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FSM, RMI, and Palau have historic visit with sitting US President

May 21, 2019

At the invitation of US President Donald Trump, President David Panuelo of the Federated States of Micronesia, Presiding Hilda Heine of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and President Tommy Remengesau visit the President Trump in the oval office today. It was the first time in history for the three Micronesian Presidents to be invited to meet with a sitting US President.

“President Trump is directing, really, an unprecedented level of focus on the Pacific Islands, and that’s in recognition of the fact that the United States is a Pacific nation with immutable strategic, economic, cultural, and people-to-people links to these islands” said a Senior Administration official during a pre-meeting press briefing conducted by phone. “And one indication of the focus of this administration on that region is the two-way, high-level visits that have been taking place. Just in the last several months, we’ve had a number

of U.S. Senior Officials visit the region, starting with our Interior Secretary who attended the Pacific Islands Forum last fall; Vice President Pence was in Papua New Guinea also last fall for the APEC Summit; our Under Secretary of the Navy, Tom Modly, was in the region recently; as was the Assistant Secretary of Interior, Doug Domenech; Assistant Secretary of Defense Randy Schriver made a trip there in December; Patrick Murphy of the State Department was there earlier this year; and I also made a trip to the Solomon Islands and to Vanuatu this past March.”

“So, we’ll be sending several senior level delegations, including at the cabinet level, to the region in the coming months,” he continued.

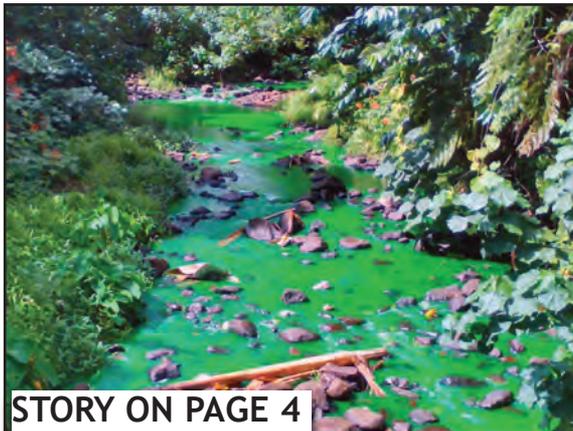
“We have a unique, and actually quite special, partnership with the Freely Associated States based on history -- our shared sacrifice during the war, and following World War II, and also our compacts with the association which are unique documents between sovereign



states. Those compacts allow the United States to provide for the security of the Freely Associated States, and also to have unrestricted access, for the U.S. to have unrestricted access to their airspace and waters for defense purposes.

See “US President visit” on page 8

EPA says that dye released into Sekere River not harmful to humans, fish, or plant life



STORY ON PAGE 4

Sea Cucumbers may lose their voice in Sapwuahfik as plaintiffs and defendants agree to dismiss case

By Bill Jaynes
 The Kaselehlie Press

May 20, 2019
 Pohnpei—Plaintiffs and defendants have filed a joint motion to dismiss the civil action that led the FSM Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order almost three years ago

barring harvesting of sea cucumbers in Pohnpei. The TRO has stood since that time, but it now seems that the sea cucumber issue has no more empowered defenders and the TRO could fall.

The Court has not yet ruled for

See “Sea Cucumbers” on page 2

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26th Annual Pohnpei Fishing Club Tournament

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Japan Ambassador hosts reception for new Emperor and bids farewell to the FSM

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Grammy and Brit Award winner Joss Stone perform at Cupid’s in Pohnpei

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...Sea Cucumbers

Continued from front page

dismissal but our analysis of the rules for dismissal of Actions (Rule 41) leads us to believe that it will likely dismiss based on the fact that both the plaintiff and the defendants have agreed (stipulated) to dismiss. However, Pohnpei's law governing the conduct of a sea cucumber harvest requires a sustainable development plan. The motion only mentions and attaches a plan purported to have been conducted by the Office Fisheries and Aquaculture in regard to Sapwuahfik waters. The TRO covers all of Pohnpei's waters. The Court could well then decide to deny the motion to dismiss since it asks for the entire case to be dismissed. It is unclear whether the Court could or would lift the TRO only for Sapwuahfik's waters without also lifting it for all of Pohnpei's waters.

If the Court dismisses the case based on the recent motion, then it will do so without rendering judgement on the merits of the case, and as we understand, it the dismissal would be "without prejudice", which means that the plaintiff can bring another suit based on the same grounds.

The motion is what is called a "Stipulated Rule 41(a)(1)(ii) Motion" to dismiss the Civil Action 2016-014 that Iso Nanken Nett Salvador Iriarte as spokesperson for Mwoalen Wahu Ileile en Pohnpei and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) jointly filed. That type of motion requests a voluntary dismissal of a case which is allowed only if the plaintiffs and the defendants agree to dismiss. That is

currently the case. The FSM Supreme Court long ago ruled that CSP did not have legal standing to bring the case and so dismissed them as plaintiffs. That ruling left only one plaintiff—Mr. Iriarte on behalf of Pohnpei's traditional leaders and he has changed his mind about sea cucumber farming and harvesting.

The defendants in the case are Marcelo Peterson as Governor of Pohnpei State, the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA), the Pohnpei State Government, and Young Sun International Trading Company. Iriarte had initially argued that Pohnpei State Government had inappropriately and illegally issued a permit to Young Sun Trading to harvest sea cucumbers. Though the Court ruled that there were sufficient grounds to issue the TRO, it never got to the point where it could hear final arguments in order to make a ruling on whether or not a permanent injunction should be issued.

The motion to dismiss says that "His Majesty Peiweileng, Nanmwarki of Sapwuahfik has represented that the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) has placed 300,000 sea cucumbers on the reef of Sapwuahfik." A copy of his communication dated December 14, 2018 was attached. "Further," it says, "His Majesty, Peiweileng has represented that OFA has completed an inspection of the sea cucumbers placed on the Sapwuahfik reef and have prepared a report in support of a harvest of sea cucumbers." The motion also included a copy of that report.

"It is the position of Mwoalen Wahu that Pohnpei State Government through office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, has provided the needed management plan regarding the commercial harvesting of sea cucumber as to Sapwuahfik. Mwoalen Wahu supports the effort of the traditional leaders of Sapwuahfik to enable the people of Sapwuahfik to harvest and sell sea cucumber," it says based on the Sapwuahfik Island Sea Cucumber Assessment Data Synopsis of October 2018, and the Sapwuahfik Sea Cucumber Seeding Distribution Program (November 2, 2018) and harvest plan.

If the court accepts the motion to dismiss, then Young Sun International Trading Company will begin a harvest of sea cucumbers in Sapwuahfik.

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Bill Jaynes
 Managing Editor

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UCT-2 concludes maritime infrastructure assessment in FSM

By Mass Communication Specialist Pohnpei Harbor and the channel in
2nd Class Jasen Moreno-Garcia, CTF Kapingamarangi Atoll.
75 Public Affairs

KOLONIA, Pohnpei – U.S. Navy Sailors assigned to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2, Construction Dive Detachment Alpha, with Pohnpei port security divers, conducted a subject matter expert exchange involving a maritime infrastructure assessment of the Pohnpei Harbor and Kapingamarangi Atoll May 7, as part of Pacific Partnership 2019 (PP19).

The assessment’s goal, which began April 16, was to maintain and expand the harbor port in Pohnpei as well as improve navigation safety in both Pohnpei and Kapingamarangi Atoll in order to empower Micronesia to improve their infrastructure and ability to respond to disaster emergencies.

Construction Electrician 1st Class Daniel Lehne, the project supervisor, stated the reason for the visit to Pohnpei for PP19 was to inspect the faces of the wharf in the Pohnpei Harbor and conduct multiple hydrographic surveys, including surveying harbors in Pohnpei and Kapingamarangi Atoll.

“We put a lot of effort into everything we did working with the locals,” affirmed Lehne. “Instead of just completing another job, we became friends with a lot of the people here – we showed them how we do things so that they can continue doing those operations to make this a safer, more resilient place.”

Capt. Randy Van Rossum, mission commander for Pacific Partnership 2019, spoke to the PP19 common goal of creating a safer environment for future disaster preparedness.

“We were able to share knowledge, improve infrastructures and create friendships, all adding to the overall mission that provides disaster risk reduction opportunities to assist nations in disaster preparation,” said Van Rossum.

The UCT-2 Sailors used a single-beam hydrographic survey to create a map of the different water depths along the

Lehne discussed the difficult 90-degree turn and how the narrowness of the channel in Kapingamarangi Atoll prevents larger vessels from transiting during increased sea states.

“The surveys we completed will allow us to formulate a calculated plan using [precision placement of] explosives and other dredging techniques to widen the channel, making it a much safer passage for local ferries and boats bringing supplies to the atoll,” said Lehne.

The UCT-2 team also performed a wharf inspection at Pohnpei Harbor using specialized equipment to test the current thickness of the metal wall in the wharf face. The measurements taken will be used as a baseline measurement for future inspections to help track the deterioration of the metal on the face over time.

“We first began by exchanging knowledge with Pohnpei port security divers on how to inspect their wharf because it has not been inspected since the 70s,” said Construction Electrician 2nd Class Philip Wall. “We were able to show them underwater testing techniques using an ultrasonic thickness tester and a bathycorrometer to test metal thickness and cathodic protection.”

Wall further explained that learning how to perform the wharf inspections would allow the port security members to maintain a safe wharf and eliminate the need of outside assistance to perform such crucial inspections.

The UCT-2 team also inspected a local recompression chamber at the Pohnpei State Hospital that has been nonoperational since 2015.

“We went to the hospital to conduct a walkthrough of the chamber,” said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ryan Kitchens. “We had a checklist and discovered all the deficiencies. We developed a plan alongside the hospital manager to restore the chamber to help save lives.”



Photo By Petty Officer 2nd Class Jasen MorenoGarcia | 190502-N-LN093-1015 KOLONIA, Pohnpei (May 2, 2019) – U.S. Navy Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Rob Norton, assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2, conducts a level 2 wharf inspection at Pohnpei Harbor, enhancing regional resiliency during Pacific Partnership 2019. Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase stability and security in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships across the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician 2nd Class Philip Wall)

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Celebration for return of the Special Olympics athletes

Nikishi Smith

Many gathered on Friday the 17th of May to celebrate the achievements of the four students who attended the World Special Olympics Summer Games in Abu Dhabi. The events took place from March 8 to 24. The four students; Harrison Rea Elieu, Kimlein Kostka, April Luhk and A-Trick Paul competed in the 100m in this internationally recognised event.



We are honoured to announce that Harrison, April and A-Trick returned with silver medals and Kimlein a 6th place medal for the FSM. We are very proud of the achievements of the students competing in this World event. The students are all of high school age and did very well to achieve so well being away from home for an extended period of time. Accompanying them was the coaches; Patterson Anson and Maureen Villa as well as chairperson and sports person; Castro Joab and Dorothy Chieg.



In attendance for the welcome home event was the Ambassador of Australia; H.E George Fraser, Reverend Henry Phillip, Special Olympics Micronesia Committee members; Castro Joab, Kester James, Maureen Villa, Noriekkka Lekka, Monique Panaligan, and Nikisha Smith as well as our ongoing supporters, family and friends. Music entertainment was provided by Youth for Change member, Barry Long. It was a great celebration and showcase of how proud we are of these students.



EPA says that dye released into Sekere River not harmful to humans, fish, or plant life

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 22, 2019

Pohnpei—Last Friday, residents of Sekere and commuters over the Sekere River Bridge were stunned and alarmed to see the river colored an eerie and unnatural phosphorescent green. Onlookers formed all sorts of theories about the source, including guesses that it was toxic waste spilled on the road.

