

Appendix B
Scoping Meeting Notification Advertisement

FSM panel discusses tax reform progress

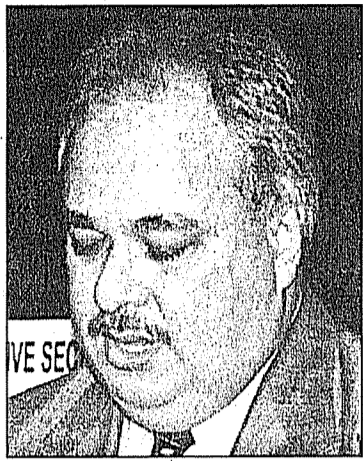
PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM Division of Tax & Revenue) — The Tax Reform Executive Steering Committee convened here to discuss progress of the tax reform work and consider a number of recommendations presented by the technical working group.

The ESC was established in December 2005 by presidential order following the Economic Policy Implementation Council and FSM congressional endorsement of the Tax Reform Task Force's recommendations on a package of nation-wide measures to improve the tax administration and the tax system in the FSM.

The ESC was mandated to oversee effective implementation of the tax reforms. The current members of ESC include Vice President Redley Killion, Kosrae Lt. Gov. William Tosie, Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina, Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal, Pohnpei Lt. Gov. Jack E. Yakana, and Larry Adams, representing the private sector.

The two-fold objective of the tax reform is to increase domestic revenue generation to compensate for declining compact sector grants and improve the tax system to create an environment conducive to private sector development.

The members of the tax reform technical working group provided a review of progress on the tax reform work. Some of the progress includes the initial drafting of key pieces of legislation,



Redley Killion

the development of an economic model to estimate the revenue and price impact of the tax reforms, and the development of a high-level implementation plan for tax reform. This work has been developed with the technical assistance from the Pacific Financial and Technical Assistance Center and the International Monetary Fund. The meeting culminated in the adoption of a resolution which among other things endorses the high level implementation plan, requests the appointment of "implementation teams" in each of the states, and gives instructions to the working group on a number of steps necessary to accelerate implementation of the tax reform.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members of the committee thanked Vice President Killion for his hard work and the important contributions he made to advance the tax reforms.

Fun and games mark 17th year of Airai charter

By Nazario Rodriguez Jr.
For Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — It was one big happy family at the Yelch Ball Field as the residents of the four hamlets of Airai state — Ngerusar, Ngetkib, Oikull and Ordomei — gathered to participate in several sporting events to celebrate the 17th anniversary of their state constitution.

Gov. Vicky Kanai and parents cheered the youth that competed in several sport events such as walkathon, softball, track and field, volleyball and other games.

There were also an archery demonstration, an amateur singing contest and a tug-of-war.

Due to the rain on Friday April 6, the Belias Sports Association and the Airai state government moved all the games to Saturday, and despite the change in schedule, the event still proved to be a success.

The sporting event was a follow-up to the recently held mini-games on Youth Day.

On April 5, Governor Kanai delivered the first ever State of

the State Address at the Bai-Ra Melengel in Ordomei.

US military to brief Palau on troop relocation to Guam

By Bernadette H. Carreon.
For Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Two U.S. military officials were scheduled to be here to brief Palau's leaders on the transfer of American troops from Okinawa, Japan to Guam.

President Tommy Remengesau said Capt. Kenneth Branch, commander of the U.S. Naval Facili-

ties Engineering Command, and Col. Robert Fant of the U.S. Air Force will conduct the briefing.

The two will fly to Palau in place of Rear Adm. Charles Leidig, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in Marianas.

Remengesau earlier invited Leidig to come to Palau for the discussion. The admiral, however, in his letter to the president

said he cannot accept the invitation because of prior commitments.

Remengesau asked Leidig to visit Palau in time for the turnover ceremony today involving the Air Force and Navy Civic Action Teams.

Remengesau will attend the turnover ceremony with Branch and Fant.

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The public is encouraged to attend the open houses, which will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

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3. Thursday, April 19, 2007 from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan
4. Friday, April 20, 2007 from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, San Jose, Tinian

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258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100,
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3134
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**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
2ND FLOOR, MORGEN BUILDING, SAIPAN MP, 96950
Tel. No. 664-8300 Fax No. 664-8315
April 13, 2007**



THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. MR. SHINJI FUJIE	03/21/2007 SSm-2007-X-027	CONCRETE PERIMETER FENCE	SAN ROQUE	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (04/11/2007)*
2. C.P.A. SEAPORTS	03/28/2007 SPIm-2007-X-028	REPAIR POTHOLES	SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP	PORTS & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (04/11/2007)*
3. ALL AMERICAN DIVERS	04/02/2007 SLRm-2007-X-029	SCUBA DIVING ACTIVITIES	ALL DESIGNATED AREA	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW
4. GOOD DAY COORD.	04/04/2007 SSm-2007-X-030	PHOTOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (04/04/2007)*
5. YTS MICRONESIA INC.	04/04/2007 SSm-2007-X-031	PHOTOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (04/04/2007)*
6. D.T.C. SAIPAN	04/10/2007 SSm-2007-X-032	PHOTOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (04/11/2007)

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major sitings projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Global warming protests begin

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans worried about climate change gathered Saturday on ski slopes and in cities for a nationwide day of demonstrations aimed at drawing attention to global warming.

