

Local businesses get big Fed contracts

CORAL GABLES — Monroe County businesses received more than \$7.3 million last year in federal contracts, according to a report compiled by the Federal Procurement Data Center for the Small Business Administration

(SBA) district office in Miami. According to SBA spokesman Carol Adkisson, Key West got the largest share of the total. Businesses there received \$7.04 million in federal contracts.

Miss Adkisson said the report listed businesses receiving contracts as large businesses, small businesses, minority businesses and women-owned businesses. She said the contracts were awarded by the Department

of Defense (DD), NASA, the General Services Administration (GSA) and "other government agencies."

In Key West \$6.22 million in DD contracts went to small businesses and \$320,000 went to minority businesses. Miss Adkisson said \$13,000 in contracts with other agencies went to women-owned businesses.

In Summerland Key, other government agencies awarded \$60,000 in contracts to large businesses.

Miss Adkisson said Marathon received a total of \$72,000 in government contracts.

She said \$22,000 of that figure was awarded to women-owned businesses and the remainder went to

small businesses. She added that all of the money came from other government agencies.

Other government agencies accounted for \$100,000 in federal contracts to small businesses in Islamorada.

Miss Adkisson said small businesses in Key Largo received \$75,000 in federal contracts from other agencies.

"Procurement," according to SBA District Director John L. Carey, "is by far the largest source of government assistance to small business."

He added, "Small businesses in Florida received \$624.3 million in federal contracts during fiscal year 1982. By comparison, SBA approved direct and guaranteed bank loans to small businesses for a

total of \$32.3 million."

Mr. Carey said the SBA procurement assistance program helps federal agencies to direct government contracts to small businesses; helps private contractors to direct federal subcontracts to small businesses; refers qualified small businesses to federal prime contractors; and monitors the granting of federal contracts to small firms by federal agencies.

The SBA maintains a computerized master list of small companies capable of performing work on federal contracts and subcontracts.

To obtain an application form to get on the list write the SBA at 2222 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Fifth Floor, Coral Gables, 33134.

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Money matters lead agenda before FKEC

By PHIL FOLEY
Upper Keys
News Director

TAVERNIER — Financial topics were the top subjects on the Florida Keys Electric Cooperative's board of trustees agenda here Monday.

FKEC Manager Ed Grant announced that Florida Power and Light's (FPL) Phase II rate increase went into effect April 13. He said the increase is being disputed and is subject to refund.

The FPL rate increase will mean higher electric bills for FKEC members next month, but Mr. Grant said he didn't know how much the increase will be.

He did say that if the increase had gone into effect last month, it would have increased member bills 3 percent.

Board Chairman Charlie Anderson said Tuesday that the reason the FKEC doesn't know how much customer's bills will rise is that FPL has not told the FKEC how much the rate increase is.

The trustees voted unanimously to renew its \$2 million line of credit with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. (CFC).

Mr. Grant urged the trustees to renew the line of credit saying, "We have never used it before and it doesn't cost us anything."

He pointed out the money is available on 48-hour notice for emergencies. Mr. Grant added that if the FKEC does need to use the money, "It will cost us a fraction above prime" rate.

The trustees voted to lower the interest paid on member deposits from 8 percent to 6

percent. Mr. Grant said the FKEC has been paying 8 percent interest on member deposits for the past two years.

He added, "Everything else has come down. Why not this?"

Trustee Bob Girard argued, "Money management accounts are still paying a little more than 8 percent," but he voted with the rest of the trustees to drop the rate.

The FKEC board is planning to tour the entire system May 23. Mr. Grant said the FKEC will rent a 47 passenger bus from a Miami company for \$340.

Mr. Grant said the purpose of the tour is to familiarize board members with the FKEC's system.

Public Affairs Committee

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weather		
DATE	HIGH	LOW
April 20	88	74
April 21	87	76
April 22	90	77
April 23	88	72
April 24	86	74
April 25	83	72
April 26	80	64
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Photo by ANDY NEWMAN

Freedom

WITH THE sun breaking through behind them and the water swirling below, more than 1,000 attempted to cross the length of the Seven Mile Bridge Saturday as the run became an annual event. Bursting through the tape first was William Springer of Fort Lauderdale, who at 43 years old, beat the youngsters with a time of 37:33. For a story and more pictures, see Pages 10-11.

Bridge shift

Bridges may be moving due to design problem

By DAN ARMITAGE
Staff Writer

LONG KEY — "Something happened, we're not sure just what, but there was a shift in the substructure," said a Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) spokesman concerning the new Long Key Bridge.

"The bridge has changed its posture with respect to the 'V piers' supporting the roadbed, according to Jack Mueller, program manager for the Keys' Bridge Replacement Program.

The shift happened sometime in March or April of 1982.

said Mr. Mueller, when the legs of three of the 12 expansion piers twisted "about one-quarter of an inch."

The DOT spokesman said that the shift was "probably due to the cold weather we experienced then" when the concrete on the bridge contracted and expanded with the temperature change at a different rate than the iron water pipeline it contains.

"It is not a complicated process," explained Mr. Mueller concerning the modifications being made to the expansion piers. "We are simply mounting steel plates on either side of

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