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Unforgettable Bermin F. Weilbacher

The Federated States of Micronesia lost one of its statesman and a well-known goodwill ambassador. Bermin F. Weilbacher passed away last week in Thailand where he was receiving medical treatment for an ailment.

Born in Kosrae by a Kosraen mother and a half Pohnpeian/German father, Weilbacher attended Our Lady of Mercy School in Kolonia, Pohnpei before promoting to Pacific Island Central School, the only secondary high school in the region.

After high school, he received a scholarship to study at East-West Center at the University of Hawaii where he received a degree in Agricultural Economics. It was at East-West Center where Bermin met his future wife Penny, a Thai student who was also studying there. After completing their college education, the newly wed couple moved to Thailand where Bermin worked for a private company while Penny raised their children. In early 1970, he was offered a job on Saipan at the Agriculture Department in the old TTPI government. He moved to Saipan and quickly rose through the ranks to become the director of the Department of Agriculture. From there, he was appointed deputy district administrator for Ponape island, and later became Distad.

While on Saipan, Bermin made many friends through his contacts with the local community. He helped farmers increase their crop production by introducing new methods of raising crops. He was also instrumental in the flame tree project on airport road. An avid tennis player, he often partnered with the late businessman Jose



“Joeten” Tenorio and former governor Benigno Fitial. But, what made Bermin more well-known while living here was his ability to entertain friends and guests. With his ever-present ukulele, Bermin would serenade the partygoers with songs he learned while studying in Hawaii. His favorite song was entitled “Tiny Bubbles” by the late Hawaiian idol Don Ho. Along with his friend

See “Bermin” on page 12

AusAID and Mahi International provide Mobile Dental Clinic to Pohnpei State Hospital

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 8, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—In a ceremony this afternoon, Governor Marcelo Peterson accepted a new Mobile Dental Clinic on behalf of the Pohnpei State Hospital. The massive trailerized clinic and four wheel drive pickup truck to pull it was a joint project between Mahi International and Australian AID. Australian Ambassador George Fraser and Mahi International Executive Director, John Schroer made the presentation of the new Pohnpei State Dental resource.

The clinic will be used to provide dental hygiene education to all elementary school students in Pohnpei State. It was announced that the clinic would go right to work at Kolonia Elementary School on the following day staffed by State Hospital dentists.

Mahi International will provide volunteer dentists and hygienists from
See “Dental Clinic” on page 12



Kosrae's Malem Municipal Council introduces ordinance to ban religious freedom within its borders

Kosrae is the only FSM State that does not guarantee religious freedom in its Constitution

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 15, 2016

Palikir, Pohnpei—In April of last year, Kosrae's Malem Municipal Council introduced an ordinance to prohibit any activities by religions that are "not based on Christianity" in their municipality. The proposed ordinance specifically says that it intends to "ban Islam" and provides a \$10,000 penalty on any person, organization, or group that violates any provision of the ordinance for each "offense".

Any violation of the proposed ordinance would result in a \$10,000 fine for each violation.

In the ordinance's definition section (section 2), "Christian religion" is not defined which leaves the definition open to any number of interpretations. Several religious sects practice their religions in Malem, including Protestants, Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Seventh Day Adventists. Each of those would have their own definition of what is required to be defined as a "Christian".

If passed, the ordinance would prohibit "...any practices or activities relating to non-Christian religions, including Islam, within the Municipality of Malem. This act prohibits individuals of non-Christian religions from the following "non-Christian activities or practices within the political boundaries of the Malem Municipality":

Kosrae's Constitution is the only Constitution of the four FSM States that does not specifically guarantee the right of religious freedom. It says that, "No law may deny or impair freedom of expression, peaceable assembly, association, or petition," but that is as close as the Kosrae Constitution comes to protecting religious freedom.

- The gathering of two or more individuals to worship;
- Residing in Malem for the purpose of Islam or other non-Christian religion;
- Sponsoring of activities or project within the Malem Municipality;
- Receiving services provided by the Malem Municipality.

The FSM Constitution does provide for religious freedom, as do the other States' Constitutions, and the FSM Department of Justice has pointed that fact out.

In a letter to Malem Mayor Grant A. Jonas dated January 29, 2016, FSM's Chief of Litigation Clayton Lawrence wrote

that the FSM Department of Justice had just been made aware of the proposed ordinance. He warned that "the right to freely exercise one's religion is a fundamental right protected by the FSM Constitution." He reminded Mayor Jonas that the people of the FSM, including the people of Malem voted to approve the FSM Constitution as the supreme law of the land.

He wrote that the ordinance not only violates the FSM Constitution by impairing the fundamental right of the people to freely exercise their individual religious choices, "but the acts by the individuals fostering such ordinance has justified a criminal investigation and may result in criminal charges under 11 F.S.M.C. chapter 701."

That chapter in the FSM Code says that "A person commits a crime if he or she willfully, whether or not acting under the color of law, deprives another of, or injures, oppresses, threatens, or intimidates another in the free exercise or enjoyment of, or because of his or her having so exercised any right, privilege, or immunity secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the Federated States of Micronesia, the laws of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or the Constitution or laws of the United States

of America which are applicable to the Federated States of Micronesia."

It adds that the penalty for such a violation is "not more than ten years" and that they could also be civilly liable to the injured party.

The municipality's proposed ordinance would not apply to any "people of Malem descent who have physically resided in Malem for not less than ten years."

"The best response to misunderstandings is to open the door of communication. We are part of the fabric of the society in FSM and our intention is to share our message of Islam, we merely intend to win the hearts with love," wrote Imam Mahmood Kauser. "The people of Kosrae are immensely peaceful and loving. They are open for discussions and wish to learn more. Therefore, the actions of a few does not reflect on the loving nature of the rest of the people of Kosrae. I welcome everyone to our residence in Malem. Let us work together for the betterment of this world, to increase our knowledge, to boost our friendships, and to forever live in peace and harmony."

Mayor Jonas has not yet responded to the letter from the FSM Department of Justice and the ordinance has not yet been passed.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Australia funded Pohnpei Fitness Center formally opens in Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

January 12, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—This afternoon, the Pohnpei Athletics Club celebrated the opening of the spectacularly renovated Pohnpei Fitness Center.

Governor Marcelo Peterson, Australian Ambassador George Fraser, and FSM Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs Samson Pretrick addressed the small crowd.

In December of 2014, the Pohnpei Athletics Club, a non-profit organization signed a memorandum of understanding with the Pohnpei State government to renovate the building which is across from Calvary Christian Academy and adjacent to the Pohnpei swimming pool, and to create new sports programs to combat non-communicable diseases and to promote gender empowerment.

The building was dilapidated in the extreme. It was the “dark ages” for the building as Erick Divinigracia, Board member of the Pohnpei Athletics Club called it. Lighting was minimal at best, the roof leaked, there were no working bathrooms, and the building wasn’t secure. But it didn’t stop the



club from opening new sporting activities in the building. The Pohnpei Boxing Club got its start there and since the building was renovated with the help of the Australian government through a grant of \$100,000, other programs have started in the building including a Tae Kwon Do program.

Today’s celebration was the first official opening of the newly renovated building which features low cost LED lighting fixtures, an enlarged gym area, expanded

locker rooms for men and women, and fully functioning restrooms.

On one of the end of the room sits the boxing ring that was donated by Dongwon Industries. After the ceremony the Pohnpei Boxing Club staged an exhibition match.

Divinigracia said that currently the Pohnpei Boxing Club has 30 to 50 participants ranging in age from 7 to 65 years of age each day that it works out in the gym. He



said that 45% of the participants are female.

The building renovations were completed in December of 2015, but Pohnpei Athletic Club has further plans for renovation including parking lot lighting.

Japanese Government provides money for Sapwuafik wall

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 18, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—This afternoon, government leaders of Sapwuafik met with Japan’s Ambassador Masaki Sakai to sign paperwork for a USD \$55,057 grant from the government of Japan.

The community will use the grant to build protective walls in the remote outer islands of Sapwuafik. It’s actually a rebuild of a 100 year old wall that was built in order to keep livestock out of the agricultural areas and as Senator Stevick Edwin said, “...for social and cultural reasons.” But the wall has become even more important as sea levels have begun to rise.