When representatives of Pohnpei's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tested the water they found that the odd color of the river was caused by a dye that commercial fishing operations use to visually track fish within their nets when they are caught. According to Francis Celestine, the dye is not harmful to humans, fish, plants, or other wildlife in the water or on the shore. He

said that the agency uses the same dye when it tests for leakages in sewage systems.

Celestine said that though the dye had not been spilled on the road as many people have speculated, EPA has not yet identified the source of the dye. EPA suspects that someone was storing the dye close to the river and their storage container leaked into the river.

EPA's investigation continues—not for fines or prosecution but to prevent the possibility that whoever was storing the dye that leaked might also be storing chemicals that could actually do harm, unlike the dye that spilled.

The phosphorescent green dye cleared from the Sekere River before the end of the day but later re-occurred, something that was not mentioned by the EPA spokesperson.

Office of the National Election Director

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Federated States of Micronesia

Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941

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TIMETABLE

For July 2, 2019 Special Election



Director's Office

This Timetable is based on the Revised National Election Act of 2005

Sections	Dates	Definitions
Appropriation (9FSMC) Sec. 107	May 23, 2019	40 day prior to a Special Election, Congress shall appropriate a sum adequate to defray the administrative and contingent expenses of conducting National Election.
Open and close of absentee request by mail (9FSMC) Sec. 602 (2) a	May 13, 2019 May 28, 2019	Request to vote absentee ballot by mail must be received by National Election Commissioner (NEC) not more than 50 days but not less than 35 days before Special Election Day.
Closing for filing Nomination Petition (9FSMC) Sec. 202 (4)	May 23, 2019	The name of any candidate shall be printed on an official ballot only if, at least 40 days prior to a Special Election the nomination paper is filed in the office of the National Election Commissioner (NEC) of the state concerned.
Last day to appoint various boards and Counting and Tabulating Committee members (9FSMC) Sec. 302 (3)a		The National Election Commissioner (NEC) of each state with the approval of the National Election Director shall appoint election board and tabulating committee members on or before January 2nd of each election year.
Designation of Special Polling Places (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (2)	May 18, 2019	Not less than 45 days prior to a Special Election , the National Election Director (NED) shall designate the locations of the special polling places, (one in Guam and one in Honolulu)
Printing of official ballots (9FSMC) Sec. 503 (1)	May 28, 2019	The National Election Director (NED) shall complete the printing of the official ballots no later than 35 days before a Special Election.
Request to vote at the special polling places (9FSMC) Sec. 605 (3)	June 22, 2019	Request to vote at a special polling place must be received by the National Election Commissioner (NEC) of the state of registration not less than 10 days prior to a Special Election.
Last day to send absentee ballots by mail (9FSMC) Sec. 602 (2)b	May 28, 2019	The National Election Commissioner (NEC), shall, at least 35 days before a Special Election , mail an absentee ballot to any absentee voter who has requested an absentee ballot in accordance with this section.
Absentee for Travelers (9FSMC) Sec. 606 (1)b	June 2, 2019 July 1, 2019	Not more than 30 days and not less than 1 day before the Special Election ; a voter must submit in person a written request to cast a ballot prior to traveling.
Preparation of signature lists (9FSMC) Sec. 303(7)	June 12, 2019	National Election Director (NED) shall prepare signature lists from National Voter Register for each of the polling places not later than 20 days prior to each election.
VAAPP Requests (9FSMC) Sec. 604(1)d	June 25, 2019	National Election Commissioner (NEC) of the state of registration receives the written VAAPP requests at least 7 days before the Special Election.
Posting of Signature Lists of SPP (9FSMC) Sec. 605(4)	June 26, 2019	No later than 6 days before a Special Election , National Election Commissioner (NEC) shall post at the National Election Offices in their states signature lists of each special polling place in their state.
Posting of Signature Lists for Guam and Honolulu (9FSMC) Sec. 605(5)	June 26, 2019	No later than 6 days before a Special Election , the National Election Director, or his designee, shall post the Special Polling Place Signature lists for Guam and Honolulu in a publicly accessible place in each location to be set out in the regulations promulgated pursuant to this title.
Special Election Day (9FSMC) Sec. 105(2)	July 2, 2019	The National Election Director shall schedule a special election to occur 50 days after receipt of notification from the Speaker of Congress.

Esmeralda M. Panuelo
Acting Director
FSM National Election
Federated States of Micronesia

May 13, 2019
Date

New Leadership on the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) Board of Trustees



MCT is proud to announce that Trustee Doreen De Brum has accepted the position of Ambassador from the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the European Union, setting aside her role as Chairwoman of the MCT Board of Trustees. She assumes, instead, the role of International Trustee of the Board with a focus on Europe.

Trustee De Brum joined the MCT Board in September 2014 and assumed the Chairwomanship in September 2015. During her tenure, MCT developed and implemented a Strategic Action Plan (2016-2018) which included new vision and mission statements and set a strategic direction and overarching goals for Conservation, Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods. She also led the update of the plan for next three years.

MCT is equally happy to announce that, MCT Board Vice-Chairman and Minister of Finance for the Republic of Palau, Elbuchel Sadang, has assumed the Chairmanship of the MCT Board of Trustees. Chairman Sadang chaired his first meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 24, 2019 at which the Trustees adopted the updated strategic plan.

MCT Vision: Enduring Partnerships that conserve our land and sea to improve quality of life for communities across Micronesia.

MCT Mission: We build partnerships, raise and manage funds, make grants, influence policy and provide conservation and financing expertise.



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NOTICE OF SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the order of the FSM Supreme Court entered on April 26, 2019, public notice is hereby given that the entity described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

The business entity described as Island Cable Television, Inc and all its possessions will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

- A minimum bid amount is set at \$100,000
- Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "June 10, 2019 Business Entity Auction" by personal delivery to Finley S. Perman at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Palikir, Pohnpei on June 10, 2019 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on June 10, 2019.
- All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, email address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
- All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount and must include a deposit of 5% of the total bid amount by cashier's check. If the bid submission does not include the 5% deposit, the bid is immediately disqualified.
- The winning bidder shall be notified in writing and payment of the remaining balance of the bid must be paid to Island Cable Television, Inc no later than ten (10) calendar days after notice of award is given. If the winner fails to pay the remaining balance of the bid within the required time, the deposit shall be forfeited to Island Cable Television, Inc.
- Upon qualification and full payment of the winning bid, the non-winning bidders shall have their 5% deposit returned to them within two (2) business days.
- The winning bidder shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring the rights of ownership of the business entity Island Cable Television, Inc and all its possessions.
- If the winning bidder who has been provided notice of award by Island Cable Television, Inc fails to remit payment within the required time, his/her deposit is forfeited to Island Cable Television, Inc and the notice of award will be granted to the next highest bidder, and the same conditions will apply.
- The business entity Island Cable Television, Inc and all its possessions are offered for sale "as is" with no guarantee or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

Questions concerning this auction may be sent to Finley S. Perman, Liquidating Receiver, email: permanf@gmail.com, Island Cable Television, Inc., Pami Building, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941, telephone no. 691-320-2761.

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FSM  **TC**
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Trial Counselor's Program resumes in Chuuk

Daniel Rescue

May 17, 2019 marked the completion of the Fall semester at the College of Micronesia (COM), Chuuk campus, and also signified the end of the first semester of the Trial Counselor's program in Chuuk. On January 14, 2019, 18 eager students walked into a classroom at the COM Chuuk Campus, and marked a revival of the Trial Counselor's Program in Chuuk after a 13 year absence.

The program, which has been taught in Pohnpei and at times in Yap, consists of 10 courses over a one year period. Classes in Chuuk are being taught by Kembo Mida Jr., Chief Executive Officer of the Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation, and Daniel Rescue Jr., Directing Attorney for the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation, Chuuk office.

The certificate program provides training opportunities for current, as well as aspiring and upcoming trial counselors, to improve their skills and competency, and to prepare them to be effective decision makers in their respective courts. Upon completion, graduates earn a Trial Counselor's Certificate, and may sit for the FSM Bar Exam after an externship period. Graduates of the program have gone on to further their education in Guam, Hawaii, the U.S. mainland, China, and the University of the South Pacific.

The courses being taught are: Contracts, Criminal Law, Torts, Criminal Procedure, Civil and Appellate Procedure, Constitutional Law, Property, Evidence, Legal Research and Writing, and Trial Practice.

Although the courses have been offered in Chuuk in the past, because of the lack of instructors, there has not been a group of students who have completed the program in Chuuk. If the program has enough instructors, the first graduating class will complete their studies in December 2019.

The following are those currently enrolled in the Trial Counselor's program in Chuuk: Calvin Assito, Mary Jo Hartman Sound, Andy Orlando, Ioster Ifenuk, Otoko Kannys, Jonvan Kando, JK Kaminaga, Redeemer Nelson, Joseph Rold, Sampora Moses, Soseia Kau, McKay Ludwig, Fanes Meika, Lucille Sain, Kind Kando, Pastor Suzuki, Jerry Robert, and Randy Samuel.



Title: Livihoods Chuuk Coordinator
Closing Date: June 5, 2019

The Livihoods Chuuk Coordinator (LCC) reports directly to the Livihoods Project Manager (LPM). Together the LPM and LCC are responsible for coordinating Coconut for Life (C4L) projects in FSM and other projects secured by the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) as part of the accomplishment of the overarching goal and associated milestones and activities for Impact Area C of the MCT Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2019-2021, Sustainable Livihoods. The LPM and LCC will assume direct responsibility for this livihoods project, C4L specifically.



Initial focus activities – Vital Corp. Coconuts for Life Project (C4L):

The overall goal of the C4L project is to provide sustainable agricultural trade and improve the living standards of communities through local socio-political structures and institutions that utilize the modified Participant Guarantee System (PGS) Framework. Activities and responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Ensure that all C4L activities in Chuuk or wherever he/she might be assigned to adhere to the MCT Gender, Social and Environmental Risk Management policies and associated processes.
- Work with LPM liaises with Vital C4L project team to achieve program/project goals.
- Work with LPM review the PGS materials and provide appropriate inputs to contextualize tool kit to fit Chuuk's context.
- Receive training materials on the delivery of PGS implementation activities in order lead delivery of the said training activities for farmers groups Chuuk and other FSM states if needed.
- Assist with any future program rollout of C4L activities as the program expands to the other states.
- Lead/facilitate the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation plans for C4L and other related community programs, including establishment of community development priorities in Chuuk and other states if needed.
- Lead the implementation of the PGS formation, registration, and participation in the C4L trade for communities in Chuuk and the other states if needed.
- Provide Business Support Service training for established PGS farmer groups in Chuuk and in other states if needed.
- Assist the C4Life Project Team to test the PGS materials/tools in Chuuk and continue to make improvements as appropriate.
- Based on lessons learned from Pohnpei site models, improve on those lessons learned and begin to engage communities in Chuuk, starting from Tonoas.
- Conduct PGS trainings for those communities who are ready to receive them.
- Carry out due diligence assessments with the PGS groups to gauge their progress towards achieving maturity index.
- Develop and propose a 1 year schedule of community outreach, engagement and training.
- In line with MCT's Strategic Plan explore potential opportunities to further expand, support and assist in the development of MCT's Sustainable Livihoods Program.

Qualifications:

Education: Advanced university degree in environmental fields, Environmental Economics, Business Administration or similar field.

Experience: At least 5 years of relevant experience in development work, which should include project management and community outreach.