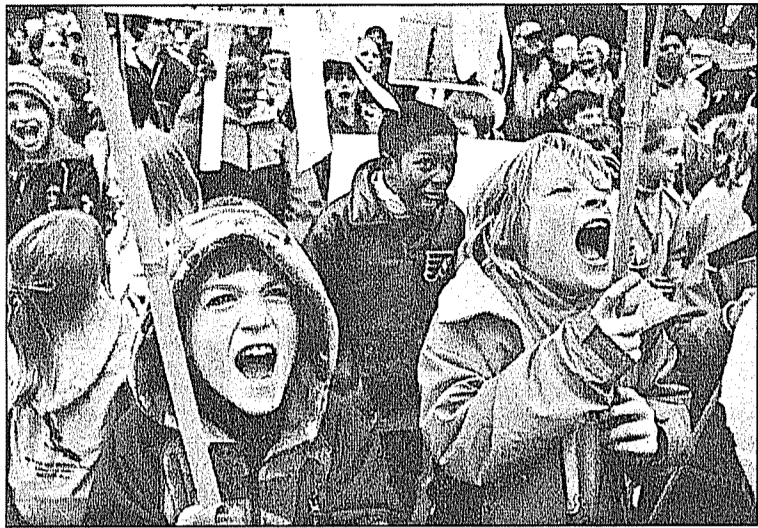
More than 1,300 events were organized in every state under the banner Step It Up 2007 to push Congress to require an 80 percent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

"When it comes to global warming, I don't exactly think President Bush is doing such a hot job," said 12-year-old New Yorker Tiffany Cordero. "A lot of people are thinking just of now. But we won't have a 'now' if we don't focus on the future."

Tiffany delivered a speech for a rally in lower Manhattan's Battery Park, overlooking New York Harbor, where people dressed in blue — some equipped with scuba gear and beach balls — gathered to form a Sea of People human line to symbolically mark New York's future coastline.

Scientists say melting polar ice caps and glaciers will cause ocean levels to rise, although estimates vary. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has projected that ocean levels will rise 7 to 23 inches this century, but other scientists warn the sea level could rise 10 feet or more, enough to flood Lower Manhattan and other low-lying coastal areas.

The threatened rise in the ocean also was dramatized by a New Coast Parade in Portland, Maine, one of more than 30 observances in that state. "The most impor-



Rigby Knox, left, 9, from Dedham, Mass., Ike Okerekwu, center, back, 11, from Boston, and Mac Perry, 9, from Dedham, yell in front of the bandstand when the children in the crowd were asked to show their support during the introductory speech at a rally in Boston, Saturday.

AP

tant things that we have a responsibility to do in government are to prepare our children for a bright future and to preserve and protect our natural resources," Maine Gov. John Baldacci told a gathering in Portland.

The nationwide events were spearheaded by a group of recent graduates from Vermont's Middlebury College, who organized a campaign of blogs, e-mail messages and word of mouth communications.

"We see this to be the most pressing issue of our time, and our generation," said Will Bates, 23, one of six former Middlebury students who helped organize the event with author Bill McKibben, a scholar in residence at the college and among the first to write about global warming, in his 1989 book "The End of Nature."

In Chicago's Daley Plaza,

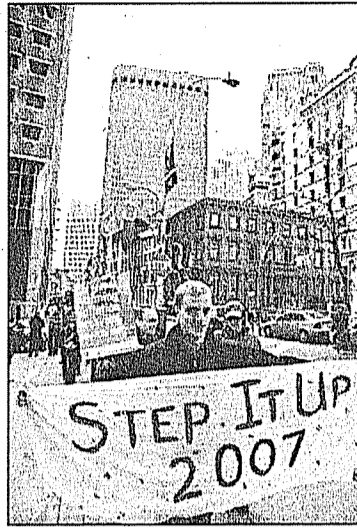
about 500 people listened to speeches from a panel of environmental experts who called for a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. The crowd also waved signs exclaiming "Step it up Congress."

In California, 200 hikers made a strenuous, hour-long climb up a steep canyon to a point just below the famous Hollywood sign.

"It takes real passion to make a big difference — strength in numbers," said Kara Thurman of Santa Monica.

Earlier, hundreds gathered along Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade just east of the Pacific Ocean to listen to lectures and listen to makers of "green" products pitch their wares.

"We have such a wonderful planet and it is really tragic for us



Participants in the "Sea of People" project march down the street in Lower Manhattan during the Step It Up 2007 rally, Saturday, in New York.

AP


to ruin it with global warming," said organizer Jim Stewart of

Earth Day L.A. "The bottom line is everybody needs to be carbon-neutral."


In one of the day's first demonstrations, skiers unfurled a protest banner in April snow on Whiteface Mountain near Wilmington, N.Y. Another group made an early morning hike to the summit of Maine's Cadillac Mountain, which is the first spot in the U.S. to be lit by the rising sun.

The Whiteface Mountain skiers fear long-term temperature increases promise trouble for native plants, wildlife and people in the Adirondack Mountains of northern New York state.

"It's subtle," said Nola Royce, who has been going to the Adirondacks since 1971. For example, she said, the region's notorious, biting black flies are emerging earlier in the season.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation



PUBLIC NOTICE

LOT IN GARAPAN, SAIPAN FOR SALE OR LEASE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation wishes to inform the general public of the sale or lease of Lot No. 003 D 10 located in Garapan, Saipan, next to the First Floral Shop, more particularly described as follows:

Lot No. 003 D 10 (formerly Block 1 Lot 10), containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in Official Cadastral Plat No. 003 D 00, registered at Mariana Islands District Registrar's Office as Document No. 689 on the 19th day of February, 1971.