The stated purpose of the grant is for improvement in food security, sanitation, and resilience to climate change in Ngatik and Ward Islands in the Sapwuafik atoll.

Ambassador Sakai said that Japan has over 6,000

islands though only 430 are populated. One of those populated islands have living have only one occupant! He said that he knows that small island living can be difficult and was glad that the Japanese government could help with the project in Sapuafik.

He said that he had never been to Sapwuafik but hoped to visit someday.



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FSM President and Pohnpei Governor issue El Nino related directives

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 18, 2016

Palikir, Pohnpei—FSM's President Peter Christian issued an emergency declaration today related to the reduced water supply in the nation. His declaration said that the nation has been experiencing extremely low and unusual levels of rainfall and that the condition will continue in the next few months.

President Christian's declaration said that "the resources of the National Government are committed to supplement the available resources using foreign assistance and then such domestic resources as are needed subject to the availability of appropriated funds."

The President's Emergency Declaration called the National Emergency Task Force to get to work on alleviating or mitigating the adverse effects of the emergency, to determine the "most effective manner in addressing the emergency situation given the limited available resources of the National Government, and [to] take such immediate steps to support relief efforts and citizens severely impacted by the emergency."

"The Task Force is mandated to implement such immediate measures as are necessary to contain the damage caused by the persistent drought and closely monitor the vulnerable population,

especially in the outer islands.

President Christian specified the sources of \$200,000 worth of funding and waived the competitive bidding required by the Financial Management Act.

On the same day, Pohnpei's Governor Marcelo Peterson issued an Executive Directive also constituting an Emergency Task Force. That task force's mandate is to work with the appropriate National government agencies and the local governments, conduct assessments on the impact of El Nino on public and private services in various areas of the State that are affected by the El Nino conditions. The task force is to submit periodic reports of its activities with recommendation of actions to the Governor and the Speaker of the Pohnpei State Legislature.

The Pohnpei Utilities Corporation has put out a statement on the State radio station, V6AH, asking citizens to conserve water and to fix or report leaks to the utility. They have asked fund raisers to curtail car wash activities. Some businesses that operate as car washes seem to still be operative.

No one at V6AH could tell us whether or not PUC had issued water rationing statements or schedules on the radio station. Still, PUC employees have been turning water on and off on some schedule that only they seem to know about.

PIAG meets with China Pacific Economic Cooperation Council

FSM Embassy, Beijing

January 22, 2016 – In efforts to further expand its reach into China and promote the Pacific as an excellent investment destination, the Pacific Islands Ambassadors Group (PIAG) met with the International Eco-Tech Cooperation Committee of the China Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) at the Qijayuan Diplomatic Compound. The meeting was recommended by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce in order to utilize the Committee's network and resources to promote the Pacific and to also identify potential investors to carry out feasible projects in the Pacific Island Countries.

The International Eco-Tech Cooperation Committee was approved by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organized in 2009. It serves as a one stop shop for project implementation process. The Committee has in the past hosted international forums, held seminars, and provided opportunities for project match making between Chinese enterprises and the diplomatic community.

The International Eco-Tech Cooperation Committee is lead by Executive Director Mr. Wu Wei. He is joined by a cast of Directors who are very familiar with the Pacific Islands. Executive Director Wu is joined by former Special Envoy to the China-Pacific Islands Forum Dialogue, Mr. Wang Yongqiu, and former Ambassador of China to the Kingdom of Tonga, Mr. Gao Shanhai. In addition to the Pacific cast, the Committee's current Secretary General, Ms. Lucy Niu, is also familiar with the Pacific. Secretary General Niu resided in Tonga for eight years working in the private sector for the tourism

industry and has an enthusiastic spirit to promote the Pacific in China.

During the meeting, the Pacific side thanked the committee and expressed their keen interest for more cooperation between the two sides. The Committee was very positive and looks forward to the close cooperation with the Pacific Embassies to identify feasible projects for the Pacific Island Countries. Present during the meeting were a few engineering and construction companies that were at hand to learn of potential opportunities in the Pacific. The first meeting has gained support from the two sides and has kindled interest to hold regular monthly meetings in the future. It is hoped that during future meetings, actual project proposal packages can be submitted for consideration and match making.

The FSM is pleased to have an additional resource dedicated to the Pacific to help promote and introduce the Pacific missions in Beijing with potential investors. The FSM Embassy is also confident that the working relations with the Eco-Tech Committee will provide win-win opportunities for both sides since all the members of the committee have a genuine desire to assist the Pacific Island Countries given their own personal experiences in and with the Pacific. The FSM Embassy in Beijing under the leadership of Ambassador Carlson D. Apis will continue to seek out potential companies to consider, in line with the Nation's priorities, to invest in the Federated States of Micronesia. Representing the FSM to the meeting was Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. KS Vincent Sivas.

World Cancer Day 2016

Pohnpei State Department of Health Services Cancer Control Program in collaboration with the Office of the Mayor of Madolenimw and its local partners celebrated the World Cancer Day (WCD) on February 04, 2016 at Pohnlangas in Madolenimw Municipality. This year's World Cancer Day theme "WE CAN, I CAN" was fitting for the activities planned for the day.



The World Cancer Day is a worldwide initiative that unites countries around the world in the fight against the global cancer epidemic and empowers individuals and local communities to understand, commit and take action against this deadly disease. The World Cancer Day was observed in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae and at the FSM National Government.

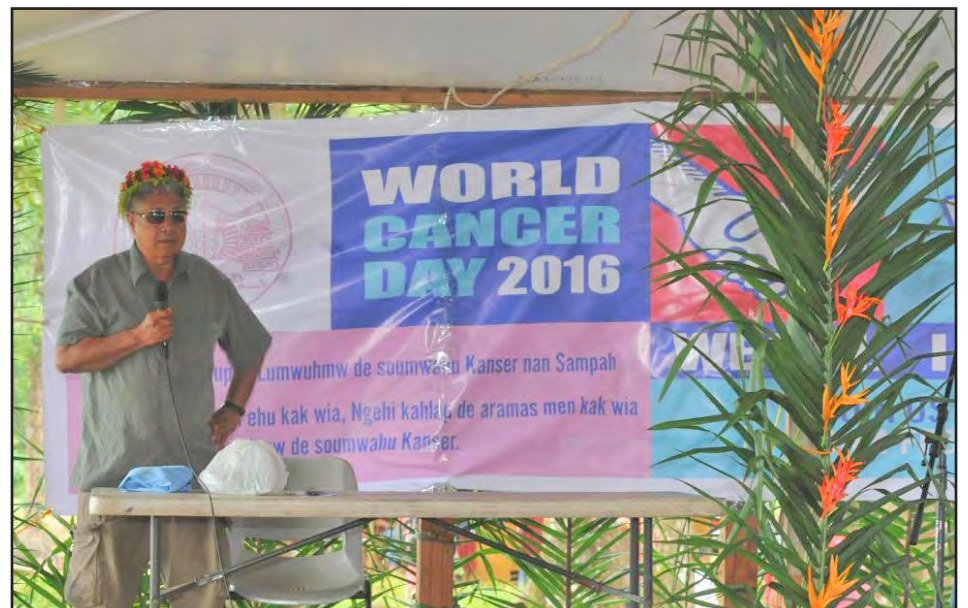
For this year's WCD activities there were a number of FIRST. For example this year was the first year that the event was held in the rural communities outside of Kolonia, on Pohnlangas Madolenimw Municipality. This was the first year that a cancer survivor participated in the event by sharing his diagnosis, treatment and recovery from cancer. Mr. Jolden Lipai, who is a cancer survivor, shared vividly his experience after being diagnosed with Cancer 6 years ago and undergoing chemo therapy and radiation treatment at the Straub Medical Center in Honolulu Hawaii. Mr. Lipai also shared the amount of time and resources spent while undergoing cancer treatment: "I am still paying back the money I borrowed and used for my Cancer treatment". Furthermore, Mr. Lipai shared one particular incident while admitted at Straub Hospital where he was anxious to get the treatment started but was delayed because the Doctor's found that he was still smoking. At one point Mr. Lipai thought that he would die and asked his wife to discontinue the Cancer treatment because of the pain and the amount of pounds he had lost as a result. While most of his peers who were diagnosed with Cancer that same year have all passed away from Cancer, Mr. Lipai believes that it was the will of God to save his life.

