only could do if Congress passed the bill.

The bill sets down in writing details of the corporation but no By-Laws have been filed. This detail will have to be the first task for the transitional board. When that work is done, a contract with MOMI that the Task Force has already initialed can be fully ex-

ecuted. Even still, a competitor could step in and make a better deal for MOMI and all of the hard work could go down the drain.

to operate in the FSM. Luen Thai, a Tan Holdings company offered to purchase and run the facility for Pohnpei State. S & K, a Korean

There are others that would like

See “FSM Fuel” on page 6

FSM at SPG!



Complete story
on Page 20

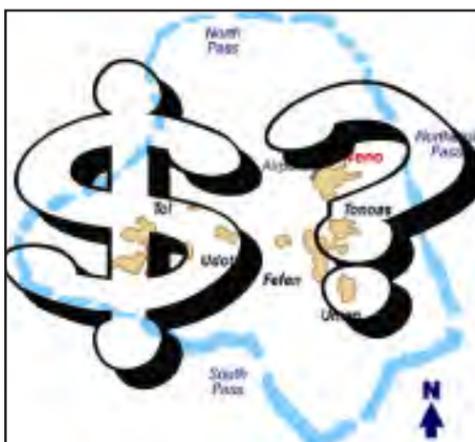
FSM Wrestlers - top left to right Kun Killin (Kosrae), Larry Uwelar (Yap), bottom row l-r Marcel Yatiman (Chuuk), Keitani Graham (Chuuk) and Dundy Dosalua (Pohnpei)

Chuuk State Audit – Same Problems, Different Year

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Chuuk, FSM - The Chuuk State audit for Fiscal Year 2006 which ended on September 30, 2006 is out. As in years past it is not a pretty picture. Once again, the auditors disclaimed an opinion on the Chuuk State financial statements for most of the same reasons they issued the same opinion on the previous year's audit. For all intents and purposes the auditor's opinion on the 2005 audit had the difference that the Chuuk State Health Care Plan was mentioned as a problem while it was not in the 2006 audit.

When an auditor “disclaims an opinion” on the finance statements it is the lowest mark an auditee can receive. That opinion says essentially, “It's possible that your finance statements are accurate but you had so many problems and so many missing records that we couldn't duplicate your results.” This creates



room for potential risks and fraud that auditors would be unable to detect.

Of the 129 pages that comprise the audit, 60 of them are the details of questioned costs for 2006 alone. There were 35 pages of ques-

tioned costs in 2005. It could be that the 2005 audit was spaced tighter or organized differently especially since there were \$1.7 million in questioned costs in 2005 and only just under a million dollars in 2006. The FY 2005 audit had pages of questioned FEMA expenses resulting from Hurricane Chataan while the FY 2006 audit had just a few listed.

According to the last page of the 2006 audit there have been nearly \$9.5 million of questioned expenses on prior audits since 1999. During that period of time none of the questioned costs have ever in any instance in any year, been resolved. The column that would have listed resolved questioned costs since 1999 is completely blank.

The auditee, Chuuk State Finance is required to give a response and corrective action plan

See “Chuuk Audit” on page 13

NEWS**No Money for Chuuk Without Proof of Financial Controls**
Chuuk State Personnel Responsible for Overseeing Financial Records Have Resigned

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Some time ago the United States Office of Insular Affairs assumed a strict posture concerning Chuuk for many reasons, some of which are listed in the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) resolutions unanimously adopted on August 30, 2007.

The resolution says, "The State of Chuuk has a track record of poor financial management marked by high levels of debt, a practice of spending more than it generates in revenues, unbalanced budgets, late and highly qualified audits, and a poor internal control environment. Although the State and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia have adopted a Memorandum of Understanding to address these shortcomings, there remains a high risk of failure to perform. The lack of finan-

cial management expertise in the State is a particular threat to the viability of Compact programs and U.S. Federal Grant programs."

The JEMCO resolutions are much softer than they might have been but for the FSM taking the initiative to meet with the OIA prior to the JEMCO meetings in Honolulu. While the FSM has two representatives to the committee which oversees Compact funding, the United States has three. If JEMCO procedures come to a vote where the FSM representatives disagree with any given U.S. stance they will lose the vote.

The key if the FSM wanted to retain Chuuk State's funding would be to reach a compromise that would be acceptable to both the FSM and to OIA. Two of the most influential members of the delegation that met with OIA representatives were FSM's Vice President

Alik Alik and FSM Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, Mr. Finley Perman.

According to Mr. Epel K. Ilon, Director of the Office of Compact Management and FSM JEMCO representative for FSM, the efforts of Vice President Alik helped to mitigate OIA's earliest response to the Chuuk crisis. Ilon said that Alik pointed out that Chuuk State had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines clear steps that Chuuk's Government agrees to take to solve their financial problems.

Ilon said that the fact that Secretary Perman would be involved in helping to resolve the problems in Chuuk, "certainly didn't hurt matters." Secretary Perman is held in high regard both in the FSM and in the United States for his efforts in Pohnpei State that resulted in squeaky clean audits; an accom-

plishment that had not been previously attained in the State, at least not for a very long time.

At press time, Friday, September 14, Perman and Evelyn Adolph, recently confirmed FSM representative to JEMCO, were in Chuuk helping to sculpt the procedures and details that would meet JEMCO's softened but still difficult requirements.

The resolution said "that none of the funds allocated to Chuuk State for FY '08 may be provided to Chuuk State until such time as Chuuk State has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Office of Insular Affairs, that appropriately stringent financial controls and professional financial personnel are in place to track and manage Compact and Federal program funds."

See "JEMCO" on page 13

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Managing Editor

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Sanctuary, Inc. Recognizes CITI'S Contributions

CITI Smith Barney Press Release

During the recent Micronesia Youth Services Network (MYSN) Conference held in the Republic of Palau, the Citi Foundation was selected from among 30 nominees as one of MYSN's 2007 Top Ten Youth Service Supporters of the Micronesia Region.

The Micronesia Youth Services Network (MYSN) is a network of non-profit community-based organizations throughout the entire Micronesia Region, whose focus is on runaway and homeless youth issues. The Micronesia Region consists of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The criteria for award nominations included outstanding financial or volunteer contributions and a strong partner relationship with a MYSN member. Sanctuary, Inc., a member organization in Guam, nominated the Citi Foundation for its \$20,000 grant to establish Computer Learning Centers in their shelters which provide the youth residents state-of-the-art technology to complete academic requirements and special projects.

Ms. Sarah Thomas-Nededog, Executive Director of Sanctuary, along with Board members of MYSN presented the award to Madhu Seshadri, Country Officer, Citi Guam.

"Through the tremendous support from Citi and the Citi Foundation, we know we are not alone in helping families and in our community-building services. Thank you so much for the partnership," said Sarah.

Mr. Daniel Roland, Citi Smith Barney Senior Vice President on Guam said "The Citi family of companies has tried to be a good corporate citizen over the last 30 years in all areas of Micronesia. It is gratifying to receive such a prestigious recognition from MYSN for this. My thanks to Sanctuary for deeming us worthy."

Madhu Seshadri, Country Officer, Citi Guam responded, "On behalf of Citi, we are very grateful for this recognition from MYSN. As we continue to reinforce our partnership with Sanctuary, we encourage you to continue your initiatives and approach us for support through our employee volunteer program."

Sanctuary, Inc. provides a safe refuge for the



Daniel A. Roland, CIMA
Senior Vice President - Wealth Management
Senior Institutional Consultant
Consulting Group/ CITI Smith Barney

youth, ages 11 through 21, during family conflicts and abuse. For over 35 years, Sanctuary, Inc. has been the sole private provider of services and primary advocate for runaways, homeless, abused and similarly troubled youth in Guam. Thousands of youth and families have benefited through its program services.

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Yatilman, Westerfield, and Privitt File Response to GMP Lawsuit

Attorneys of Record are FSM Acting AG Johnson Asher and Co- Counsel Dana Smith

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

September 7 – Pohnpei, FSM - The question of who will defend Andrew Yatilman and Robert Westerfield on the charges filed by GMP Hawaii, Incorporated has been answered. The question of who will defend US employee Ben Privitt is still outstanding according to FSM Supreme Court documents.

Charges were filed by GMP on September 9 against the three defendants "individually and in their personal capacities." The public answer to whether or not defense attorneys would have to be paid for out of their own pockets came on the seventh of September when the FSM Department of Justice filed a response at the FSM Supreme Court on behalf of their clients. Defending attorneys will be FSM Acting Secretary of the Department of Justice, Johnson Asher and as announced to the Supreme Court in a motion notifying them of his assistance, Co-Counsel Dana W. Smith* of Honolulu.

GMP signed a five year contract over two years ago to manage FSM's infrastructure projects. They say that the named employees acted outside the scope of their responsibilities and that the actions of those individuals harmed the company in the FSM both financially and in terms of their reputation.

Defending attorneys say in their motion that the case should be thrown out. The actual motion to dismiss with an alternative action is only four pages long. The package including the notification to the court of attorney Smith as co-counsel, along with the "Memorandum of Points and Authorities" spans over 50 pages. Defense attorneys additionally attached well over a 100 pages of exhibits. The motion is entitled "Defendant Andrew Yatilman and Defendant Robert Westerfield III's motion to dismiss complaint and, or in the alternative, motion to strike and for more definite statement and motion to join party needed for just adjudication."

Several attempts were made to reach Mr. Asher for an explanation of the meaning of the last six words of the title of the motion with no success. Another lawyer

was contacted who said that what was being said is that the plaintiff (GMP) had not named the FSM National Government and should have done so in order to gain "complete relief".

FSM attorneys say in their motion that the FSM Supreme Court "lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the matters contained in the complaint." They cite Section 178(c) of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended as their supporting legal reason. That document says that the "Plaintiff cannot obtain judicial relief if it has not first exhausted its administrative remedies."

The motion to dismiss also quoted 178(e) of the Compact that says that no person acting on behalf of the Government of the United States can be named a party in any action based on the activity of a recipient of a grant provided by the Government of the United States.

The attorneys additionally cited common law rules regarding the immunity of government officers from common law torts. "Unless," the motion says, "the defendants...knowingly violated the law, they are immune from liability for their acts as agents of the Federated States of Micronesia."