Managerial skills Excellent analytical and writing skills

Excellent teamwork and people management skills.

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Good negotiation and problem-solving skills.

Ability to work independently and manage time and priorities.

Language requirements: Speak and write fluently in both English and Chuukese.

IT skills Proficiency in standard computer software (word-processing, excel, presentations, databases and internet)

SALARY AND BENEFITS:

This is a professional level position. MCT offers modest assistance with relocation if needed as Chuuk State is the required duty station. The LCC will also be eligible for MCT's other benefits including, health and life insurance and retirement plan. Salary will depend on experience and qualifications and will be negotiated upon selection. MCT offers salaries comparable to, or higher than, other employers of its type in Micronesia.

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President Panuelo receives Ambassador Fraser, thanks Australia for its continuous friendship & support

*FSM Information Services
Press Release*

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—

On May 15th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received His Excellency George Fraser, Ambassador of Australia, who requested a courtesy call. The purpose of the meeting was for Ambassador Fraser to congratulate President Panuelo on his election to the highest office, with much of the discussion focusing on strengthening the already strong relationship between FSM and Australia through ongoing and upcoming cooperation programs, in areas ranging from building the Nation's human capacity and regional security to potential infrastructural assistance through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific.

President Panuelo extended his appreciation to Ambassador Fraser for Australia's continuous support for the FSM's sovereignty and—rather personally—for Australia's support in human capacity development in the FSM, including his own. "I participated in [an Australian] foreign service training program," President Panuelo said, referring to his former career in the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs in the 1980s and 1990s, "and I wish to thank Australia for those early days of support, which have been ongoing...I am a product of your diplomatic training."

"We appreciate your role in helping our self-determination...and we thank you for the patrol boat program," continued President Panuelo. Three of the FSM's patrol boats are donations from the people and Government of Australia, and two patrol boats are currently being produced by Australia for FSM's receipt in 2021.

"We see our relationship," said Ambassador Fraser, "our regional stability, security, and prosperity as linked.... If our Pacific partners and neighbors are secure and stable, then we are also. And that's the aim of [Australia's] presence in the FSM and the Pacific—a desire to be partners with our neighbors."

It was on the premise of partnership with



one's neighbors that President Panuelo then asked Ambassador Fraser if the FSM could be the host for the upcoming Pacific Fusion Center. "The North Pacific needs more exposure [compared to the South Pacific]," said President Panuelo, who noted that the center would be able to assist the Nation in its commitment to the Technology for Tuna Transparency (T3) Challenge, wherein the FSM seeks to acquire 100% transparency in its tuna fisheries by 2023, and in its ongoing struggle against human trafficking.

During the 2018 Pacific Islands Forum held in the Republic of Nauru, the Australian Government announced its support to establish the Pacific Fusion Center, which is designed to strengthen the ability of Pacific governments to enforce their laws and protect their sovereignty, including responding to security threats such as illegal fishing and human trafficking.



...US President visit

Continued from front page

"We also have quite a number of citizens of the Freely Associated States who served in the U.S. military. In fact, people serve from those states in the U.S. military at a higher rate than most, if not all, U.S. states.

"Of the several hundreds who are currently serving on active duty in our military, we've had at least a dozen from the Freely Associated States who've died in service of the United States and our allies in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

"So, President Trump is really looking forward to discussing our shared security concerns, and that includes things like countering illegal and unregulated and underreported fishing; it includes addressing transnational crime and trafficking; and of course, the protection of all the nation's sovereignty as part of the free and open Indo-Pacific.

"I will convey [the request] to Canberra," said Ambassador Fraser.

The remainder of the conversation focused largely on potential infrastructural and human capacity assistance, the former through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), which offers support for infrastructural project assistance, and the latter through organizations such as the Australian Pacific Security College, which offers courses in maritime security and transnational crime.

The FSM is dedicated towards producing positive and peaceful relationships with all countries and peoples throughout the world. The FSM and Australia enjoy a particularly positive and peaceful relationship, and it is the hope of the FSM National Government that the FSM and Australia's partnership will continue to flourish.

"We also look forward to assisting the Freely Associated States and really, all the Pacific Island nations in strengthening their resilience against natural disasters, rising sea levels, soil erosion, invasive species, and more," he concluded before taking questions.

After the historic meeting, the White House released a joint statement. It follows:

Joint Statement from the President of the United States and the Presidents of the Freely Associated States

The United States of America, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, as Pacific nations, jointly reaffirm our interest in a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. We recognize our unique, historic, and special relationships, and reaffirm our countries' commitments to the Compacts of Free Association, resolving to continue our close cooperation in support of prosperity, security, and the rule of law.

Our nations believe in an economic development model that supports inclusive economic growth and an environment in which the autonomy of all nations is respected. It is in our mutual interest that the Pacific Ocean remains an important and vibrant corridor for maritime trade, and that we work together to reduce vulnerabilities to economic fluctuation and natural disasters. We seek to continue encouraging private-sector investment and trade between our countries and to strengthen the bonds between our peoples.

We remember the sacrifices of our sons and daughters to guarantee a more secure world where freedom can thrive. Today, many citizens of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia serve in the United States military. Their service is a proud reminder of our countries' enduring commitment to our shared security in a dynamic and critical region.

We resolve to continue developing joint initiatives, both bilaterally and through multilateral forums, such as the Pacific Islands Forum, to tackle the region's most pressing issues, including responding to natural disasters; combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; advancing economic development; strengthening the rule of law; and supporting the resiliency of the Pacific islands environment. We recognize these shared priorities and are committed to collaborate on effective solutions responding to the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century.

We are confident our relationships will further our abiding mutual interest and remain a source of regional security, stability, and prosperity.

26th Annual Pohnpei Fishing Club Tournament

GRAND PRIZES FOR ALL BIG POINT FISHES (ALL BOATS)

	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT
JACKPOT	NONE	MARLIN JACKPOT	450+	JACKPOT	\$ 5,700.00
P O I N T B O A T S B I G	CHARLES HANDY	MARLIN	111	1ST	\$ 600.00
	WESTCOTT PANUELO	MAHI MAHI	30.5	2ND	\$ 500.00
	WELPER DAVID	YELLOW FIN	28.5	3RD	\$ 400.00
	WESTCOTT PANUELO	MAHI MAHI	28	4TH	\$ 300.00
	ALEX YSAM	WAHOO	26.5	5TH	\$ 250.00
	BERNOLINA HEDSON	WAHOO	16	6TH	\$ 200.00

BIG FISH CATEGORIES

	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT
C A T E G O R I E S F O R B I G F I S H E S	DAMIAN LOHN	YELLOW FIN	8	1ST	\$ 100.00
	ROHSPEIN (MARLA HAWLEY)	YELLOW FIN	7.5	2ND	\$ 25.00
	BERNOLINA HEDSON	YELLOW FIN	7.5	2ND	\$ 25.00
	NOAH ADAMS	MAHI MAHI	12.5	1ST	\$ 100.00
	WELPER DAVID	SKIP JACK	12.5	1ST	\$ 100.00
	VIEANNA SPENCER	SKIP JACK	12	2ND	\$ 50.00
	DAMIEN LEWIS	BARRACUDA	15.5	1ST	\$ 100.00
	WESTCOTT PANUELO	BARRACUDA	12.5	2ND	\$ 50.00

LADY ANGLERS

	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT
L A D Y A N G L E R S	ELLA DAVID	WAHOO	16	1ST	\$ 150.00
	VIEANNA SPENCER	SKIP JACK	12	2ND	\$ 100.00

JUNIOR ANGLERS

	ANGLER	SPECIES NAME	POUNDS	PRIZE	AMOUNT
J U N I O R A N G L E R S	DANE NIGHSWANDER	BARRACUDA	15	1ST	\$ 100.00
	VIEANNA SPENCER	SKIP JACK	12	2ND	\$ 50.00

Pohnpei Fishing Club

May 18, 2019

Pohnpei—16 boats loaded with anglers participated in the 26th Annual Pohnpei Fishing Club tournament on Saturday, May 18.

The weather was reasonably cooperative and the fish were also. Some fishermen were able to find the big fish out in the deep.

The biggest fish of the day was landed by Charles Handy; a 111 pound marlin. That fish earned him a \$600 cash reward.

Allois Malfitani of the Pohnpei Surf Club landed a heart breaking 99 pound marlin that didn't qualify for a prize. In the interest of conservation, club rules require landed marlins to weigh at least 100 pounds. The idea is that anglers who catch marlins that are smaller than that weight requirement can release them to grow.

We want to thank our sponsors Ambros/Budweiser, Western Union/CTSI, Liancheng

Overseas Fishery (FSM) Co., Ltd., MRAG, Bank of the FSM, POP, Panuelo Enterprises, Blue Nile, Mangrove Bay Bar, Bank of Guam and LP Gas. We couldn't do it without you.

Each boat received t-shirts, a case of beer from Ambros/Budweiser and gift certificates from some of the other sponsors.

We awarded thousands of dollars in prizes and gift certificates.

The fishing club hosted food for everyone and provided beer. There were a lot of satisfied fishermen after the tourney.

Also, thanks to our volunteers, Virginia, Serlynn, Cel, Bill and all of the guys helping on the dock. We appreciate your support.

Our next tournament is sponsored by Vital in June. More details to follow.

The marlin jackpot for a record marlin is growing. It is now at \$5,700.00. Someone is going to collect that money soon.



Japan Ambassador hosts reception for new Emperor and bids farewell to the FSM

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 17, 2019

Pohnpei—Japan's Ambassador to the FSM Ryoichi Horie and Madam Yuko Horie hosted a dinner reception at their official residence this evening. The reception had a two-fold purpose, one happy and one sad. The official reason for the reception was to celebrate the enthronement of Japan's new Emperor which was a happy, smooth and solemn transition. Sadly, the event was also the last reception for the Ambassador to host in the FSM. Ambassador Horie and his wife will be leaving the FSM after three years of faithful service on behalf of his government in the FSM.

On May 1, Japan's new Emperor Naruhito formally ascended to the Chrysanthemum Throne, replacing his father, Akihito who had abdicated a day earlier, the first Japanese Emperor to have stepped down in 200 years. He became the 126th Emperor of Japan in an unbroken line 1400 years old. His ascension to the throne ushers in the beginning of the "Reiwa" era, a name that was adapted from an 8th century anthology of classic poetry. The official government translation is "beautiful harmony".

During his time as Japan Ambassador to the FSM, Ambassador Horie has endeared himself to the people with

his charming wit, sense of humor, and approachability. He and his wife have been living and stellar representatives of his country to the FSM.

Ambassador Horie outlined what he has been trying to accomplish in and for the FSM during his last year. He began with the biggest joint venture between Japan and the FSM, Taiyo Micronesia Corporation (TMC). He said that approximately 20 percent of FSM GDP is generated by TMC. He added that a by-product of the dried bonito, the company has been producing since last year, has been pig feed that is available for sale.

In terms of economic contributions, he said that he would be remiss if he did not mention the contribution of Micronesia Registration Advisers which has registered 106 Japanese companies in the FSM which are contributing to the budget of the FSM by paying corporate tax.

He moved on to Japan's Official Development Assistance. He said that Japan's assistance is based on FSM ownership and sovereignty. Japan has been promoting their free and open Indo-Pacific vision which is based upon the ownership of the recipient country, and freedom, openness, democracy, rule of law, international law, economic sustainability, and transparency.

Very few issues of The Kaselehlie Press go by without at least one announcement of a grant assistance from Japan from large non-project grants to grass roots and technical assistance including JICA volunteers. Japan has provided grants in the fields of education, environment, infrastructure, medicine and promotion of tourism. He recently attended the handing over of a new power plant for Kosrae.