This year is also the first time that a traditional Monarch from the five Municipalities of Pohnpei was in attendance. His Majesty Kerpet Hebel, Wasa Lapalap Isipahu Nanmwarki of Madolenimw, provided one of the key measures in the fight against Cancer when he banned betel nut consumption in all traditional gatherings and events in Madolenimw Municipality while several leaders within his line of succession and the Nahnken hierarchy were in attendance. This is a major accomplishment under the fight against Cancer and the overall State Tobacco legislation that prohibits smoking in public buildings and gatherings.

The Governor of Pohnpei, Honorable Marcelo Peterson and the Honorable Petrick Ringlen, Mayor of Madolenimw Municipality were also in attendance. Governor Peterson expressed appreciation to his Majesty and the Mayor of Madolenimw for their support and the initiative to host this year's World Cancer Day activities. Governor Peterson further stated the grim reality of Cancer rates in Pohnpei and the increasing number of oral cancer cases which is now the number one cause of cancer deaths in Pohnpei. With this reality, Governor Peterson acknowledged the existing challenges in combatting cancer and other Non-Communicable Diseases while pledging and prioritizing State resources to support Cancer education, screening, treatment and counseling services (Palliative care) in the future.

Mayor Petrick Ringlen of Madolenimw Municipality thanked Governor Peterson and the Acting Director of Health services for selecting Madolenimw to host the World Cancer Day. He went on to say that the Madolenimw Health Board, which is the advisory body that monitors and provides recommendations in healthy lifestyle changes and policies to his office will continue to work closely with the State NCD Task Force, Public Health and its local partners in advancing Cancer education and awareness in the local communities.

The WCD for 2016 was a great success as a result of the joined efforts and commitment from Traditional Leaders, NCD, Tobacco, Cancer, REACH, Immunization, Micronesia Productions, World Health Organization, Madolenimw Health Board and local stakeholders and partners.



19th Congress adjourns 3rd Regular Session

TWC 16-02

PALIKIR, POHNPEI (February 24, 2016) - Congress adjourned a very busy Third Regular Session on February 13, 2016, having tackled the various measures pending before the Nineteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia and closed out with the passage of 18 Acts that created an Office of Veteran's Affairs, provisions for dual citizenship and upping the mandatory retirement age for national government employees, among others.

Along with the Acts, Congress also adopted 29 resolutions for various grants to assist the nation's ongoing social programs, nominations, maritime boundaries, and land issues among others.

With the passage and adoption of the congressional measures, the Body adjourned sine-die to reconvene on May 11 for its Fourth Regular Session, or may convene earlier for a Special Session if so called.

Congressional Acts of the 3rd Regular Session

TWC 16-02a

PALIKIR, POHNPEI (February 24, 2016) - Measures from the 3rd Regular Session included the creation an Office of Veteran's Affairs, provisions for dual citizenship and upping the mandatory retirement age for national government employees, among others.

Congressional Acts (CA) passed by the 3rd Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia included CA 19-59, which amended the Trust Fund law to improve and define its functions and purposes.

Changes proposed by the Act included a reworked formula for potential annual distribution of interest, elimination of the S Account created for purposes of the Amended Compact and it also allowed for foreign investment of the fund.

Through CA 19-65, Congress called for the creation of an Office of Veteran's Affairs and for it to be under the banner of 'Other the Executive Offices' of the National Government.

Another major issue passed during the 3rd Regular Session was CA 19-66, which called for the repeal of article III, of section 3 of the Constitution to allow for dual citizenship.

Congress passed CA 19-69, to amend Title 54 of the FSM Code to allow the Secretary for Finance and Administration to waive certain penalties and interest on delinquent taxed paid before September 30, 2016.

Another outcome of the session was the passage of CA 19-70, which raised the mandatory retirement age for National Government employees from 60 to 65.

Along with the five Acts, a supplemental budget of \$1,906,232 was passed through CA 19-63, to address pending needs from all three branches of the National Government along and the various offices.

In line with its ongoing assistance to the state governments, Congress also addressed the needs of the states through passage of CA 19-61, to appropriate \$1,600,000 to fund essential government functions, programs, projects and activities of the four states with \$300,000 each to Kosrae and Yap while Chuuk and Pohnpei each received \$500,000. Through CA 19-62 a sum of

\$300,000 was made available to the State of Kosrae for its Priority Infrastructure Projects while the State of Chuuk, through CA 19-64, received \$866,000 for the state's Priority Infrastructure Projects.

Continuing its assistance to the struggling states, Congress passed CA 19-58, and appropriated \$4.8 million to fund public projects and social programs in the four states. Additionally, Congress went through several prior laws and made changes to the use of funds and lapse dates previously appropriated for public projects and social programs in the four states, and those included in the following Acts: CA 19-53, CA 19-54, CA 19-55, CA 19-56, CA 19-57, CA 19-60, CA 19-67, CA 19-68

The Congressional Acts have been transmitted to the President for his signature.

Resolutions of the 3rd Regular Session

TWC 16-02b

PALIKIR, POHNPEI (February 22, 2016) - Resolutions from the very busy Third Regular Session included the adoption of 29 resolutions for grants, nominations, maritime boundaries, and land issues among others.

With the Leadership of the state of Pohnpei recently inaugurated, Congress began its session by adopting Congressional Resolution (CR) 19-70, to congratulate the newly elected Governor Marcello K. Peterson and Lieutenant Governor Reed B. Oliver with wishes for a successful term of office. Congress adopted CR 19-69, to also congratulate the Ninth Pohnpei State Legislature Leadership Speaker Fernando Scaliem, Vice Speaker Nixon B. Soram, Parliamentarian McGarry Miguel and all of the newly elected Members of the Ninth Pohnpei State Legislature. Congress adopted CR 19-181, to also congratulate the newly elected President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Hilda C. Heine for being the first woman to head a government in Micronesia with wishes for a successful term of office.

Congress also adopted CR 19-159, to express its deepest condolences to the families and colleagues of the late Associate Justice Keske S. Marar of the Chuuk State Supreme Court who passed in December 2015, having served the state for over 25 years.

Among the urgent issues for Congress was the recent passage of Pohnpei State Law 8L- 90-16 which called for the return of certain lands deeded to the National Government

to be used for the national capital and official residences. Congress adopted CR 19- 168 to request respectfully the State of Pohnpei to repeal its new law and for the President of the FSM to initiate consultations to expeditiously resolve any dispute regarding land with the state.

Following the adoption of the land resolution, Congress then turned its attention to the President's highlighted issues and began with the nominations for the National Election Commissioners for the states. Congress confirmed all four nominations and they included: Ioanis M. Sahn for the state of Pohnpei through CR 19-147; Henry Robert for state of Kosrae (CR 19-150); Imauo Mathew for the state of Chuuk (CR 19-151); and John Chugan for the state of Yap (CR 19-153).

Congress also confirmed the nomination of Kandhi A. Eliesar to serve as the FSM Consul General in Hawaii (CR 19-160) and Roger S. Mori to serve as the Deputy Chief of Mission to the FSM Embassy in Japan (CR 19-166).

The Body however did not confirm the nominations of: Akillino H. Susaia to serve as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (CR 19-161); Rensley A. Sigrah to serve as the FSM Public Auditor (CR 19-162); Magdalena A. Walter to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Affairs (CR 19-163); and Lorin S. Robert to serve as Ambassador to the United States of America in Washington, D.C (CR 19-165).

Before the session adjourned Congress adopted measures to authorize the President to resubmit for consideration the nominations of: Magdalena A. Walter for Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Affairs (CR 19-185) and Akillino Harris Susaia for the Secretary of the Department Foreign Affairs (CR 19-189).