Interested firms or individuals are encouraged to submit their sealed offers to purchase or lease, addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. All offers to purchase or lease said property must be sealed and must be received no later than **April 30, 2007, at 4:00 p.m.**, at which time all offers received will be opened and reviewed by NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all offers received in the best interest of NMHC.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the offered purchase price must be paid by the winning bidder on the day NMHC notifies the same of his, her or their selection. The remaining balance of the offered purchase price shall then be due within ten (10) calendar days of said notification. Failure to make payment of the immediate deposit or the remaining balance within ten (10) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the winning bidder of his, her or their ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of said bidder's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.

Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold AS IS and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

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COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE
April 13, 2007

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY CALLS A REGULAR CDA BOARD MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007 AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Roll Call
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 1. February 22, 2007
 2. March 1, 2007
 3. March 21, 2007
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- V. REPORTS
- VI. COMMITTEES
 1. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget Committee
 - a. Executive Director
 - b. Rental Office Space - Saipan
 - c. Budget
 - d. Financial Management Services
 2. QC Program/Economic Development Activities Committee
 - a. Status of QCs
 - b. House Resolution on Fiscal Impact
 3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
 - a. Status of DBD Fund Balance
 - b. Refunding of Series 2000A and Series 2003A Bonds - Update
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Economic Summit/Workshop - Update
 2. SBA/SBDC Program - Status
 3. Borrowers' Requests
 4. Sunset Villa - Update
 5. Pacific Gardenia Hotel - Update
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Mayor of Rota's Request
 2. Senator Pedro P. Reyes' Request
- IX. OTHER MATTERS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ VINCENT M. CALVO
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

New driver's license indicates if holder is minor

By **Cherrie Anne E. Villahermosa**
Variety News Staff

THE new driver's license indicates if the holder is restricted or not, according to Bureau of Motor Vehicles Director Juana C. Leon Guerrero.

The new license contains information to indicate if the holder is a minor.

Leon Guerrero said the computerized license will also serve

as identification card of the holder so that authorized individuals will know if the holder is allowed to purchase liquor or cigarettes or enter a nightclub.

A license holder whose age is below 18 falls under Restriction 6.

These ages are prohibited from entering nightclubs as well as purchasing and drinking liquor and cigarettes.

License holder whose age is 18

is allowed to buy cigarettes.

A license holder whose age is over 18 and below 21 falls under Restriction number 7. These ages are also prohibited from purchasing and drinking liquor.

The law requires an individual to be 21 and above to buy and

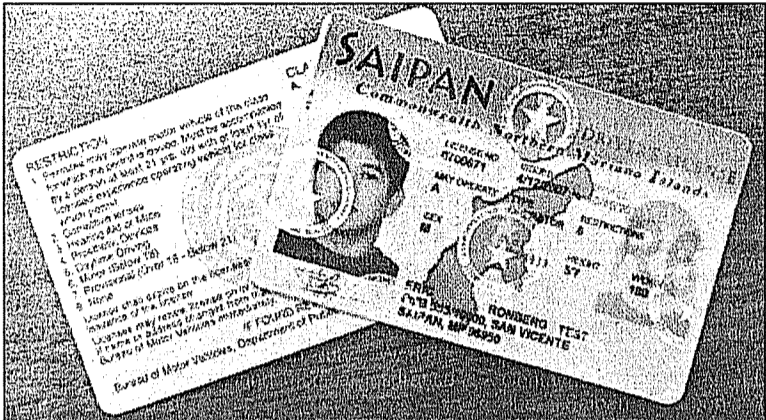
consume liquor.

The new licenses were first issued on Dec. 27, 2006, but BMV is still issuing old licenses to applicants who don't want to disclose their Social Security numbers.

The system that BMV uses to

process the new license requires the applicant's Social Security number but Leon Guerrero said this is not a compulsory procedure.

The procedure for getting a license is still the same. Applicant have to be at least 16 years old.



The new driver's license provides information about any restrictions on the driver. Photo by Mark Peñaranda

9 arrested for various offenses

By **Cherrie Anne E. Villahermosa**
Variety News Staff

NINE persons were arrested by the Department of Public Safety for separate incidents of burglary, theft, receiving stolen property and marriage fraud.

The nine were all brought to the Superior Court for a bail hearing yesterday afternoon.

Five of the defendants were from Tinian—Jose B. Manglona, Antonette Atalig, Jessica K. Cabrera, Edward Lee Santos and Anthony M. Aquiningoc.

Manglona was arrested for theft

and criminal trespass for stealing a sack of aluminum wires from Telesource on April 9.

Atalig and Cabrera were arrested for receiving stolen property from Santos and Aquiningoc.

Santos and Aquiningoc were arrested for burglarizing Island Gear store on Tinian and stealing "a large amount" of money and items on April 7.

The four other defendants were not identified as of press time as their case had been sealed.

They were arrested for marriage fraud.

Students get lessons on traditional marine conservation

By **Emmanuel T. Erediano**
Variety News Staff

OVER 150 students from 10 elementary schools on Saipan learned about traditional marine conservation practices during a youth conference at the Hyatt Regency on Friday.