He recently signed an exchange of notes for the provision of security equipment for airports, seaports, and the post offices in the FSM. Because of the grant, soon the Post Office will have the ability to x-ray parcels for security, and all of the FSM's airports will have

technology to x-ray bags instead of requiring customers to open their bags.

On May 24, 2019, Ambassador Horie is scheduled to attend the ground breaking ceremony for the visitor's center in Nan Madol (which will be covered in the next issue of The Kaselehlie Press). He offered a toast to the invited guests and to the FSM.

Samson Pretrick took the podium next. He quoted from the President's message to Japan since President Panuelo was away in Washington D.C. "On the occasion of your Majesty's ascension to the Chrysanthemum throne in the new Reiwa era, the people and the leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia join me in expressing our warm greetings, and our most sincere and cordial congratulations to you. It is with humble respect that we hope that the excellent, friendly relationship that we enjoyed between Japan and the Federated States of Micronesia during the Heisei era, one that we take great pride in, will be carried on in the new Reiwa era. We extend best wishes to your Majesty for good health and happiness, as well as to the members of the Imperial Family and the people of Japan, Sincerely, signed David W. Panuelo, President, Federated States of Micronesia."

He thanked Ambassador Horie for his service in the FSM, bid him well, and

offered a toast.

After the speeches, Ambassador Horie asked for Kosraeans to join him in singing gambare, which, we have likely misspelled but means "do your best".

A magnificent dinner was then served.

Ambassador Horie and Madam Horie circulated through the crowd as dinner was concluded, posing for photos with invited guests. As they have recently become famous for doing, they later sang for the crowd.

The Hories will be missed in the FSM.





Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia
Statements of Income
Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Interest income:		
Loans	\$4,602,138	\$4,778,403
Interest-bearing deposits	1,354,310	770,436
Investment securities	760,181	477,959
Federal funds sold	129,754	36,464
Total interest income	6,846,383	6,063,262
Interest expense:		
Savings	230,424	156,159
Other time deposits	63,755	56,908
Total interest expense	294,179	213,067
Net interest income	6,552,204	5,850,195
Provision for loan losses	240,000	192,700
Provision for off-balance sheet credit exposures	0	122,300
Net interest income after recovery of loan losses	6,312,204	5,535,195
Non-interest income:		
Service charges on deposit accounts	246,635	321,630
Loan fee income	163,583	153,702
Other	368,693	372,418
Total Non-interest Income	778,911	847,750
Non-interest expense:		
Salaries and wages	1,793,232	1,696,959
Occupancy	379,806	366,731
Employee benefits	345,791	315,747
Data processing	284,694	295,552
Professional fees	276,265	283,108
Gross Receipts and use taxes	226,009	227,165
Furniture and equipment	206,389	209,593
Electronic banking	184,081	164,549
Telephone	175,618	175,763
Correspondent bank fees	144,444	90,548
Insurance	113,232	92,032
Travel	90,434	92,270
Director and shareholder	79,819	66,218
Stationary and supplies	74,423	55,598
FDIC deposit insurance	47,480	41,000
Business development	35,503	27,865
Credit and collection	22,641	20,521
Teller and operating losses	20,634	2,693
Postage	14,266	19,529
Miscellaneous	22,623	38,892
Total Non-Interest Expense	4,537,384	4,282,333
Net Income	2,553,731	2,100,612
Other comprehensive loss:		
Net unrealized loss on investment securities	(35,694)	(117,055)
Comprehensive income	2,518,037	1,983,557

Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia
Statements of Condition
December 31, 2018 and 2017

ASSETS	2018	2017
Cash and due from banks	\$4,636,596	\$4,782,118
Federal funds sold	5,250,000	3,750,000
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	35,340,982	39,003,147
Cash and cash equivalents	45,227,578	47,535,265
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	17,696,000	18,601,000
Securities available for sale	49,735,918	30,443,071
Loans, net of allowance for loan losses	48,706,592	44,961,239
Accrued Interest receivable	533,397	385,902
Prepaid expenses and other assets	402,564	385,094
Premises and equipment, net	1,989,481	2,093,355
Total Assets	\$164,291,530	\$144,404,926
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Deposits:		
Noninterest-bearing	36,545,792	36,241,218
Interest-bearing	102,845,960	84,623,249
Total deposits	139,391,752	120,864,467
Accrued interest payable	14,997	16,013
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,122,045	1,223,934
Total liabilities	140,528,794	122,104,414
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common Stock, \$5 par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized; 934,348 shares issued and outstanding at 2018 and 2017	4,671,740	4,671,740
Additional paid-in capital	4,663,576	4,663,576
Retained earnings	14,720,401	13,222,483
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(292,981)	(257,287)
Total stockholders' equity	23,762,736	22,300,512
Total Liabilities & Stockholder's Equity	\$164,291,530	\$144,404,926



Grammy and Brit Award winner Joss Stone perform at Cupid's in Pohnpei

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 16, 2019

Pohnpei—As part of her “Total World Tour”, Grammy and Brit award singer Joss Stone performed in Pohnpei on Tuesday evening. The powerful and dynamic singer has nearly accomplished her goal of performing in each of the UN recognized countries. During her tour she has performed in venues as small and smaller than Cupid's Bar and Grill where she performed in Pohnpei to as massively large as stadiums and arenas.

When she was only 13 years old, Stone won the BBC talent show “Star for a Night”. She scored a record contract when she was only 15. When she was 16 she released her debut album, the critically acclaimed “The Soul Sessions”. She was nominated five times for a Grammy and in 2007 won a Grammy for the Best R&B Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group for her cover of the song “Family Affair” that was shared with Sly and the Family Stone, Van Hunt, and John Legend. Her most recent Grammy award nomination was for Best Rock Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group for the song, “I Put a Spell on You” performed with Jeff Beck.

She has released seven studio albums including “Water For Your Soul”, a reggae album that achieved number one on reggae album of release and was voted best reggae album by Billboard magazine. She has sold over 15 million albums.

During her career, Stone who turned 32 in April, has performed with many notable musical superstars including Al Green, James Brown, Melissa Etheridge, Rod Stewart, Jeff Beck, Stone Temple Pilots, Carlos Santana, Donna Summer, Sean Paul, Damien Marley, Leann Rimes, Blondie, Buddy Guy, Patti LaBelle, Stevie Wonder and others. She has also performed with a host of notable world music stars. In mid-July she will be performing for two nights in London with Burt Bacharach and George Benson. The \$375 per person tickets for up close seats for those performances have already sold out.

Amanda Abello Fatiaki opening performance accompanied on acoustic guitar by her brother, though quiet and difficult to amplify stood up remarkably, though perhaps not surprisingly well against Joss's power 45 minute set. Fatiaki's voice is plaintive and smooth.

Joss entered the “stage” accompanied by her guitarist that I knew only as Celine. After her first number, Master of Ceremonies Marstella Jack interrupted the singer to give the audience, who had each paid ticket prices of up to \$50 each, her introduction of the singing star. Joss powered through her scheduled 45 minute set engaging the audience at every turn while Celine played acoustic guitar through pedals that allowed her sometimes to include a synthesized bass guitar, a kick drum, and a looper to allow “one person band” accompaniments.

Added to the show at the last minute were the impressive talents of Jasmine and Lia Daunamakama who impressed the remaining audience members with their mature young voices and instrumental skills.

Joss has nearly completed her goal of visiting all of the world's countries. She has even performed in Syria and in North Korea. Where ever she goes she tries to visit at least one community organization. The Joss Stone Foundation will ultimately support more than 200 charities across the globe as she complete her world tour. In Pohnpei she chose to visit with the Pohnpei Conservation Society.

She also likes to get together and do musical collaborations with local artists and releases videos of those performances on YouTube. On the day after her performance at Cupid's she collaborated with “The Islanders” performing Dr. Rally Jim's song, “Island in the Sun”. The intent had been for them all to travel to Ahnd Atoll for the collaboration but the morning did not cooperate. They ended up back at Cupid's for the collaboration.



Dudley Lorrin, vocalist for “The Islanders” said that the group found her to be down to earth, open, and fun. She pounded, squeezed and tasted sakau for the first time.

Members of “The Islanders” are singer Dudley Lorrin, Dr.

Ralley Jim on acoustic guitar, Lincoln Abraham on Bass. Eugene Joseph is a part time member of the group and for the collaboration with Joss played acoustic guitar. Jun Salomon has also recently joined the band. Lorrin says that he was told that the Youtube video of that collaboration would be out by sometime next week.



69th COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of Spring 2019 Graduates!



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 5, 2019 - New Students Orientation & Registration
June 6, 2019 - Regular Registration (All Campuses)

June 10, 2019 - Classes Begins

National Campus
P.O. Box 159
Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941
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E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus
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Japanese Ambassador Horie pays courtesy call on President Panuelo, invites him to Emperor's enthronement ceremony

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 15th, 2019, His Excellency Ryochie Horie, Ambassador of Japan, paid a courtesy call on His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The purpose of the meeting was for Ambassador Horie to congratulate President Panuelo on his election to the highest office, to broadly discuss FSM-Japan relations, including recent assistance through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and to invite President Panuelo on behalf of the Japanese Government to attend the Enthronement Ceremony of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan.

“I thank you, Ambassador, for the assistance you and your Government have given us,” said President Panuelo, who cited various examples of Japanese assistance ranging from vessels such as the MV Caroline Voyager and MV Navigator, electrical power capacity throughout the Nation, restoration and promotional support for national heritage sites such as Nan Madol, and capacity-building through people-to-people relationships as exemplified by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and their Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.

President Panuelo and Ambassador Horie spent much of their conversation discussing the close relationship between the FSM and Japan—on a people-to-people level as much as the strong government-to-government relations—and issues of mutual interest to the FSM and Japan, such as regional security and

cooperation. “We’d like to work more closely with your Government [on these issues],” said Ambassador Horie.

While the new era of Japan’s timeline, the Reiwa Era—meaning “beautiful harmony”—began when His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, ascended to the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1st, 2019, the Enthronement Ceremony is scheduled to occur in October, 2019. Ambassador Horie was keen to determine if President Panuelo would be able to attend.

“Can I report to Tokyo that you’re going?” asked Ambassador Horie to President Panuelo.

“Yes,” said President Panuelo, “With the closeness of our bilateral relationship, the [cultural, symbolic, and historical] importance of being there—it would be my honor and privilege to witness His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan [at his Enthronement Ceremony].” President Panuelo thanked Ambassador Horie for the people and Government of Japan’s consistently genuine, thoughtful, practical, and peaceful relationship with the people and Government of the FSM.

The FSM is dedicated towards producing positive and peaceful relationships with all countries and peoples throughout the world. Though the FSM and Japan celebrated their 30th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations on November 2nd, 2018, the history between the FSM and Japan stretches more than 100 years, and the FSM National Government will endeavor to ensure that the relationship between the FSM and Japan always remains close, friendly, and supportive.



President Panuelo warmly welcomes Ambassador Riley in first courtesy visit of his administration

FSM Information services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 13th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Honorable Yoshiwo P. George, Vice President of the FSM, received His Excellency Robert A. Riley III, Ambassador of the United States of America, in the first official courtesy visit of this administration. The purpose of the meeting was for Ambassador Riley to congratulate President Panuelo on his election, and to discuss next steps on Typhoon Wutip-related disaster assistance, how best to improve services for FSM citizens who are veterans of the U.S. military, and concerns with regards to how the REAL ID Act Modification for the Freely Associated States has been implemented in the U.S. State of Hawaii. “I welcome you on behalf of myself, the Vice President, and the cabinet...due to the significance of our relationship with the United States, we thank you, [Ambassador Riley] and appreciate this first courtesy call this morning,” said President Panuelo. “I also want to thank you for the declaration President Trump made on [Typhoon Wutip].”