National boundary was another issue taken up by the 3rd Regular Session to which Congress ratified three treaties currently pending before the Body. Through CR 19-10, Congress ratified the 2014 Treaty between the governments of the FSM and the United States on the Delimitation of a Maritime Boundary that borders the US Territory of Guam. Next to Guam is the Republic of Palau for which CR 19-66 ratified the 2006 Treaty between the governments of the FSM and Palau concerning Maritime Boundaries and cooperation on related matters. Bordering to the south is the Independent State of Papua New Guinea for which CR 19-113 ratified the 2015 amended Treaty between the FSM and PNG concerning Maritime Boundaries and cooperation on related matters.

Another treaty taken up by Congress was the International Civil Aviation Organization for which it adopted CR

19-167 and ratified the Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the ICAO Treaty signed in 1980 in Morocco. The protocol allowed for transfer of authority to regulate and supervise an aircraft from the state of registration to the state of operation.

The remaining resolutions involved grants and assistance for the various health and social development programs ongoing in the Nation and they included:

- CR 19-72, approved a \$61,813.17 grant from the United State Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration (SAMHS), under an agreement by the Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., to fund the FSM Behavioral Health and Wellness Program;

- CR 19-172, approved a \$757,305 grant from the World Health Organization fund and support the various FSM health programs and to carry out the Joint Work Plan with the World Health Organization;

- CR 19-173, approved a \$10,000 grant from the University of Hawaii to fund the USAPI Community Health Intervention Project in the FSM;

- CR 19-174, approved a \$23,005 grant from the University of Hawaii to fund and support the USAPI Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry Project in the FSM;

- CR 19-175: approving and accepting a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to fund the Regional Hydrofluorocarbon (HCFC) Phase-out Management Plan;

- CR 19-176, approved a \$4,689,815 grant from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to fund the Ridge to Reef Project in the Federated States of Micronesia;

- CR 19-177, approved a \$930,466, from the U.S. DHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), to fund the FSM's Immunization and Vaccines for Children Program;

- CR 19-179, approved a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. DHHS-HRSA, to fund the Maternal and Child Health Services Program in the FSM;

- CR 19-180, approved a \$370,332 grant from the U.S. DHHS-CDCP, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STDs and TB Prevention, to fund the FSM's Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Project;

- CR 19-183, approved a \$100,873 grant from U.S. DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, to fund the Maternal and Child Health Services Program in the FSM; and

- CR 19-188, approved a \$343,663 grant from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to fund and support the Global Fund Project for TB/HIV in the FSM.

Finally, CR 19-182 was adopted at the beginning of the session to note that \$88,115,668 is the Nation's current budget ceiling.

WCPFC hosts the "Kolonia Classic" fishing tournament Tretnoff lands a 275.4 pound marlin

Pohnpei Fishing Club

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission "Kolonia Classic" Tournament was held on Saturday, February 20. The tournament was originally scheduled for February 13 but the winds were too strong and the club opted for safety and postponed the tournament until the following weekend.

The winds on tournament day subsided to safer levels but it was still rough out there. The sky was clear but was still windy and the seas were choppy. Twelve boats braved the seas and some were rewarded handsomely.

It was a competitive day and a lot of people brought in nice fish including Joyce Gehr who landed her first sailfish. That beautiful fish didn't end up scoring in the competition but Joyce was ecstatic.

Marine Biologist, Ray Verg-in participated in his first ever fishing competition and landed a nice little grouper.

The catch of the day was big fish, and the top three prizes went to marlin.

The top prize of \$400 went to Alex Tretnoff for his monster 275.4 marlin. Allois Malfitani took home the second place prize of \$300 for his 132.9 pound marlin. Mary Tretnoff landed a 103.2 pound marlin and took home \$200.

Each of the winners for biggest fish in species took home \$100 each.

Dr. Johnny Hedson scored with his sashimi worthy 72 pound yellow fin tuna. Naihila Peterson pulled in a 30.4 pound Wahoo. Billy Dakano fought down a dancing 20 pound Mahi Mahi. Welber David scooped up the biggest Skipjack Tuna at 12.8 pounds, and Mary Tretnoff won more money for her 14.5 pound Barracuda.

In the morning, the check-in was held at the newly completed boat ramp on the causeway in Dekehtik.

Thank you to Senator Ferny Perman and to Kumer Panuelo's construction company for the work they did to make that happen.

Thank you to this tournament's sponsor, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. We couldn't hold any tournaments without our sponsors!



Bill Jaynes



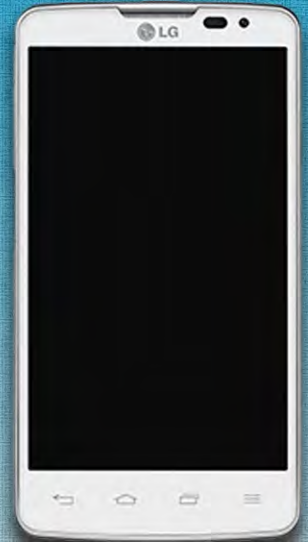
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Officials open the Sekere Multi-Purpose Gymnasium donated by Japan

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 17, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Pohnpei State now has another gymnasium and multi-purpose center situated on the property of the Sekere Elementary School. The gym was donated to the Pohnpei State Department of Education by the people of Japan at a cost of \$194,628. The purpose for the grant was for youth education and community development through promotion of sports and traditional culture.

This morning was the ribbon cutting ceremony which was attended by dozens of local community members as well as State and National officials, and Ambassador Masaki Sakai of the Japanese Embassy. At the end of the ceremony, Ambassador Sakai demonstrated his basketball dribbling prowess before delivering a ceremonial jump ball to two Sekere Elementary School students.

Before entering the multi-purpose center, some of the students of Sekere Elementary participated in the State Anthem.

Ambassador Sakai, FSM Secretary for the Department of Foreign Affairs Lorrin Robert, Governor Marcelo Peterson, Acting Director of the Pohnpei Department of Education Destry Tom, Pohnpei State Senator and Lepen Sekere Rensper Liwy,

and Sekere Community Youth Association President Nixon Ludwig ceremonially cut the ribbon for the new center.

Immediately following, all of Sekere's Church leaders blessed the building and the dignitaries were ushered to their seats.

Sekere Elementary School Principal, Pastor Loriano Martin served as the Master of Ceremonies and introduced the invited dignitaries several times during the ceremony which lasted for two hours.

Juan San Nicolas of APSCO Construction handed over the symbolic key to a long line of recipients ending with Mr. Tom handing the key to Nixon Ludwig of SCYA.

Ambassador Sakai has participated in each ceremony for the Sekere Community Multi-Purpose Gymnasium. He and his staff drove the grant process through. He spoke of the friendly relations between the FSM and Japan, the "Kizuna", the tight bonds of friendship. He spoke of the two ceremonies he had attended before on the site and the fact that it had rained on each occasion and had been told that rain indicated a blessing on the project.

Governor Peterson spoke about the benefits to all Pohnpeiians as the people of the State battle against non-communicable diseases.

Before Ambassador Sakai tossed the first



basketball into the air for the symbolic jump ball, there was a dramatic moment as the basketball hoops were lowered into position and the score board was lit up with

all of its buzzers and bells.

Since the date of the opening of the gym it has seen consistent use in the community.

Senator Perman provides free wifi at the new Sekere Multi-purpose Gymnasium

February 17, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—On Wednesday, February 17, 2016, the Sekere community celebrated opening of their new multi-purpose community center. With funding provided by Congressional Election District 1, Senator Ferny Perman, FSM Telecom was able to install a wifi access point (AP) at the new center. The service will be provided free of charge to the surrounding community for a period of two years.

Thanks to the ED1 project, for the first time ever, there is internet and cellular service at Pakin Atoll, which lies off the northwest coast of Pohnpei. FSM Telecom hopes to be able to provide similar reliable communication services for the first time to the other remote islands of Pohnpei when funding becomes available.

