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Chief Justice Andon Amaraich an FSM founding father dies in Honolulu

Vice president Alik, "I owe the man. He was like a father to me."

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 27, 2010

Federated States of Micronesia, – The sitting Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court Andon Amaraich, one of the FSM's founding fathers died at Straub Hospital in Hawaii on January 26, 2010, at 9:00 in the morning Hawaii Time. He had been suffering from complications from pneumonia in Pohnpei and was referred to Straub on January 15. He was 77 years old.



More than the sum of his myriad accomplishments on behalf of the Federated States of Micronesia, Amaraich was a self educated man who, as the FSM's Vice President Alik Alik put it "knew how to manage people and to help them to grow."

The Vice President said that Amaraich, who served as the FSM's first Secretary for External Affairs under President Tosiwo Nakayama recruited him as a foreign service officer. "He raised me up and guided me as a Foreign Service officer," Alik said. The Vice President said that one of the most important things he learned from his mentor, "something he carries with him until today" was to always think of the FSM as a nation and to work with that value in



Andon Amaraich 1970 Congress of Micronesia

mind.

Alik said that was the most important thing to him in his capacity as a government representative. Talking to the Vice Presi-

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Pohnpei investment environment under review

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

Peilapalap, Pohnpei, FSM— The Foreign Investment bill reviewed in the last issue of The Kaselehlie Press was not the bill that is currently being reviewed by the Pohnpei Legislature's Committee on Resources and Development. We were given the bill that Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa transmitted for consideration over a year ago. Since that time the bill has undergone some significant changes as most bills do as they are considered by lawmakers.

The bill as it currently stands is under review by the Committee on R&D chaired by Senator Peter M. Lohn and will likely face even more changes before L.B. No. 56-08 goes to the Legislature for a second reading. The copy of the bill that we have is L.D. 1. There will likely be at least an L.D. 2, meaning that there will likely be further changes before the bill is removed from the committee and goes to the legislature for its second reading.

The legislature received input from Pohnpei citizens including business owners and

the Committee on R&D took the bill back to committee for further consideration, more public hearings, and possible refinement.

There have been rumors and stirrings amongst Pohnpei constituents that the motivation behind the proposed bill was to deal with the concerns of the Joint Economic Management Committee regarding Pohnpei's current investment climate as a result of the law passed three years ago. JEMCO did not appropriate any Compact of Free Association funds for Private Sector Development in Pohnpei.

FSM's business climate has been rated by some international organizations as being poor in the extreme. A World Bank survey undertaken within the last two years that ranked island nations on a scale based on the ease of doing business ranked the FSM as being tied for dead last with Timor Leste. To be sure, the World Bank survey did not evaluate only Pohnpei's Foreign Investment law. Pohnpei is only one state in the FSM. The World Bank also considered other factors like communications capabilities, and the average amount of

time it takes to get a collection proceeding through the court system, amongst other considerations.

Long discussions have taken place wherever Pohnpeians gather, including on the Micronesian Seminar Forum, a public Internet bulletin board, debating whether or not JEMCO and the United States Government have overstepped their bounds in terms of Pohnpei's sovereignty. Some MicSem posters have said that they would like to see the Foreign Investment law remain exactly as it is as a matter of showing Pohnpei's self determination. Others say that it's time to move beyond the practice of protectionism so that consumers and the Pohnpei's economy can benefit.

Pohnpei's R&D committee, in its standing committee report on the current incarnation of the Foreign Investment Bill did not mention the issue of JEMCO's concerns.

The committee changed the opening Section of Chapter 7 of Title 37 of the Pohnpei Code relating to Foreign Investment to read as follows:

"The Legislature finds that a positive, healthy and vibrant climate for investment

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Pohnpei's Governor Ehsa in Philippines for medical reasons



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Australia Day in Pohnpei



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Volunteers support kingdom hall construction



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Photo - Micronesian Seminar - Trust Territory Collection University of Hawaii

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in this state is essential for the economic development of Pohnpei. It is with these thoughts in mind that a new chapter on foreign investment is being enacted into law. The intent and purpose of this new law is to strengthen Pohnpei's economy with dynamic, balanced and fair minded policies on investment and to enhance the government's abilities to encourage, promote and guide investment along productive lines that are urgently needed for the successful development of this state."

While 56-08 L.D. 1 does incorporate some elements of the Governor's original bill, there are some substantial changes.

The committee report says that the proposed law brings forward from the existing law the provision on who is required to obtain a permit with a few changes. The current requirement for large stockholders of permitted businesses to obtain duplicate permits in their own names is deleted. This, they said, was to make the law more consistent with the National Foreign Investment Permit law and an FSM Supreme Court ruling that requires businesses to acquire a business permit and rules out the requirement for personal permits in the national Foreign Investment Permit (FIP) law.

The Governor's bill designated that the Office of Economic Affairs should be the authority to handle the issuance of Foreign Investment Permits. The R&D committee report noted that the 2006 amendments on Foreign Investment sought to distance that office from the permitting process reasoning that the Office of Economic Affairs should be a facilitator and advocate for business development.

The current R&D report agrees with the 2006 reasoning that the foreign investment permitting process has more of a regulatory function and is not quite compatible with the promotional activities to be exer-

cised by an office dedicated to business advocacy. Since many of the new companies who might be applying for a FIP would likely need to be in contact with the Registrar of Corporations, they say, combining the two functions in one bureau which is already functioning out of the Attorney General's Office makes for more of a one stop permitting approach to forming new businesses.

The Committee also expressed concern that under the Governor's proposed law, one man would be charged with making decisions regarding Foreign Investments both in situations where the issuance of a permit is clear and in cases where issuance of a permit would effectively define policy. They said that those responsibilities should not be left up to one man to decide alone.

Just like the Governor's earlier bill, the proposed law would eliminate the Foreign Investment Board entirely. The bill allows for the folding in of qualified Foreign Investment Board employees into the Attorney Generals office.

The bill would additionally establish a new Discretionary Review Panel on Foreign Investment Permits (DRP-FIP) consisting of the Attorney General, the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Administrator of the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Administrator of the Office of Economic Affairs. If, however, the DRP-FIP is considering a Foreign Investment Permit for commercial fisheries or aquaculture, the Administrator of Fisheries and Aquaculture would replace the Administrator of the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure on the DRP-FIP.

The proposed law would establish four separate classes of applications for permits:

- 1. Open Category (Green List) which would be a general grant of authority to do business with no special condi-

See "Foreign Investment (2)" on next page

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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CORRECTIONS!

On the ninth page of the last issue of The Kaselehlie Press in the article regarding a contract signing for the Nanpil hydroelectric plant I wrote:

"Perman said that the Governor's office submitted a resolution to the Legislature, one that the Legislature passed, that provided for the Governor to act as an agent on behalf of PUC on the basis of PUC's own declaration that it was in a state of emergency."

The paragraph should have read as follows:

"Perman said that the PUC Board passed a resolution authorizing Governor Ehsa to act as an agent on their behalf."

The date that should have been published on the front page of the last issue was January 20, 2010 rather than 2009.

Former Senator Sailas Henry is from Mwoakilloa rather than Madolenihmw.

The editor apologizes for allowing these mistakes to pass into the published edition of the newspaper.

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...Foreign Investment (2)

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tions which can be applied. Permits in this category would be issued by the Registrar of Corporations. Conditions that would qualify a business to be issued a Green List permit include:

- a. Preferred joint venture sector which would include new businesses having no more than 40% foreign ownership.
- b. Initial capitalization sector which would require a minimum of \$250,000 initial investment, or \$50,000 for professional services (excluding businesses in the special investment sector)
- c. Special investment sector is a sector that allows for a business to have initial capitalization as in (b) above and not more than 49% ownership held by non-citizens in the company for service industries, retail trade, mineral resources and timber resources.
2. Discretionary Category (Amber List) which would be business ventures that do not meet the citizenship equity or initial capitalization requirements but that might still be good for the economy of Pohnpei. The DRP-FIP would need to meet and come to a positive consensus on

permits from the Amber List.

3. Prohibited Category (Red List) would be businesses in which foreign investors would not be allowed to participate in any way shape or form. The current incarnation of the Foreign Investment bill lists no business sectors in the bill at the current time but has reserved a place for future amendments to the bill which may add Red List ventures.

4. Temporary Category would be businesses in both the Green and Amber lists that could be issued three year permits by the Registrar of Corporations without the need of DRP-FIP concurrence. No temporary permits would be allowed for a business in a sector listed in the red list. The Registrar of Corporations could apply special conditions on reporting and other restrictions.

Durations of permits in each category are as follows:

1. Professional Services – 10 years
2. Green Permits – 25 years
3. Green permits with capitalization which qualifies a business for a 55 year development lease under Pohnpei law – 55 years
4. The term for Amber permits would be set in the permit as reviewed by

DRP-FIP

5. Temporary permits would be set in the permit as reviewed by DRP-FIP with a three year maximum limit.

The Registrar of Corporations would initially categorize applications he or she receives. The DRP-FIP would be given oversight authority and the ability to modify the Registrar's initial classification. The full process of permit issuance must be completed within 60 days. The government's decision on a permit can be appealed by the applicant for judicial review within 60 days of the decision.

The duty of permit holders to report on an annual basis is carried forward from the existing law but the 90 day deadline has been reduced to 60 days to provide consistency with the national reporting system.

The proposed law allows for exemptions for U.S. citizens as reciprocity under the Compact of Free Association treaty as amended. The exemptions apply only to the extent that citizens of the FSM are accorded the same privileges of investing and doing business within the United States. The exemptions apply to U.S. citizens or U.S. citizens joined with Micronesian citi-

zens. There is a \$10 application fee for an exemption certificate for a U.S. citizen.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to obtain an "ordinary permit" which can have a maximum term of 55 years.

The Registrar of Corporations is charged with annually reviewing the applications and reporting to the Governor and the Pohnpei Legislature on the issuance of exemption certificates and the impact of the Compact exemptions on the economy of Pohnpei.

There is a new section defining the terms of a grace period for changed circumstances. The new section is designed for normal Micronesian-owned businesses that unexpectedly find themselves subject to the foreign investment law because of such outside factors as death of the business owner and inheritance of part of the business by a non-citizen spouse, son, or daughter. The grace period is set for one year.

Holders of permits issued under previous laws would be recognized as valid under the new law. Any modifications to the existing permits would be governed by the new law.