"Tort", according to "Webster's II Dictionary" is "a wrongful act, damage, or injury done willfully, negligently, or in circumstances involving strict liability for which a civil suit can be brought." The definition of the word "tort" is simple but the law surrounding the concept is complex.

Defense lawyers say that the charge of Violation of Civil Rights should be dismissed because a "substantial interest in a contract right is not a 'civil right'..."

They say that the charge of "Abuse of Process" applies to those who abuse legal processes in courts rather than on "alleged abuse of contracts, rules and regulations, fiscal procedures, audits, internal government memorandums or violation of laws."

The defense lawyers say in the motion that the charge of libel and slander should be dismissed because Westerfield was not an em-

ployee of the FSM at the time of the alleged defamation and did not participate in any way in the alleged defamatory material. They say that Yatilman did not publish any of the alleged defamatory material.

The best defense against libel (printed defamation) or slander (verbal defamation) is that the accused is speaking or printing the truth. Defense lawyers say that Privitt's Internal Memorandum entitled "Compact Infrastructure Grant: Poor Project Planning and Questionable Contracting" dated July 31, 2006 is true.

The motion filed by defense attorneys says that the plaintiff, GMP's charges are "redundant, immaterial, and impertinent; contain unnecessary verbosity; attach numerous and inappropriate exhibits to the Complaint..."

The separate "Memorandum of Points and Authorities" which supplies for the court precedent citations and background to support the motion to dismiss or the mentioned alternative says:

"Plaintiff's argumentative style of pleading with 'spin' and unnecessary grouping of emotionally charged (sic) insinuations, suggests that the drafting is done with a view toward having the case tried in the court of public opinion rather than a court of law."

In their supporting arguments for the motion to dismiss, the defense attorneys said that, "Plaintiffs plead as fact, un-established allegations as if they were true." They say, "This same exercise is repeated throughout the complaint."

See "Lawsuit" on page 7

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NEWS

New US Ambassador Hughes Presents Credentials to FSM

FSM Information Service

Palikir, Pohnpei - September 12, 2007 - United States Ambassador Miriam Hughes has officially presented to President Manny Mori, her credentials as the U.S. representative to the Federated States of Micronesia. Ambassador Hughes succeeds former Ambassador Suzanne Hale who left the FSM in August to return to Washington D.C.

In a brief statement delivered during the credentials ceremony, Ambassador Hughes congratulated President Mori on his recent election to the highest office in, what the Ambassador termed, "a strategically positioned island nation that is active on the world stage". Ambassador Hughes stated that, "In the short term since FSM achieved sovereignty, you have come a long way. We have all now entered a sensitive, new epoch - a sharp bend along a historic road. Today's challenges require that we move forward together, bearing in mind a keen perspective".



Ambassador Hughes applauded President Mori's "courageous leadership and determination to chart a bold course for your country toward balanced economic growth, job generation and unified governance that is respectful of your rich cultural traditions. The United States has shined a spotlight on the Pacific region. We are proud to be your partner. The Amended Compact of Free Association is a core vehicle that we will try to harness to better advantage. And we will seek to build other areas of cooperation that support mutual objectives.

"We expect the road ahead will be difficult and at times perilous...The Micronesians, of course are a very capable people. At UN headquarters, I repeatedly observed your delegation and noted how strategically and articulately they engaged in global diplomacy. Often we shared a coincidence of views, reflecting our historic bonds and our bedrock values. Our ties are as deep as the Pacific Ocean."

Ambassador Hughes gave special mention to the brave men and women of the FSM in the US Military Forces. "Among them are a daughter of President Mori and a son of Vice President Alik. We acknowledged with pride and gratitude the vital contribution of your children as well as others who have lost their lives while fighting side by side with other members of the U.S. Armed Services. America honors your sacrifices and shares your determination", she stated.

President Mori accepted Ambassador Hughes' Letters of Credence and welcomed her to the FSM. President Mori highlighted the FSM-US historical and unique relationship during the TTPI, the Compact of Free Association and today with the amended compact.

"We have had our fair share of challenges and road bumps along the way. These challenges are what make our efforts worthwhile and bind us together to work collaboratively toward common goals. FSM and the United States of America aspire to the same values and principles of peace, security and the right to development and I look forward to working closely with you on these areas of mutual interests in the years to come."

President Mori concluded by assuring Ambassador Hughes that the FSM Government will, during your tenure, accord all necessary support and cooperation in order to make your stay in the FSM both rewarding and enjoyable.

Ambassador Hughes is originally from Manhattan, New York, with legal residence in Florida. Prior to being posted in the FSM, she was formerly the Deputy US Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. She earned her bachelors degree from Columbia University and her Masters degree from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She has one daughter.

Witnesses at the credential ceremony included, Vice President Alik Alik, Chief Justice Andon L. Amaraich, Pohnpei State Governor's Representative Estephan Santiago, members of the Diplomatic Corp and Consulars, members of the President's Cabinet and other officials from the national government.

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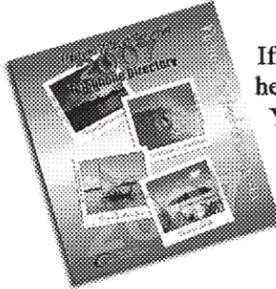
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FSM COMMERCIAL BANKING SYSTEM BALANCE SHEET June 30, 2007

(US\$ In Thousands)	30-Jun-07	%	30-Jun-06	%	Yearly Variance	% Change	Preceding Qtr. 31-Mar-07	%	Quarterly Variance	% Change
ASSETS										
Cash & Due from Local Banks	4,713	4%	4,273	3%	440	10%	5,551	4%	(838)	-15%
Foreign Assets/Due from Banks & Others Abroad	96,308	68%	96,235	71%	73	0%	89,689	66%	6,619	7%
Total Liquid Assets	101,021	72%	100,508	74%	513	1%	95,240	70%	5,781	6%
Loans										
Commercial	18,127	13%	13,387	10%	4,740	35%	18,375	13%	(248)	-1%
Consumer	15,655	11%	15,611	12%	44	0%	15,878	12%	(223)	-1%
Total Loans	33,782	24%	28,998	22%	4,784	16%	34,253	25%	(471)	-1%
Other Assets	6,196	4%	5,940	4%	256	4%	6,163	5%	33	1%
Total Assets	140,999	100%	135,446	100%	5,553	4%	135,656	100%	5,343	4%
LIABILITIES & CAPITAL										
Deposits										
Demand	31,036	22%	27,723	21%	3,313	12%	28,290	21%	2,746	10%
Savings	53,024	38%	55,591	41%	(2,567)	-5%	50,754	37%	2,270	4%
Time	38,232	27%	34,314	25%	3,918	11%	38,018	28%	214	1%
Other Time/Other Deposits	65	0%	44	0%	21	48%	64	0%	1	2%
Total Deposits	122,357	87%	117,672	87%	4,685	4%	117,126	86%	5,231	4%
Other Liabilities & Capital 1/	18,642	13%	17,774	13%	868	5%	18,530	14%	112	1%
Total Liabilities & Capital	140,999	100%	135,446	100%	5,553	4%	135,656	100%	5,343	4%
Memorandum Items:										
Loan/Deposit Ratio (%)	28%		25%				29%			
Consumer Loans (% of total loans)	46%		54%				46%			
Commercial Loans (% of total loans)	54%		46%				54%			

Footnote:

1/ Includes loan loss reserves

Source: FSM Banking & Insurance Board

...FSM Fuel

continued from page 1

company has reportedly made a similar offer.

Despite the offers, in last week's Chief Executive Council meeting in Chuuk, the four State governments agreed to and endorsed the new Petroleum Corporation bill.

In the Committee Hearing on the bill Mr. Christian said that the Micronesia Petroleum Corporation facilities in Kosrae were not currently for sale but they have discussed the possibility of leasing them. In the last week, part of the Fuel Task Force visited with leaders in Kosrae to broach the idea of a purchase plan.

There has been conversation with the Bank of Guam about a loan package for the acquisition of Mobil's facilities in the FSM. Reportedly, one of the conditions for the loan would be the participation of all four States in the plan. That goal, with the CEC resolution last week has apparently been achieved.

According to Jared Morris the Import Management Adviser sent by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to advise the Fuel Task Force, the deal is the best he's seen negotiated by any Pacific Island Nation. Morris should know. He's already helped eight other island nations to negotiate deals for fuel supply with multi-national fuel corporations.

Morris said that it makes better sense to function as a unit because better deals can be made with fuel suppliers. He said that he'd like eventually to see a Pacific bloc operating jointly to get the best possible fuel prices for the Pacific region.

He said that in the Pacific Region it is not a matter of "if" major fuel corporations will pull out but "when". Suppliers have already been cancelling services all over the Pacific. He said that world wide consumption of oil is 82 million barrels a day. The Pacific islands currently consume 33,000 barrels a day. The FSM's consumption share is only 800 barrels a day.

Senator Nelson of Chuuk asked a question during the hearing that many have been asking. "Why is Mobil now willing to sell?" He said that he worried that the reason they were willing is because they were beginning to lose money and that the FSM perhaps shouldn't take on something that is beginning to lose money. The task force said, in answer to his question that Mobil is definitely making money in the area it's just that they're not making enough to justify the operation to shareholders and that is the group to whom Mobil has a responsibility, not the FSM.

Morris warned the committee saying that there is no reason why the new corporation should not be able to meet all of its obligations and make a reasonable return but all involved would need to be diligent in tracking the progress and insuring that the corporation is well run. Though he told the committee that the legislation is the best he's seen to establish a corporation he said that he is hopeful that Congress will consider some performance standards for the new corporation. The legislation does require significant reporting standards.

As all well crafted deals are, Morris says this one is beneficial to both the FSM and to MOMI. The FSM gets assets worth substantially more than they will be pay-

ing for them, an operation that is all set to go, and technical assistance for the next five years. The assets the corporation would acquire have been evaluated by an expert to have a remaining life in excess of 15 years. Mobil for its part gets a five year exclusive fuel supply agreement for the FSM.