The wireless access points that FSMTC deployed for this project are dual band Pro models from Ubiquiti. This model was selected based on the low bandwidth requirements and excellent performance. A Sonicwall security appliance is included with the WiFi to help manage usage of the service. Since November 2015, Senator Perman's project has installed 17 APs to improve the availability of internet services to several areas in Kolonia, Sokehs and one site in Awak, U. Anyone at the following sites can enjoy this free wifi service: Awak Civic Center, Danpei Sinokohe, Pohnpei Hospital medical and surgical wards, Kapinga Community House, Kepinle Sinokohe, Nukuoro Community House, Pakin School, PICS cafeteria, Pohnpei Public Library, Roie Sinokohe, Sapwohn Community Nahs, SDA Community Center, and Pohnpei Airport Departure and Arrival lounges.

FSMTC is currently seeing over 2,000 users per day on all the APs and excited to report an ever increasing number of people using the internet because of these free wifi sites.





Australian Embassy's
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
FREE FILM SCREENING
Saturday 12 March 2016

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei is pleased to invite everyone to a **FREE** screening of "Sapphires" and "Bran Nue Dae" on **Saturday 12 March at 4.00PM** at the Pohnpei Cinema, to mark International Women Day celebrated on 8 March.



Where:
Pohnpei Cinema



Time: 4:00 pm
Date: 12 March 2016

Everyone Welcome!



**EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA – POHNPEI
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- Well-developed organisational and time management skills, evidenced in demonstrated experience in function planning, organisation and management
- Experience in developing and maintaining relationships with professional/organisational contacts
- Demonstrated strong communications skills (including writing) in both a regional language and English
- Highly developed computing skills to maintain the Embassy's contact management database and other systems (e.g. Microsoft Office)
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Application closing date is Thursday 17 March 2016

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Office of the Secretary



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the General Public that the Pohnpei State Government is presently holding meetings with the FSM National Government for the preparations required for the turn over operation of the vessel Micro Glory to the FSM National Government.

It is the intention of the FSM National Government to solicit any interested buyer(s) for the Micro Glory starting on April 1, 2016. Please submit your proposals to buy the Micro Glory to the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure, FSM National Government, or call the Department of TC&I Attention: Marine Transportation Division, phone number 320-2865.

Thank you.

Lukner Weilbacher
Secretary

**Pohnpei Public Library
gets a new playground—
children having a blast!**

Pohnpei Public Library

February 25, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library are very happy to have a new playground at our library. This has been a dream for many years. The children of Pohnpei will benefit from this playground and we hope it is a start to providing more and better activities for our children.

Now children after school can burn off some of their bottled up energy, then go into the library itself to check out books, utilize the internet and engage in learning experiences. We are proud of this addition to the grounds of the library, and so far the kids using the

playground seem to be enjoying it very much.

We would like to thank all our sponsors that made this possible.

A special thanks goes to the following: Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Program, Mahi International, Matson Navigation Co., the Adams Family, Rotary Club of Pohnpei, Inc., Pohnpei Fishing Club, Kolonia Town and Mayor Jose San Nicolas and BFSM. Without our donors this project would not be possible. Many people worked together to accomplish what seemed like a difficult and unlikely project.

We also want to thank our contractors for a job well done, Kumer Panuelo and Building Solutions Corporation.

Everyone is invited to the Library and encouraged to bring their children.



**COM Students stretch their minds and
imagninations with 20 Buck Business Blitz**

[entcentercomfsm/](mailto:centercomfsm/)) to hear all about it.

College of Micronesia FSM

February 25, 2016

FSM—The Center for Entrepreneurship (Center) at the College of Micronesia-FSM hosted the 20 Buck Business Blitz (20BBB) over the past week, challenging student teams to take \$20 from the Center and grow a small business over the course of six days. An extra \$100 was up for grabs to the team with the most original, scalable, and profitable idea.

The Center provided four student teams of budding entrepreneurs with \$20 on Wednesday, February 17th and then it was off to the races. One team, Try Luck, hosted bingo nights over the weekend and managed to raise over \$100 by Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Diamonds created a trash collection service and clothes sale business. By Tuesday they had raised \$50 and had a really enjoyed themselves, as you can see in the video they posted on Youtube (link to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmsiEWIH1w>).

The Wa'abese took a different approach and ran several businesses simultaneously, including takeout food on National Campus, a house cleaning service, and even a Yapese Jail, which is a classic party game from Yap. They made a grand total of \$123.15! Check out their video on the Center's facebook page (link to <https://www.facebook.com/>

The winner of the 20BBB were the Nomads, who recognized a strong need by local fisherman in their local community of Pehleng for accessible fuel and supplies before going out on the water. Understanding that \$20 wasn't enough to start their business, the Nomads held a house party and charged \$1 per head and used the \$20 to pay for expenses. They then took the profits from the party and bought supplies for the fishermen. In the end, they raised \$318.60 and received another \$100 in prize money! The leader of the nomads, Midson Tom, said he's excited to continue his business by providing for local fishermen's needs.

Executive Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, Mason Wiley, said he was thoroughly impressed with the ingenuity and industriousness of the students over the six day competition. "My hope is to get the business community of Pohnpei involved in the next round this summer, where we plan to give teams between \$100 and \$200 in initial investment and at least a month to fully flesh out a unique business."

To find out more, contact Mason at mwiley@comfsm.fm or drop by the Center for Entrepreneurship on National Campus at the back of the Learning Resource Center.

FSM Little Leaguers once again compete in Okinawa, Japan

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 24, 2016
FSM—The FSM Little League team from Pohnpei once again performed admirably at the 2016 Asia Children's Baseball Tournament in Onna Village and Uruma City, Okinawa, Japan. The tournament was hosted by Nippon Travel Agency, Uruma City, and the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

Last year the team competed only in non-tournament friendship games but this year they took part as full participants competing against teams from Okinawa, Kyushu, and Pohnpei. They did not win either of their two full tournament games but the scores were quite tight. They lost 4 to nothing to the Shimajiri, Okinawa team. They also lost 4 to 3 to the Okinawa Diamond team but later beat that same team 5 to 1 in a friendly game.



Mitsuko who was born in Pohnpei and is the brother of Samson Albert who lives in Wapar, Madolenihmw welcomes Keanu Edgar at the Okinawa airport.



The FSM Amateur Baseball Association which was formerly known as the FSM Junior Baseball Association has already begun to prepare for the 2017 trip to Okinawa and is accepting new applications for FSM players now.

The members of the team that participated this year were:

Keanu Dwayne Edgar, Trevor Cameron Gallen, Johnwen Loyola, Christopher Jadwick, Adalpret Jovany Semens, Eneriko Doneven Pablo, Lane Loyola, Julio John Villazon, and Lorenzo Ernest. The Coach was Kazuhiro Fujita.

Numerous generous donors contributed substantially to help make the trip possible for the Pohnpei team including Micronesia Registration Advisors, FSM Line, Mr. Takahashi, Ocean Care Company, Black Sand Store, Kaselehlie Diner, Pohnpei Elemi Outlet, Genesis Pharmacy, Micronesia Insurance, Ray and Dors, Best Buy, Caroline Fisheries Corporation, and Taiyo -Pohnpei Corporation.

Merria and Swyther Clark, a Pohnpeian family living in Okinawa welcomed the players during visit with open arms and helped them while they were there.

The team was given a star's welcome by the "Okinawa - Ponape Friendly Association".

Because of their participation this year, the team was invited to compete again in March of 2017. During that competition there will be teams from Singapore, Russia, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Okinawa.



AUSTRALIAN AWARDS PACIFIC SCHOLARSHIP (AAPS) INTAKE YEAR 2017

Opening Date: 15 February 2016
Closing Date: 30 March 2016

Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2017 for full time undergraduate and post-graduate study in Fiji and Vanuatu. Awards cover tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Have completed an Associate Degree or equivalent, or due to complete by June 2016 with minimum GPA of 2.8, OR
- Be over 25 years old with High School GPA 2.8 or above and have a minimum of 5 years work experience related to the field of study.

Students just finishing High School are NOT eligible.