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World Leaders share similar thoughts on responsibility for Climate Change

FSM Information Services

January 21, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei – Did you know that Pope Benedict XVI gave a message on World Peace Day that parallels President Mori's views on the environment as can be seen from his previous speeches at the United Nations high level event on climate change in 2007 and a speech he gave in Rome, Italy on biodiversity in 2008?

On January 1, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI sent out a Message of His Holiness for the celebration of World Day of Peace. The message he focused on this year was "If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation." In the message, the Pope discusses the fact that in a globalized world, there is a strict connection between protecting the environment and promoting peace.

The papal message underlined the fact that protecting the natural environment is a challenge all people must face together, recognizing that they have an obligation to respect a gift God created for all.

This is the same message that President Mori gave to the high level event on climate change at the UN in September of 2007 where he told the plenary that "we are all obliged to be responsible stewards of this creation called Earth, and all that is on it or in it. Up until this time, however, man has not been doing a good job meeting that responsibility." He went on to end his remarks by saying that he hopes our generation can make a historic turn from pollution to protection and show respect for God's blessed environment.

Then, later in Rome, Italy in February of 2008, President Mori gave remarks at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and said, "All of us, whether we be from developed or developing nations, political leaders, scientists, social activists or individual citizens, (we) share the common responsibility assigned to us by our Divine Creator to be stewards of His creation."

It is this common theme of being stewards of the Earth that Pope Benedict XVI refers to in his message where he states that "the environment must be seen as God's gift to all people, and the use we make of it entails a shared responsibility for all humanity, especially the poor and future generations."

It is good to see that leaders from around the world share the same vision for taking care of the planet.

Sixth Annual Pohnpei Locally Managed Marine Areas Network cross-site visit on Peniou Island

Conservation
Society of Pohnpei

Home to white sandy beaches, healthy sea bird refuge, outstanding reef and seagrass cover, pristine Peniou Island is truly a natural treasure trove and a spectacular cultural site to host the largest ever community based MPA network meeting. This year marked Pohnpei's 6th annual Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) network cross-site visit. The cross site is a time for Community Conservation Officers (CCO) from the communities island wide to get together and share challenges and success and inspire active community ownership and foremost frontline care takers of Pohnpei's natural heritage. Ranking community chiefs, Kitti municipality mayor, community church leaders, Community Conservation Officers, and key government resource management agencies representatives, municipal level policy makers and TNC Micronesia program staff were among the over 100 participants. The communities of Peniou Island did an amazing job hosting the three day event. In particular, CSP would like to thank high ranking traditional leaders Loapoanmoar Kitti, Mr. Sipiriano Pablo, Soulikin Mwoakot, Soulikin Mwudok, Soulik en Pohrasap, Lepenmadau en Oloapoal, and Mayor of Kitti, Mr. Koropih David, for the strong leadership and vision to once



again re-establish Peniou island as a key conservation area as it once served in the olden days.

It is quite clear that community leaders are once again retaking their place guiding their people and communities as best stated by Soulikin Mwoakot "our actions in our time must have in mind the impact it would have on at least seven generations, we have a moral obligation to ensure they also enjoy these natural gifts we enjoy in our time".

One of the main issues that drew some heated debate was the formation of a new protected area at Peniou Island. Overwhelming community leaders and members strongly support however there present community leaders who felt that another protected area would limit their communities fishing options as well as take away a valuable sand mining source. The proposed area has significant biodiversity and cultural value and truly worth all the protection efforts it could. It is encourag-

ing and promising that community leaders are talking with each other to address the common good of Pohnpei and the future generations and set aside Peniou as an important "Nahk" locally managed site..

The Society would like to thank the LMMA, The David Lucille Packard Foundation and the family and owner of Peniou island Mr. and Mrs. Perty Santos and extended families with title and heir to Peniou estate for the valuable support enabling the greatest ever MPA network exchange meeting of all time since the inception of this important network in Pohnpei-a growing strength for communities.

President calls for updating existing Sectoral Plans with new policy on Climate Change

FSM Information Services

January 25, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei – With the approval of the new FSM Nationwide Climate Change Policy last month, President Mori is now calling on all Department, Office and Agency Heads to revisit and update the existing sectoral plans and develop new ones for sectors that have no plans, incorporating climate change measures where necessary.

The new Climate Change Policy establishes the climate change vision and goals of the FSM and the process to attain these goals. While the main solutions to remedy climate change by reducing and/or eliminating the emission of greenhouse gasses requires adequate international agreements, this policy details FSM's part in both mitigating greenhouse gases and adapting to climate change.

The new Policy calls for the implementa-

tion of climate change in the FSM by mainstreaming and integrating climate change into other policies, strategies and action plans. Currently, climate change has been reflected in some of the sectors and in the FSM Strategic Development Plan and the Infrastructure Development Plan. President Mori has designated the Office of Environment and Emergency Management as the lead agency to assist all departments in adequately reflecting climate change measures in their sectoral plan development.

The President has set a deadline of December 1, 2010 for the time by which all relevant sectoral plans are to be developed or updated with climate change measures.

A copy of the FSM Nationwide Climate Change Policy can be viewed on the website of the President at the following link: http://www.fsmpio.fm/Nationwide_Climate_Change_policy.pdf

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...Andon Amaraich

Continued from front page

dent it was obvious that Amaraich's other traits were even more important to him as a man. "Whenever I had been overseas and returned I always stopped and greeted him, and Andon would always smile like, you know, he's really happy, like 'Hey! There's my boy! I raised you up.' I could tell he was really proud of that."

He talked about the last time he saw his good friend. "I asked him how he was doing and he didn't say anything. He just smiled and started punching me to let me know that he was still strong."

Alik became emotional, "I owe the man. He was like a father to me."

Amaraich and his wife Pwerech Smail Amaraich of Tama, Mortlocks had eleven children of their own. Just the same he was like a father to many other people in the FSM.

His secretary, Lori Bernet had only worked for him for two years and had decided, "You cannot find a judge like him. We're going to miss him. I never had such a very nice boss. I considered him like a father."

Craig Reffner was his staff attorney for many years. When Reffner was in the FSM he always spoke highly of his boss. In an email he said, "I worked with Judge Amaraich and considered him to be an extraordinary person. He -- one man -- was instrumental in changing the political and social landscape of the Pacific. The FSM will not be the same without him; neither will I, nor anyone else who had the distinction of knowing him."

Bethwel Henry, one of the FSM's founding fathers in his own right said that Amaraich and he served together as far back as 1965 in the first Congress of Micronesia. "There were two Senators from Chuuk. One of them was Tosiwo Nakayama who became the FSM's first president and the other was Andon Amaraich," Henry remembered. "There were 33 of us in the first Congress of Micronesia and Andon was the hardest working of all of us."

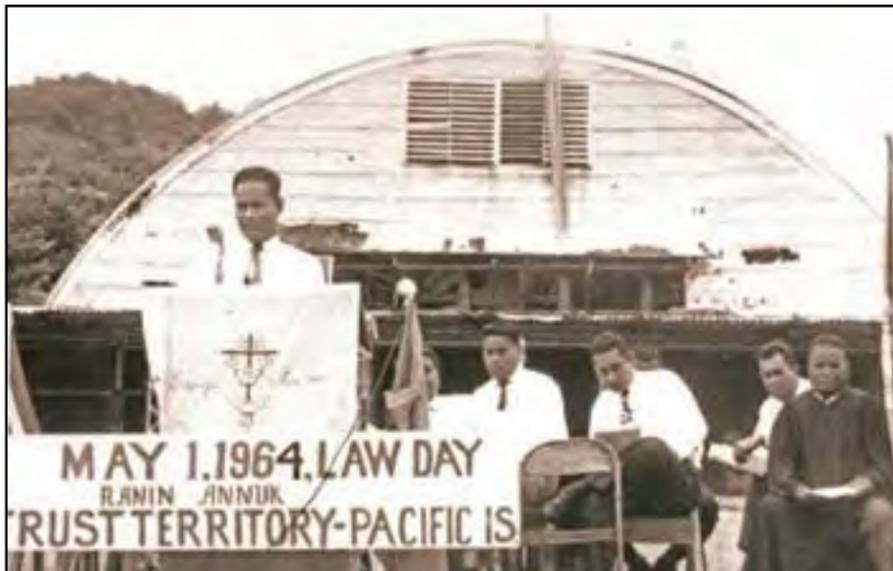
"He was a self educated man and he learned the law very quickly," Henry said.

Chief Justice Amaraich, who was born in 1932 on Ta, one of the islands within the Morlock Islands in Chuuk, graduated from the Pacific Islands Central School (PICS) and then attended one summer session at the College of Guam. That was the extent of his formalized education.

He began his professional career as an elementary school teacher in Chuuk from 1951 through 1952.

A press release by the FSM Public Information Office said that Amaraich then went on to serve in the Truk District Court as the Assistant Clerk of Courts (1955-56), and then as the Chief Public Defender for ten years followed by the position of Assistant District Administrator for Public Affairs under the Trust Territory Government.

Amaraich also served in the legislative branch in the Truk District Congress, the Council of Micronesia for the Trust Territory Government in 1959 (representing



Andon Amaraich speaks at a Law Day celebration in Chuuk, in 1964

Photo - Micronesian Seminar - Deanne Seimars - Willens Collection

Chuuk State), and the Congress of Micronesia Senate from 1965 to 1974. In Congress, he was the Chairman on the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and a member of the Ways and Means Committee. Starting in 1962, he served as the Micronesian Advisor to the U.S. Delegation to the Trusteeship Council and continued in this capacity a total of three times. Considered to be one of his greatest accomplishments, he served as chairman of the Commission on the Future Political Status and Transition from 1976 to 1987, which led to his appointment as the chief negotiator on the Compact of Free Association with the United States Government. Later, he was a special consultant to the Micronesian Delegation to the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference. Bethwel Henry said that under his leadership the 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone was established.

Amaraich also served as legal staff to the 1975 Micronesian Constitutional Convention where he personally drafted many of the provisions of the FSM Constitution.

In 1979, at the establishment of the FSM Constitutional Government, Amaraich was appointed to be the first Secretary of the FSM Department of External Affairs under President Tosiwo Nakayama. He served for both terms under President Nakayama from 1979 to 1987, and then served in the same capacity under President John Haglelgam until 1990. During these years he played an instrumental role in developing diplomatic relationships with other nations in the Pacific and the world, established missions in Tokyo, Fiji (Suva), Washington D.C., Guam and Honolulu, and almost single-handedly organized the Department of External Affairs.