Sponsored and funded by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's coral program, the conference became a big classroom for the students.

There were eight guest speakers including Dr. Teny Topalian, coral reef ecologist of the NOAA's Pacific Island Regional Office.

Topalian said the conference was held "to impart the wisdom of the elders on traditional marine conservation practices to the youth of the CNMI, which is not done very often."

She said this is the first time that the children will learn something "not from the book, but from the very people who practice traditional means of utilizing and conserving marine resources."

Topalian discussed the need to preserve cultural diversity and marine biodiversity.

Lino M. Olopai taught the children about the traditional Carolinian use of the marine environment while Raphael I. Rangamar discussed traditional fishing.

Valerio E. Mality talked about cultural taboos on marine life while Andrew M. Rapoulug discussed the role of the traditional chiefs regarding marine conservation.

Noel B. Quitugua demonstrated traditional Chamorro fishing tools and implements as well as their uses.

Lorenzo L.G. Cabrera discussed the impact of development on Chamorro culture and marine environment while Gonzolo Santos talked about the importance of preserving traditional coastal medicinal plants.

The participating students are from Tanapag Elementary, Gregorio T. Camacho, San Vicente, Dandan, William S. Reyes, San Antonio, Kagman, Garapan, Oleai and Koblerville.

The next youth conference for junior high and high school students will be held on May 23 at the same venue.

Let our ISLANDS SHINE

<p>Saturday, April 21 Build A Castle, Save A Reef 8am-2pm Hyatt Regency Saipan</p>	<p>April 27-29 Most Beautiful Village Contest Judging will be on April 30-May 1</p>	<p>Saturday, April 28 Lagoon & SCUBA Cleanup San Chamolinan Village to Miro Beach</p>
<p>Sunday, April 22</p> <h1 style="font-size: 2em;">CNMI Earth Day!</h1>		
<p>Tuesday, May 1 Environmental EXPO 8am-12pm Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe</p>	<p>Saturday, May 5 Sustainable Living Festival 8am-12pm Sabalu Market, Civic Center Beach Awards Raffle Drawing</p>	<p>Saturday, May 5 Cook A Rainbow Challenge 10am Sabalu Market, Civic Center Beach</p>

For more information about DEQ's Environmental Awareness Month, please call 664-8500/01, email environment@deq.gov.mp, or visit www.deq.gov.mp.

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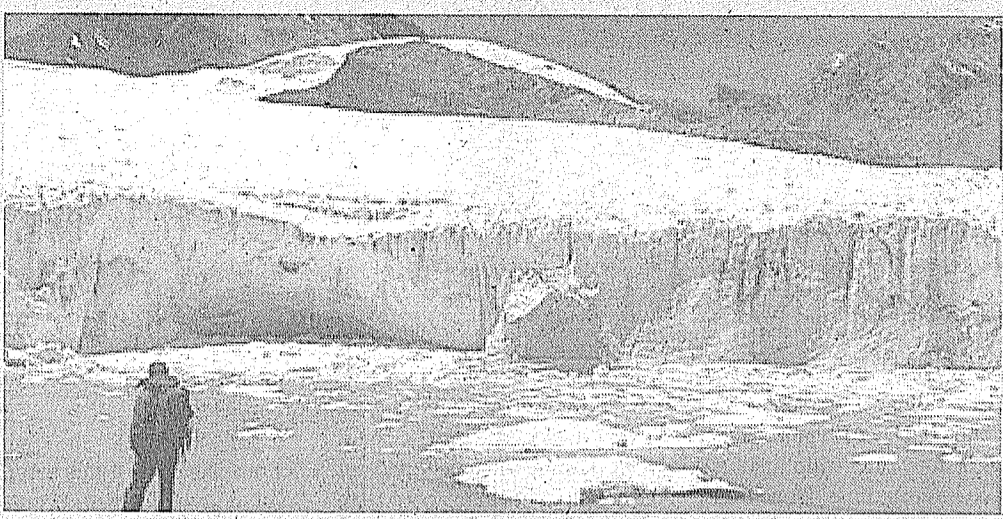
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An explorer looks at the Pastoruri glacier in Huaraz, Peru, in this Nov. 4, 2006 file photo. AP

Wanna bet on global warming? You can

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Think global warming will raise the oceans enough to submerge Cape Hatteras? Want to bet on it?

An online gambling service has started taking bets on global warming, including whether it can submerge some of the East Coast's top vacation spots.

The odds that Virginia's Cape Henry will be under water by 2015—200-to-1 at BetUs.com. Its odds for Cape Hatteras flooding by the same date—300-to-1.

Don't bet on it, says Phil Roehrs, a coastal engineer for the city of Virginia Beach. Roehrs

said although sea levels are rising along the East Coast, scientists are not predicting anywhere near the levels and dates provided by the gambling service.

"No wonder the odds are so good," Roehrs said. That hasn't stopped bettors from taking a chance. About 3,000 placed bets during the first three days on online booking, said Reed Richards, a spokesman for BetUs.com.

Most gamblers on the site have put down money that Manhattan will be submerged before New Year's Eve 2011.

"Don't ask me why," Richards said.

SEAFOOD

From Page 20

Cook recorded that they "were seized with an extraordinary weakness in all our limbs attended with a numbness or sensation like ... that ... caused by exposing one's hands or feet to a fire after having been pinched much by frost."