When asked what the difference would be between Mobil supplying fuel to the FSM to distribute and sell themselves and the current arrangement Morris said that the supply agreement is based on a formula that never existed before. The formula defines benchmark for pricing that takes into account world market fluctuations and makes adjustments on the final price as a function of the contracted benchmark. The formula gives the FSM an assurance of what their deal will be, helping to control the possibility of excessive markup. Since Mobil would be working with one corporation in the FSM it would prevent differential pricing schemes that were rumored to have existed under the former arrangement.

The new corporation, by the wording of the bill passed by Congress may hire former employees that currently staff FSM fuel facilities but it is under no obligation to do so. It will not "be required to hire employees at the same salaries or to fill the same positions as they may have enjoyed previously." Mr. Christian said that by his way of thinking it would be best for the new corporation to offer employment to those already trained to operate the fuel facilities, safety mechanisms, and fuel delivery systems.

Some have questioned whether the new corporation will experience political pressure to continue to supply fuel to a customer that is in arrears particularly when the customer is a government or gov-

ernment entity. Political pressure of that kind could ruin the new corporation.

The new law equips the CEO of the new corporation to discontinue fuel delivery to customers who are in arrears thirty calendar days after the date due for payment and to take necessary legal action to recover money owed to the corporation. By law it is a public corporation and "shall not be deemed to be a government department, board or agency."

Unlike the law setting up FSM Telecommunications, Incorporated there is no provision to make the new petroleum corporation a monopoly. Though the task force suggested that the corporation should be tax exempt during its start up period, the committee did not make that recommendation and the new company will be fully taxable.

At the close of the Congress session in which the bill had its second and final reading Senators queued up to be put on the record applauding the effort of the Fuel Task Force and patting themselves on the back for passing the bill. The common denominator in the speeches was an expression of satisfaction that the FSM would now be in the drivers' seat for their own fuel security.

Peter Christian said in a later conversation that a FSM corporation would be able to offer consumers a better deal. He didn't guarantee that prices would go down but he said that he felt consumers would know that the price they pay at the pump or for the diesel that generates electricity would be the real cost rather than one designed to fill the pocket of a share holder in another country. He said that it's not just a matter of Fuel Security; it's also a matter of National Pride.

...Lawsuit

continued from Page 4

Defense attorneys say that the attachment of letters, memos and other documents is "an unwarranted attempt on part of the Plaintiff to plead GMP's evidence before it is formally received by the Court." They say in the motion that "Some of the materials attached are or may be construed to be privileged internal government communications..."

The Law Office of Andrea S. Hillyer, on September 12 filed a motion to enlarge the time to respond to the motion of the

defendant's attorneys to a period of 30 days from the September 7 filing date.

[Editor's Note: The Kaselehlie Press endeavors to espouse no bias on news items. Those pieces clearly defined as opinion are an exception. Even then, the opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Rohng En Pohnpei, Inc., a not for profit corporation and publishers of The Kaselehlie Press.

The filings by the Plaintiff and Defense in the above story along with the article printed in the August 22

issue of The Kaselehlie Press on the same subject aggregately cover over 300 pages which we have attempted to summarize in approximately 2000 words a nearly impossible task. Not only subtleties but main arguments on each side may have been inadvertently overlooked or over emphasized. If that has been the end result it has not been our intention.

All of the information contained within the main body of the above article is derived from FSM Supreme Court documents which are public record. Copies were obtained at the expense of The Kaselehlie Press. No attorney for either side in the case provided any documentation utilized in the above article.]

**Co-Counsel Dana Smith was the President's nominee for the position of Secretary of the Department of Justice. FSM Congress sent word to the President that since Smith had been hired by the government he was disqualified as a nominee for the cabinet level position.*

Smith in his confirmation proceedings asked for a salary above and beyond what the law allowed. Unless legislation is passed increasing the salary for the position Smith cannot be considered. He recently sent written communication rescinding his request for additional salary. The point, according to the Congress committee, is essentially moot.

NEWS

PREL Announces Two New Federated States of Micronesia Contracts Totaling \$550,000

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) has announced two new contracts to provide consulting and development services to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

The work for one contract, valued at \$400,000 and performed by PREL's Pacific Assessment Systems and Services, is to provide consulting services in the development of K-12 reading and writing assessments during the period August 2007 to August 2008. Specifically, PREL will work on the development of FSM national reading and writing assessments for grades prekindergarten-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8, 9-12, and the college preparatory program, for a total of 14 tests.

Each FSM state approaches language development differently and has different policies on the introduction of English language studies (for example, English is not used as the medium of instruction until grade 3 in Kosrae, grade 4 in Chuuk and Pohnpei, and grade 5 in Yap). Recognizing that fact, the FSM Standards Development Working Group (SDWG)—consisting of representatives from the FSM Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs, each

of the four state departments of education, and PREL—agreed to have four language arts standards and clustered the benchmarks as noted above.

Work for the second contract—valued at \$150,000 to run from August 2007 to August 2008—will be performed by PREL's Center for Learning and Teaching and will involve the development of grades K-8 career education and grades 9-12 technical education standards for the FSM national government.

After collecting, reviewing, and synthesizing any existing career education standards from the FSM national and state governments and from organizations such as the National Career Development Association, PREL will convene and facilitate meetings of at least three career education experts from each FSM state (one each for grades 1-6, 7-8, and 9-12) to develop draft career education standards.

As well, PREL will review current FSM labor market data to understand the current composition of the FSM labor market, determine projected growth rates for key

occupations, and identify occupations for which there is a documented shortage of FSM applicants. The next steps will be to convene and facilitate a focus group of at least two vocational experts per state to identify and agree upon the occupational clusters around which technical education standards will be developed as well as convene and facilitate meetings of at least one cluster expert per state (16 participants for 4 clusters) to develop draft standards for each of the cluster areas. PREL will be carrying out this work in collaboration with the College of Micronesia—Federated States of Micronesia (COM-FSM).

After both the career education standards and the technical education standards have been reviewed and approved by the FSM national and state governments, distribution and national workshops on the approved career and technical education standards will begin.

PREL (www.prel.org) is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation that works in partnership with the Pacific educational community to provide quality pro-

grams and products developed to promote educational excellence, including professional development and educational materials. In addition, PREL administers the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Pacific, 1 of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories funded through the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. With a commitment to ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to develop a strong academic foundation, regardless of circumstances or geographic location, PREL serves the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawai'i, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

For additional information about this media release or PREL and its work please contact Jackie Burniske, Executive Director, Center for Information, Communications, and Technology by telephone at 808-441-1392 or by email at burniskj@prel.org.

Australian Grant Aims to Improve Public Schools in Micronesia

Australian Embassy Press Release

With the assistance from a grant from Australia, MICSEM aims to improve the learning environment of students of public schools of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Marshall Islands and Palau.

MICSEM's project focuses on evaluating the physical conditions and administration of education in the public schools. AusAID funds will allow MICSEM to expand their website that currently includes a "report card" of most of the public elementary schools in the FSM and Majuro. The rest of the Marshalls and Palauan schools will also be included on the website.

Schools are evaluated based

on seven factors, 1) the status of the school land, 2) the quality of the roofing, 3) the condition of the screens and windows and doors, 4) availability of water and toilets, 5) whether there are desks and chairs for students, 6) whether the teachers come to work regularly, and 7) the availability of textbooks, and are rated using the following colour schemes: GREEN means good; YELLOW indicates that there are some problems; RED means inadequate.

By doing so, MICSEM aims to provide a forum for the community to make comparisons between schools of various places, to generate productive competition among the schools, and to encourage physical and administrative improvements that will provide a better climate for learning.



To check out how your school is faring on its assessment, visit <http://www.micsem.org/schools/index.htm>

This project is being funded by AusAID's Small Grants Scheme. For more informa-

tion on this and other Australian development cooperation schemes, please contact the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei - (691) 320-5448 or at australia@mail.fm or visit the Embassy's website at www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

**CALL FOR PROJECT CONCEPT PAPERS
FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

September 2007

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

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

Eligible Recipients:

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

Grants:

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

How to Apply:

1. Contact the National Focal Person (see address below) and obtain a Format for Project Concept and also the general criteria, country program strategy and other relevant documents.
2. Fill out 3-page Concept Paper and submit to the National Focal Person anytime.

If Project Concept Paper is approved, Proponent is then asked to submit a full Proposal.

Deadline for Submission:

Project Proponents can submit Project Concept Papers **AT ANY TIME**. If a proponent wishes for a project to be included in this year's funding allocation, it is encouraged the concept paper be submitted as early as possible after September 1, 2007. Project Concept Papers can be submitted to the appropriate country contact below.

If you have questions, please contact the following:

Palau:

Ms. Amanda Alexander
National Focal Person
Republic of Palau
GEF SGP/NZAID PEF
P.O. Box 1811
Koror, Palau 96940
Phone: (680) 488-3993
Fax: (680) 488-3990
E-mail: ropsgp@palaunet.com

FSM:

Ms. Limanman Elanzo
Program Assistant
GEF SGP/NZAID PEF
P.O. Box 2177
Kolonias, Pohnpei 96941
Phone: (691)320-5670
Fax: (691) 320-8903
E-mail: fsmgsp@mail.fm

Marshall Islands:

Mr. Don Hess
National Focal Person
Republic of Marshall Islands
GEF SGP/NZAID PEF
P.O. Box 975
Majuro, MH 96960
Phone: (692) 625-7944
Fax: (692) 625-7918
E-mail: cmihess@gmail.com



You may also copy O'Kean Ehmes, micronesiasgp@mail.fm, phone: (691) 320-5670 or fax to (691) 320-8903

**CHECK OUT THESE
GREAT PHONES!**

 NOKIA \$59	 LG KG110 \$83
 SKYWORTH T600 \$110	 Nokia 7360 \$222
 MOTOROLA V3 \$222	 NOKIA 5200 \$292
 SONY ERICSSON W300 \$252	 NOKIA 6111 \$310
 MOTOROLA V3XX \$402	 NOKIA SPORTS 5500 \$396
 SONY ERICSSON K790i \$528	 NOKIA N80 \$564
 SONY ERICSSON P990i \$720	 FSM Telecommunications Corporation Tel: 691.320.2740 Fax: 691.320.2745 email: customerservice@mail.fm www.telecom.fm

OPINION**B N N**

By Bermin F. Weilbacher

bnn_fsm@yahoo.com

*The opinions expressed in the BNN Column are those of the author.***Local language please...**

Every day I see signs that tell the readers not to litter or to eat local food or not to smoke cigarettes and all these warnings—in the English language. I get very confused when it is obvious that it's us locals that litter the place with plastic bags that we call "Ehd rar rar" and abuse our bodies with betel nut, lime, cigarettes and copa...all in one package bulging from our cheeks and spitting all over the place.....so why all the English? Why not ALL in Pohnpeian and if the foreigners want to know what these signs mean, they can always ask. And they ought to start by asking the meaning of this sign, seen at the Kosrae International Airport luggage pick up area:

"KENSA NU KE ME YOKYOK MA ORAKRAK."