In 1990, President Haglelgam nominated Secretary Amaraich as an Associate Justice for the FSM Supreme Court based on his "significant legal training and court experience", combined with his lead role in negotiation of the Compact, a very complex legal document, to satisfy the statutory requirement regarding qualification of a Supreme Court Judge. He served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the FSM from June 1992 to 1994.

In 1993, President Bailey Olter nominated Amaraich as Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court. He was, at the time, serving as the Acting Chief Justice following the resignation of Chief Justice Edward C. King. President Olter wrote in his nomination transmittal letter to Congress that, "(Ama-

raich's) career of public service is without equal. His qualifications for the office of the Chief Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia are truly beyond question." He further said that, "I have every reason to believe that Andon Amaraich will not be simply a competent Chief Justice. I hold great hope that he will be a great Chief Justice." During the Second Special Session of the 8th FSM Congress in 1994, Amaraich was confirmed as Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court and for the first time in the history of the nation, all branches of the FSM National Government were entrusted to a citizen of the FSM.

In addition to the many government positions he held during his years before becoming Chief Justice, Amaraich was also very active in serving on Boards and in Corporations. He was the chairman of the Micronesian Maritime Authority in 1990, Vice Chairman and later Chairman of the National Fisheries Corporation, President of the Board of Trustees for Ponape Agriculture and Trade School (PATS), and a member of the Board for the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation.

During the Trust Territory Administration, Amaraich began participating in numerous legal trainings and seminars. He attended many judicial conferences throughout the Pacific and Asia. As Chief Justice, Amaraich was an active member of the Pacific Judicial Council, which is comprised of all insular jurisdictions including the American Samoa Judiciary, the CNMI Judiciary, the Palau Judiciary, the Guam Judiciary, the U.S. District Court of Guam, and all four FSM State Judiciaries. He was also the Vice Chairman of the Pacific Judicial Development Program Executive Board comprised of the judiciaries of all the fourteen Pacific Island Countries from the Cook Islands in the east, to the Republic of Palau in the west.

He was instrumental in founding the FSM trial counselors program. Several trial counselors practicing in the FSM went through that program where he always maintained a vital role.

Acting Chief Justice Martin Yinug said, "The passing of Chief Justice Amaraich signifies the end of an era in Micronesia for those who remember well the noble things he did and said throughout his exemplary life. We have much to remember about him as the best model, which we try to emulate."

Associate Justice Dennis Yamase said, "The Justices and staff of the FSM Supreme Court are deeply saddened by the passing of long time Chief Justice Andon L. Amaraich. We will all miss his presence and leadership immensely. Chief Justice Amaraich will not only be missed as the head of the FSM national government judicial branch, but also as a founding father of the Nation. In the history of a nation, a man like him comes along only very rarely. He was an intelligent, hard working, and gifted visionary whose foresight and work forged the path for the Nation, helped create its current democratic form of government which ultimately led to the birth of the FSM, and most importantly assured the independence and sovereignty of its people. We should all be very thankful for his immense contributions."

Speaker of the FSM Congress Isaac V. Figir said of the Chief Justice, "This is truly a loss for the nation. Chief Justice Andon L. Amaraich was one of few remaining Founding Fathers, and the loss of such great men always leaves a big void in the nation, most especially in the governments they helped establish. He especially was a true pioneer of his time, always at the helm of uncharted waters. He was exploring ideologies of independence and self-sustenance which during those times in Micronesia were unheard of and even considered radical. The other precedence he set was his great conviction about the unity of the FSM through its people, and his trust in the ability and competence of the local citizens. His beliefs helped change the landscape of the workforce in Micronesia, forever.

"I personally am saddened by the unfortunate loss of this great man. Although his health condition should have prepared me, the actual loss of this great leader is still a devastating blow to the government and especially those of us whose lives were altered for the better because of him.

"Although I had seen Andon before, I personally got to know him when he hired me to be a researcher for the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition, and I eventually became the Executive Director and a member of the Commission. I learned a lot from him.

"Andon was a very humble leader who never compromised his vision of unity and nation building. His unwavering faith in the goodness of men and the unity of our nation continue to be an inspiration for me. He was one of the pillars of this nation. Not only is this a public loss, but it is a personal loss for me. But I do take comfort in the fact that he is at peace and free of physical discomforts.

"I ask citizens of this nation to keep Andon's family in their prayers as they go through this difficult time."

The remains of Chief Justice Andon Amaraich are scheduled to arrive in Pohnpei on Continental Airlines flight 957 on Saturday February 6, 2010. Arrangements are being made for a state funeral but at press time those arrangements had not been finalized.

"He was a good man who has gone on. I hope we can meet him there," Bethwel Henry said.

Andon Amaraich will be laid to rest on Sunday, February 7 in the Sokehs Municipality in Pohnpei.

Presidential Order to release CIP Funds to Chuuk Municipalities

FSM Information Services

January 20, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei – President Mori signed a Presidential Order on January 14, 2010, that has finally found a way to release over \$2.4 million worth of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds to the municipalities of Chuuk State. The FSM National Government has holding these CIP funds on behalf of the various municipalities of Chuuk State as they could not be released due to a failed “Agreement” between Chuuk State and the FSM National Government. With this Presidential Order, these funds are now to be released within 30 days of the receipt of advice from each of the municipalities.

As background, under the provisions of

the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Government of the FSM, beginning in 1986, the Chuuk State Government (and all of the other FSM States as well) received a certain amount of money for Capital Improvement Projects. In Chuuk, CIP is a development fund recognized under article VII, section 6 of the Chuuk State Constitution that is subject to a distribution formula whereby the municipalities of Chuuk State receive at least 40% through appropriation by the Chuuk State Legislature. CIP funds provided under the initial Compact that have lapsed are awaiting redistribution to the Chuuk State Municipalities.

During the 13th FSM Congress in 2004, Congress passed Congressional Act 13-, which became Public Law 13-51 and made

which allowed for available Compact capital project funds that were allotted to the States, their municipalities, or the National Government that have lapsed or are de-appropriated pursuant to the laws of the respective governments, to revert to the current account of the respective government upon presentation of the relevant legislation to the Secretary of Finance.

In 2007, under President Urusemal, the FSM National Government attempted to release the CIP funds by entering into an agreement with the Chuuk State Government. That “Agreement” was called “An Agreement to Es-

tablish Procedures for the Administration and Disbursement of Compact I funds for the Municipalities in Chuuk State”. It was signed in January of 2007 and required Chuuk State, upon consultation with the Chuuk State leadership, including the mayors, to submit an apportionment plan showing how the remaining Compact I funds will be apportioned among the municipalities that still have funds.

Eleven months after the signing of the “Agreement”, Chuuk State signed a “Memorandum of Understanding Between Chuuk State Government and the Several Municipal Governments Re: CIP Fund Balance Distribution” (MOU). To date, this MOU has failed to accomplish its objective because it has not been signed by all the required signatories, and so the objective of the “Agreement” remains unfulfilled. Upon review of the “Agreement” by the Mori Administration, it was decided that both the “Agreement” and the MOU will not produce any results and has therefore issued this Presidential Order to rescind and cancel the “Agreement” between the FSMNG and Chuuk State, and charges the FSM Department of Finance and Administration to calculate the amount of CIP funds for each municipality that still has funds and to release these funds directly into the bank accounts of the respective municipal governments within 30 days of receiving the specific account information.

In his Presidential Signing Statement, President Mori explains that the CIP funds for Chuuk have been at issue since the first half of this decade and covered several administrations. The President has been pushing for the Chuuk State municipalities, the rightful owners of these funds, to get their money distributed to help address the current economic hardships. He ends his statement by encouraging all of the municipalities in Chuuk to coordinate with the FSM National Government on this issue for it to be finally resolved

Habele Outer Island Education Fund issues annual report of service

HOIEF Press Release

“Habele,” a US-based charity serving Outer Island students in Micronesia, released its annual report this week, detailing the nonprofit’s accomplishments over the last year.

According to the report, the all-volunteer group provided 17 full tuition scholarships to low-income children attending private elementary and high schools in the Micronesian States of Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei. Habele also provided over sixty boxes of textbooks and donated school supplies to public schools on isolated islands throughout Yap and Chuuk.

The group has received praised from FSM and US officials alike for its low overhead and targeted donations.

“The initiative of a group of former Peace Corps Volunteers and teachers to launch Habele and its educational support programs reflects the best hands-on spirit that we can share with the Federated States

See “Habele” on next page

INTERNATIONAL TEXTING

FSMTCeLL's newest service offers subscribers the chance to send text messages to international mobile numbers.*

Sending an international text message while in FSM Telecom's domestic network is similar to sending a standard SMS text message.

You will need to use the following format:

Send text to 011, country code, international cell number.

Or you can use + in place of 011 in the sms destination number.

Rates for international texting:

Mon-Fri 6 am to 6pm - \$0.30

6pm to 6am - \$0.25

All day weekends - \$0.20

NOTE:

FSMTCeLL subscribers cannot send or receive text messages while in an international location at this time.

*Destination and terms apply

FSMTCeLL

To access the FSMTCeLL network, you will need a GSM 900 phone and a SIM Card.

If you already have a GSM 900 phone, you can purchase a SIM Card at your local Telecom office for only \$24.00.

Cellphones are also available for rent, up to 7 days for only \$20.00. A security deposit is required.

To gain access, you will need a FSM Prepaid Telcard, which is sold at most retail stores and hotels.

We accept VISA, Mastercard and American Express.

Call 3202740 or email customerservice@mail.fm for more information about FSMTCeLL and other services.



FSM TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
Phone 1 691 320 2740 • Fax 1 691 320 2745
http://www.telacom.fm • customerservice@mail.fm

Executive Branch transmits new Supplementary Budget Request to Congress

FSM Information Services

January 27, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei – The FSM Executive Branch has sent up a new Supplementary Budget request to Congress for consideration during the Third Regular Session. This new supplemental request contains a total of \$2.27 million and supersedes the previous supplementary request that was sent up during the Second Special Session in November of 2009.