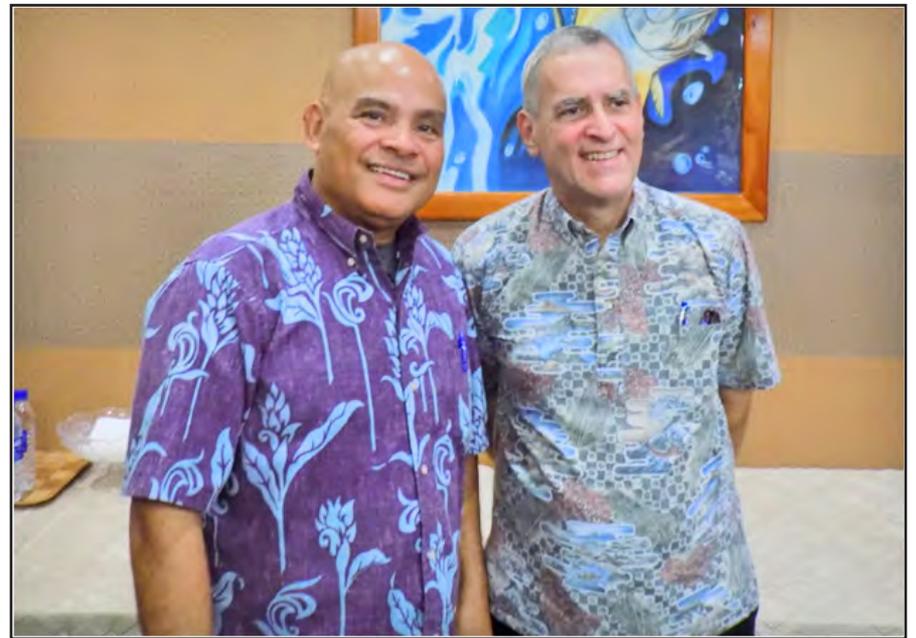
In response to a April 17th, 2019 request from the FSM National Government, on May 7th, 2019, U.S. President Donald J. Trump declared a disaster under the Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Government of the United States of America due to damage resulting from Typhoon Wutip during February 19th to February 23rd, 2019. This action makes U.S. Government funding available for emergency relief and reconstruction. Though official figures

are not yet available, Ambassador Riley advised that he was given the estimate of “somewhere around ten million” dollars to support Typhoon Wutip-related reconstruction and relief efforts.

Regarding the REAL ID Act, President Panuelo expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Riley and the United States Government for the December 2018 modification—which allows FSM citizens to receive full-term REAL ID driver’s licenses and identification cards—and expressed his concerns about recent developments in Hawaii where FSM citizens have reportedly been having trouble getting their licenses. “I’m hoping this is just localized in Hawaii,” said President Panuelo.

“Sounds like it is,” said Ambassador Riley. “Our Office ANP [Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs within the Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs within the U.S. Department of State] is also engaged in that issue. We hope this gets resolved soon.” Likewise, the Embassy of the FSM, in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Palau and the Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, has been working closely with relevant U.S. Government agencies to resolve the issue.

The highly efficient meeting closed with President Panuelo and Ambassador Riley reaffirming the close relationship between the FSM and the United States. “Our door is always open to you [and the Embassy of the United States], and you’re welcome at any time; our lines are open to you; we are two countries that have always shared a very close relationship, and I hope to keep it that way,” said President Panuelo.



President David W. Panuelo explores possible cooperation with powerhouse nonprofit environmental organizations and philanthropists while in D.C.

FSM Information Services

Washington D.C. – On May 23rd, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), hosted a breakfast meeting with powerhouse D.C.-based nonprofit organizations (NGOs) for potential cooperation. He met with Mr. Tracy R. Wolstencroft, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Geographic Society (NGS), and also in attendance were Mr. Dan Myer, Director of Public Policy at NGS; Mr. Seth Horstmeyer, Program Director of Oceans5; and Ms. Kathryn J. Mengerink, J.D., Ph.D., Executive Director of the Waitt Foundation.

President Panuelo started the discussions by laying out how he envisions the FSM becoming a global preserve or sanctuary because of its enormous ocean space, which is over one million square miles in area, and its pristine terrestrial forests. He recognizes that in order for this vision of the FSM becoming an even more eco-friendly nation, with its pristine environment an embodiment of our common heritage, it requires joint efforts between powerhouse organizations, philanthropists, and FSM leadership at all levels to cooperate.

The representatives of these powerhouse NGOs offered some ideas that they believe can work in the FSM, concentrating particularly on ways to safeguard the FSM’s oceanic resources while maximizing economic benefits from these resources. President Panuelo conveyed to these NGO representatives his strong belief in the underlying need to always balance conservation and development.

“It is inevitable that in any undertakings by a country like the FSM that our development aspirations do not undermine the paramount need to conserve our resources for our future generations,” President Panuelo said.

Multiple phases of work still have to be worked on, including the assessments and surveys of the resources, as well as putting in place the legal and regulatory frameworks necessary to implement the programs. President Panuelo indicated that the FSM is committed to conservation measures of its oceanic resources. However, this should not minimize the Nation’s goal of

maximizing the economic benefits of these resources for the benefit of the FSM’s citizens.

The National Geographic Society is one of the largest scientific and educational NGOs in the world, and famous for its monthly National Geographic Magazine, which showcases natural, historical, cultural, and environmental issues around the globe.

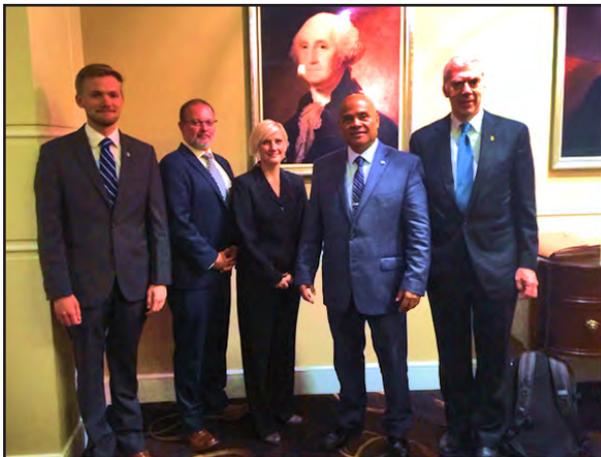
The Waitt Institute is an NGO partnering with island governments and communities around the world to preserve corals and fisheries habitats. It is funded by the Waitt Foundation.

Oceans5 is an international philanthropists’ funders organization dedicated to protecting the five Oceans in the world.

President Panuelo shared with the group his vision to involve NGOs and civil societies as a pillar of cooperation for his administration. He strongly supports the role of non-state organizations in the never-ending task of improving the wellbeing of the FSM people. The meeting concluded on a positive note where all parties agreed to continue meeting and exploring a way forward on this monumental task.

President Panuelo thanked Mr. Wolstencroft and his team, especially Mr. Albert Yu-Min Lin, Research Scientist/Explorer, who visited Pohnpei recently to film the ancient ruins of Nan Madol, a World Heritage Site. The one-hour program is anticipated to be featured later this year to the National Geographic global audience.

For more information on this event please contact the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Washington D.C., at (202)223-4383 or visit the website at <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/>



Mr. Dan Myer, Mr. Seth Horstmeyer, Dr. Kathryn Mengerink, President David W. Panuelo, Mr. Tracy Wolstencroft

President Panuelo visits Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, pays his respects

FSM Information Services

(Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, May 21, 2019)

In an elaborate, solemn, and well-attended event, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), joined his two fellow Micronesian



Presidents—Her

Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and His Excellency Tommy Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau—on Monday, May 20, 2019, in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, held at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Upon arrival into the Cemetery grounds, the Presidential Motorcade was greeted by a line of U.S. soldiers flanking the motorcade route as the thundering sounds of canons rendered salutations to the three Leaders.

The three Presidents were greeted by Major General Michael L. Howard, Commanding General of the United States Army Military District of Washington. He was joined by the Honorable Robert Wilkie, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Together, the three Presidents marched from the steps of the fountain up to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as

their accompanying Cabinet members followed a few steps behind. First Lady Patricia Edwin and the Honorable Esmond Moses, Vice Speaker of the Congress of the FSM, graced the occasion leading President Panuelo’s accompanying delegation.

The occasion was as solemn as it was gracious; with full military honors, and the playing of Taps while the three Presidents laid a wreath at the base of the Tomb, to honor the many unnamed and unidentified service members who lost their lives while serving in the military. After the ceremony, Major General Howard and other officials gave the Leaders a private tour of the Cemetery museum at the site.

For more information on the event, please contact the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia at (202)223-4383, or visit the website at <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/>



Pictured Above: The FAS Presidents with a Senior Cemetery site official, and Major General Howard

President David W. Panuelo and fellow Micronesian Leaders meet with U.S. Department of Defense Acting Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan



FSM Information Services

Washington, DC, May 21, 2019 – His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, and his fellow Micronesian Leaders met with Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan at the Pentagon today.

This was the first time that all three leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, were hosted together at the Pentagon, demonstrating the special partnership between the United States and the Compact of Free Association (COFA) countries.

Among the highlights of the discussions were the rapidly changing political and security dynamics in the Pacific, and the on-going cooperative efforts to increase U.S. focus and presence in the region. According to the Acting Secretary, the Pacific region is a top priority of U.S. National Defense policy, and the U.S. is actively rededicating significant defense resources to the region. These resources include funding, military force presence, and defense projects and programs.

The Acting Secretary reiterated the importance and significance of the special relationship that exists between the COFA countries and the United States, and stressed the commitment that the United States has to the Defense of the three Nations. “The United States stands ready to defend your countries against outside threats such as North Korea. We are committed

to working with you to address common security challenges such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,” said the Acting Secretary. He also acknowledged, with great appreciation, the dedication and service of Micronesian citizens in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The three Presidents acknowledged and welcomed the statement by the Acting Secretary. President Panuelo responded by saying, “Mr. Secretary, our defense and security commitments under the Compacts of the Freely Associated States has never wavered at any time in the history of our relationship, and that will continue in perpetuity, as far as we’re concerned.” In follow-on discussions, President Panuelo also emphasized the very prominent role that the U.S. Department of Defense plays in the Compact Treaty with the FSM, and how critical it is that both countries expedite plans to address the expiring provisions of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended.

As the meeting concluded, President Panuelo expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to meet and discuss these important Defense relationship matters.

“We welcome whatever intentions the U.S. is having in terms of expanded and increased presence in our country,” said President Panuelo. “And so with our two presidents here, I convey our collective thank you and appreciation for the great honor of being here, and being hosted by your government. Thank you so much.”

President Panuelo & Ambassador Zheng discuss strengthening FSM-China relations

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 14th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with His Excellency Huang Zheng, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China. The purpose of the meeting was for Ambassador Zheng to pay a courtesy call on President Panuelo to congratulate him on his election, with key points of discussion including proposed and ongoing infrastructure projects in the FSM, and President Panuelo’s request that China’s private sector and the FSM’s private sector engage in more cooperation.

“China was one of the countries that never questioned our sovereignty, and we appreciate that,” said President Panuelo. “I really and sincerely wish to thank you for the development cooperation assistance between our two countries and reiterate strongly, again, the Nation’s support for the One-China Policy.” President Panuelo then cited numerous examples of recent Chinese assistance, such as the secondary roads under construction in Pohnpei State, the Chuuk State Government Complex, educational scholarships, and assistance with vessels and gymnasiums, amongst others, and gave his genuine appreciation and thanks to China for their support to the FSM and its citizens.