Legal rights promoted...

There's a guy in Hawaii who is spending a lot of hours trying to get Micronesians in Hawaii to have access to legal assistance. I am not sure how much the governments of the FSM, RMI or ROP are involved because I think the islanders deserve such assistance.

This issue arose when the Legal Services Corporation, at one time, terminated legal services made available to some 40,000 islanders from the FAS (Freely Associated States) areas who are living in the US.

According to Chuck Greenfield, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii Executive Director, the unanimous vote of the corporation board opens the door to free legal aid to the estimated 12,000 Micronesians living in Hawaii.

Here's how this guy put it to the appropriate federal officials:

"The proposed LSG policy changes are well intentioned, practical because they will help F.A.S. citizens lawfully residing in the US with access to legal services, and will significantly improve the quality of their lives. The Compacts of Free Association were meant to assist both the entities of the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and its peoples become self-reliant. Migration of these peoples to the United States and its territories were seen to be integral to that goal,

alongside nation-building efforts back in those islands. I feel strongly that changing LSG policy to reflect its pre-1996 regulations that allowed F.A.S. citizens legally residing in the United States to seek Legal Aid services would be the just and right thing to do and would greatly aid many Micronesians living in the United States."

*Richard N. Salvador
Republic of Palau (living in Honolulu)*

Liberate them from ignorance...

On September 11, 2007, I was pretty much hyped up to join the rest of the Pohnpeians to celebrate this date (in 1945 the American soldiers liberated the Pohnpeians from the Japanese occupiers. Many Pohnpeians were already herded like cattle and were going to be butchered or executed en masse.)

So here I was all dressed up for an outing on a pretty sunny day at the track and field. Arriving at the area where cars were parked in all directions, I felt I was lucky to find an empty space near a mom and pop store. Alas, the storeowner had nailed three NO PARKING signs about a car's length from the store. I thought it was weird that the NO PARKING signs would prevent me from parking on public property so I parked the car there. Whooo! The lady storeowner chewed me out for doing so saying I was rude or cocky and that I would get a citation for parking there. To which I responded that she was the problem, an ignorant woman for trying to prevent me from parking on what is clearly on public property—on the asphalt as all other cars were parked the same way.

I told her that I challenged her signs and would call the cops who by this time were all glued to the field activities. The store owner demanded that I stayed in the car and call the police but I said I did not have my cell phone and proceeded to exit the car, locked the door, and went over to where the action was.

When I told a cop about the incident, he simply smiled, because his car was already double parked on the road.

Having a spoiled mood, I returned to my car and told the store owner that the cops agreed with me that

she could not prevent me from parking my car on public property, then I headed to my favorite sakau bar, the "Noah's Ark" sakau bar where I found customers already zonked at about noon time.

Correction and/or update....

I inadvertently left out the mention of posters of Lt. Governor aspirant Yosuo Phillip. Now there are, thus far, 5 Governors and 6 Lt. Governors. Who among them will make the Final Four is entirely up to you. Go for it.

Tail end observation...

...I noticed that the Tuna Commission building, completed about 2 years ago, remains unoccupied and maintenance work has begun....

...A sakau bar customer told me recently that he would soon go head hunting..no no not like the cannibals but human resource hunting for the huge buildup by the US military in Guam. Our special relationship with Uncle Sam makes us perfect candidates for a pool of workers, don't you think?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Suicidal?**

Dear Editor,

Through a chance of timing, I was listening to one of the FM radio stations as I was reading the article 'Sorry, Put the Blame on Me' in a recent KP. The song you mention at the end of the article 'Suicidal', had played during this time. I happened to leave the radio on for the rest of the day, and the same song was played another 7 times. It has been on EVERY time I have listened to the radio since then.

I am not the target audience for the suburban gangsta rap, being in my early 30's, however I have had extensive exposure to 'alternative' rock and pop music, which characteristically contains political and social messages which may claim to be subversive or antisocial. I have never heard a song as socially offensive and obnoxious as 'Suicidal'.

I am a newcomer to Pohnpei, but in my short time here have gained a strong respect for the Pohnpeian culture, which exhibits strong family and social connections which are rapidly being lost in more westernized societies. However, I was saddened and surprised to learn that suicide, especially of youth, is a common occurrence.

Pohnpei has a population of about 34,486 (last census 2000), and in FY2006 a death rate of 4.3 per 1,000. So, about 148 people died in Pohnpei in FY2006. Of these, 19 were recorded as suicide by the Pohnpei State Department of Health Services in their FY2006 Annual Health Services Profile. Therefore, nearly 13% of deaths (equivalent to about 55 deaths per

100,000 population) in Pohnpei appear to be from suicide. According to the World Health Organisation (http://www.who.int/mental_health/prevention/suicide_rates/en/index.html), this is one of the highest, if not THE HIGHEST, suicide rate reported in the world. For comparison, the United States reported about 11 suicides per 100,000 population in 2001, and Australia about 13 per 100,000 in 2001. Suicide is the 4th leading cause of death in Pohnpei, only Diabetes (38 deaths), Liver disease (22 deaths) and cancer (21 deaths) caused more deaths in FY2006.

Even using the 'official' numbers, which are conservative due to the nature of suicide reporting, this is a social disaster of great magnitude. Pohnpei is an idyllic paradise, but obviously something is very wrong under the veneer of tranquility.

Suicide occurs for complex reasons, many of which are not easily addressed. But, the persistence of obnoxious music like Sean Kingston's 'Suicide' on high rotation on public radio is easily addressed. For the sake of the victims, family and friends of those who have died from suicide, and for the sake of those who may find themselves contemplating suicide, and for Pohnpeian society as a whole, STOP PLAYING 'SUICIDE' ON THE RADIO. This is just one small step towards recognising and admitting that suicide is one of the greatest health and social problems that Pohnpei faces.

Yours faithfully,
Ben Gilbert
U, Pohnpei

PLACES TO VISIT/OPINION

Sawartik or Sawarlap? ...Maybe Neither?

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

A few weeks ago I decided to see all of the sites of Pohnpei I hadn't yet seen and to tell you about my experiences there. I chose Pohnpei because that is where I live and though I love my job at The Kaselehlie Press it doesn't lend itself toward traveling to other states or even to the outer islands of Pohnpei. I missed the "Places to Visit" column in the last issue not because I didn't go anywhere but because I didn't know exactly how to handle what I found. I'm still not certain that I do.

My wife and I chose for the 26th of August, a trip to Lehn Paipohn Falls. Having been given directions by a friend we set off confidently toward Kittu after meeting a commitment in Madolenihmw I made for 9:00 in the morning. The circumferential road, made possible largely by another commitment by the government of Japan made the trip possible.

When we first arrived on the island we never would have considered the trip in anything less than an All Terrain Vehicle. Nowadays it is a cruise on reasonably good roads and we loved the fact that we could access the other side of the island in a sedan with bad suspension and dents that give it the complexion of a veteran boxer who was never particularly good but had a lot of heart (see past "Center of the Universe" columns).

The directions we were given won't take you to Lehn Paipohn Falls and they didn't take us there either but they will take you to Sawartik and Sawarlap Falls.

If you are heading from Pohnpei, take the circumferential road to Kittu on the west side of the island. Pass the Kittu Municipal building. Beyond that there is a house that stands above the road by at least 40 feet. The front of the property is terraced and each of the terraces is reinforced by hand laid stones. Take a left on the secondary road just beyond the house.

If you miss it you will come to the bridge that crosses the Lehn Mesi River. That will mean you've gone too far. Turn around and take a right at the first secondary road you come to after the river crossing.

The beautiful road is paved most

of the way. It winds inland more than you might think it should if you didn't know better, past a church in Salapwuk and beyond.

When my wife and I visited (by accident) there was a house being built at the top of a hill on the right side of the road. We stopped and asked locals who were working on the house, where the falls were and were told that we could park right there and walk down the road a little further.

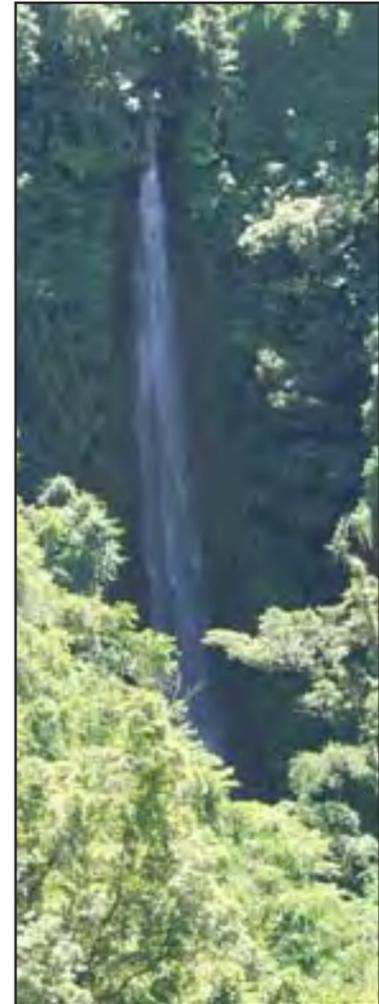
One of the men working on the house went in front of us. The trail head at the bottom of the hill was clearly defined with a beautiful sign board that told us that we were in the wrong place. The sign didn't say what to expect or how much we would pay so we followed our leader. The trail ended in approximately 100 yards at the home of the people who maintain things and collect fees.

We stopped at an overlook. When I looked over I was amazed at what I saw. The falls are the most spectacular I have seen in Pohnpei. They fall from a nosebleed height down to....