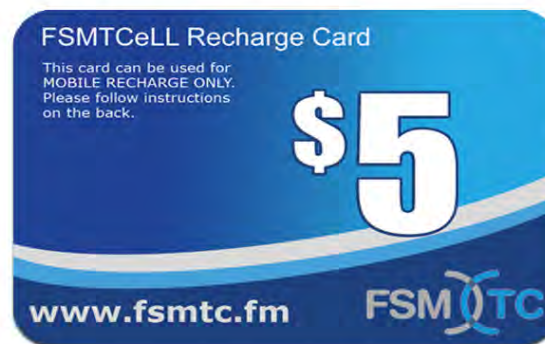
Applications and instruction on how to apply can be found at: the Australian Embassy website www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS ARE PREFERRED

Applications are due by the 30th of March, 2016.

If you have any questions please contact Joyce Gehr at joyce.gehr@dfat.gov.au or +691 320.5448 ext. 110

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Pohnpei NGOs meet with Pohnpei top government executives

Pohnpei Office of Social Affairs

February 2, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The Office of Social Affairs arranged for the Senior Citizen's Association, Pohnpei Women Council and Pohnpei Youth Council officers to pay a courtesy visit with Pohnpei State's new Administration (Governor and Lt. Governor), visiting The Honorable Marcelo Peterson and Honorable Reed Oliver on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 10am in the Governor's Conference Room. This courtesy visit is the first of its kind giving the three Non-Governmental groups an opportunity to meet with both the Governor and the Lt. Governor. Both Governor Peterson and Lt Governor Oliver welcomed all three delegations and the office of Social Affairs with warm greetings.

Governor Peterson assured the audience that they are the reason for the Governor's and Lt Governor's positions, that unity and transparency will prevail in the success of this new administration and that it would be one of their main goals for transparency in the new Government.

Although the visit was short and simple, it was a memorable and fruitful one. These three groups each had an allotted time to introduce their current sitting officers

and what each group/organization's main concerns and issues are. Their yearly activities and plans were laid out before the Governor and Lt. Governor covering the annual observed events such as Cultural Day (March 31st), Senior Citizen's Day (October 1st), International Women's Day (March 8th), International Youth Day (August 12th) and other activities throughout the year. The events are either organized and prepared for by the organization itself, or are working collaborations between the organization and Office of Social Affairs.

Among the issues shared, the Senior Citizens Association raised an issue about having access to medical assistance during the events and activities and having a Human Rights Officer in our State Office so citizens are educated on their own rights. Pohnpei Women's Council asked the new Administration about the status of Tropical Storm Dolphin (May 2015) assistance among other concerns. Our Pohnpei Youth Council reported that this year's main focus is to address the issue of Anti-Corruption. They said that the Council will try it's best to hold Leadership conferences and to unite all youth groups throughout Pohnpei.

Courtesy gifts were also presented by all three organizations.

The Officers of each organization are as follows:

Sr Citizen's Association	President	Mr. Bethwel Henry
	Vice President	Mr. Gabriel Spencer
	Secretary	Rev. Tesiwo Liwy
	Treasurer	Mrs. Enerika Peterson
Pohnpei Women Council	President	Ms Susanna Sohs
	Vice President	Mrs. Maria Donre
	Secretary	Mrs. Bernolina Hedson
	Treasurer	Mrs. Pauline E Panuelo
Pohnpei Youth Council	Interim President	Ms Stephanie J Edward
	Interim Treasurer	Mr Arvin Roby

Lastly, time was given to Sports Coordinator, Mr. Mikail Loyola who reported on the activities and happenings from our Division of Pohnpei Sports. One of the current activities involves a delegation of Little League Baseball and 13 & under (age bracket) basketball group from Majuro which arrived on January 29th on Pohnpei to compete in an invitational friendly tournament between young people from Majuro and Pohnpei. The delegation of 41 included young people, some parents and coaches who stayed for the duration of 9 days leaving on the 6th of February.

Immediately after the visit from Office of Social Affairs and the three organizations, a courtesy visit by this Majuro delegation took place.



Island Food Community of Pohnpei get JICA training in Japan

*By: Emihner Johnson
Educator- IFCP*

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) was fortunate to be selected as one of the trainees for the Japan International Cooperative Association (JICA) sponsored training in Community Capacity Building focusing on One Village one Product using the D-HOPE (Decentralized Hands-On Program Exhibit) concept or approach.

The Pre-Orientation was held at JICA office in Kolonia Pohnpei, on December 24, 2015, after Emihner Johnson, IFCP Educator arrived in Pohnpei and was given the details of the training program: The training was held from January 6-22, 2016 at the Asia Pacific University (APU) in Beppu, Japan.

There were eleven trainees representing their respective countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belize, Cambodia, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (Emihner Johnson), Mongolia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Tonga. The main objective of this training was to introduce the D-HOPE concept, which generally appreciates and acknowledges the resources or skills at the community level and promotes them for

individual desired purposes. For example, awareness, increase income, passing on skills to children, etc. Each participant came up with a proposed action plan that would be feasible in their own countries using the D-HOPE approach with the guidance of Professor Miyoshi and Okabe from APU.

At the end of the training program each participant presented their plans that would then be shared or presented to the related leaders or supervisors of the related agencies, departments, or municipalities in their home countries.

A short certificate presentation ceremony was held on 22 January 2016 for all the participants. That event was followed by a party at the APU café.

IFCP wishes to present this proposed action plan for the on-going event of the World Food Day Organizing Committee in Pohnpei and hopes that they accept the D-HOPE approach for this year's World Food Day.

IFCP would like to thank JICA for this great opportunity!! Special thanks GEF, DOI, US Government, JICA, and Pohnpei State Government for funding support

...Dental Clinic

Continued from front page

the U.S. who will rotate two weeks per month through the clinic.

Schroer said that the primary purpose of the clinic is to provide oral health care and education to the outlying communities in Pohnpei and also the elementary schools. The secondary purpose is to provide continuing education to Pohnpei State Dental staff who will work alongside of the dental volunteers.

Pohnpei State will support the program by providing dental supplies and dental staff to work in the dental clinic which will be scheduled to visit every public school in order to provide oral care for the school and the community.

The Australian AID program provided nearly \$100,000 for the acquisition of the Mobile Dental Clinic, for dental instruments, and for shipping of the massive piece of equipment.

Mahi International provided the four wheel drive to pull the trailer, a digital X-Ray system, an electronic Medical Records system, and will provide for ongoing maintenance and operational funding as well as providing for the volunteer Dentists.

Schroer said that the Mobile Dental Clinic was the culmination of eight years of work. A previous effort to provide a Mobile Dental Clinic never quite got off the ground, and this one very nearly did

not make it to Pohnpei. He said that the trailer was bought used and completely refurbished. Somehow the mechanics managed not to use a cotter pin through the castle nuts on the wheels. Schroer and another man drove the trailer from Northern Oregon to Southern California. "Somewhere near the Redwood Forest in California, three of the wheels came off at the same time. It was pretty scary," Schroer said. The men were lucky in that there was a service center not far from where the accident happened. The mechanics there were able to rebuild the axles and get them back on the road again within a day.

...Bermin

Continued from front page

David Sablan Sr. and, sometimes with the late Louis Limes, the trio would serenade the partygoers until the beer ran out. For Bermin, singing songs that everyone can join in was the ultimate satisfaction of a night out. So, he played mostly island music to make everyone feel part of the crowd.

Bermin held several high profile positions in the newly established FSM government before he retired from government service in the mid-1990s. His last job was as the chief of staff for President Bailey Olter. Bermin is survived by his wife Penny, two daughters, and three sons. His remains will arrive on Pohnpei on Wednesday for a traditional burial, as he held one of the highest titles ever bestowed on a commoner by the Nanmwarkis of the five kingdoms of Pohnpei.



An eyewitness account of SDA competition at Walla Walla University

SDA will host a fund raising activity on March 6

By- Avalon Edward

When Kenny Johnson (former SDA Student Missionary) came up to me on Christmas Eve and asked, "What do you think about taking the varsity teams to Walla Walla for the Friendship Tournament?" I eagerly supported the idea. Even during my college years at Walla Walla University, I had always wondered how our Pohnpei teams would fare in the Friendship Tournament. However, like any other rational person, I had my reservations. How would we pay for this? Would we be able to get all the paperwork done in time?

For the most part – the planning stage went smoothly with only a few hiccups along the way.