Ciguatera has long been known in the South Pacific, the Caribbean and warmer areas of the Indian Ocean. Some South Pacific islanders use dogs to test fish before they eat.

But in the past decade, it has spread through Asia, Europe and the United States, where more restaurants are serving reef fish, prized for their fresh taste and exotic cachet.

In the United States, ciguatera poisonings are most frequent in Florida, Texas and Hawaii, which has seen a fivefold increase since the 1970s to more than 250 a year.

Hong Kong, which imports much of its seafood, went from fewer than 10 cases annually in the 1980s to a few hundred now.

Still, Hong Kong diners pay a premium for the risky fish. Rare species like the Napoleon wrasse fetch nearly US\$100 (€77) a kilogram (2.2 pounds). The fish are increasingly shipped live from Southeast Asia and as far away as the South Pacific, raising concerns from the World Conservation Union that many species, especially groupers, could be fished out of existence.

Professor Yvonne Sadovy, of the University of Hong Kong, predicted that high demand and cash-hungry fishermen mean that "ciguatotoxic fish entering markets around the world is going to increase."

Should global warming and pollution worsen and boost ciguatera poisonings, as most experts predict, health officials will face a daunting challenge.

Currently, there is no reliable way to detect whether a fish has ciguatera. The molecule is extremely complex and differs markedly from region to region.

There also is no antidote.

Furthermore, doctors are often ill-equipped to diagnose ciguatera, which has a range of symptoms and is sometimes misdiagnosed as chronic fatigue syndrome or other maladies.

Those challenges faced Dr. Edgar Portigo at Doctors General Hospital in Iloilo, about 430 kilometers (265 miles) southeast of Manila, when the Roa family and others arrived. The emergency room was filling with patients yelping in pain, vomiting, or, in the case of Dabby Roa, so paralyzed that he had to be carried in by a security guard.

"Normally, you have one or two emergency cases. Here we had 30 plus all at once," from ages 4 to 65, Portigo said.

At first, Portigo surmised the patients had heavy metal poisoning. But when he learned of the common thread—the barracuda dinners—he sent a sample of the fish to Manila for testing. It came back positive for ciguatera.

Portigo gave his patients intravenous drips and a diuretic to relieve their suffering. Most like Roa were released from the hospital in a week, he said, and fully recovered.

"Although this is quite rare, it can happen anytime," said Portigo, noting this was the first ciguatera outbreak in the city.

A relatively quick recovery is the norm, but some have lingering symptoms.

Dennis McGillicuddy, a 65-year-old retired cable television company owner from Sarasota, Florida, fell sick a few hours after eating a mutton snapper he caught off the coast of Bermuda in 2000. Within hours, his vomiting and diarrhea were so severe that he became delirious and was "re-

duced to crawling," he recalled.

The digestive symptoms lasted two weeks. After that, McGillicuddy became so sensitive to temperature extremes that it was hard to take a shower. Numbness in his extremities lasted for almost a year.

"I've never had anything like this," said McGillicuddy, who still occasionally feels tingling in his left arm. "You feel terrible all over your body."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and others who monitor ciguatera say they are hampered by the lack of a reliable test. Bans on certain fish or "hot spots" can help, but they often are impractical.

"It's very hard to manage," said professor Richard Lewis, of the University of Queensland in Australia, who has studied ciguatera. "Unless you don't eat the fish, you have a risk of getting ciguatera."

Poorer countries often lack even rudimentary measures to protect consumers. Those precautions that do exist are undermined by government corruption or lack of enforcement.

Hong Kong has refused to enact mandatory measures to prevent ciguatera despite increased outbreaks. It argues that educating consumers and traders is the answer, rejecting calls to crack down on traders or ban fish from suspect areas.

"Given the fact we eat so much seafood in Hong Kong, this should be one of the priorities in protecting the population," Sadovy said. "I just hope we don't have to wait for someone to die before something is done."

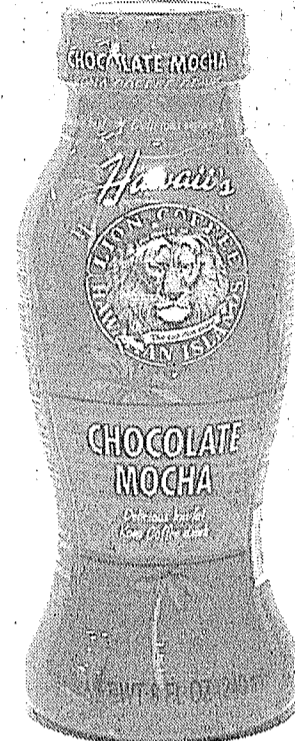
In Iloilo, fear has done what the Philippine government has not. Consumers stopped buying barracuda after the ciguatera outbreak. Vendors have switched to less risky varieties. (Associated Press writer Dikky Sinn in Hong Kong contributed to this report.)

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c/o NAVFAC Pacific
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3134
Attention: EV2

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GRASS FIRE
A stretch of grassfire is seen from San Jose area as it engulfed acres of grassland near the foothills of Kantabla Wednesday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CPA may still get FAA discretionary funds

By **LIBERTY DONES**
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority may still receive discretionary funds from the Federal Aviation Administration this year if other Micronesian airports are unable to exhaust the available funds ranging from \$15 to \$20 million.

The CPA was earlier informed by the FAA not to compete with Palau and Federated State of Micronesia ports authorities for the 2007 discretionary funds because it would be the last year for them to be eligible for such a grant.