The new request, based off of revenue projections as of January 15, 2010 that shows there is \$3.1 million, would leave around \$800,000 in the general fund. The contents of the request are for budget items for FY2010 that are needed for the effective operations of the National Government departments, offices and agencies. The breakdown of the supplemental budget is as follows:

- 1.) Department of Resources and Development
\$72,000
 - a. \$22,000 for the implementation of the Micronesian Challenge activities
 - b. \$50,000 for Executive Task Force on FSM Fisheries Rehabilitation project
- 2.) Judiciary Branch
\$20,000
 - a. \$20,000 to help defray cost of medical referral for Chief Justice Amariach
- 3.) Compact Review Committee
\$150,000
 - a. The funds will enable the Compact

Review Committee to coordinate essential parts of the 5-Year Compact Review with RMI and Palau as well as the US Executive Branch and members of the US Congress, to ensure that desired objectives sought by the FSM will be achieved.

- 4.) FSM Trust Fund Committee
\$25,000
 - a. To provide funds for the FSM Trust Fund Committee to meet and reassess the advisory, money management, and administrative arm of the Fund to improve overall performance in order to achieve financial equilibrium.
- 5.) President's Outer Island Visits
\$40,000
 - a. The funding requested is for the President's official visit to the outer islands of Yap, Pohnpei and Chuuk.
- 6.) Department of TC&I
\$406,518
 - a. \$36,518 to fulfill the FSM National Government's required matching share of the IMF fund.
 - b. \$100,000 for rehabilitation of the facilities at the FSM Capitol complex that are in dire need of repair and renovation.
 - c. \$270,000 to repair the unexpected failure of the bow door and ramp on the MV Caroline Voyager.
- 7.) National Scholarship
\$250,000
 - a. This amount is for the National Scholarship fund for FSM students that are currently in post secondary institutions and need financial assistance to con-

tinue their college education. This will cater to students who are undergraduate seniors or are in graduate, law, medical, or engineering colleges or programs.

- 8.) MLFC Loan Payment
\$100,000
 - a. This funding is requested for the loan payment for the Micronesian Longline Fisheries Corporation.
- 9.) Department of Justice
\$511,475
 - a. \$76,920 for the reclassification of Immigration Personnel as their respective scope of work was expanded with added responsibilities and with higher level of difficulties in discharging and performing their assigned tasks without compensation.
 - b. \$250,000 for the dry-docking of the FSS Independence to extend the life of the boat to maintain its capability to patrol the EES and to apprehend fishing violators and other purposes.
 - c. \$34,555 is requested to establish an Attorney General's branch office in Chuuk.
 - d. \$150,000 is requested to procure blank passports.
- 10.) National Election Office
\$29,975
 - a. The funding is requested to clear the outstanding billings from the March 2009 Congressional Election in Chuuk.
- 11.) NORMA
\$88,444
 - a. The requested amount is for the work to support the FSM's submission

of the Continental Shelf Extension to the U.N. Commission.

- 12.) Office of the President
\$500,000
 - a. For public education of the populace on the plebiscite for proposed amendments to the Constitution.
- 13.) Postal Service
\$15,338
 - a. Founding for the travel needs of this agency to begin the preliminary meetings between the FSM and U.S. Postal System on an outstanding issue.
- 14.) Department of Foreign Affairs
\$66,150
 - a. \$20,000 for the purchase of a vehicle for the Japan Mission Office
 - b. \$36,150 for office space rental for the Honolulu Consulate Office for the decentralization of passport processing.
 - c. \$10,000 for fixed assets for the new ambassador's residence.

At a meeting between the Vice President, Cabinet members, and the Congressional Committee to wait on the President, Vice President Alik briefed the committee members on the supplemental request, highlighting important items that need funding for the continuation of essential services. The Vice President instructed the Cabinet members to make sure that the proper people from the departments attend the public hearings that will be scheduled to provide additional information and support on these supplemental items.

...Habele

Continued from previous page

of Micronesia" explained Miriam K. Hughes, who served as US Ambassador to the Micronesia from 2007 to 2009.

"Habele's outreach to schools and students in Micronesia's outer islands has practical impact, building American partnership and bettering the lives of others who would otherwise not have a chance," continued Hughes. "Because Habele's Directors have engaged at the grassroots, they have acquired authentic perceptions of basic needs."

The report includes letters from parents, students, and independent school teachers, detailing how these 17 children would be unable to attend the prestigious schools without the Habele scholarships, and expressing thanks to donors who invested in the children's educational futures.

In addition to providing details of private school tuition scholarships and public school donations, the document outlined

Habele's plan to release a Ulithian-English dictionary during 2010. The text will be provided to students and teachers on Ulithi and Fais free-of-charge.

"We wanted to help Outer Island students by developing a commonsense Ulithian spelling system that preserves the local language and compliments phonics instruction for written and spoken English," remarked Johnny Hancock, a linguist who is spearheading the effort for Habele.

The dictionary incorporates important developments in speech sounds and a phonological system that make the text useful for both young island students and native English speakers learning Ulithian.

Habele is an IRS recognized not-for-profit organization, incorporated in the State of South Carolina. The group was founded by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) and other Americans with an interest in educational development in the Pacific.

The full 2009 Habele Outer Island Education Fund Annual Report can be downloaded online at <http://www.habele.org/documents.asp>.

First Secretary of the FSM Department of Education Passes Away

FSM Information Services

January 25, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei – Dr. Catalino Cantero, the first Secretary for the FSM Department of Education, passed away on Saturday, January 16th, 2010 in Pohnpei. Dr. Cantero was an instrumental figure in the shaping of education in the FSM nation for more than 15 years.

Dr. Cantero is a native of U municipality in Pohnpei and was a graduate of Xavier High School. He went on to earn his BA degree in social psychology from Northern Michigan University, Marquette; a masters in social work from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Ohio University, Athens, where he was a Fullbright Scholar. Cantero became the first Micronesian to earn his doctorate degree or Ph.D., the highest award in the educational world, and has devoted his entire life to educational development in the FSM.

In his long career in education, Cantero

served as the Pohnpei State Education Department scholarship and testing coordinator, an assistant land grant officer for the College of Micronesia, and a consultant to the then Community College of Micronesia president, mainly in the area of federal programs. In 1983 he was selected to be the president of the Community College of Micronesia by the Board of Regents, replacing Resio Moses, who resigned to campaign for governor of Pohnpei.

On April 7, 1993, President Bailey Olter administered the oath of office to Dr. Cantero as the first Secretary of the newly created Department of Education. Prior to this he was serving as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Social Services in the FSM National Government.

After his time in the FSM Department of Education, Dr. Catalino Cantero served on the COM-FSM Board of Regents.

Dr. Cantero held the traditional title of Arosed U, and was a well respected member of his community.

Ambassador George Presents Credentials to President of Israel

FSM Information Services

January 20, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei – A new page in the history of the diplomatic relations between the FSM and the State of Israel was turned



on 11 January 2010 when His Excellency Yosiwo P. George presented his credentials to President Shimon Peres at the Presidential Palace in Jerusalem as the FSM's Ambassador to the State of Israel, resident in Washington DC. He is the third FSM diplomatic envoy to Israel, following Ambassadors Jesse B. Marehalau and (now Vice President) Alik L. Alik, in that order, since the two countries formalized their relations on 23 November 1988.

While the State of Israel was the ninth country to recognize the FSM, it is significant to note that it was the first non-Pacific country, with the US being considered as a Pacific country, that extended recognition of the FSM's international statehood. It is just as noteworthy that Israel's extension of friendship came about at a critical stage when the new Nation sought to solidify its international statehood. This fact of history is an important element in the increasingly close friendship between the peoples of the two countries; further strengthening the common denominators in their unique relationship – namely, their love of democracy and their shared Judeo-Christian traditions.

The unique friendship between the two countries figured prominently in

the friendly conversation that Ambassador George and President Peres had shortly after the formal presentation of the new Ambassador's letter of credence and the recall of his predecessor. "I may not know how big your country is, but I know how big and warm your friendship to Israel is," President Peres alluded to the FSM's staunch support of Israel at the UN and other fora. He further stated that Israel would do all it can do within its means to help the FSM with its needs. He also complimented the FSM for its unique arrangement and special friendship with the US as well, further observing that this "triangular friendship" would make it possible for the US and Israel to consider how they can collaborate their efforts in contributing to the FSM's developmental priorities.

Ambassador George reciprocated President Peres' warm welcome and expressed his sincere appreciation for accepting his credentials and for warmly receiving him and the members of his delegation. He assured the Israeli leader of his readiness to further advance the special relations between the two countries. Noting that His Excellency President Mori will be arriving within two weeks for an official working visit, Ambassador George also expressed appreciation to President Peres for receiving the President.

President Mori's program of visit is organized by Project Interchange, a non-profit

educational arm of the American Jewish Committee that organizes and conducts tours, workshops or seminars on Israel for current and emerging leaders from around the world. An annual meeting between AJC representatives and FSM leaders has become a traditional exercise held at the margin of the UNGA Session every year in New York. Project Interchange has organized this visit this year for the presidents of the four Pacific Friends of Israel, namely FSM, Nauru, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. Only the presidents of the FSM and Nauru would make the visit this time.

While awaiting the arrival of President Mori and his entourage, which includes First Lady Emma Nelson-Mori, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert, and Permanent Representative to the UN Masao Nakayama, Ambassador George has been holding a series of meetings with officials of the Israeli Government and representatives of the private sector. The main topic of discussion, as part of the preparation for the visit of the President, is the possibility of technical assistance and economic cooperation, as well as private joint venture, in the areas of healthcare, food security (i.e., improvement in agricultural productivity, crop management, aquaculture/fish farming), human capacity-building, renewable/alternative source of energy, and telecommunications.

Ambassador Yosiwo George is accompanied on his visit by Madame Antilise Y. George and Deputy Chief of Mission James A. Naich.

NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the order of the FSM Supreme Court entered on December 31, 2009, public notice is hereby given that the following parcels of land described here will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

1- Parcel No. 058-D-11, situated at Elielwi, Madolenihmw Municipality, consisting of 6,308 ± square meters, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 058-D-00.

3- Parcel No. 023-A-139, situated at Dolonier, Nett Municipality, consisting of 3,853 ± square meters, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 023-A-34.

2- Parcel No. 058-D-43, situated at Elielwi, Madolenihmw Municipality, consisting of 10,277 ± square meters, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 058-D-03.