I don't know. We never got there and spent maybe five minutes at the overlook. All the while the occupants of the home gawked at us as if we had as many eyes as the number of minutes we spent there. I'm not sure I wouldn't have done the same if someone had come to my home except that there's nothing to see at my home and I don't charge admission to see it.

We made a crucial mistake on our outing by not taking a local guide with us.

I have discovered that, though I have an aptitude for many things, language acquisition is not one of them. I love the people of the FSM and I've lived here for nearly seven years but I'm not smart enough to figure out your languages. English speakers require a dictionary that in hard back could serve as a tire chock for a



Sawartik or Sawarlap...I'm still not certain which is which

road grading machine sitting on an 8% grade. Pohnpei has one thin paperback and I'm still too stupid to figure out the language though I took a good number of lessons.

We tried to help our new friend to understand that we were in the wrong place, at least for that day but would be willing to change our plans if he could tell us how to get down to the base of the falls. I would say that he looked at us blankly except that he didn't really look at us at all and also didn't answer our question.

We decided that we were done despite the beauty of the falls and told our friend that we would just try to find Lehn Paipohn Falls on our own from the directions he gave us, which, incidentally, were wrong. We headed back down the path and to our car. We began to head in the direction that he told us we should go but he met us at the car saying that we owed him \$10.

If we had gone to the falls rather than to an overlook I would have had no problem. I could never

have found the path into the valley on my own and \$5 person is the price that is printed in the Pohnpei Visitor's guide; but to have spent five minutes at an overlook of these magnificent falls and to be charged \$10 for the privilege?

This is why there are no distances listed from recognizable landmarks on your way to the falls as there have been in past "Places to Visit" columns. I have been doing those on my way home and this time I was just a bit bent and didn't care what my odometer said.

By the way, Sawartik means "shining faintly". Sawarlap means "Shining Brightly". The falls were beautiful, absolutely beautiful and they did shine just as their names promised. However, it took approximately one second for both of the falls to pale in my mind; just about the time it took to open my thin wallet and scrape it dry.

I, being the die hard that I am, will try again in a future column and will hope for a better reception at the falls.

NEWS

Nations Gather in French Polynesia to Discuss Invasive Species Measures

SPC News Release

Pacific countries met in Moorea, French Polynesia, last week to share their experiences in attacking weeds and pests.

The Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) was launched in 2006 by the Vice President of Palau, as a partnership dedicated to increasing weed and pest control skills, through the sharing of experience and collaboration between Pacific countries. PILN teams from each country are multi-sector and multi-agency and reflect the commitment to deal with invasive species.

The meeting in Moorea, hosted by the Government of French Polynesia and funded by US, NZ, French and French Polynesian donors, reviewed progress in the first year of the network, and identified new regional and country activities that will advance the fight against invasive species.

Over 70 participants from 14 countries attended the five day meeting, which focused on weeds, ants, marine invasive species, and quarantine. From Pohnpei Mr. John Wichep, Department of Resources and Development and Mr. Konrad Englberger from the SPC

Office in Pohnpei attended the meeting.

The Minister for the Environment for French Polynesia, Madame Maina Sage, opened the meeting, and emphasized the vital importance of tackling invasive species that threaten people's health, culture, livelihoods and environment.

- Pacific Island states are already facing a tsunami of pests and weeds – stinging ants, disease carrying mosquitoes, crop destroying diseases, bird killing snakes and rats, forest smothering weeds. But PILN team members were encouraged by the successes being achieved by governments, NGOs and local communities. American Samoa is close to eradicating an invasive tree from a national park.
- Fiji reported the eradication of rats from two small islands that have endemic birds and endemic frogs on the verge of extinction.
- French Polynesia, which has more than 200 invasive species, is undertaking a biological control programme for the invasive tree *Miconia*, that is blanketing large areas, crowding out native forest, and increasing erosion risk.
- Guam is doing important work to stop the brown tree snake spreading to other countries.
- Hawaii reported major im-

provements in quarantine facilities on Maui, jointly developed by federal and state agencies.

· Kiribati made significant progress towards eradicating rats released by the wreck of a fishing vessel on an island that has an internationally important seabird colony.

· Kosrae has 42 invasive species and has prioritised three invasive weeds to manage.

· Marshall Islands is working on projects for three serious weeds; *chromolaena*, *merremia* and *mikania*.

· New Caledonia have a programme to prevent feral pigs invading community gardens, while also reducing damage to important natural areas.

· Palau Island is eradicating several weeds that in other countries have already destroyed whole ecosystems.

· Pohnpei has eradicated one invasive weed and is tackling several others including feral pigeons to prevent them spreading human diseases.

· Samoa has completed a weed risk assessment system that is now available for use across the Pacific, and will ensure that scarce resources can be accurately targeted to the most important and manageable weed problems. Samoa has also upgraded its quar-

antine system to keep out threats such as the cane toad.

· Yap was successfully bringing *imperata* under control until a cyclone interrupted the programme.

The Pacific Ant Prevention Plan was examined, and PILN team members reconfirmed their commitment to keep dangerous ant species (such as the red imported fire ant) out of the Pacific or prevent them spreading from islands already invaded. The French Polynesian Department of the Environment shared its experiences in fighting the little fire ant, while Palau reported their work to eradicate Singapore ants.

Work on marine species was less well advanced than terrestrial work, but a new programme for the Pacific was designed and will be put in place over the next year.

Prevention was recognized as the cheapest way to protect the Pacific, and actions to strengthen quarantine systems across the Pacific were identified.

The next network meeting of PILN will take place in 2009, by which time it is hoped that all Pacific countries will have active teams, and many more species will be eradicated or under control.

Rotary Club of Guam Donates 50 Dictionaries to Pohnpei Department of Education



Rotary Club of Pohnpei members stand with Madolenihmw High School Principal, Arwelson Arpona (2nd from left) and Secondary Chief Pohnpei Education Department, Joseph Villazone (3rd from right)

New Australian 2nd Secretary Welcomed to the FSM



Janet Whitaker newly arrived 2nd Secretary of the Australian Embassy has a had a long history in Australian Government. Her first assignment in Jakarta, followed by Cape Town, South Africa, Berlin, Germany, Queensland, Australia, and arrives in Pohnpei having just completed an assignment in Hanoi.

Her husband Eddy will be following her soon when their 16 year old son has settled into his schooling.

REACH OUT PACIFIC DONATES MEDICAL SUPPLIES

On August 23, 2007, Reach Out Pacific handed over a 40' container of medical supplies to the Pohnpei State Hospital. The handing over was made by Senator Fernando Scaliem, Chairman of the Health and Environment Committee of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures. The supplies included hospital beds, examining tables, wheelchairs, medical trays, surgical gowns, clothes and many more. The donation was provided by Shriner's Hospital, Queens Hospital, Starwood Hotels and KCC Nursing School, all located on the Is-

land of Hawaii.

The donation was organized by Reach Out Pacific ("REPAC"), which was created by the Association of Pacific Island legislatures ("APIL") in 2005 to carry donated health and educational supplies from Hawaii to other APIL jurisdictions. The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is a group representing the legislative branch of government on the many island jurisdictions of the Pacific, which seeks to contribute to the economic and social development of member states and increase cooperation among the islands.



Pohnpei State Hospital's Wincener David shakes the hand of FSCO Manager Samuel Pretrick while Pohnpei's Senator Fernando Scaliem looks on

Many other partners provided assistance in bringing the container of donated medical supplies to the Pohnpei Hospital, including Matson Navigation, Amcrest Shipping, FSM Tax & Revenue, Pohnpei State Tax & Revenue, Pohnpei Port authority and FSCO.

...Audit

continued from Page 1

to questioned costs. The most common response to the 2006 audit had to do with filing. The respondent, The Department of Administrative Services in Chuuk, in many of its responses said that they felt that the questioned costs did not "represent substantive program non-compliance but rather failure to adequately file supporting documents for easy retrieval." They promise as they have done in years past to correct the problem in time for the next audit. Many of the target dates by which the problems will be resolved are after the end of the 2007 fiscal year which ends in just a few days on September 30.

The department said that they will be converting to a new FMIS on October 1, 2007 just after the current fiscal year ends. FMIS was not defined in the audit. From the results that Chuuk State says the FMIS will perform it would be easy to surmise that FMIS stands for Financial Management Information System. In that case, the

new software system was also mentioned in responses in the FY 2005 audit as a fix for problems the State incurred during that year.

\$269,311 of the questioned costs in 2006 involved payroll items that either lacked documentation like timesheets and personnel action forms authorizing hires, terminations, and salary adjustments or had the gross pay figured improperly.

It's possible that the questioned personnel costs could be justified if the documentation had been filed properly but since records could not be found, either they were not filed correctly or they never existed. Neither an auditor or, for that matter, a reporter would have any way of knowing which. According to the Audit Report, in the previous 8 fiscal years missing documentation has never been found in order to justify previous expenditures so that they could be cleared. The questioned expenses have been left as is with no successful or reported effort made to find out what caused them.

One external auditor who claims to have performed a personnel re-

view of Chuuk State said that even while he was sitting in the office performing the review one Chuuk State lawmaker walked into the personnel office and demanded a raise for a Chuuk State employee without going through the Personnel Action approval process. If that pay increase was processed without a Personnel Action form it will be one more audit exception (questioned cost) in next year's audit.

Though the audit exceptions amounted to nearly a million dollars three programs had, according to the audit "undeterminable" questioned costs. The auditor could not determine the dollar amount of the questioned costs. Those three programs had problems with cash management some of which resulted from inadequate receiving processes.

One of the programs, the U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Investment Act (WIA) had significant documentation problems in terms of the eligibility of participants. In addition to cash management problems there were problems in how supplies were purchased. There was no bid pro-

cess for items procured for the program.

Another of the programs, the US Department of Homeland Security - FEMA Public Assistance Grant in addition to the cash management problem, the value of which could not be determined, had the problem of matching grant requirements that were not met before funds were spent.

The Special Education program also had problems of undetermined dollar amounts in the area of Cash Management. All of the programs including the Special Education program had the same financial reporting problems that the WIA program had in addition to the others noted.

According to the external audit, Chuuk State has not been learning from past audits since the same mistakes are mentioned audit after audit. Auditors at Deloitte and Touche said in the Summary of Auditor's Results that, "the State did not qualify as a low-risk auditee as that term is defined in OMB Circular A-133." They have not done so for a long time now.