Fast forward to two months later – we managed to pull it off with the constant support of our island community. This trip was only made possible by generous donations, tremendous support, and abundance of prayer. No words can fully express our sincere thanks for helping; from donating, praying, or simply sharing the GoFundMe Page, you contributed to making this trip a reality.

On behalf of the players, coaches, and the administration of Pohnpei SDA School – we would like to offer our utmost gratitude to the generosity of the following donors:

1. Palm Terrace
2. FSM Congress
3. The Honorable Speaker, Wesley W. Simina
4. Senator Edgar Lickaneth
5. Leo A Falcam
6. Bank of the FSM
7. Caroline Fisheries Corporation
8. Etscheit's Enterprises
9. Genesis Hospital
10. JG Store
11. National Fisheries Corporation
12. Pohnpei Port Authority
13. P4 Corporation (Family of Ariel, Bo, and Denzel Perman)
14. 7 Stars (Family of Andrew Musrasrik)
15. Family of Ayaka Akinaga
16. Family of Ivana Nimea
17. Family of Keanu Perman
18. Family of Marion Navarrosa
19. Family of Reyonna Weilbacher
20. FSM First Lady Maurina Christian
21. Numerous donors abroad via GoFund

The trip was truly an enriching experience. Not only were the students given an opportunity to play basketball, but they were also given the chance to tour Walla Walla University and experience for themselves, the possibility of a higher education. This trip was more than just basketball. It was about the students being ambassadors for the island community, and they did not fail.

As mentioned in the previous issue of The Kaselehlie Press, both teams placed in their brackets; but what I was most proud of was the fact that both teams received the sportsmanship award. This was a very significant part of the trip because it meant that the organizing committee saw that the teams from Pohnpei SDA School showcased class and sportsmanship. Over the course of the weekend, I heard nothing but praises from those who were organizing the tournament and from spectators seated nearby.

After presenting our tokens of gratitude (Pohnpeian handicraft) to Don Hepker, WWU Student Activities Director and Gerry Larson, WWU Athletic Director – both of whom were involved in organizing the tournament, Don Hepker said, "...I just want to thank you all for coming out here and handling yourselves with such class. When you ladies fouled the other team, you fouled hard! But then you also raced over to help pick them up...Thank you for showing us what sportsmanship really means."

Another supporter from WW said, "When you guys would line up at the foul line, even though the person who was shooting free throws was not a part of your team, you still ran up and patted their backs. When I saw that, I was very impressed... that just isn't done here in America."

I hope that by writing this piece – the community will realize that when the players played in the tournament. They were playing much more than for themselves. Not only were they playing for God, their school, and their families – but they were also playing for their island community. I, for one, cannot help but be proud of what they have accomplished and how well they represented the island community.

In an effort to pay off the remaining balance of the Walla Walla Trip, the Pohnpei SDA School and Parents of the Varsity Basketball have launched a raffle fundraiser. Tickets are currently being sold at the school and through parents. Tickets will be sold for \$1.00 per ticket. In addition to the raffle, the school is having a fair at the school gymnasium on February 06, 2016 starting at 9:30 to 3:30. We will be having games and selling takeouts during the fair. At the end of the fair, the winners of the raffle will be announced. Please come and support this fundraiser.

The prizes for the raffle are as follows:

- Grand Prize: Round trip to Guam
- 2nd: 3 cs chicken, 3 rice, 2 muumuus, 2 skirts, 7 Stars item
- 3rd: 2 chicken, 3 rice, 2 muumuus, 2 skirts, \$20 Image Salon
- 4th: 1 chicken, 2 rice, 1 muumuu, 1 skirt, 1 cs. tissue, \$10 Image Salon
- 5th: 1 chicken, 1 rice, Ehadin Mwangas, 1 cs. tissue
- 6th: 1 chicken, 1 rice
- ...and many more prizes

FSM Embassy Meets with Chinese Ministry of Commerce to Discuss Technical Cooperation

FSM Embassy, Beijing

February 17, 2016 – FSM Ambassador to China, H.E. Carlson D. Apis, paid a courtesy call on Deputy Director General Xiao Fenghuai of the China International Center for Economic & Technical Exchanges (CICETE) of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. The meeting was requested by the FSM Embassy in order to establish close working relations with key officials of the Ministry who are responsible for the procurement of Aid goods from China.

After recently returning from Pohnpei, where he attended the first Joint Economic and Trade Commission meeting between FSM and China, Ambassador Apis thanked Deputy Director General Xiao for his time and encouraged both sides to build on the positive outcomes of the Joint Commission meeting. Ambassador Apis thanked Deputy Director General Xiao for all the assistance

from China and expressed his desire to work with the Deputy Director General to further strengthen the relationship between FSM and China. Ambassador Apis offered his support by availing the FSM Embassy in Beijing to help in any way to facilitate the smooth implementation of projects for the FSM.

Deputy Director General Xiao thanked Ambassador Apis for his visit and reciprocated his support and desire to also work together with the Embassy. The Deputy Director General briefed the Ambassador on the process his Department undertakes in the delivery of goods donated from China to the FSM. The Deputy Director General noted the long relationship between China and FSM and was confident that the new acquaintance gained with the Ambassador will overcome any obstacles.

Present during the meeting was CICETE Director, Yuan Jinghua, and FSM Deputy

Chief of Mission, Mr. KS Vincent Sivas.

Embassy in Beijing at Ph: (86)1065324708 or e-mail address: embassy@fsmembassy.cn

For further information, contact the FSM



Fisheries Protection and Counter Narcotics training for FSM Patrol Boat crew members

Australian Embassy

February 15, 2016

FSM—Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) training funded by the Australian Government and delivered by the United States Coast Guard will be provided for 15 crew members of the FSM National Police Maritime Wing. The crew members are posted on-board the FSM's three Pacific Patrol Boats: FSS Micronesia, Palikir, and Independence.

The MLE, specifically tailored to FSM objectives, will be conducted over a two week period in Pohnpei by the United States Coast Guard's Mobile Training Team. Crew members will be trained in the skills and knowledge required to enforce FSM national maritime laws and international treaties. Instruction in counter narcotics and fisheries protection is included in a suite of training available to the FSM National Police Maritime Wing through Australia's Pacific Patrol Boat (PPB) program.

"This is the second MLE training conducted for FSM under this arrangement; the first was in February 2015 and was very successful" according to Maritime Surveillance Adviser to

FSM, LCDR Tim Koroi, Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

Present at the opening of the training was Australian Ambassador to FSM, HE George Fraser, US Ambassador, HE Doria Rosen, and Australian Defense Attache LTCOL Richard Watson.

Both Ambassadors spoke highly of the Pacific Patrol Boat program in the FSM. Ambassador Fraser told the crew members of Australia's continuing support with improved boats that will provide "an increase in capabilities" for patrol boat crews and Ambassador Rosen called the FSM patrol boats "an example" for the Pacific.

At the completion of training, the 15 crew members will be able to utilise the skills learned to successfully perform maritime surveillance operations in the FSM's Exclusive Economic Zone. The course will run from 15 to 26 February.

Australian Federal Police provide Basic Investigations training in Micronesia

Australian Embassy

February 25, 2016

FSM—Two Australian Federal Police (AFP) Agents were in Pohnpei to provide Basic Investigations Program (BIP) training to Police Officers from 15 to 19 February 2016. The AFP Agents are part of the Australian Government funded Pacific Police Development Program - Regional. The BIP was delivered to over 14 participants in a two part training series that included officers from the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The BIP is a phased series of courses providing training in the fundamental principles and processes of investigation of criminal offences. The program covers the progressive investigation system from receipt of the initial complaint and managing the crime scene, through to preparing a case file for prosecution and giving evidence in court.

The BIP provides participants with hands-on learning as each new subject is introduced and incorporated into a rolling scenario, reflecting true-to-life practical application of core investigative functions.

The main focus for the BIP is to work alongside the trainers in the program delivery. The phased approach allows the trainees to gradually increase their responsibility and ownership. The added benefit is that a new group of participants gets trained up, as the training moves through the phases.

"This group contained trainers from each state. Now they have successfully completed the BIP, they will go and provide this training to their organisations." said AFP Agent Ron McFadyen.