- There is no minimum bid amount for any parcel.
- Bids may be placed on one or more parcels.
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "February 11, 2010 Land Auction" by personal delivery to the Receiver at the lobby area of the Office of the Chief Clerk of the FSM Supreme Court – Pohnpei trial division in Palikir on February 11, 2010 from 2 pm to 4 pm.
- The deadline for submitting bids in person will be 4:00 p.m. on February 11, 2010 at the FSM Supreme Court – Pohnpei trial division in Palikir. Bids may also be mailed to: Nora E Sigrah, Receiver, PO Box 1237, Pohnpei, FM 96941. Bids submitted by mail must be received by February 11, 2010, by 4:30 pm.
- All bid submissions must state the bid amount, full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, and e-mail address or other valid contact information for the person submitting the bid. Bidders must be eligible to hold title to land in the FSM.
- The winning bidder will be notified in writing by Receiver. Payment in the full amount of the bid must be delivered to Receiver within fourteen (14) days of receipt of notice through a cashier's check.
- After payment in full, the winning bidder shall be provided a duly issued Court order transferring title to the parcel, including all buildings fixtures, equipment, and other improvements on the parcel.
- If the winning bidder fails to remit payment within the required time, the award will be granted to the next highest bidder and the same conditions will apply.
- The property is offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to its condition whatsoever.

• Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Receiver, at phone no. 691-921-1364 or email: noraesigrah@hotmail.com

Pohnpei's Governor Ehsa referred to the Philippines for medical testing and possible treatment

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

Peilapalap, Pohnpei, FSM – On Friday, January 23rd, Pohnpei's Governor John Ehsa suffered an as yet undefined malady and was taken by ambulance to Pohnpei State Hospital just before noon.

According to Lt. Governor Churchill Edward in an email received on the afternoon of the 25th, doctor's, concerned about the Governor's blood pressure level monitored his condition throughout the weekend and

Lt. Governor Edward said that by Monday morning the Governor's blood pressure level had stabilized enough for doctors to begin considering a referral to the Philippines for further testing.

The Governor flew to the Philippines on Thursday, January 28 at which time Lt. Governor Edward became the Acting Governor.

Pohnpei's Public and Governmental Affairs Officer Hainrick Stevenson said that Governor Ehsa had been signing paper work

and making decisions from his hospital bed at the State Hospital since Monday.

Lt. Governor Edward said "There is really nothing serious about his health. I think he just needed enough rest."

When asked if the Government had issued any press releases or notices to the public regarding Governor Ehsa's hospitalization, Stevenson, whose office would likely have been charged with doing so said that he didn't think that there had been a release and that we should consult the Governor's

office.

Several government employees said that they had been briefed on the Governor's health but that they had been told that the contents of that briefing were "classified" and could not provide any answers to the press or anyone else.

Stevenson said that his office should have some idea by early in the week of February 1st, how long the Governor will need to stay in the Philippines.

Australia Day Function

Australian Embassy

Pohnpei - I want to personally welcome you all here today – Micronesians, Australians and fellow expatriates.

This is a special occasion for me as I enter my last year of posting in Pohnpei. I am the ninth Australian Ambassador and the seventh to be resident in Pohnpei. The first Australian Ambassador to live in Pohnpei arrived just over twenty one years ago on 27 October 1989. So we should say that our relationship has now 'come of age'.

Last year was momentous for us. Prime Minister Rudd welcomed Pacific Leaders, including President Mori to Cairns for the Pacific Islands Forum, the pre-eminent gathering of Leaders from the independent states of the Pacific. The visit of the Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, the Hon Duncan Kerr, to Pohnpei and Nan Madol was a highlight for me. We were privileged for the Nan Mahki to undertake the tour personally.

I was very pleased to welcome surgical teams to Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap. They undertook eye, heart, orthopaedic and ear, nose and throat surgery and provided vital training on the job for your health staff. I was delighted that Chuuk received a team of highly qualified heart surgeons from Papua New Guinea under this program.

The patrol boat, FSS Micronesia and its crew spent time in Townsville for the Life Extension Program, which will give it another fifteen years with updated technology to bolster FSM's maritime security. Next year it will be the turn of FSS Independence.

Australia is here for the long term as a reliable Pacific partner of the Federated States of Micronesia. I hope you may indulge me a little to focus on the future of Australia- FSM relations. The coming year looks set to continue the busy trend established last year.

Last week, I had the privilege to meet six of your outstanding young FSM people in Pohnpei who will be studying under Australian Government Scholarships in medicine, education, administration, environ-

ment and public health. We also have another seven students from Kosrae, Yap and Chuuk joining them. They all impressed me with their interest and enthusiasm for their studies and future careers. I am pleased that Australia can contribute to the future of FSM in this way.

We have over the last twelve years trained over 200 Micronesians under AusAID scholarships, including some of you here tonight. My statistics don't go back much further. In addition, others have been trained as part of the patrol boat program in technical and seamanship. All these people are a testament to the strength of our people to people links.

Our assistance to maritime surveillance does not end with the patrol boats. We remain interested in helping protect your valuable fisheries resources. Our Prime Minister announced that Australia will remain committed to maritime security and is working on a follow on capability, which will be shared with Leaders in due course and we will host a Ministerial meeting on fisheries this year.

I am very pleased to announce that following on from the Forum, my Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd, has offered a Pacific Partnership for Development to President Mori. In his letter he said,

'As a concrete expression of our commitment to lift the economic and development performance of the region; and of Australia's desire to enhance its relations with the Federated States of Micronesia, I am delighted to formally offer a Pacific Partnership for Development to your Government.

A Partnership for Development would define both the focus areas and approach Australia will commit to in support of the Federated States of Micronesia's own development plans and aspirations.'



I personally look forward over the coming months to working on the Partnership with representatives of the FSM Government and senior visitors from Australia.

On Australia Day, Australians come together to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. It's the day to reflect on what Australia has achieved and what we can be proud of in our great nation.

I am announcing tonight the launch of an essay competition for High School Students. I want to increase the knowledge of Australia and the Pacific among young people to widen their horizons about different cultures and challenges that we share in common. I will start with Pohnpei High Schools in the next couple of months and move to the other states later this year.

Before we continue our celebration, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the Australian community. You are a very important part of our relationship with FSM. Every Australian overseas is an Ambassador for our country because you leave an impression of what Australia is all about. And to those of you who deal with Australians, it is indeed a privilege for Australians like us to be guests in your land.

I am very proud of the team of Australians I have working in FSM. Janet, my deputy, Julian, my second Secretary will both leave this year. Paul Ruhl and his team, Chris

(Johnny) O'Keefe, who will leave soon, and their newest member, Scott, are evidence of the breadth of Australia's commitment. But whoever we are as individuals, I can assure you that Australia's commitment to help the development of the Federated States of Micronesia remains firm.

I'd like to conclude by thanking my staff – Layleen, Arlene, Serlynn, Kendy and Majella as well as Vanessa and Brigida who have worked miracles to bring this evening to pass. Tonight we have a whole pig, a range of local vegetables as well as Australia delights of BBQ steak and meat pies to tempt your tastebuds, as well as a range of Australian wine and beers.

Kalahngan (ka-laa-ng-an)

Kilisou Chapur (ki-li-so-u-cha-bur)

Kamagar (ka-ma-gar)

Kulo (ku-lo)

Ladies and Gentlemen

It now gives me great pleasure to propose a toast to the President, Government and people of the Federated States of Micronesia, and after which the FSM national anthem will be played and Acting President the Hon Alik Alik will deliver his remarks.

EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA – POHNPEI



Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to apply for the position of Public Diplomacy / Research Officer.

The Australian Embassy, which covers the FSM, Marshall Islands, Palau, CNMI and Guam is seeking applications from suitably qualified applicants (minimum qualifications: Associate Degree, or equivalent) for a new position. The successful applicant will work directly to the Ambassador on small research projects, media, public diplomacy activities and logistical support for high level visitors. The position will be based at the Australian Embassy Pohnpei. The successful applicant will be expected to undertake some regional travel. Salary and conditions will depend upon qualifications and experience.

Contract: The contract will run until 30 June 2011 when the need for the position will be reviewed by the Embassy.

Application Process:

Interested applicants need to address the selection criteria and provide a resume / CV. The Application Pack, including Selection Criteria and duty statement can be obtained by contacting majella.walsh@dfat.gov.au or download from <http://www.fsm.embassy.gov.au>

NB. All of the selection criteria need to be addressed within the written application to be considered for interview. An example of how to address the selection criteria is included in the application pack as a guide.

Send Supporting Statement to the Selection Criteria and Resume/CV to:

SAO
Australian Embassy
P O Box S
Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM
Fax 691-320.5449
Email janet.whitaker@dfat.gov.au

Applications close **Wednesday 10 February 2010.**

The Great Rohi Trash Race of 2009

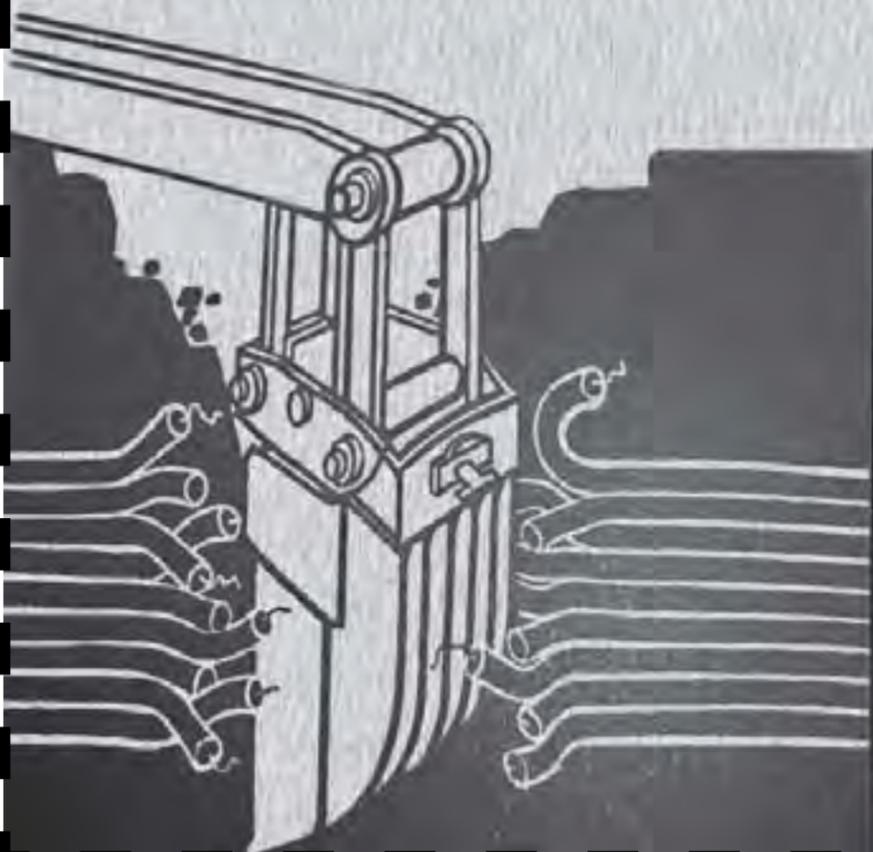
Conservation Society of Pohnpei

Rohi Elementary School ended their semester and 2009 a little cleaner than when it started. The 156 students at the school ended last semester with a five-week Trash Race



competition. Each grade competed by bringing their collected trash to the school to be weighed and properly disposed of. The 3rd graders won the contest with over 900 pounds of trash! The competition collected a total of 3,682 pounds. Prizes for the students were donated by area businesses, organizations and individuals. Conservation Society of Pohnpei would like to commend these young environmental champions.