...JEMCO

continued from page 2

Health and Education sector grant funding may be released but only if the National Government "maintains close and constant oversight of the total financial management of Chuuk State Government and ensures continued oversight of Compact funds by the

Chuuk Financial Control Commission.

Both Chuuk State's Director of the Department of Administration, Winiplat Bisalen and the Department's Chief Accountant, Randy Nunez submitted their resignations. They served their last day in office on September 14 according to Chuuk sources.

Though some say the resignations

were not the result of JEMCO's resolutions the resignations could be seen as the first step toward meeting JEMCO's requirements to professionalize the department. Epel Ilon said that he was not certain whether the State is required to have a person in the Director's position by September 30th in order to have the funds released on October 1. He said that the FSM had already been at work trying to identify a proper professional

candidate to help the Department before the committee's resolution was released.

The JEMCO resolution makes a special provision to help with the crisis. It says that 2008 public sector capacity building grant funds can be used to "secure the special expertise necessary to establish and maintain appropriately stringent financial controls and a basic cadre of professional personnel."

NEWS

Vice Chairman Jiang of the National People's Congress Heads High Level Delegation to FSM

*News Release
FSM Congress PIO*

PALIKIR, Pohnpei. September 14, 2007 – Vice Chairman Jiang Zhenghua of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress headed a high-level delegation to the Federated States of Micronesia from September 10 – 13, 2007.

Invited by the 15th FSM Congress, Vice Chairman Jiang had accepted and coincided his visit with the 18th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the FSM as established on September 11, 1989.

Vice Chairman Jiang and his delegation toured the historical Nan Madol Ruins and visited various sites and projects made possible through assistance from the Government of the PROC.

On the morning of Wednesday September 12, the Delegation attended the Opening day of the Second Regular Session of the 15th FSM Congress. Congress adopted a Resolution recognizing the visit

of the high level delegation from the National People's Congress.

During the afternoon, Vice Chairman Jiang and along with the Parliamentarians in his delegation paid a joint Courtesy Call on Speaker Isaac V. Figir and Vice Speaker Resio S. Moses. Following the joint Courtesy Call, a formal meeting was held between the delegation members and members of the 15th FSM Congress where both sides expressed the need to strengthen and further expand on the existing relationship between the two nations.

A Joint Press Communiqué was signed to express the mutual agreements for exchanges and cooperation between the national legislatures to better enhance the overall development of bilateral relations.

Speaker Figir hosted Chairman Jiang and his Delegation to a dinner reception later on that evening at the Cliff Rainbow Restaurant.

On the afternoon of September 13, Chairman Jiang and his Delegation departed Pohnpei.



Vice Chairman Jiang Zhenghua



Yap Students entertain dignitaries



FSM High Leadership

GEF PAS To Bring Nearly \$100M To The Pacific

SPREP

September 13 - Approximately \$100 million will be committed to the Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability programme (GEF PAS) in the Pacific over a three-year period. This announcement has been made by Monique Barbut, the CEO and Chairperson of the GEF during her statement at the opening of the SPREP meeting.

Along with the increase in funding, there are three main advantages the new GEF PAS programme will bring to the Pacific region. Pacific islands that benefit from the GEF will have their governments in the driving seat of all GEF projects. It will also see a growth of resources to these countries as well as provide 'in country' solutions for coping with the effects of a chang-

ing environment.

"In response to your top national priorities we will work through four areas of concern: biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation; international waters; and cross-cutting issues integrated across sectors such as land and water management," Barbut said.

The Biodiversity programme will focus upon the conservation and sustainable use of Pacific forest resources; management of coastal and marine protected areas; and prevention and control of invasive alien species.

It is proposed that there be a 2-part system for the Climate change programme that will look at both mitigation and adaptation. Renewable energy

projects and energy efficient buildings could be an aspect of mitigation but adaptation to climate change will have a more critical role involving work towards climate proofing infrastructure in the Pacific islands.

"Adaptation funding from the GEF, including the climate change adaptation funds, will support the Pacific small island developing states' work to identify and implement suitable adaptation measures, including the integration of adaptation into core development sectors such as agriculture and food security, access to drinking and irrigation water, health and disaster risk management," she continued.

With International Waters, future priorities of GEF PAS also hope to establish an integrated water management sys-

tem including surface and groundwater in all the Pacific Island states. In the crosscutting areas, the GEF PAS funding will direct efforts towards concerns such as solid waste management and tourism.

"As GEF CEO, I hold to the belief that everyone is entitled to prosper on a living planet, now and in the generations to come. I invite you to wayfind with me on the journey ahead, and commit to the evolving GEF-Pacific Alliance for Sustainability."

Over the last 15 years, GEF has provided approximately \$86 million to 14 of the Pacific island countries in the Region. These have been to progress work in biodiversity, climate change and persistent organic pollutants. Last year the GEF was replenished at \$3.13 billion dollars.

Six-peet for Pohnpei at the All Micronesia Fishing Tournament

Pohnpei Fishing Club

The Pohnpei Fishing Club sent two teams to participate in the 15th Annual All Micronesia Tournament held in Majuro on the 1st and 2nd of September. This year's event attracted anglers from Guam, Saipan, Taiwan, New Zealand, the United States mainland as well as teams from Majuro, Kwajalein and, of course, Pohnpei.

During the two days of fishing, a total of 12 Pacific Blue Marlin were caught and eight of those were tagged and released to be caught another day. The largest marlin was brought in by the Majuro Billfish Club XXXX team and set a new tournament record at 597 pounds. The XXXX team, captained by Ben Reimers, received a \$10,000 cash prize for breaking the record that was previously set at the 2001 All-Mike, a 562 pounder by Kyle Aliven.

On the first day of fishing, the Continental-Pohnpei Fishing Club team, captained by Noel

Boylan, with team members Kumer Panuelo and Sonny Sultan, caught an amazing four marlin and had a couple more escape. Their 333 pound marlin was the second largest for the tournament and the largest caught by a visiting team which earned them a \$3,000 cash prize. The other three fish were considerably smaller and were tagged and released. Each tagged fish is worth 200 points, so after the first day of fishing, this team had 933 points - well ahead of the competition. They didn't catch any point fish on the second day, but their 933 points held up and they brought home the Tournament First Place Team Trophy.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club has brought home at least one of these two top prizes every year for the past seven years, since the 2001 All Mike.

The Continental-Pohnpei Fishing Club Team #2, captained by Alex Tretnoff Sr. and crewed by Alex Tretnoff Jr., tagged and released a marlin on the second day and fin-



(Left to Right) Miss All Micronesia Handelele Cari Maddision Kumer Panuelo, Sonny Sultan and Noel Boylan

ished in the middle of the pack with 200 points.

There were also several wahoo and barracuda caught, a few tuna, but only one mahi mahi. The largest of the Barracuda, Wahoo and Mahi Mahi were worth \$500 each and the largest Tuna earned

the Guam CPA team a \$1,000 prize.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club would like to express their appreciation to Continental Micronesia for their support and invite everyone to view the First Place Team Trophy at the Continental office.

POHNPEI FISHING CLUB ANNOUNCES

A half-day JACKPOT TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, 22 September 2007

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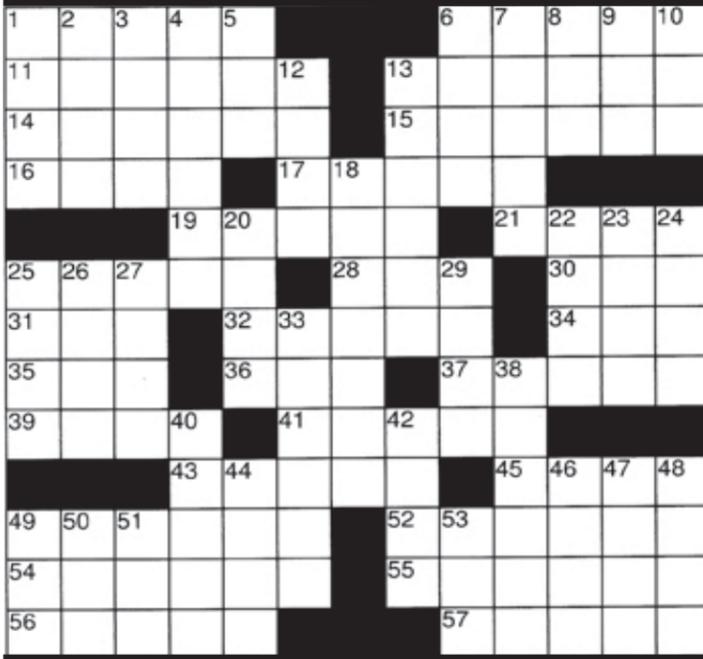
BBQ & Drinks at the Weigh-in - 1:00 - 2:00pm at PCR Restaurant

SAFETY BRIEFING AND REGISTRATION

5:30 to 7:00pm, Friday, 21 September, at PCR Restaurant

One-Day Club Membership - only \$5.00

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

Across

- 1. Measure of gold purity
- 6. Intentions
- 11. Spring flowers
- 13. Baseball group
- 14. Silver confetti
- 15. Flashy
- 16. Rim
- 17. Give a lecture
- 19. Metal man
- 21. Openhanded blow
- 25. Prickly desert items
- 28. Gotcha!
- 30. Wood chopper
- 31. Relative of 28 Across
- 32. Honkers
- 34. Sickly
- 35. Stick
- 36. Assembly is required for this
- 37. Everglades bird
- 39. Putin's veto
- 41. By law
- 43. Strange
- 45. Smallest particle
- 49. Hope to achieve
- 52. Fleet
- 54. College employee

FLASHY

- 55. Petty officers
 - 56. Polka dots
 - 57. Media people
- DOWN**
- 1. Go fly a _____
 - 2. Like the Kalahari
 - 3. Boxing place
 - 4. Make yourself heard
 - 5. Player's peg
 - 6. Sassy
 - 7. Bowling alleys
 - 8. Turkish title
 - 9. Cashew, for example
 - 10. Observe
 - 12. Neatnik's least favorite companion
 - 13. Hate hate hate
 - 18. Chicken choice
 - 20. Swine's sound
 - 22. Lion's home
 - 23. Car bar
 - 24. Animal fur
 - 25. on the cob
 - 26. Greeting to Sinbad
 - 27. Cryptographer's case
 - 29. Like people who say 26 down, often
 - 33. More smarmy
 - 38. Compelling charm
 - 40. Chubby Checker's dance
 - 42. Aussie aloha
 - 44. Time periods
 - 46. Domesticated
 - 47. Arty tributes
 - 48. best friend
 - 49. Tummy muscles
 - 50. Have dinner
 - 51. Champion
 - 53. Sales

Word Search - Fisher Fowl

With striking white foreheads, tails, and shoulders, it's easy to spot Steller's sea eagles. These adept fishermen, which breed only in Russia, are big birds, weighing up to twice as much as their relatives, the North American bald eagles.