"If the other Micronesian airports don't use up the funding, by end of summer it would be available to us. We're now

ready with our application," said Norita.

Norita has said that although FAA intends to prioritize aviation-related projects in other Micronesian airports, they would still be required to apply for it.

It means that if FAA does not see the projects a "priority," the CNMI would keep its annual discretionary funds.

"It's not really bad news for us," said Norita had said.

The CPA has benefited significantly from FAA's discretionary grants over the years at an average of \$5 million annually.

The discretionary funds are leftover entitlement funds that are up for grabs among insular areas every year.

Meantime, CPA said that FAA's position on discretionary fund use would not affect the CPA annual entitlement funds of about \$5.4 million a year.

GTA will invest \$4M to upgrade billing system

AMUNING, Guam—GTA announced yesterday the selection of The Martin Group's MNIA™ and OASIS™ billing and customer service systems to replace GTA's current computer systems. GTA will invest \$4 million in 2007 to purchase the new platform which will allow GTA to better serve customers through enhanced customer services such as converged billing statements. The new systems will also allow GTA to deliver products and services to the market faster and more efficiently.

"Customer service was the primary business driver when making the decision to replace our existing computer systems," says Dan Moffat, President and Chief Executive Officer of GTA. "GTA needs to continue to find ways to better serve the communications needs of Guam. The Martin Group is a trusted and proven business partner in the communications industry."

The Martin Group is a nationwide leader of Software, Business Services, and Engineering for communications providers. The Martin Group is headquartered in Mitchell, South Dakota and has regional offices spanning across the U.S.

In the past two years, GTA has invested over \$30M in upgrading wireline, wireless and internet services to bring the best technologies to Guam. GTA's networks on Guam are among the most advanced in the world. GTA has a secure, buried infrastructure that is designed to continue operations through Guam's severe storms.

"The billing platform gives us more flexibility in pricing and offering bundling incentives or discounts to customers" added Camacho, Vice President for Marketing and Product Management.

In the past year, GTA has

partnered with industry leading companies such as Nortel, Motorola, and the Martin Group to build on their longstanding tradition of delivering and improving service to Guam. "You can expect more new and innovative products and services in the coming year" Camacho further added.

TeleGuam Holdings, LLC,

in partnership with Shamrock Holdings and General Electric (GE), purchased the assets of the Guam Telephone Authority on Jan. 2, 2005. TeleGuam Holdings, LLC is doing business as GTA. GTA is Guam's leading full-service telecommunication company providing fixed landline communications to nearly 65,000 business and

residential customers; cellular phone service with advanced GSM technology, cost effective longdistance, dial-up and broadband Internet service. With a diverse work force of 350, GTA is poised to bring the best and most economic telecommunication products and services to Guam and the region. For more information, visit www.gta.net. (PR)

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

line Won Pat Baleto, general manager for Market Wholesale Distributors Inc., was named the First lian Bank and *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year for 2007 on Saturday, April 14. From left athy Calvo Sgro, executive vice president and chairman of the board for Payless Markets Inc. and Businesswoman of the Year; Faye Varias, editor for *Guam Business*, *Marine Drive Magazine* and *Pacific*; Baleto; Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president and region manager for First Hawaiian Guam and Saipan; and Maureen N. Maratita, publisher for Glimpses Publications.

IWDI GM Baleto is named businesswoman of the Year

ON, Guam—Christine Non Pat Baleto, the general ger of Market Wholesale istributors Inc., is this year's ient of the Maga'haga d after being chosen irst Hawaiian Bank and *Business* as its Busi- voman of the Year.

selection of Baleto was nced at the Business- n of the Year gala held on day, April 14 at the Hilton Resort & Spa.

2006 Businesswoman Year, Kathy Calvo Sgro, d the envelope naming o as the winner, before wded room of more than eople. The *Guam Busi-* second quarter issue, fea- g Baleto on its cover, was eleased at the event. Pro- from the gala totaling 00 were presented to the ersity of Guam Endow- Foundation to sponsor arship programs.

Second Annual Busi- voman of the Year 'haga Award Program is ned to provide recogni- o businesswomen who a made a difference and d the bar" in the field in they are involved.

eto was chosen among 12 ees by a panel of judges, ling businesswomen and s in the community for g a significant difference iness through her work, ution to the community isplaying the best qualities voman in business.

eto graduated with a 1991 or's in behavioral scienc- m Chamínade University olulu and a 2003 mas- in business administration

from the University of Guam. However, her job experience started way before as a hostess at Denny's in 1974.

From 1993 through 2003, Baleto worked at Sanctuary Inc., first as an administrative officer, then as deputy executive director and eventually its executive director. During her time there, she stabilized Sanctuary's finances, producing a \$17,000 private surplus; created Sanctuary's first endowment fund with approximately \$300,000, plus a house valued at approximately \$200,000, donated by Atty. David Lujan; and oversaw the financing and construction of a \$2.8 million facility that previously stood static on Sanctuary's strategic plan for more than 15 years.

In 2003, Baleto joined Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. of Guam as its assistant general manager, prior to becoming the general manager of Market Wholesale in 2005.

Throughout her career, Baleto has received numerous awards, including the 1993 and 1995 Employee of the Year awards and 1993 Director's Leadership award from Sanctuary; a Commendation for Community Service from Gov. Felix P. Camacho and a legislative resolution, both in 2003, honoring her service to the community; and the 2005 Recognition Award from Kraft Foods International for Outstanding Turnaround - Achievement of Business Target, while at Market Wholesale.