Call Before You Dig!



If you are planning to excavate for construction, call or come in and see us first at FSM Telecom.

There could be telephone cables under the surface.

If you cut those cables, it may disrupt service for hundreds of people, including your relatives and friends.

It could also delay your construction, and you may have to pay the cost of cable repairs.

Help us keep the lines of communication open!



FSM Telecommunications Corporation
P.O.Box 1210, Kolonia PNI 96941
691.320.2740 customerservice@mail.fm

A New School Year Begins for Australian Scholarship Awardees

Australian Embassy, Pohnpei

On 25 January, after a year-long, rigorous application process, six scholarship awardees from Pohnpei bid a fond farewell to the FSM and set off to commence their first school year of tertiary education under the AusAID funded Australian Regional Development Scholarships (ARDS) program. They were part of a group of 9 students from Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae travelling on the flight to Fiji via Guam.

A total of 12 students from FSM were awarded scholarships for 2010 to study in Public Health, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Commerce, Education, Environment and Law in Fiji and Vanuatu.

The 2010 ARDS awardees:

For the Fiji School of Medicine:

Dwight Abraham, Dentistry
Charlene Laamtal, Medicine
Roxcindlina Yangelmog,
Public Health
Gloria Yamada, Medicine
Stephanie Fredrick Public
Health

For the Fiji School of Nursing:

Nikita Lesawelran,
Candita Ilmaenig

For the USP Emalus Vanuatu:

Casey Freddy, Law

For the USP Laucala Fiji:

Jamie Kutta, Accounting
Duane Diopulos, Commerce
Ander Ilai, Education
Santiago Joab, Jr.,
Environmental Studies



Pohnpei students with Ambassador Susan Cox & Majella Walsh, AusAID Program Manager

New Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall being built in Pohnpei

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

Ohmine, Pohnpei, FSM- On the morning of January 23rd, 2010, 76 volunteers showed up for a 4:30 a.m. worship service in a makeshift structure on the property of the former Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall in Ohmine. The volunteers were also reminded about safety issues as they prepared to pour a new concrete roof in the early morning hours on the new Kingdom Hall that is being built on the property of the old building.

By the end of the day 92 people had volunteered to hand lay the 56 cubic yards of concrete used in the new roof. Additionally, three employees hired from VCS Construction were on hand.

The project is being supervised by 16 missionary volunteers from Guam, Hawaii, and the US mainland. Project Supervisor Alan Cole, who is a former US mainland contractor who has been on missionary service in Guam and South America for the last five years said that he anticipates that the new building will be completed within six weeks.

He said that demolition of the old building began on October 6, 2009.



just some of the 92 volunteers who showed up for the pour



Pouring the roof



The volunteer kitchen staff fed everyone well during the day

K-Press Perspective

Late night internal monologue of a newspaper editor

In the middle of restless and sweaty nights I know exactly what I will write in this column. In the middle of the night I am bold. "Persona non grata resolutions be damned," I declare!

And... "Yes, I made a ton of mistakes in the last issue of The Kaselehlie Press but I know what I'll do! I'll just put up a notice in my office window like I've seen here in at least one other place of business that gives me a built in excuse for any mistake I might make. Maybe," I think, "that would keep me from sleepless nights."

But I'm not built that way and I flipped over hoping for a better perspective on my other side.

Just then my fan stopped turning and my clock beeped once and I realized that my eyes had flipped open although the darkness of the room did not provide any evidence of that fact. I gritted my teeth in anger and kicked the covers off.

"I am newspaper editor, hear me roar!" This, I said to myself because my wife was sleeping through all of this or at least bravely acting as if she was.

And then it crossed my mind that though every other page in the newspaper said that the last issue went out on January 20, 2010, the front page, the one that everybody reads even if they don't buy it says that it's 2009. It's certainly something all but the most obtuse reader knows is a typo but I knew I would receive several phone calls about it.

I flipped over yet another time but my thoughts with that side of my face lying on my pillow were no different than they were on the other side...and I still couldn't sleep.

It occurred to me that I'd been told by several people that simply parroting another writer of The Kaselehlie Press of three years ago as I did when I wrote that Former Senator Sailas Henry was from Madolenihmw was insufficient and just plain wrong. They were quite correct. Former Senator Henry is not from Madolenihmw at all. He is from Mwoakilloa and I would have liked to have apologized immediately to the reading public for that mistake and most especially to Mr. Henry but it was the middle of the night and the paper had already hit the streets. Another wouldn't hit the streets for two whole weeks!

"Oh yay," I cried! Punching my pillow didn't help at all but I did it anyway.

It didn't care and just laid there in a lump.

"And what about Nanpil? Is it spelled Nan Pil (isn't that something like "the water") or is it Nanpil?"

I went through the Latin in my head and it just didn't help. I could only remember how to conjugate the verb "to love," and I started

on that litany: Amo, Amas, Amat, Amamus, Amantis, Amant, and pecunias, pecuniorum-money. I remembered that one and discipuli - student.

None of it helped me at all with the spelling of Nanpil, or Nan Pil as the case may be.

"So maybe if I lay with my feet on the floor outside of the covers that would help. At least I'd still be in bed."

It didn't.

"So the picture on the front page, is that an 80 year old building or not? I didn't actually ask the well versed historian that question when I was asking about the history of the Nanpil (or however you spell it) hydro-power plant. Someone else told me that the hydro-power plant that was operated during the days of Japanese occupation was on the other side of the road. Since that part is essentially covered in brush that possibility never crossed my mind."

"How dare I ever write anything and publish it," I moaned?

By now only my head and shoulders were actually on the bed and I was kneeling on the floor, significantly humbled as I continued to beat myself down.

"But I asked for the most current copy of the Foreign Investment Bill," I insisted. "The Public Affairs Office gave me the wrong one." Or did I? I couldn't remember. "Is it possible that I asked for a copy of the bill that the Governor submitted to the Legislature and that's exactly what they gave me?"

I consoled myself, "But when I found out that the bill was a year old, I called them and they said they'd call me back about whether it was the current bill or not. I called several offices at the Pohnpei Legislature and they all said they'd call me back. So if they never did is that my fault?"

Emboldened, I ignored the fact that of course it was my fault. I should have gone to each office and stood in front of someone until I got an answer. Phone calls and especially emails are easy to ignore.

I got up from my knees anyway, and crawled back up on the bed. The power wasn't back on yet. I could tell because the fan wasn't whining like it usually did so I didn't crawl under the sheet.

And then I remembered the insistent phone call I received from Feliciano Perman who in my memory has never been so angry with me as to come across as being angry. He was, however, insistent that I correct an error I made in the Nanpil (or whatever) hydro-plant article that appeared on page nine and went so far as to also demand that the correction should appear on page one. What he actually said was, "I think you should put the correction on page one." I told him that I didn't do corrections on page one as a general rule. I'd only done that once but I assured him that it

would be prominent.

"Didn't Feliciano also insist that no one ever reads anything but the front and the back page? Yeah, he did. So why should I write or publish any other page and why would he worry about a mistake I made on page nine and why would he call it a 'misrepresentation' rather than a mistake?"

The word "misrepresentation" at least to me, smacks of malicious intent. It was a mistake.

When I said that the *Legislature* had approved a resolution that allowed Governor Ehsa to act as the agent of PUC as a result of PUC's own declared state of emergency I honestly thought that's what Mr. Perman said. I had misunderstood. He actually said that the *PUC Board* had approved a resolution to allow Governor Ehsa to function in that capacity.

Actually, if I'd known that it was the board who had allowed the Governor to act in that capacity I probably wouldn't have committed as much ink to the board's concerns as I did and that factor gives evidence to the fact that my mistake was purely that, a mistake.

Perman did say when he called, that the Governor, by law, was to have acted within the bounds of PUC's procurement policies, and so at least there was some vindication of my expenditure of ink but not enough to enable me to sleep.

By now, the fan was back on, and the street light in the yard made me fully aware that my eyes were open. My poor wife lay shivering on her side of the bed and all of the sheets were tucked under my chin and wrapped around my body. My head was at the foot of the bed and my left foot was almost, but not quite, brushing the tip of her nose.

I sat up, gathered the sheets, gently covered her, and turned and put my feet on the floor....and my head in my hands.

And then the real worries kicked in; the ones that bother me all of the time day and night. It's really not so much of a worry as it is a suspicion, a nagging suspicion.

Lyrics I sang at my band's last gig at Rusty Anchor started to run through my mind and they played over and over again in my head. "I've got a low down dirty feeling that I've been cheated on and lied to. If it's so then it's wrong we've hung on for so long...." And another lyric from the same song, "You say that you're just a little girl who's easily led astray. Well aren't you the same little girl who always gets her way?"

The lyrics had nothing to do with my wife who would never do that to me and I smiled the briefest of smiles before my thoughts were diverted by a deep sense of guilt for the times I've done her wrong.

That went through my brain for a while and I stood and paced the room running my hand

through my sweat soaked hair. She slept on peacefully, or at least I assumed she was sleeping. Sometimes she just lays there and hopes that I'll work through whatever's bugging me.

"See, I don't know how to deal with this as a journalist who has claimed the FSM as my home. I've fallen in love with this place and its people and it pains me to see those people hurt. I'm not necessarily even talking about my own comfort level here although this is my home and I'm in this with them but I have a strange, sneaking suspicion that we've been cheated on and lied to. If it's so then it's wrong."

My paced circles grew tighter and tighter, "I can't prove it yet but I have a sneaking suspicion that some people are using the power given to them by the people to benefit themselves or their family members or cronies instead of the people who gave them the power they wield so easily. I believe that it has been going on for years and it worries me.