- FLYING
- GLIDE
- HABITS
- HEAD
- HUNTING
- KAMCHATKA
- KOREA
- LAKE
- LARGE
- LEGS
- MIGRATE
- BEAK
- BREED
- BROWNISH BODY
- CLUTCH
- COAST
- EAGLET
- EGGS
- FEATHERS



- FEED
- FISH
- NEST
- PLUMAGE
- POWERFUL
- PREDATOR
- PREY
- ROOST
- RUSSIA
- SALMON (food)
- SIBERIA
- SOAR
- STELLER'S sea eagle
- TAIL
- TALONS
- WHITE
- SHOULDERS
- WILD
- WINGS

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The World's Favorite Verse

There was a time when the most well known verse in the entire Bible was John 3:16. I remember watching sporting events on television when I was younger and you would almost always see someone holding up a sign with that verse on it. John 3:16 is a wonderful verse that should be studied in great detail; however, I believe that Matthew 7:1 has replaced it as the most well known verse. Even if you do not realize it, you probably know what Matthew 7:1 says, "judge not that you be not judged." Before becoming a Christian in 1999, I knew this verse well and was not afraid to use it on anyone telling me that I was doing something wrong. The problem with that is that I may have known the words, but I did not know what the verse *meant*. To get to the meaning of this verse, we must see what the Bible says

about this same subject or idea in other verses.

First, let us look at what the verse is not saying. Jesus is not condemning all judging. If He were then it would be sinful for even a judge elected or appointed for government. This clearly is not the case since the Bible tells us that governments are put in place to punish evildoers (Romans 13:1-7). How could a government do this without sinning if in fact all judging is sin?

Second, Jesus is not condemning the marking of a false teacher. This is easily seen by the fact that the very same chapter that contains this verse also says, "beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing." How are we to know who the false prophets are? "You shall know them by their

fruits." In order to avoid a false teacher, I must examine the things they do in light of the revealed word of God and then make a judgment based on my observation.

Third, Jesus is not condemning a person who makes a judgment based on hard evidence. In 2nd Thessalonians 3:6, Paul told the Christians of Thessalonica to "withdraw from every brother that walks disorderly." How can a congregation of the Lord's church decide if someone is walking disorderly without first making a judgment? If, like in the Corinthian church, a man is living in open fornication he should be withdrawn from. However, if we decided that making any type of judgment was wrong, this would be impossible to do.

Now that we know what Jesus is not saying we must ask, "What *is* He saying?" The answer to that question comes from studying this verse in its context and in light of other verses that deal with judgment that is condemned.

Studying the context in any verse is the key to getting to the meaning of it. "Context" means the things that are happening around the verse that tell you what it is saying. For example if I asked you what the word Kaselehlie means you might say, "hello." However, what does it mean in this sentence, "Mike left the building and said Kaselehlie." In that sentence the word means goodbye. You cannot know the true meaning of any word or sentence without knowing the context.

Tide Table September 19 - October 2, 2007				
POHNPEI, KOSRAE			CHUUK	
Wednesday	19 Wed	26 Wed	19 Wed	26 Wed
	12:50AM 2.1 04:54AM 2.4 10:53AM 1.5 06:41PM 3.5	02:42AM 4.6 09:00AM 0.7 03:06PM 4.3 09:07PM 0.8	08:40AM -0.1 05:00PM 1.7	01:55AM 2.0 08:31AM 0.0 02:38PM 1.5 08:24PM 0.3
Thursday	20 Thu	27 Thu	20 Thu	27 Thu
	10:08AM 1.7 08:37PM 3.2	03:15AM 4.6 09:24AM 0.7 03:33PM 4.6 09:44PM 0.7	08:37AM -0.2 05:41PM 1.5	02:26AM 1.8 08:34AM 0.1 02:49PM 1.8 09:07PM 0.2
Friday	21 Fri	28 Fri	21 Fri	28 Fri
	08:10AM 1.6 11:57PM 3.5	03:47AM 4.3 09:48AM 0.7 04:02PM 4.8 10:21PM 0.7	08:31AM -0.2 11:26PM 1.6	02:53AM 1.4 08:34AM 0.2 03:05PM 2.0 09:53PM 0.2
Saturday	22 Sat	29 Sat	22 Sat	29 Sat
	07:47AM 1.3 02:15PM 2.7 06:28PM 2.3	04:18AM 4.0 10:10AM 0.9 04:32PM 4.8 11:00PM 0.9	08:23AM -0.2	03:13AM 1.1 08:27AM 0.2 03:24PM 2.2 10:45PM 0.2
Sunday	23 Sun	30 Sun	23 Sun	30 Sun
	12:52AM 3.9 07:56AM 1.1 02:07PM 3.1 07:17PM 1.8	04:48AM 3.5 10:31AM 1.1 05:04PM 4.6 11:43PM 1.2	12:13AM 1.8 08:19AM -0.2 03:17PM 1.0 06:18PM 0.8	03:14AM 0.7 08:13AM 0.1 03:45PM 2.2
Monday	24 Mon	01 Mon	24 Mon	01 Mon
	01:32AM 4.2 08:14AM 0.9 02:20PM 3.5 07:55PM 1.4	05:15AM 3.0 10:47AM 1.3 05:38PM 4.4	12:50AM 2.0 08:21AM -0.2 02:43PM 1.1 07:01PM 0.6	12:05AM 0.3 02:18AM 0.4 07:57AM -0.1 04:07PM 2.2
Tuesday	25 Tue	02 Tue	25 Tue	02 Tue
	02:08AM 4.5 08:36AM 0.7 02:41PM 4.0 08:31PM 1.0	12:35AM 1.6 05:37AM 2.5 10:54AM 1.6 06:17PM 4.0	01:23AM 2.0 08:25AM -0.1 02:34PM 1.2 07:42PM 0.4	07:46AM -0.3 04:30PM 2.1

The context of Matthew 7:1 is the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is teaching in this sermon about Kingdom living. Throughout the sermon He compares the way we ought to live in the Kingdom with the way the sects of Judaism taught (especially the Pharisees). The Pharisees made a practice of judging people for doing the very things they themselves did. This is made obvious by reading just a few sentences down from our initial verse, where Jesus says, "Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye." From this we see then that Jesus is condemning a hypocritical judgment that does not first consider itself.

By comparing this verse to other verses that deal with the same subject we can see that this verse applies to other situations. In John 7:24 these words are recorded, "Do not judge according to appearances, but judge with righteous judgment." It is one thing to judge based on evidence, it is quite another to judge on *appearances*. For example, a close friend of mine used to do mission work in New Zealand. One evening this friend was seen coming out of a bar. Someone seeing him jumped to the conclusion that he had been in their drinking and went and told several people. Had this person done just a little bit of investigating he would have found that my friend had not been in the bar drinking, but rather had gone in there to try and talk another Christian man into leaving the bar and returning to his family. This is the type of judgment that Jesus is condemning in Matthew 7:1.

Christians need to heed Jesus warnings about judging in an unrighteous way. The judging business is a serious one that need not be taken lightly. As one old time preacher put it "we should strive not to be judges, only fruit inspectors."

Scott Shanahan

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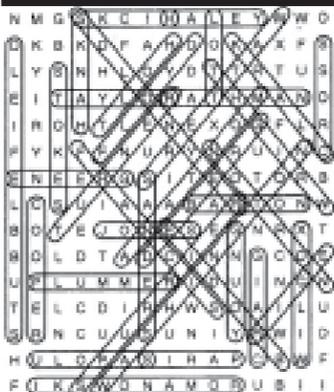
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For information, contact:

Emy at 920-1829.

The deadline for ads and news items for the next issue is September 28

LAST Issue's Solution



LAST Issue's Solution



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ANOTHER CLASSIC
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There was a young girl from Rabat,
who had triplets, Nat, Pat and Tat;

It was fun in the breeding,
But hell in the feeding,

When she found she had no tit for Tat.

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HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Island Food Presents in PNG Video Seminar

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

On 7 September, 2007, the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), supported by the Media Instructional Technology Center (MITC) of the College of Micronesia (COM)-FSM, presented a paper to a nutrition seminar titled "Nutrition in PNG- present situation, challenges and solutions", held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG).

An exciting thing about this activity was that it was a video seminar bringing participants together from the PNG Department of Health, PNG Association of Public Health (APH), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Clinton Foundation, and the international linkages, including Pohnpei, Fiji (USP), and two universities in Australia (University of Queensland and Australian National University).

Luciano Matthias of MITC explained that Pohnpei was connected via the Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite (PEACESAT) linkage based in Hawaii, and that the transmission from PNG went first to Washington DC, to Hawaii, and finally to MITC at COM-FSM in Palikir, Pohnpei. The purpose of PEACESAT is for furthering education and health.

The main presentation focused on the findings of the PNG National Micronutrient Survey, conducted in 2005 as a project of the PNG Department of Health, University of Papua New Guinea, UNICEF and CDC.

IFCP spoke on the topic "Addressing the Pacific Obesity problem- the Micronesian Local Foods Initiatives." The four participants from Pohnpei were Adelino Lorens, Dr. Lois Englberger and Sylvia Nennis of IFCP and Luciano Mathias. The group in Pohnpei was the only group making a presentation other than the three presenters in PNG.

Wila Saweri, from the PNG Department of Health, who chaired the conference, pointed out, "A video seminar can save a lot of money, like for travel". During the conference, the camera moved from the presenter or facilitator to the power point presentation, and from one site to another, so that conference participants at each site could see one another and also ask questions.