Usually the next phase would require joint delivery but according to Agent McFadyen FSM trainers embraced the concepts and processes so well, they feel very confident to be able to deliver the training on their own.

The AFP will remotely monitor their progress. Congratulations to the Police Officers who attended and thanks to the AFP!



Center For Entrepreneurship Launches Websites For Micronesian Businesses

PALIKIR, FSM (COM-FSM News, Feb. 19, 2016)

— The Center for Entrepreneurship strives to serve the COM-FSM community by providing assistance and expertise on small business development. Many students and staff at the college have already utilized the Center's space to collaborate on entrepreneurial ventures or to hash out innovative ideas.

Most recently, the Center worked closely with several students who recognized an opportunity to provide quality online advertising to Micronesian businesses. In collaboration with the Bright Young Techno Entrepreneurs student club and the Computer Information Systems section of the Business Division at the College, the Center created a team of students with skills in web development and business creation.

The Center is therefore proud to announce the launch of 4Stars. 4Stars has already created web pages for Cliff Rainbow Hotel and Enipein Ecotourism and plans to take on new clients soon.

To find out how the Center can help you with your next business venture, feel free to drop by at the

back of the Learning Resource Center on National Campus or write to the Executive Director, Mason Wiley (link to mwiley@comfsm.fm).



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Launch of SDG support to the FSM

(FSM, Friday, 19th February 2016) The Government of Federated States of Micronesia and UNDP Pacific Office today signed an annual work plan to assist the Government raise awareness on the SDGs and to provide support at the national and state level in terms of achieving the 2030 Global Development Agenda, known as the “Sustainable Development Goals”.

The 17 new Sustainable Development Goals and corresponding 169 targets, aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health, education, achieve peace, justice and strong institutions.

The SDGs build on achievements over the past 15 years guided by the 8 Millennium Development Goals, which world leaders agreed to pursue in 2000. The SDGs will continue to focus on eradication of poverty, gender equality, health and education, but they are more ambitious and specific in their focus on reducing inequalities.

For Small Islands Developing States such as FSM, one of the important goals, Goal 14: Life below Water recognises and emphasises the importance of conserving the oceans, seas and marine resources to counterbalance the effects of climate change.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Osnat Lubrani, who is currently visiting the FSM says,

“The SDGs is a plan of action for ending poverty in all its dimensions and seeks to leave no one behind. It seeks to forge partnerships with people and to ensure that goals are integrated, interlinked and involve everyone including the private sector, such is the ambition of these new goals.”

Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Samson E. Pretrick welcomes the support by the UN and UNDP, “The Government appreciates the technical assistance provided by the UN and UNDP in particular, and on this note, will seek to engage on the SDGs agenda from the outset and to ensure that we are on track when it comes to reporting on the SDGs.”

UNDP will focus its assistance on ensuring an integrated and holistic approach to tackling the SDGs, leveraging partnerships with government, donors and development partners, private sector and civil society

Meanwhile, SDGs advocacy will involve collective effort by the UN agencies in the Pacific to raise awareness on the sustainable development goals and to ensure that strong partnerships are formed at the National and State levels in driving this work forward.


For more information on the SDGs launch, contact: UNDP Programme Analyst: patrick.tuimaleliiafano@undp.org or UN Resident Coordinator’s Office agnes.harm@one.un.org



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Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

FSM Technology Plan (2010)

Over the past several months the Education Corner has received quite a few positive comments mostly local, some from out of the country and some from “expats” working in the FSM. Occasionally a reader offers a suggestion for a topic or asks for further comment on a subject. This past week a reader commented, “I have a friend who is a public school teacher and like many of her colleagues is suffering from depression as a result of a lack of inspiration and motivation; low/poor pay and an insecure tenure with the new short term contracts now in place, being a major factor.” The reader asked for some comment about motivating and inspiring such teachers who like the “friend” were not motivated or inspired by their jobs. We promised the reader we would try

Certainly it is very easy to say teachers should be motivated and inspired. After all they are doing the most important of all work- teaching our children. While we may not expect teachers to love our children as we do, we expect teachers to devote the same concern and care for children as the family would. In a way this is a little unfair because we assume the teacher willingly chose and wanted to be a teacher. “Well teachers knew that pay was not high when they signed their contracts” or just “Why did you become a teacher if you really do not like the job?” And then would you be a better teacher if you were paid a lot more money? Over the next two week EC will ask teachers some questions about being motivated and inspired to be a professional and handle the readers request

next EC edition. We will be very honest with teachers-what will motivate and inspire you besides more money? We must understand as we move toward 2023 there will be less money provided to the FSM for education. And in 2023 it could be possible that most of salaries teachers presently enjoy may not be there at all. Currently there is no money for small raises let alone salaries that attract the very top students to our profession. So next time we will tackle this motivation idea and the very helpful request for all of us to think about.

Today’s short topic is the FSM Technology Plan (2010) or more specifically students being connected to the Internet. Dear Readers: The importance of students and teachers having direct Internet connectivity is the single most important factor that will improve learning for our students. While some might say there are other ways to improve students without Internet connectivity, nothing is more important than seeing the FSM Technological Plan (2010) implemented-put into practice yesterday. Please do not believe arguments as “students will only use “Facebook” or “Twitter”. Students will use the Internet for educational information as directed by their teachers—this is being proven over and over again in every country in the world. And besides “Facebook”, “Twitter” and other forms of “social media” have taken on many educational uses as well. The school may block access to any sight it chooses and the idea of students visiting pornography, sexually explicit materials, or just plain garbage can and should be managed by the

Departments of Educations.

At present Pohnpei and the FSM already lag behind all of the so called developed countries and most of the developing countries in technology use. The “Plan” is not complicated. It calls for all students to have a computer for use. This means Kindergarten -12th grade and is based upon the “One Laptop per Child” concept still very popular and still possible for about \$100 per student. The “Plan” calls for all schools to have connection to the Internet and the world-wide web. In the United States 3% of schools were connected in 1994, 77% in 2000, 87% in 2001 and 99% today. The only debate today is how much broadband should be required and how much connectivity should each student have. It has been many years since the idea that all schools must have Internet was accepted and we think the FSM should take great heed and get the FSM Technology Plan (2010) on a real roll and quickly, very quickly.

Today 75% of all U S teachers give homework requiring the Internet yet some low income parents cannot afford Internet connectivity. The United States considers universal connectivity so important efforts are now underway to provide funds so all low income families’ w/children can have connectivity in the home.

There are a number of ways to get to better Internet access and service in the FSM, but it’s clear that much heavier government involvement is needed. Right now, FSM Telecommunications, Inc. acts as the provider of our Internet services and this could work out just fine. This situation in which we find ourselves in not one that competition is necessarily the answer. In counties as South Korea’s private providers, such as Korea Telecom, provide the service, but government is heavily involved with policies and funding.

We can learn what works from

looking at our planet’s own history regarding previous technological revolutions. In the case of roads and electricity, governments directly built and owned the medium. Sometimes, private companies have triggered development. But once universal access has been achieved -- as was the case with electricity and telephones -- government has either owned the services or regulated them more assertively.

A growing trend around the world is municipal ownership of Wi-Fi and broadband service. It makes sense. A city or in our case a State, which usually owns the streets, can set up a network and deliver fast, efficient and pervasive service, just as it does with water and sometimes, electricity. One American city that has taken the step of providing such service directly is Chattanooga, Tenn., where the publicly owned power company, the Electric Power Board (EPB), has begun supplying high-speed service, to great attention.

“We believe that if private providers aren’t providing it, then government should,” says EPB spokeswoman Danna Bailey, whose company won a lawsuit filed by Comcast to stop the venture. “We know that Internet is becoming critical infrastructure, much like electric power in the turn of the last century.”

Finally, countries like South Korea, Sweden, Japan and even Uruguay leapt ahead way ahead of the United States. This is now why the United States is attempting to take back control of this essential service. After all the whole idea was created by the U.S. Department of Defense with public dollars. Government involvement need not mean government interference. So it looks like the FSM Government through its own FSM Technology Plan (2010) can and should move “full speed ahead”. At stake is our education which is our future.

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