"I suspect that there is a possibility that some outside forces are making their way inside by unscrupulous, unethical, and even illegal means when those outside forces could instead benefit both the people and themselves. I have a suspicion that some people in power are selling the birth right of a great and young nation and its people. I have a suspicion that the people, the consumers, the powerless ones are being cheated on by a few in power who I cannot, without a great deal of proof, name or even hint at."

"I have a suspicion that the ones who will object most strenuously to my saying so are precisely the ones I am always thinking about."

And my pacing began to extend outward into the living room and the kitchen and I worried, "Will those good and ethical leaders in the FSM, of whom there are many take offense if I say that I think this is going on when I was never thinking of them in the first place? Will the ones who are taking the FSM to their own personal bank completely miss the importance of this message?"

Didn't Shakespeare have Octavius say in Julius Caesar, 'And some that smile have in their hearts, I fear, millions of mischiefs?'"

"And the lyric that was going through my head says 'I won't stand in your way any more.' Should that be my reaction to what I suspect is happening around us?"

It was a lost cause. I reached for my pants and my shirt, checked for my car keys and glasses, drove to the office and began to type....

"In the middle of restless and sweaty nights I know exactly what I will write in this column...."

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

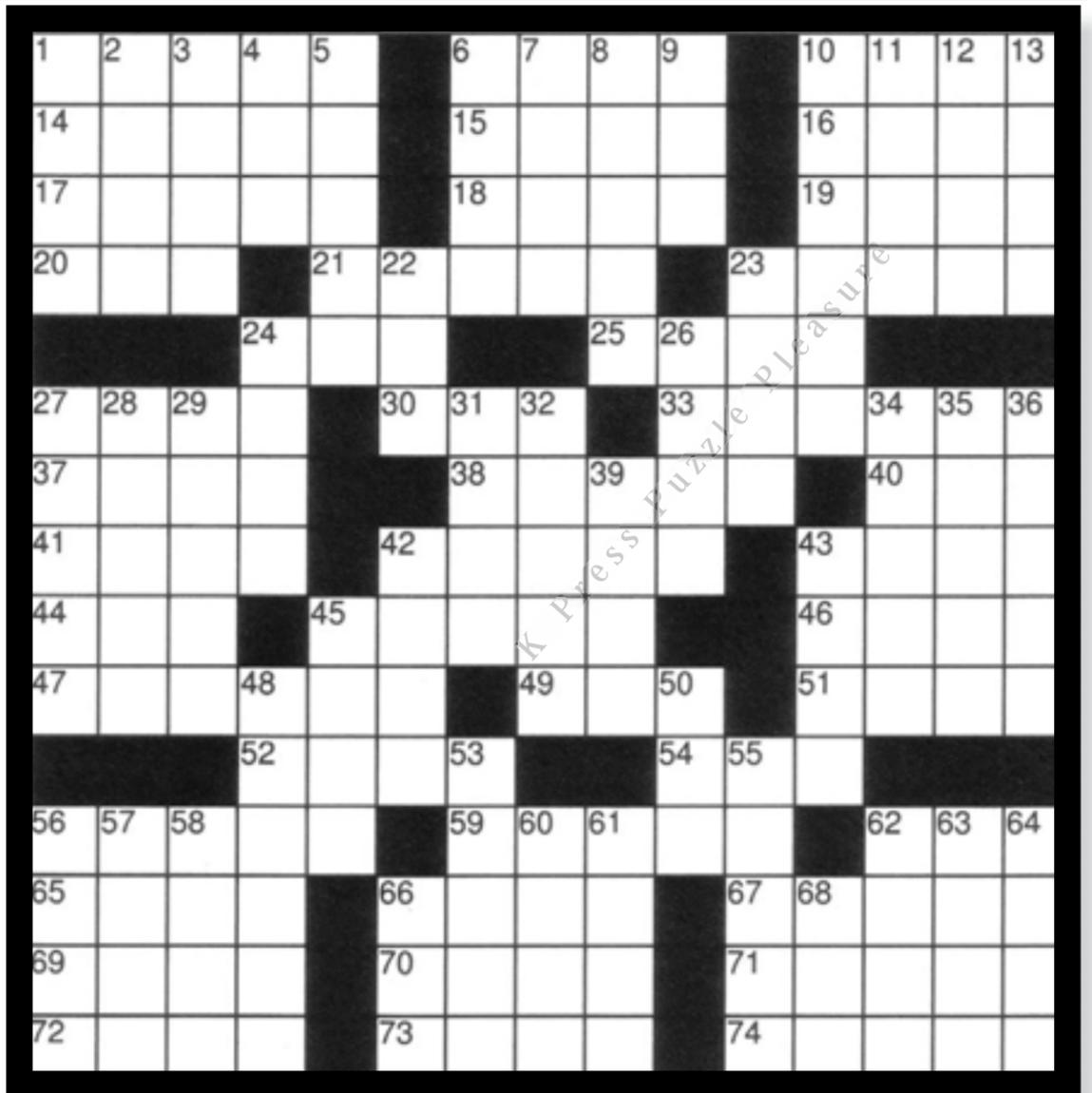
The narrative above is a compilation of several sleepless nights rather than just one as portrayed.

Crossword - I've got it!

ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Slip
6. Swing
10. Sting
14. Twirling
15. Clip
16. Fix
17. Skirmish
18. Flight bd. listings
19. Bits
20. Dig in
21. Wrists
23. Ski sticks
24. JFK listing
25. Dip
27. Kill
30. .001 inch
33. Pitch in
37. Knitting rib
38. Filmic 007
40. ___-fi
41. Limits
42. Micki & ___ (film)
43. Split
44. Scrimp
45. Insist
46. Split
47. Split
49. Till
51. This: Sp.
52. Chills
54. Ships hdg.
56. Tilt
59. Sing
62. Tint
65. Rip
66. ___ Night
67. Insipid
69. British pic digs
70. Split
71. Risk
72. Mimic
73. Bid first
74. Hits</p> | <p>1. Limping
2. District
3. Hit
4. Visit
5. Pick
6. Fight
7. Twist
8. Stinging
9. Right!
10. Digs
11. Twist
12. "Vissi d' ___"
13. Plight
22. Mil. bigwig
23. Sit
24. Iris districts
26. Pink
27. Whisk
28. Sri ___
29. Birch's kin
31. "Wish ___ wish ..."
32. Nit
34. British ___
35. Whiff
36. Link
39. Whiff
42. Did
43. Drifting
45. Schism
48. Kindling
50. This: Sp.
53. GI's bills
55. Clips
56. Sp. Miss
57. Spring
58. Kick in
60. Drift
61. Sign
62. ___-kiri
63. GI gp.
64. Fish Dish
66. Siding with
68. Mint</p> |
|--|---|



HANK'S MOVIES

After you've circled all the words, the unused letters, when read from left to right, starting at the top, will spell out three movies starring Tom Hanks.

<p>LOS KSHADOWFIRES DT EVRESUCODDKINSMAR SREGNARTSSCYPARRA UIHRLBMRIYAPGVMKP OSCEIDLROWYARGUPP HBTEWFDVAUNOUBRAE NSATBODEESNOMEDLD UBWHOODLHARDSHELL FWALYIUEOIIPEMRWR NHB DHTSNNCHGYDIDE GIDMPAIVDAFAENLRH NSSOHLASNEOTTILAC IPDCOSATNNREHSGGT NECNILOCOERCIGILOA TRGONMBIEMTOIGANN HSNSSTSROSLNLT PFS GVCEKICOASOUIIYLH IFVCVENECTMRWYTYB LNIALOBMAHSBTNDNE</p>	<p>BAD PLACE (The) BEASTCHILD BLOOD RISK BRUNO CHASE COLD FIRE COSMIC SIN CRIMSON WITCH DARKFALL DEMON SEED DRAGONFLY FUNHOUSE (The) GRAYWORLD HARDSHELL HIDEAWAY ICEBOUND INTENSITY INVASION</p>	<p>LIGHTNING MASK (The) MR. MURDER ODDKINS PHANTOMS SHADOWFIRES SHAMBOLAIN SNATCHER STARBLOOD STRANGERS SURROUNDED TRAPPED TWILIGHT EYES UNDERCITY (The) VISION (The) WATCHERS WHISPERS WINTER MOON</p>
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Garbage Truck law

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us.

My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us.

My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. I mean, he was really friendly.

So I asked, 'Hey, why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!' This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call:

'The Law of the Garbage Truck'.

He said: "You know, many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage - full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment.

As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it, so sometimes they'll dump it on you."

His advice? "Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't pick up the garbage others are trying to get rid of. If you do, you'll take it with you and will end up dumping it on people around you, at work, at home, or on the streets."

If you want to be happy, do not let garbage trucks - your own or other people's - overtake your day. Let go of anything that's not positive. Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it!

Love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't.



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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at China Star Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. 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 meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.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 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the High Tides Restaurant. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at: - rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com
- Pacific Mission Fellowship - A Bible-based English Worship Service Invites you to join us on Sundays for worship at 9am - 11am, Children's Church for the kids too!. Call: 320-2496
- Ultimate Frisbee pick-up game every Tuesday. PICS field. After 6pm. All levels welcome! Free!

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

P. O. Box 2222

Pohnpei, FM 96941

phone to: (691) 320-6547

email to: kpress@mail.fm

Puzzle Pleasure Previous Issue's Solution

Crossword Solution

DESI	FALSE	WWII
EXPO	ELIOT	HALT
SPEW	LILAC	ASKS
PICABOSTREET		
IRK	ANT	TAILOR
SELAH	SETFOOT	
EDEN	GLARE	THE
	DIANELANE	
POT	TRUST	WADS
SPIRITS	BERET	
ATEASE	BRA	AMA
	KIRSTIEALLEY	
GLEE	IMAGE	ASAP
YOGI	EUROS	MENU
MOON	STATE	PAST

Angle Search

She went that a way

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A young man whose fad was pajamas,
Wore a suit made of wool from the llamas;
The unmanly effect
Made people suspect
That the outfit was really his mama's.

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Kapinga Village Cooks Fish and Chaya Recipe in a Charcoal Oven

By: *Lymer Yamada*
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Over 30 men and women enjoyed a charcoal oven workshop and cooking class (fish and chaya) held on January 22, 2010, at Kapinga Village. It was coordinated by Welsihter Hagilmai and Dora Semes of the College of Micronesia- FSM Cooperative Extension Services, with assistance by Henrich Mateak of Kapinga Village and the Island Food Community of Pohnpei.