Ambassador Zheng congratulated President Panuelo on his election to the highest office in the land, and spoke of how China and the FSM can further promote their partnership. “His Excellency Xi Jinping [President of China] and I wish to join hands with you [President Panuelo and the people of the FSM] to further promote our relations to a new high,” Ambassador Zheng said.

Proposed examples of additional cooperation between the FSM and China include new potential infrastructure projects, such as the renovation of the Pohnpei State Government Complex, and upgrades to Chuuk State’s roads. The FSM National Government, via the FSM Embassy in

Beijing and the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, is working closely with the Chinese Embassy to begin these dialogues.

In addition, Ambassador Zheng invited President Panuelo to formally visit China and discuss with His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of China, to further discuss how the FSM and China can cooperate on the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), which President Panuelo accepted for a to-be-determined date in the future. President Panuelo also emphasized his hope that China’s private sector would be able to more closely cooperate with the FSM’s private sector, with the goals of economic development and meaningful job creation for the FSM’s citizens being of paramount importance.

After the courtesy call was a brief ceremony wherein the Honorable Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Zheng signed documentation regarding China’s recent assistance to the FSM for Typhoon Wutip disaster relief.

The FSM is dedicated towards producing positive and peaceful relationships with all countries and peoples throughout the world. September 11th, 2019, marks the 30th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the FSM and China, and it is the hope of the FSM National Government that the FSM and China will be able to cooperate more closely over the next 30 years and beyond.



His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, shakes hands with His Excellency Huang Zheng, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China

President Panuelo receives Bishop Julio Angkel, promises to promote cooperation & respect beyond governmental circles

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 14th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received Bishop Julio Angkel who requested a courtesy call on the President to congratulate him on his election, to thank him for his friendship and commitment to public service, and to request that his administration have a working relationship between governmental, religious, and culturally traditional entities and individuals.

President Panuelo graciously accepted Bishop Angkel, who was formerly based in Pohnpei State as its vicar, and delightedly advised that he has every intention of fostering an air of cooperation, involvement, and outreach to the Nation's churches, traditional leaders, citizens, and communities. President Panuelo informed Bishop Angkel that, in his view, every individual and organization within the FSM is an important part of what makes the Nation unique, and it is only by all individuals and organizations, including religious and culturally traditional individuals and entities, working together that the FSM will have a bright future.

President Panuelo thanked Bishop Angkel for his role in having the Catholic Relief Services involved in donating goods and relief supplies for citizens and communities effected by Typhoon Wutip. Afterwards, Bishop Angkel presented President Panuelo three gifts—each

symbolic individually, and collectively, of the administration's promise for cooperation and outreach.

The first gift—a paddle—represented a Micronesian canoe's capacity to propel and guide its movement, like how the President must propel the Nation forward; the second gift—rope—represented tying the parts of a canoe together to form one vehicle, like how the President is expected to unite the Nation and create ties and bonds with the broader world community; and the third gift—a mat—represented a Micronesian navigator's star compass, wherein the navigator lays stones representing the various stars that will guide the canoe, like how the President must guide the Nation to success.

Each of these gifts, Bishop Angkel explained, are necessary for the canoe and its navigator—the FSM and its President—to function; and each of the individual items would represent the governmental pillar, the religious pillar, and the traditional pillar of the Nation. The gifts are also representative of the Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

President Panuelo reconfirmed his administration's commitment to cooperation, involvement, and outreach with governmental, religious, and culturally traditional leaders, individuals, and entities, with the goal to build upon and ensure prosperity for the Nation and all of its citizens.



His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (right), poses with Bishop Julio Angkel (left)

President David W. Panuelo, meets with the Honorable Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior

FSM Information Services

Washington, D.C. (May 20, 2019, FSMIS) – His Excellency, President David W. Panuelo, kicked off his official meetings in Washington D.C. this morning, first with a call on the Honorable David Bernhardt, U.S. Secretary of the Department of the Interior. The appropriateness of the first call on the Department of Interior is significant in light of the Department's role in implementing the Compact of Free Association (COFA). The Department continues to play a key role in the U.S.-FSM relations on a day-to-day basis.

During their meeting, President Panuelo and Secretary Bernhardt reiterated the need for further collaboration in strengthening the unique and special relations between the two countries. Among other outcomes, President Panuelo solicited the support of the Department of Interior in his request for early discussions on the expiring

provisions of the COFA, as amended, between the FSM and the U.S. The President thanked the Secretary for the Department's continued support through the Joint Economic Committee (JEMCO) process, and emphasized the need to aggressively pursue implementation of COFA-funded infrastructure projects. In further discussions, Secretary Bernhardt informed the President that he would be attending the 50th Pacific Islands Forum in Tuvalu during August of this year, and looks forward to meeting again on matters of Regional importance.

The meeting concluded with assurances from both sides to continue collaborating on issues of mutual interest, and pledged support to further enhance the unique, and enduring, relations between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States.

For more information please contact the FSM Embassy in D.C., at (202)674-3055, or visit <http://fsmembassydc.org/>.



Secretary Bernhardt listens intently as President Panuelo expresses his hopes for the COFA-funded infrastructure projects

Joint Inauguration Date Scheduled for July 29th, 2019

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), in consultation with the Honorable Wesley Simina, Speaker of the Congress of the FSM, has decided to hold the Joint Inauguration Ceremony on July 29th, 2019, at the FSM Capitol in Palikir, Pohnpei State. The Government of the FSM welcomes traditional

leaders, leaders from neighbor and partner nations, dignitaries, government officials, and citizens of the FSM to come together to witness this historic event.

FSM Information Services will provide thorough public information on the Joint Inauguration Ceremony as the details on the planning and organization for the event become clear and finalized.

President Panuelo meets Congressman Rob Bishop, discusses compact provisions; then meets Senator Murkowski, thanks her for COFA Veterans Review Act

FSM Information Services

Washington, D.C., May 23, 2019

– As part of his continuing heavy engagement schedule to best represent the interests of the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), President David W. Panuelo met with multiple lawmakers of the United States Congress on Capitol Hill today.

In his first meeting with Congressman Rob Bishop, (R-UT), ranking member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, the President expressed his thanks for the opportunity to meet, and further emphasized the importance and appreciation of the unique relationship between the FSM and the United States of America, and, more urgently, the need to actively move forward with plans to address the expiring provisions of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, between the FSM and the U.S.

The Congressman thanked the President for his visit, and briefly discussed how strategically important the FSM and neighboring countries are to the security and stability of the Pacific region, the U.S., and its allies. He acknowledged the many challenges and shifting dynamics within the Region, but despite all of that, our collective priority needs to be “to get the Treaty done, the sooner the better.” Amongst some other items discussed during the brief meeting, the Congressman’s assertions regarding the Treaty clearly resonated, and was very well received by President Panuelo.

The President next paid a call on Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Chairwoman Murkowski has been a long time supporter and advocate for FSM’s interests in the United States Congress. For this, President Panuelo expressed, on behalf of FSM citizens, his grateful appreciation for her advocacy and continuing support. The Chairwoman thanked the President for his visit and was quick to point out common challenges that face both the FSM and her home state of Alaska; among them, she stressed remoteness, a widely spread and culturally diverse population with unique needs, access to adequate health care services, and transportation infrastructure

challenges.

Their discussion also included FSM Veterans’ issues, a topic near and dear to Chairwoman Murkowski’s heart as she is one of the co-sponsors who introduced in the Senate the COFA Veterans Review Act. The Act would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a pilot program that provides hospital care and medical services to veterans living in the three FAS Nations of Micronesia, including the FSM. In her discussion of the Act, Chairwoman Murkowski clearly stated that anyone who answers the call to duty, and is willing to serve in the armed forces, should be accorded the opportunity to take advantage of the benefits available to all veterans, regardless of where they live. The President extended his sincere thanks on behalf of FSM veterans, and informed the Senator that he had written a letter to her and Senator Brian Schatz, who is the other co-sponsor of the bill, expressing his support of the bill.

The Senator also expressed interest in Air Transportation throughout the three Micronesian countries. A follow-on discussion pointed out some challenges with having few commercial Air Carriers with limited service into the FSM, and some emerging challenges with Regional Airlines being able to obtain entry into the U.S. from the FSM. The Chairwoman recognized the impact that this challenge may have on the tourism industry and local travel options, and has offered to assist this issue in any way that she can.

President Panuelo continued the discussion by describing the FSM’s current efforts to accelerate all necessary bilateral actions required to address the expiring provisions of the Amended Compact Treaty between the FSM and the U.S. and asked for her support in Congress. The Senator was very supportive, and encouraged continued efforts in this process.

The President also solicited support from the Senator on the challenges being faced by FSM citizens regarding compliance with the REAL ID Act. Although FSM citizens are eligible for proper documentation under the Law, they face challenges with local state level authorities in obtaining this documentation; and it is clearly having an immediate impact on their livelihoods. Senator Murkowski is already aware of these issues and offered to assist in remedying the problems in a timely manner.

As their discussion concluded, the President recognized the Vice Speaker of the FSM Congress, The Honorable Esmond B. Moses, who accompanied the President for the meeting. The Vice Speaker took a moment to thank the Chairwoman,



The Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker of the Congress of the FSM; His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM; the Honorable Rob Bishop, Representative of the State of Utah (R-UT) and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources



His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the FSM; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Senator for the State of Alaska and Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources; the Honorable Esmond B. Moses, Vice Speaker of the Congress of the FSM

and to present her with a framed photo of the Chairwoman’s father, a former U.S. Senator himself, and also a close friend and supporter of the Micronesian region. The photo was taken in 1996 at the College of Micronesia Library during a visit by the former Senator. The photo was provided by the Vice Speaker’s mother, Mrs. Sue Moses, a former President of the College. Chairwoman Murkowski was extremely appreciative, and expressed her sincere thanks for the thoughtful gift.

The President extended an open invitation to Chairwoman Murkowski, after learning of her interest in visiting the FSM.

President Panuelo meets with Close-Up students, offers insight for FSM's development

*FSM Information Services
Press Release*

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 14th, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), met with 11th and 12th grade students affiliated with the Close-Up extracurricular program, who visited the Office of the President as part of a larger tour of the FSM National Government. The students, hailing from across the FSM and representing both public and private schools, were given the opportunity, and encouraged, to ask President Panuelo questions about anything they wanted to.

“The Office of the President, this office, is your office,” said President Panuelo in his welcoming remarks. “I may represent you abroad, but I am always your servant.”

Before the question and answer session, President Panuelo offered a few words of advice. “I was once like you, and [when I was in high school] I didn’t really think about what my career would be. So...what I want to tell you is that I have been through it, and that whatever you feel passionate about—turn it into your career,” said President Panuelo. “I want to emphasize how important each and every one of you are to our nation-building process...without you, we won’t go anywhere.”

President Panuelo encouraged the students to participate in society and in government, to “read the news and interact with people,” noting that, while the Nation has laws that are intended to lay the foundation for our democracy, “the best law is our conscience...we will only grow if we respect our environment, if we care for one another, and we actively participate.”

Several students had the opportunity to ask questions directly to President Panuelo, who asked that they speak to him as if they were talking to a friend. One young woman from Kosrae asked a question about President Panuelo’s views on female empowerment in the FSM, including whether or not the FSM is currently doing enough to represent women’s interests.