Together with First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* magazine, several sponsors donated gifts for the nominees: Quality Distributors, Tiffany's,

Continental Airlines, Bestseller, Bonita Baskets, Coach, Daniel's Hair Design, Glei's Beauty Salon, Guamcell Communications, Hafatel, Heaven Scent, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc., JTG Entertainment & Promotion, Juan Tenorio, Lalaine's Beauty Salon, Lin's Jewelry, Mandara Spa, Mary Kay c/o Julie Cepeda Smith, Music Sensation, Nilda's Salon, Payless Markets Inc., Pena House, Prestige Automobiles and Sunny's Total Image Salon. (PR)

REYNALDO O. YANA -#F0128
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 500052, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6529
Fax: (670) 234-8969

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF: } Civil Action
THE ESTATE OF: } No. 07-0063

LUIS MARCIANO }
LIMES } NOTICE OF
and } HEARINGS
TERESITA PIALUR } and
LIMES, } NOTICE TO
Deceased. } CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 17, 2007, at 1:30 PM, in the Superior Court at Guma Hustisla, petitioner Ana Maria Pialur Limes will petition the court for letters of administration in the above-entitled case. Any person who has an interest in the estate and who objects to the petition may file their opposition with the Clerk of Court.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN TO THE CREDITORS that any person who has any claim against the Estates of Luis Marciano Limes and Teresita Pialur Limes shall have sixty (60) days from the date of publication of this notice to file a claim in writing with the Clerk of Court or with the petitioner's counsel, Reynaldo O. Yana, whose address is P.O. Box 500052, Saipan, MP 96950. Should any claimant fail to file his/her claim within the said period, his/her claim may be barred.

Dated this 27th day of February 2007.

/sgd/ Reynaldo O. Yana - #0128
Attorney for Petitioner

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
Job Vacancy No. 07-029 • Opening Date: 04/16/07 • Closing Date: Until Filled

METER TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Installs customer meters to ensure billing of services received. Performs meter testing; replaces damaged meters with new meters. Performs disconnections and reconnections of services; disconnects tampered accounts. Performs verifications to ensure meters are functioning properly. Delivers delinquency notices to customers with no addresses. Performs other duties of a similar nature level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, BILLING AND CREDIT & COLLECTION, SAIPAN

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School diploma, or G.E.D., and two years of meter reading experience. Knowledge of: Meters; Customer service, techniques; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Installing and replacing meters; Disconnecting and reconnecting meters; Identifying illegal connections; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a valid CNMI Driver's Licence. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
Job Vacancy No. 07-031 • Opening Date: 04/16/07 • Closing Date: Until Filled

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Performs other duties of a similar nature level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, SAIPAN

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School diploma, or G.E.D., and three years of bookkeeping or related fiscal support experience. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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Local

Taiwanese man falls in drug buy-bust

ERDIE DE LA TORRE
PORTER

enforcement personnel arrested a Taiwanese man who was allegedly engaged in selling methamphetamine or heroin on Saipan. The man, Chung Wei, 41, also known as John Wei, was brought to the U.S. District Court for the District of Guam yesterday morning for a hearing. Wei was charged with two

counts of distribution of a controlled substance.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig N. Moore stated in the complaint that on April 5 and 6, 2007, the defendant sold 6 grams of "ice" to a "cooperating source" in front of the Sister Remedio School in Chalan Kanoa District 2.

Judge Alex R. Munson set the preliminary examination hearing for April 26 at 10am.

Munson set no bail for the defendant and remanded him back into

the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

A police detective stated in his report that on April 5, law enforcement personnel and a Department of Public Safety cooperating source conducted a controlled "drug buy-walk operation."

The detective said that at 7:05pm the cooperating source contacted Wei's cell phone and placed an order of \$350 worth of three grams of "ice."

Wei told the cooperating source to meet him in front of

Sister Remedio School.

A member of the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force equipped the cooperating source with a recording device while another DEA Task Force member acted as an undercover agent.

At 7:14pm, both the cooperating source and a DEA member met Wei in front of the school at the western side of the parking lot.

The detective said the defendant turned over to the cooper-

ating source a rolled up piece of toilet paper that contained two small plastic zip lock bags, each containing a crystalline-like substance.

Police said the substance tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine.

The following day, the detective said, the agents using the cooperating source again managed to purchase three more grams of "ice" worth \$350 from Wei at the southern portion of

the same school at 1pm.

DPS Special Investigation Section and DEA members then followed Wei after the deal.

The detective said a marked police car conducted a violator stop on the car that Wei was driving in Chalan Kanoa District 4 for failing to signal while switching lanes.

At 1:15pm Wei was arrested and searched. All of the drug buy money of \$350 was recovered, police said.

Witnesses named for House subpanel oversight hearing

AGNES E. DONATO
PORTER

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs yesterday announced the witnesses for its oversight hearing on the CNMI situation this week.

Washington Rep. Pedro A. Tenorio will speak in behalf of the Commonwealth.

David B. Cohen, the U.S. Department of the

Interior's deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, and Jeanette Franzel, the U.S. Government Accountability Office's financial management and assurance director, will represent the federal government.

The hearing will focus in the "current economic, social and security conditions of the CNMI." It will be the first of two oversight hearings on the topic.