The purpose of this workshop was to promote planting and eating local foods, vegetables including chaya, and bananas, and also to encourage more physical activities

to help prevent diabetes, heart disease, cancer and other diseases that we are now facing. The primary cause of this problem is the change of lifestyle, less physical activity, and a shift away from local food.

The workshop also focused on how to use the charcoal oven. The advantages of this oven is that it provides a healthy way of cooking, is cost-saving and environmentally friendly (it releases less carbon emissions into the environment, compared to open fire cooking), and convenient as compared to the traditional earth oven.

Ms. Welsihter Hagilmai demonstrated the preparation of a delicious fish dish made



Bertha Maruame happily shows her eggplant grown as part of a container gardening project. This was a collaboration of Kapinga Village, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, and COM-FSM Cooperative Extension Services. Funding was provided by AusAid Small Grants Scheme and US Forestry.



Henrich Mateak (center), Chief of Kapinga Village, other Kapinga Village workshop participants and facilitators, Welsihter Hagilmai and Dora Semes, COM-FSM Cooperative Extension Services present the fish and chaya dish.

with garlic, vinegar, and chaya greens grown in the village. This was done to promote the "Let's Go Local" theme using the CHEEF benefits of local food: Culture, Health, Environment, Economy, and Food Security. The participants enjoyed the dish and were strongly motivated to grow and eat more of our local food.

Island Food Community would like to thank the people of Kapinga Village for welcoming us to their village to share valuable information concerning the health benefits of growing and eating local food. Thanks also to the Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Scheme and US Forestry, and the Global Greengrants Fund for funding support.

Astronomical Tide Prediction February 3 - February 16, 2010

	Pohnpei				Chuuk			
Wednesday	02/03		02/10		02/03		02/10	
	05:47AM	3.4	02:58AM	2.0	04:50AM	1.1	01:20PM	1.9
	11:40AM	0.8	07:07AM	1.6	09:53AM	0.5	10:02PM	-0.3
	05:47PM	3.6	02:00PM	3.6	03:45PM	1.4		
		09:13PM	0.7	10:32PM	0.1			
Thursday	02/04		02/11		02/04		02/11	
	12:06AM	0.6	03:03AM	2.2	05:12AM	1.3	01:41PM	2.0
	06:22AM	3.3	07:51AM	1.3	10:28AM	0.7	09:56PM	-0.2
	12:20PM	1.1	02:29PM	3.8	03:22PM	1.2		
		09:26PM	0.6	10:10PM	0.0			
Friday	02/05		02/12		02/05		02/12	
	12:28AM	0.8	03:15AM	2.5	05:39AM	1.4	04:14AM	0.5
	07:01AM	3.2	08:24AM	1.1	11:00AM	0.9	06:23AM	0.4
	01:07PM	1.5	02:54PM	4.0	02:34PM	1.1	02:01PM	2.1
		09:40PM	0.5	09:52PM	-0.1	09:49PM	-0.1	
Saturday	02/06		02/13		02/06		02/13	
	12:44AM	1.1	03:31AM	2.8	06:15AM	1.4	03:32AM	0.6
	07:52AM	3.0	08:53AM	0.9	09:46PM		07:11AM	0.4
	02:32PM	1.9	03:17PM	4.1	-0.3		02:22PM	2.1
		09:55PM	0.4			09:45PM	-0.1	
Sunday	02/07		02/14		02/07		02/14	
	12:46AM	1.3	03:49AM	3.0	07:30AM	1.3	03:19AM	0.7
	09:36AM	2.8	09:20AM	0.8	09:51AM	1.2	07:47AM	0.3
	11:00PM	1.4	03:40PM	4.2	12:22PM	1.4	02:42PM	2.1
		10:11PM	0.3	09:49PM	-0.4	09:45PM	0.0	
Monday	02/08		02/15		02/08		02/15	
	12:22PM	3.0	04:08AM	3.2	12:38PM	1.5	03:21AM	0.9
	09:06PM	1.2	09:46AM	0.7	09:56PM		08:19AM	0.3
			04:02PM	4.2	-0.4		03:01PM	2.0
		10:28PM	0.3			09:48PM	0.0	
Tuesday	02/09		02/16		02/09		02/16	
	03:31AM	1.8	04:28AM	3.4	12:59PM	1.7	03:31AM	1.1
	05:31AM	1.7	10:13AM	0.7	10:01PM		08:50AM	0.3
	01:24PM	3.3	04:24PM	4.0	-0.4		03:20PM	1.9
		10:46PM	0.4			09:53PM	0.0	

Fish with Chaya Leaves



Recipe provided by Welsihter Hagilmai, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), College of Micronesia-FSM Cooperative Extension Services

Ingredients

1 or 2 fish, any kind (reef fish is especially good)
3 or 4 garlic cloves
20 chaya leaves with stems
2 teaspoon salt*
½ to 1/3 cup vinegar

Methods

1. Clean fish and cut in pieces
2. Put in baking tray and mix with garlic, salt*, and vinegar.
3. Add chaya leaves.
4. Bake for about 35 minutes and serve

*For health reasons, it is best to avoid adding salt to recipes if possible. Many people like the taste of "natural foods." One can add seasoning at the table, if desired.

SPC and FSM to host the Micronesian Youth Service Network in April 2010

FSM Information Services

January 21, 2010

Palikir, Pohnpei – The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) North Pacific Office in Pohnpei has proposed to host with the Federated States of Micronesia, the next Micronesian Youth Service Network (NYSN) meeting during April of 2010, in Pohnpei, for a period lasting 3 days.

The MYSN was formed to promote, defend and foster the civil rights and well being of all young people in Micronesia. The MYSN is a network of government and non-government organizations, civil society groups, and individuals involved in youth work and youth issues. Its secretariat is located in Guam, with members comprised of young people from CNMI, Palau, FSM and the Marshall Islands. The conference is a means for young people and youth service providers throughout Micronesia to get together and participate in workshops and share vital information related to supporting young people and youth programs.

The MYSN will not only bring together young people from the larger Micronesian region and the North Pacific, it will also enable the necessary exchange of information, challenges, cultures, and support systems to move youth issues forward. At the same time, coming together of the young people in the region will help identify regional gaps in addressing youth issues, the potential for collaboration, identify opportunities to build on existing strengths, and more importantly, it will enable the young people of the FSM to be a part of mainstream discussion and planning of the future direction of youth work in the region.

A proposed theme of the conference is "Culture and Micronesian Youth".

Mr. Osaia Santos, who is the Youth Coordinator of the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs, will be working with Mr. Amena Yauvoli, Director of the SPC North Pacific Office, to coordinate this event. For further questions or information, please contact the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs at 691-320-2619.

Third Regular Session of 16th Congress underway

Congress Public Information Office

Palikir, Pohnpei – The Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia convened its Third Regular Session on January 25 2010, and is expected to adjourn on February 13 unless extended or shortened by resolution.

The session was to have convened on its regular date of January 10th, but was instead postponed to the last week in January to allow the congressional committees time to complete their public hearings in the states.

Monday's opening session was witnessed by Vice President Alik L. Alik and members of their Cabinet; representatives from the FSM Supreme Court; the Dean of the Diplomatic community, Ambassador Susan Cox of the Australian Embassy, Ambassador Zhang Weidong from the Chinese Embassy and Charge d'Affaires at interim William Douglas from the US Embassy and several visiting dignitaries from the other states along with a gathering of interested local citizens.

Also witnessing the morning's formalities was the senior class from the Nanpei Memorial High School in Kitti. Approximately 65 student or half of the senior class along with their eight chaperons joined the mornings opening session. Chairman of the Committee on Education, Senator Joseph J. Urusemal commended the school and its staff for consistently producing, throughout the years, students with the highest entrance scores to the local college and encouraged the school to share the secret of its success with the rest of the high schools.

Following the opening formalities, Congress went into recess until Thursday - January 28, to again allow time for the congressional committees to wrap up their public hearings with the national entities and others.

The first day or opening formalities also include the appointment of the Committee to Wait on the President, and members of this session's committee included: Senator Paliknoa K. Welly, Senator Peter Sitan, Senator Urusemal with Senator Peter M. Christian as the Chairman. The committee is mandated to inform the President of the convened session and report back to Congress any priorities issues that the President wishes congress to address during the session.

Since opening day, the committees of Ways & Means and the Judiciary and Governmental Operations among others, have been holding hearings with the various departments and offices under their jurisdictions.

Economics and Law

A good idea for trochus survival?

*By Martin Mix
The Kaselehlie Press*

An idea I would like to put up for discussion has to do with trochus since we will be harvesting trochus later this year. This idea will let fishermen harvest trochus all year long.

Trochus start producing eggs when they are about 2". The bigger they get the more eggs they produce. The foreign buyers like small shells. We need bigger shells to live to make more eggs.

Marine Resources would set the size of shells to be harvested. For example if the size requirement was 3 to 4 inches and the trochus population was getting smaller then Marine Resources could change the size requirements. For instance it could be raised from 3 inches to 3-1/4 instead. The upper range could be lowered to 3-3/4 inches from 4 inches to limit the number of trochus by size. The range of harvest could be changed to whatever works to help the trochus to multiply

The size of shell has to be very strictly enforced. The time to enforce the size limit is when the shell is being put in a container to send away.

If shells bigger or smaller than the limits are

found there must be very strong and automatic penalties.

The only time the government would need to check sizes is when the shell is exported.

This idea works ONLY if the size is strictly enforced. If the size is strictly enforced against the buyers then the buyers will strictly enforce the sizes when they buy. The penalties need to be big enough and they have to be automatic to make sure that the local buyer buys ONLY the right size.

There is no need for the government to take part when the buyer gets the shell from fishermen.

Fishermen that I talk to say that a big reason why there are not more trochus shells is that people are eating the meat and throwing away the shell. If it was legal to sell the shell all year long then these shells would not be wasted. We can hope that the fishermen would not take oversize shells so these can stay on the reef making lots of eggs to make lots of trochus to grow up to be sold.

From 1969 until 1984 the average trochus harvest was more than 100,000 pounds per year. Some years it was bigger, some years smaller, and for a few years there was no trochus harvest at all but the average for the fifteen years was over 100,000 pounds per year.

Unless global warming or pollution has changed our reefs we should be able to harvest 100,000 pounds of trochus a year.



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