“I really believe in women’s empowerment,” said President Panuelo, noting that two of the candidates in the March 5th, 2019 Congressional Election in the State of Pohnpei were women. “Our constitution guarantees equal representation for women in all of our

offices.” President Panuelo advised that, in his view, the most efficient way for women to achieve representation in the Congress of the FSM is for women to work together as one.

Another young woman from Kosrae asked a question about the FSM’s economic development—particularly, what can the FSM do to grow its economy other than relying upon the two trust funds?

“Economic development for our country is the most challenging thing so far, but we do generate about 60-70 million from our oceans every year,” said President Panuelo. “As for the private sector... growth has been slow because so much of it is wholesale or retail; we’d like to see more development in export-oriented types of businesses.” President Panuelo encouraged the students to be proactive in coming up with potential business ventures, and cited a few examples of encouraging growth in the FSM, such as the Vital/FSM Petroleum Corporation factory being established on Tonoas Island in Chuuk State.

One young man from Pohnpei advised that he didn’t have a specific question, but that he wanted to share the problems at his school. “I need your help,” said the young man, who explained that his public high school has shortages ranging from not enough chairs for students sit on, not enough clean water for the students to drink, not enough textbooks for the students to read and study from, and crowded buses.

“As your President, I have to apologize for that,” said President Panuelo. “For you, as a student to come here and say these things—I feel your pain, and applaud your courage.” President Panuelo and the student shook hands to an equally applauding crowd.

President Panuelo then explained that although the FSM Department of Education doesn’t have jurisdiction over Pohnpei’s schools—the Pohnpei State Government does—that this administration intends to put more resources and effort into educational support and initiatives throughout the Nation, from Yap and Chuuk to Pohnpei and Kosrae.

Finally, one young woman from Chuuk, noting the recent online discussions about Micronesians in the U.S. State of Hawaii being denied the capacity to obtain driver’s licenses, asked a question about discrimination against Micronesians



His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, poses with the Close-Up students and chaperones after their visit to the FSM Office of the President



President Panuelo encourages students to follow their passion, and find a way to turn their interests into their careers

abroad.

“The good news is that I met with the U.S. Ambassador yesterday, and we are working to address that issue [regarding driver’s licenses]; that problem will disappear soon,” said President Panuelo. “But on the issue of discrimination on a social basis, yes we can experience that... and you can understand why, people [may not understand], or try to protect their turf—and ignorance can play into it. So what I would say is that when you experience these things, try to really—in a calm and peaceful way—approach people respectfully, mingle with the people, talk

with them, and get to know them.”

“Yes [some of us] are experiencing discrimination,” continued President Panuelo, “But what I have to tell you is to be proud of who you are, and be proud of who we are, as Micronesians. Negative news will always follow us, but it’s up to all of us together to make the difference in those places.”

President Panuelo thanked the students for visiting the Office of the President, and urged them again to stay focused on their education and find a way to turn their interests into their future careers.

President Panuelo Attends reception on Capitol Hill: reaffirms the commitment of the U.S. and FSM Governments to proceed with discussions to address expiring compact provisions

FSM Information Services

Washington D.C., May 21, 2019 – His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), was at U.S. Capitol Hill in the Longworth Building's Natural Resources Committee Room this evening, May 21st, 2019, attending a reception held in the honor of the visiting Presidents of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the FSM. The three Ambassadors of the Micronesian Embassies in D.C hosted the reception, which was attended by some prominent members of the U.S. Congress as well as key congressional staffers.

In his remarks, President Panuelo acknowledged the significance of the visit and called on a renewed relationship between the three Micronesian countries and the United States. To that end, the President reiterated what he had been sharing with the Executive Cabinet members whom he had met earlier, which included discussions between the United States and the FSM on the expiring provisions of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended.

President Panuelo further stated that while there are other important takeaways from these historic visits and meetings, he was extremely delighted to participate in the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This ceremony was not only emotional for him on a personal level, but it reaffirmed our two countries' commitment to promote world peace and security.

President Panuelo thanked those members of the U.S. Congress who were present at the reception for their support in the implementation of the Compact of Free

Association. He made it clear that he looks forward to their support when a renewed package for the Compact Sector Grants is presented to the U.S. Congress, and reaffirmed the FSM's commitment to the Free Association bilateral relationship between the FSM and the United States.

The attending members of the U.S Congress took turns at the podium to show their support for the continuing relationship embodied in the Compacts of Free Association. Among the members present were Congressman Gregory "Kilili" Sablan (D-CNMI), who had the honor of moderating the event; Congressman Don Young (D-AK), who sponsored the REAL ID Modification Act for the Freely Associated States Act and is known also as the Dean of the House; Congressman Ed Case (D-HI), Congressman Michael San Nicolas (R-Guam), Congressman Thomas Suozzi (D-NY), and Congresswoman Aumua Amata Radewagen (R-American Samoa).

Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Non-proliferation under the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, gave a supportive and encouraging statement calling on the United States Government to extend the Compact's provisions now and not wait until 2023. He noted that this invitation for the three Presidents of the Freely Associated States to visit the White House is a rare opportunity for Democrats, Republicans, and Independents to put partisan politics aside and unify for the common good.

For more information on this event, contact the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Washington D.C., at (202)223-4383 or visit the website at <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/>



President Panuelo reaffirms the FSM's commitment to promote world peace and security, and reaffirms the FSM's commitment to the Free Association bilateral relationship between the FSM and the United States

U.S. State of Washington's Governor Inslee signs Dental Health Bill for FSM & COFA citizens

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—In part due to the ceaseless commitment towards advocacy from the COFA Alliance National Network (CANN), on May 8th, 2019, the Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of the U.S. State of Washington, signed into law Washington State Senate Bill 5274, which creates a dental care program for residents of the state who are citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Specifically, Washington State Senate Bill 5274 extends oral health insurance to low-income Micronesian citizens, treating the citizens of our Nation and the other Freely Associated States essentially equivalently with U.S. citizens for this purpose.

The bill was passed unanimously in Washington State's legislature, with legislative sponsors including Washington State Senators Hasegawa, Hunt, Wilson, Billig, Nguyen, Conway, Das, Frockt, Keiser, Randall, and Saldana, with advocacy from CANN and its partners, including the Children's Alliance of Washington and the Washington Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs.

"There continues to be growing bipartisan support for the Micronesian community, and many lawmakers have come around to better understand, and befriend, the Micronesian community," said the Honorable Joe Enlet, the FSM's Consul General in the U.S. State of Oregon and the President of CANN. "[However], all credit should be given to the community members themselves who have participated in advocating for these bills.... Community members have had legislators attend their community functions like weddings, birthday parties, and funerals."

The signing of Washington State Senate Bill 5274 is one of many recent demonstrations of solidarity between the FSM and its U.S. partners, particularly in the U.S. State of Washington and the U.S. State of Oregon. For example, in the U.S. State of Washington all low-income Micronesian citizens are eligible for healthcare coverage in a manner essentially equivalent to how

U.S. citizens living in the state are treated.

In the U.S. State of Oregon, recent legislation include a driver's license bill (which extends full-term driver's licenses to Micronesian citizens), a resolution to recognize the Compact of Free Association (COFA), a COFA Premium Assistance Program (which provides medical coverage for low-income Micronesians in Oregon in an equivalent manner to U.S. citizens in Oregon), and a Law Enforcement Bill (which allows citizens of the Freely Associated States to be eligible for careers in law enforcement).

"There are two other bills under review at the Oregon legislature," said Consul General Enlet. "The first is a tuition equity [fairness] bill, which will make Micronesians qualify for in-state tuition at all public colleges in Oregon... the second is a bill that provides dental coverage for Micronesians in Oregon," similar to the recently passed Washington State Senate Bill 5274.

The FSM National Government expresses its most sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of the U.S. State of Washington, and the U.S. State of Oregon, for their bipartisan and genuine support for the Micronesians who live among them; the FSM National Government similarly extends its appreciation to all who advocate for fair and equal treatment.

The FSM is dedicated towards producing positive and peaceful relationships with all countries and peoples throughout the world. The Nation's relationship with the USA is both special and unique, and it is the hope of the FSM National Government that the FSM and USA will always have such a special partnership, to include additional U.S. States following the leadership of the U.S. States of Washington and Oregon in their bipartisan support for our citizens residing in their lands.

Interested in learning more about the special relationship between the FSM and the USA? Visit the website for the FSM Embassy in Washington D.C. here: <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/>

POPA conducts Professional Development Training to the new KOPA CID Investigator

Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor

Randy Laborete, the new Investigative Auditor of the Kosrae Office of the Public Auditor (KOPA) had a one-week training under Investigative Advisor, Sophia Pretrick of the Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA). The training was conducted on May 13 to 17, 2019 at POPA's office. The training was focused mainly on POPA's Compliance Investigation Division (CID) management and techniques. A walkthrough of the mission and goals of CID, the manual of operation procedures (MOP), CID strategic plan, complaint management system, CID's case studies, Ethics & Fraud training, etc. Since Laborete will be heading the CID in Kosrae, it is important to put the systems and procedures in place first in order to guide the operations and functions effectively and efficiently.



management and staff for sharing their knowledge and resources. This kind of collaboration and support in assisting each Public Auditors Office to grow and share knowledge is part of the fight against fraud and corruption in the Federated States of Micronesia.

For more information about POPA, please visit : <http://opapni.fm/>

Before joining the Public Auditor in Kosrae, Randy was working at the Kosrae Department of Public Safety for 16 years as a Sergeant Detective. He's been in KOPA for just two (2) months and he is expecting to have more trainings to increase his knowledge and skills in Financial Crimes. Randy is thankful to POPA's



U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo hosts a luncheon meeting with the three Micronesian presidents

FSM Information Services

Washington D.C., May 21, 2019 – His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), joined Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and His Excellency Tommy Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, for a luncheon meeting hosted by the Honorable Michael R. Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of the Department of State. The luncheon was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at the Department of State before the three Presidents visited President Donald J. Trump at the White House.

The three Presidents and Secretary Pompeo discussed issues of mutual interest ranging from their commitment to international cooperation, regional peace and stability in the Pacific, and their respective Compacts of Free Association.

President Panuelo took the opportunity to raise a few important issues seeking the support of the Secretary Pompeo in accelerating

future discussions on the extension of the expiring provisions of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended.

President Panuelo also addressed ongoing challenges facing FSM citizens in obtaining REAL ID documents. He emphasized the reality that these challenges are having a negative impact on FSM citizens today, and although a solution seems forthcoming, the timeliness of these solutions is of crucial import. The President requested the Secretary's assistance to remedy this issue as soon as possible.

The three Resident Micronesian Ambassadors in Washington, D.C. have jointly submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to expedite resolution of this issue.

For additional information on this event, please contact the Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Washington D.C., at (202)223-4383 or visit the website at <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/>



Vice Speaker of the FSM Congress Esmond B. Moses, Secretary Pompeo, and President Panuelo. To the President's left is U.S. Ambassador to Palau, Ambassador Hyatt, behind the President is the RMI Ambassador to the U.S., Ambassador Zackios, and behind the President in the other room is the U.S. Ambassador to the FSM, Ambassador Riley

Candidates named for Congressional Special Election

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 24, 2019

FSM—The FSM National Election Director has announced that the special election to fill the seats in Congress vacated after the selection of President David Panuelo and Vice President Yosiuw George will be held on July 2, 2019.

The application deadline for candidates to file their intentions to run for the Pohnpei and Kosrae seats was yesterday. Five candidates applied for the Pohnpei seat. In alphabetical order they are Peter M. Christian, Francisco L. Ioanis, William Kostka, Ginger Porter Mida, and Jose San Nicolas. The four candidates for the vacant at large seat for Kosrae are Alik Alik, Lyndon Jackson, Aren Palik, and Yoslyn Sigrah.