It will be held in Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building on Capitol Hill on Thursday, April 19, 2007, at 10am Washington, D.C. time. That will be 12 midnight, Friday on Saipan.

The hearing will be webcast live on the U.S.

House Natural Resources Committee's website at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>.

The Insular Affairs Subcommittee, led by U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna M. Christensen, called the hearing to give House members an opportunity to familiarize themselves with CNMI issues.

In preparation for the hearing, the subcommittee sent three congressional staff members to Saipan on April 5, 2007, Thursday. The team, made up of Tony Babauta, Brian Modeste, and Rich Stanton, broke away for a day from a congressional delegation that was then visiting Guam.

The congressional staffers met with Gov. Be-

nigno R. Fitial, administration officials, lawmakers, and business leaders during their trip.

On Feb. 8, 2007, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources also conducted a hearing on the CNMI. The hearing was held in light of proposals to extend federal wage and immigration laws to the Commonwealth.

Tenorio, Cohen, and Franzel were also witnesses at the Senate hearing. The witness panels also included Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Juan T. Guerrero, social worker Lauri Ogunoro, and former U.S. Covenant negotiator Haydn Williams.

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Island Snapshots

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor@saipantribune.com. To check if contributions are received, call 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747.

Business

Dollar's weakness hits new low

LONDON (AP)—The last time the British pound was worth more than \$2, the elder George Bush was waging a losing U.S. presidential campaign against Bill Clinton and the Eurotunnel linking Britain to Europe was still under construction.

It took almost 15 years for the pound to again touch \$2, the level it breached Tuesday after

figures showing an unexpected surge in inflation led economists to conclude that multiple interest-rate increases were likely. The prospect of higher rates can boost a currency by promising bigger returns on certain investments denominated in it.

While the currency has been flirting with the \$2 level for several months, hitting it marks a

key psychological notch in trading that analysts expect to hold.

The pound reached a high of \$2.0074 before dropping back to \$2.0040 in afternoon European trading, up from \$1.9900 late Monday in New York. The last time the currency traded above \$2—on Sept. 16, 1992—marked the end of Britain's membership of the European Exchange Rate



In this photo illustration, a British pound coin rests upon two US\$1 bills, in London Tuesday April 17, 2007.

mechanism, which is expected to be passed on to the pound to the currency of EU members.

"We believe that the pound could well remain above \$2 for an extended period," said Richard Archer, chief economist at Global Insight.

Tourism operators expect a new round figure to be set in bookings to the United States, with shopping in New York proving popular last time the pound touched \$2 in November.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Energy prices surged in March

WASHINGTON (AP)—Energy prices surged in March at the fastest pace since Hurricane Katrina, but other consumer costs eased, providing relief from worries that inflation was getting out of hand. The Consumer Price Index was up 0.6 percent last month, the biggest jump in 11 months, the Labor Department reported Tuesday. Prices had risen 0.4 percent in February. The March increase was driven by a 5.9 percent spike in energy costs, the largest gain in this area since September 2005, when Katrina shut down Gulf Coast refineries. Gasoline

prices shot up 10.6 percent with another big increase expected in April given that pump prices have continued to rise. The nationwide average for regular hit \$2.88, the Energy Department reported this week, up 71 cents over the past 11 weeks.

Stocks up on inflation, housing data

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street traded mostly higher Tuesday, briefly pushing the Dow Jones industrials into record territory after a rise in home construction and a mild reading on consumer inflation encouraged investors to buy. The technology-dominated

Nasdaq composite index and the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies slipped, showing that most of the stock market's gains were isolated in larger companies that are more impervious to economic stumbles. The Dow traded as high as 12,790.02, passing its closing high of 12,786.64 set Feb. 20, and approached its trading high of 12,795.93, reached the same day. The Dow rose 52.58, or 0.41 percent, to 12,773.04. Gains in Coca-Cola Co. and Johnson & Johnson, which reported earnings earlier in the day that exceeded expectations, gave the blue chip index its 13th rise out of the last 14 sessions.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The Joint Guam Program Office (JGPO) will host open house public scoping meetings on the islands of Guam, Saipan, and Tinian to discuss the environmental impact statement/overseas environmental impact statement (EIS/OEIS) that is being prepared for relocating Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam, transient nuclear aircraft carrier (CVN) berthing at Naval Base Guam, and placing an Army ballistic missile defense (BMD) task force on Guam.

The public is encouraged to attend the open houses, which will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

1. Tuesday, April 17, 2007 from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Yona Community Center, next to the Mayors office, Guam
2. Wednesday, April 18, 2007 from 5:00 pm – 9:00pm, Dededo Senior Citizens Center, next to the Mayors office, Guam
3. Thursday, April 19, 2007 from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan
4. Friday, April 20, 2007 from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, San Jose, Tinian

Oral and/or written comments may be provided at the open houses. A Chamorro translator will be available. Interested agencies, individuals, and groups unable to attend the open houses are encouraged to provide written comments postmarked no later than May 21, 2007.

Mail comments to: JGPO
c/o NAVFAC Pacific
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3134
Attention: EV2

Federal agencies, government of Guam agencies, government of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) agencies, the public, and other interested parties are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments to the JGPO to identify specific issues or topics for consideration in the EIS/OEIS. The JGPO will consider comments received as they develop the scope of the EIS/OEIS.

Bel with your head, not over it.