Adelino Lorens explained IFCP's formation and its vision, promoting island foods for food security, health, economics, environment and culture. Dr. Englberger explained how consuming local foods can help protect against obesity and disease such as diabetes, heart attack, cancer, vitamin A deficiency and anemia. She presented examples of IFCP awareness materials and activities, conservation of local food crops, local food processing and research, including the Traditional Food for Health project, a case study in the global health project led by the Centre for Indigenous People's Nutrition and Environment.



Adelino Lorens, Dr. Lois Englberger, and Sylvia Nennis (from right to left), from IFCP, are seated at the MITC of the College of Micronesia, taking part here in a video seminar with Papua New Guinea.

Thanks are extended to the PNG team of Wila Saweri, Maxine Whittaker, and Daniel Olen who did an amazing job of organizing, Clementine Yaman (UNICEF PNG), Russell Kitau (PNG APH), the Pohnpei team including Gordon Segal and Bruce Robert (COM-

FSM), and all presenters and participants, making this quite a unique experience. Thanks also to Dwain Tomavoko and Dodi Doiwa of the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network, Youth & Information, who helped to make it all happen.

Recipe of the Week

Green Papaya Salad

- 1 small green papaya
- 1 small almost ripe papaya
- 1 tablespoon coconut or salad oil
- 2 tablespoons lemon [or other citrus] juice
- Salt, pepper

1. Remove skin from papaya and grate (about 2 cups).
2. Soak grated papaya in salted water for about 20 minutes, then rinse and drain.
3. Mix together: coconut or salad oil, lemon juice, and a pinch of pepper.
4. Pour mixture over grated papaya and let stand for at least 10 minutes, then serve.

NOTE: A pinch of salt is optional, but for health reasons it is best to avoid salt when possible.
Taken from the Fiji Food and Nutrition Newsletter.

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Team FSM Wins Gold At Samoa SPG

By **JIM TOBIN**

With only 9 FSM athletes competing at the recently completed 2007 South Pacific Games in Samoa one would think our medal hopes would be bleak. Not so, if you have a world class weightlifter and 5 strong, disciplined, well trained wrestlers. The Federated States of Micronesia finished a super 8th place in the final overall South Pacific Game's medal tally out of 22 participating Pacific countries and territories, winning 6 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 1 bronze medal for a total of 13 medals.

The South Pacific Games was held in Apia, Samoa from August 25 to September 08. The games included 33 sports and over 4,000 athletes. The FSM was the second smallest delegation. TEAM FSM was comprised of 9 athletes, 2 coaches, 2 referees and 1 Chef de Mission (chief of delegation). Due to the high costs of airfares to Samoa and accommodation at the athletes' village in Samoa, the FSM could not afford to send its men's baseball and women's fast-pitch softball teams. In past games both teams had won medals.

TEAM FSM included Manuel Minginfel – male weightlifter (Yap State), Keitani Graham – male wrestler (Chuuk State), Marcel Yatilman – male wrestler (Chuuk State), Kun Killin – male wrestler (Kosrae State), Dundy Dosalia – male wrestler (Pohnpei State), Larry Uwelar – male wrestler (Yap State), Jack Howard – male runner (Chuuk State), Maria Ikelap – female runner (Chuuk State), Debra Daniel – female swimmer (Pohnpei State), Marcellus Akapito – athletics coach (Chuuk State), Sweeter Daniel – swimming coach (Pohnpei State), Edwin Sione – wrestling referee (Pohnpei State), Ramsie Joab – basketball referee (Pohnpei State) and Lestly Ashby – FSM Chef de Mission (Pohnpei State).

This is the best that the FSM has ever finished in any South Pacific Games. Ahead of the FSM in 7th place on the medal tally was Palau, with a delegation of over 100 athletes and coaches. Palau won 9 gold medals and 19 total medals. In 9th place was the Cook Islands finishing with 5 gold medals and 20 total medals, with a delegation of over 200. The medal tally is based on gold medals won.

Leading the FSM athletes was Manuel Minginfel who won 3 gold medals and set 19 regional and South Pacific Games records in the 56 kg (kilograms) men's weightlifting category. He lifted 124 kg in the snatch, 152 kg in the clean & jerk, for a total weight of 276 kg. He also won the Sinclair Award as the overall strongest male weightlifter in all weight categories (total weight lifted divided by body weight). Minginfel has become a South Pacific Games legend winning 9 gold medals at the last three games (1999 in Guam, 2003 in Fiji and

2007 in Samoa).

In wrestling, the 5 FSM wrestlers did an outstanding job winning 10 medals in the greco-roman wrestling and free style wrestling disciplines. There were 7 weight categories in each wrestling discipline. The results were:

Dundy Dosalia 60 kg
Greco Roman – Silver
Free Style - Silver
Marcel Yatilman 66 kg
Greco Roman – Silver
Free Style - Gold
Keitani Graham 74 kg
Greco Roman – Gold
Free Style - Gold
Larry Uwelar 84 kg
Greco Roman – Silver
Free Style – Bronze
Kun Killin 120+ kg
Greco Roman – Silver
Free Style – Silver

The FSM wrestlers, representing all 4 FSM States, won 3 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 1 bronze medal. Most of the time, the FSM wrestled in gold medal matches, winning three and losing six to more experience Samoa wrestlers. Our wrestlers were led by Keitani Graham who finished undefeated winning 2 gold medals and Marcel Yatilman winning 1 gold medal and 1 silver medal. The countries participating in wrestling were Samoa, American Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Marshall Islands and FSM.

In athletics (track and field), the FSM did not win a medal but Jack Howard ran 10.90 in the 100 meter dash and qualified for the semi-finals. Maria Ikelap also reached the semi-final in the 100 meter dash. Athletics was the most competitive sport of the games with all 22 countries and territories participating.

In swimming, the FSM had only one swimmer competing in Samoa. The Pohnpei Swimming Pool has been closed since August 2006. Many FSM swimmers could not properly train and chose not to compete. Debra Daniel, training in a river, did well reaching the finals in the 50m (meter) backstroke, 100m backstroke, 200m backstroke, 200m breaststroke and 400m IM. She set personal best times in the 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke and 400m IM. She was the strongest female swimmer from the Micronesian region.

Later this month, Minginfel will compete in the 2007 IWF World Weightlifting Championships in Thailand. Last year, Minginfel won a silver medal in the 62 kg men's category in the clean and jerk at the world championships. This year, Minginfel will compete in the lower weight category of 56 kg and could possibly win multiple medals. He has already qualified for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Graham, Killin and Uwelar will compete in the 2007 FILA World Wrestling Championships in Ajibijan next week. The goal is for 1 or more of the 3 FSM wrestlers to qualify for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. The FSM National Olympic Committee applied for and

XIII th SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES					
Position		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 New Caledonia	90	69	60	227
2	 Tahiti	44	43	32	119
3	 Samoa	43	33	50	126
4	 Fiji	40	54	42	136
5	 Papua New Guinea	38	24	33	95
6	 Nauru	15	9	12	36
7	 Palau	9	4	3	16
8	 Federated States of Micronesia	6	6	1	13
9	 Cook Islands	5	9	8	22
10	 Tonga	3	14	10	27
11	 American Samoa	3	8	11	22
12	 Tokelau	3	1	1	5
13	 Wallis and Futuna	3	0	1	4
14	 Vanuatu	2	1	9	12
15	 Solomon Islands	1	12	14	27
16	 Guam	1	2	6	9
17	 Kiribati	0	4	2	6
18	 Marshall Islands	0	1	1	2
19	 Tuvalu	0	1	1	2
20	 Niue	0	1	1	2
21	 Norfolk Islands	0	1	0	1
22	 Northern Marianas	0	0	0	0
	Total	306	297	306	909

received special financial grants from the International Olympic Committee and International Federations to participate in the weightlifting and wrestling world championships. Howard, Ikelap and Daniel will continue intensive training for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games as wild card entries in athletics and swimming. The FSM will also be sending a male swimmer to the games.

Sione was the only certified islander to officiate the wrestling competition at the games, with all of the other wrestling officials coming from Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Joab was invited to the games by FIBA Oceania, as a basketball referee, to take the FIBA (International Basketball Association) international basketball referee exam. He refereed 8 basketball games, passed the FIBA referee physical fitness test and took the FIBA referee written exam. FIBA will announce the final exam results in the next few weeks. If Joab passes, he will be the first basketball referee in the Micronesian region to hold an international basketball referee certificate. If certified, Joab will be eligible to referee at the FIBA basketball world championships and the Olympic Games.

Samoa was the last games to use the name South Pacific Games. The games will now be called the Pacific Games to recognize the participation of the north Pacific and Micronesian region. In 2009, the Cook Islands will host the Pacific Mini Games and in 2011, New Caledonia will host the Pacific Games. Wallis and Futuna was chosen as the host of the 2013 Pacific Mini Games at the Pacific Games Council general assembly held during the games.

TEAM FSM would like to thank the FSM National Government, especially President Mori, Vice President Alik, Speaker Figir and the FSM Congress, for funding the team's travel, stipends uniforms, insurance and accommodation. The team would also like to thank local business sponsors Palm Terrace Shopping Center, Bank of the FSM, Moylan's Insurance, Bank of Guam, Western Union and CTSI, Peppermill Restaurant, Island Apparel, Medpharm, Amcres Shipping, Matson Navigation, Pohnpei Arts & Crafts, Hornet Sporting Goods (Guam), Pohnpei Waste Management and the College of Micronesia faculty and staff. Special thanks to Asterio Takesy, the Executive Director of SPREP residing on Samoa, who sponsored many team functions and dinners and made Samoa feel like home.

Our athletes, coaches and officials were great FSM ambassadors. In the past, most South Pacific islanders have thought that FSM stood for the Fiji School of Medicine. Everyday during the games, the Samoa newspapers and the regional television broadcaster, seen by 42 countries worldwide, listed the top eight countries on the overall medal tally and everyday the Federated States of Micronesia was on the list. From first hand knowledge, I can say that everyone who was in Samoa for the South Pacific Games now know that FSM stands for the Federated States of Micronesia. Of the 9 FSM athletes, 6 won medals. These were the best trained athletes the FSM has ever sent to a South Pacific Games. Congratulations to our FSM athletes, coaches and officials. Well done!