President David W. Panuelo meets President Donald J. Trump

FSM Information Services

Washington D.C., May 23, 2019 – Ten days into office, on Tuesday, May 21st, 2019, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, met with His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, in the Oval Office at the White House. Following brief one-on-one meetings with President Trump, President Panuelo, His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, and Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, joined the U.S. President in a joint expanded bilateral engagement in the White House Cabinet Room.

In the Cabinet Room, President Trump was joined by Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan, and was staffed by key senior advisors including the National Security Advisor John Bolton, Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, and Ambassador Robert A. Riley III who is the U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, among others.

The meeting with President Trump was the highlight of a busy schedule for the three Presidents which started in the morning at the Pentagon with the Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan, followed by a luncheon meeting at the Department of State with Secretary Pompeo.

President Panuelo also met earlier with the Department of Interior Secretary Bernhardt, and will also be meeting with the Honorable Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

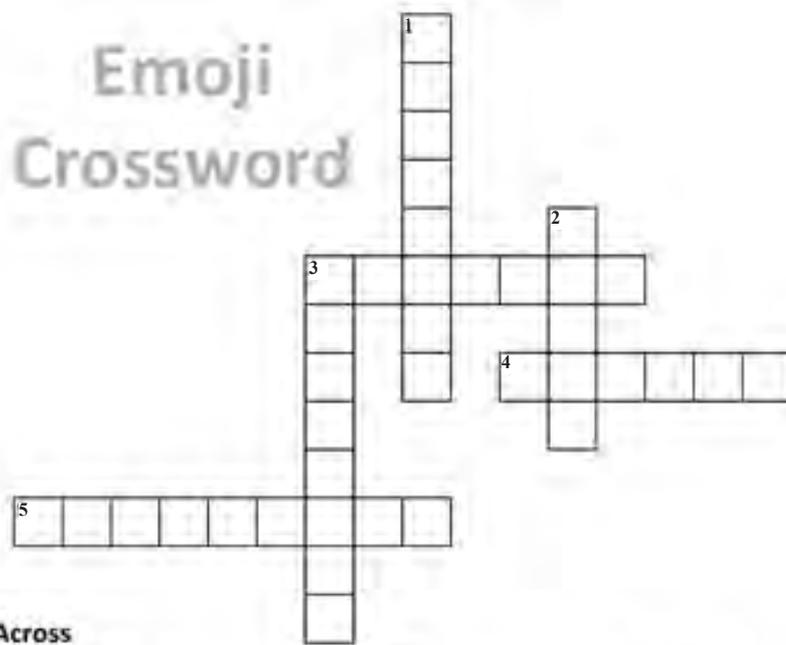
FRUIT AND NUTS

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

P D E E R A E P X S A C C P U P H M
 E P N P R U N E A P G C I C O C J Y
 A W I T Y W O T R R R S Q M A G I F
 N B R N T Q S I A A T N E E A X N C
 U L A O E U C P N A I G P G U A V A
 T A T M M O E B C S R B R A Z I L S
 M C C A T C E H I A C N O M E L P H
 E K E E H R I A N A A O R A N G E E
 L C N E R O R A Y Y N D U M Q U T W
 O U R Y U Q T J A R H A Z E L N U T
 N R Y R R E B P S A R T N J N N N A
 Y R R E B W A R T S F E O A S A T N
 Z A T G A P M A N G O T B R B C S G
 E N O B L A C K B E R R Y E O E E E
 M T M G M P N I R A D N A M S P H L
 I W A Y O P E N I R E G N A T O C O
 L R T U N L A W G Z N M U L P Z O I
 B M O M D E V I L O A N A T L U S G

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| ALMOND | DATE | NECTARINE | POMEGRANATE |
| APPLE | FIG | OLIVE | PRUNE |
| APRICOT | GOOSEBERRY | ORANGE | RAISIN |
| BANANA | GRAPE | PAPAYA | RASPBERRY |
| BLACKBERRY | GUAVA | PEACH | SATSUMA |
| BLACKCURRANT | HAZELNUT | PEANUT | STRAWBERRY |
| BRAZIL | LEMON | PEAR | SULTANA |
| CASHEW | LIME | PECAN | TANGERINE |
| CHERRY | MANDARIN | PINE | TANGELO |
| CHESTNUT | MANGO | PISTACHIO | TOMATO |
| CRANBERRY | MELON | PLUM | WALNUT |

Kpress PUZZLE Pleasure!



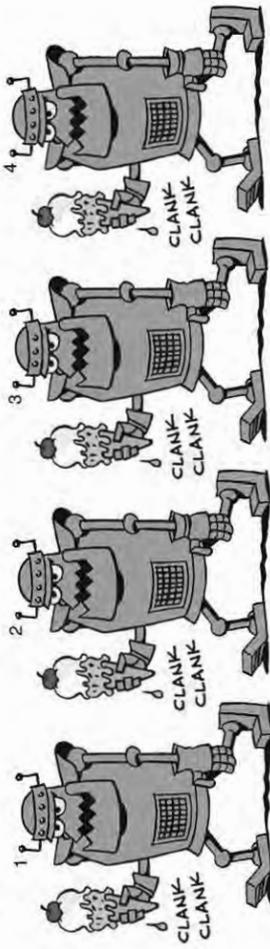
Across



Down



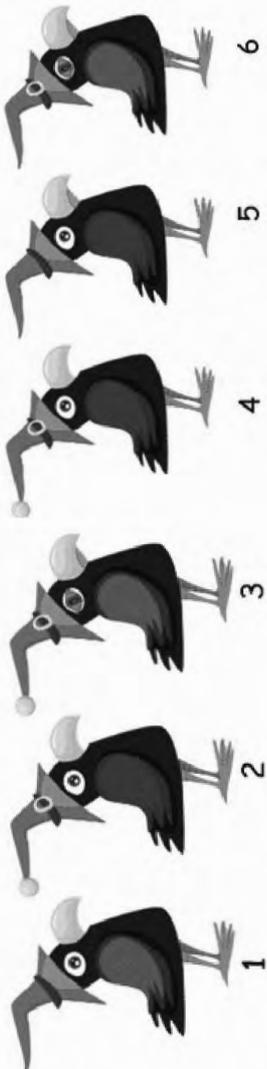
Which two robots are exactly alike?



COUNTING DOWN

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nothin' at all
 - 4 Got on board
 - 12 — Hill (Theodore Roosevelt's home)
 - 20 Altar promise
 - 21 Quiche —
 - 22 Zealous campaigner
 - 23 With 39-Down, business for attorneys
 - 24 Dreams up
 - 25 Enrobing
 - 26 Thorax
 - 28 Cloister resident
 - 29 Native Americans of Oklahoma
 - 31 See 69-Across
 - 32 Lena of "The Wiz"
 - 33 Gal at a ball
 - 34 Big fashion inits.
 - 35 Blue shade
 - 37 Haul to court
 - 38 "Time — the essence!"
 - 40 Wagged part
 - 42 Closest to nil
 - 46 Verizon competitor
 - 49 Artificial hair
 - 51 Skier Tommy
 - 52 Ali or Frazier
 - 53 Klutzy type
 - 54 Radon, e.g.
 - 55 Indian "Mr."
 - 56 Dangerous way to skate
 - 58 Haglike
 - 60 Darkened
 - 62 Uprightness
 - 63 Like radon
 - 64 Actress Courteney
 - 65 Alluring West
 - 66 Kanga's son
 - 67 Pitched shelter
 - 68 "— knew?!"
 - 69 With 31-Across, start to enjoy
 - 70 Snooze site
 - 71 Like sexist jokes and such, for short
 - 75 Mai —
 - 76 Ring official
 - 77 "Piggy"
 - 78 River of Grenoble
 - 79 Like much hemp fashion
 - 83 Actress Cuthbert
 - 85 Was deeply agitated
 - 86 Air impurity
 - 88 Battle (for)
 - 89 Favorite
 - 90 "— -haw!" ("Whee!")
 - 91 Bicolor snacks
 - 92 Slender fish
 - 93 Polar laborer
 - 94 Hit into from behind
 - 96 1988 Olympics city
 - 97 Is in a hole
 - 99 Film scorer Schifrin
 - 101 Sportage or Soul maker
 - 102 Clairol products
 - 104 Gibbon, e.g.
 - 106 — -relief
- DOWN**
- 1 Nothin' at all
 - 2 Gem State
 - 3 * A thousand and a googol, e.g.
 - 4 * March Madness quarterfinal teams
 - 5 Family member
 - 6 Slivovitz and kirsch
 - 7 Has a debate
 - 8 * 1998 Tom Clancy novel
 - 9 Family members
 - 10 Adversary
 - 11 Cease's partner
 - 12 Flimflam
 - 13 * Part of the Constitution establishing the judiciary
 - 14 Very nervy
 - 15 "... so far — know"
 - 16 * Helicopter of the U.S. president
 - 17 Major Norse god
 - 18 Sublet, say
 - 19 Therefore
 - 27 Ignore rudely
 - 30 Trendy
 - 36 Typical lab rat, e.g.
 - 39 See 23-Across
 - 41 It has a charge
 - 43 Pivotal line
 - 44 Split-off group
 - 45 Deuce follower
 - 46 Specifically
 - 47 Neighbor of Quebec
 - 48 Place (down)
 - 50 * Request for a hand slap
 - 57 Engine cover
 - 59 LCD alternative
 - 60 Ski- —
 - 61 Consume
 - 64 * Group of defendants that included Abbie Hoffman
 - 68 "Hold on!"
 - 69 Styling stuff
 - 70 Furry scarf
 - 71 Consume
 - 72 Occasion to shout out the ends of the answers to this puzzle's starred clues (from left to right)
 - 73 Dress fussily
 - 74 Handed over
 - 75 In this way, informally
 - 76 Withdrawal
 - 77 * "She Loves You" band's nickname
 - 78 * Tangoing truism
 - 79 Lofty poetry
 - 80 Heart
 - 81 Toast topper
 - 82 * A state of bliss
 - 84 Window area
 - 85 View
 - 87 Rustic denial
 - 89 View
 - 95 Capital of Latvia
 - 98 Helical form
 - 100 Taoism founder
 - 103 Omit in speech
 - 105 Nicholas Gage memoir
 - 108 City in Germany
 - 109 Styles
 - 110 Knife feature
 - 111 Old Italian currency
 - 112 Bird class
 - 114 Bird hangout
 - 118 Snead of golf
 - 120 Classic British sports car
 - 121 Hard drinker

Which two crows look exactly alike?



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20			21								22									
23			24								25									
26			27		28			29		30					31					
32					33			34			35		36							
37					38			39		40		41			42		43	44	45	
46	47				48			49		50					52					
53				54				55			56			57						
58			59				60			61			62							
63					64				65				66							
67					68			69				70					71	72	73	74
75							76				77				78					
79	80	81	82					83			84			85						
86							87			88			89					90		
91						92			93				94				95			
96						97			98		99		100			101				
102					103			104		105		106				107			108	109
110	111	112			113		114				115				116					
117					118				119	120				121					122	
123									124										125	
126									127										128	

- 107 White wader
- 110 Enthusiasm
- 113 Soup legume
- 115 Dandy fellow
- 116 Full of cheek
- 117 Rift-causing
- 119 Least near
- 122 Sci-fi gift
- 123 Hand-thrown weapons
- 124 Scottish beef animal
- 125 Scrabble 4-pointer
- 126 Right to use another's land
- 127 Opera text
- 128 Scrabble 1-pointers



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