

New Tokyo Medical College holds “White Coat Ceremony”

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 28, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Three students of the New Tokyo Medical College will be going on to their fifth and sixth year clinical training. This afternoon, the College staged a “White Coat Ceremony” for the three successful students. They are the first students of the New Tokyo Medical College, the only medical college in the northwest Pacific, to reach this stage in their medical training.

Kevin Saumar of Yap, and Crystal Sopepa and Taneleen Damarlane of Pohnpei made the cut and will be going on to the Guam Regional Medical Center for four weeks of introductory clinical observation. Afterward they will move on to Cebu Doctor’s University Hospital in the Philippines.

Wehns Billen, a member of the board of trustees was present at the ceremony as were, Governor Marcelo Peterson and, Senators Shelton Neth and Sendelina Lekka. Mrs. Nanpei was present as was Kolonia Town Mayor Jose San Nicolas. Two representatives from the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China were also present for the ceremony.

Since the students are scholarship students, New Tokyo Medical College is responsible for all tuition and living expenses.

Dr. H. Christian Hong, President of New Tokyo Medical College said that the class of 2018 initially had 18 students “but due to the strict academic standards, the rest of them were either dropped or flunked.”

Dr. Hong wrote that the White Coat Ceremony (WCC) originated in University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine in 1989, but the first full-fledged ceremony was at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

In 1993, Dr. Arnold P. Gold, a teacher and pediatric neurologist, created the first full-fledged WCC at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.



Before this ceremony, medical students typically received the Hippocratic Oath for the first time at commencement.

This ceremony marks a change in tradition, introducing students to the Oath before starting their first year of study.

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83 year old magician from Japan has performed in 94 countries before the FSM



By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 27, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Amateur magician Max Watanabe from Japan is 83 years old but still going strong. Some time ago he set a personal goal to perform his magic in 80 countries. His performances in Pohnpei this week marked his 95th country. He has well exceeded his goal and if this afternoon’s final performance at the Pohnpei Public Library was any indication, he has “wowed” children in every country with his feats of legerdemain.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Japan donates modern oscilloscopes to COM FSM Pohnpei Campus

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 25, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The government of Japan has provided three new high quality oscilloscopes to the Vocational and Technical program of the College of Micronesia FSM.

This afternoon, Ambassador Masaki Sakai and staff members received a demonstration of the oscilloscopes conducted by students and staff members at the Pohnpei Campus of COM FSM.

Gardner Edgar, Chair of the Technical and Trade Division explained that while the college had oscilloscopes they were very limited in what they could do. They were digital but the screens were analog. They also could only measure up to 100 MhzMHz and only on a single band. The new oscilloscopes, provided by Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid for Provision of Industrial Products can handle up to 500 MhzMHz, can measure four bands simultaneously, and have touch screens. Those oscilloscopes are more like what students would use in real world applications after graduation.

Ambassador Sakai said that he first made the request on behalf of the college a year and a half ago and he was pleased to see them in operatio





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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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101st anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli commemorated on ANZAC day in Pohnpei

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 25, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—The State of Pohnpei was just one of the thousands of places throughout the world to hold dawn services in commemoration of the 101st anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli during which nearly 12,000 Australians and New Zealanders died. The commemoration, often referred to as ANZAC Day, was held for the first time on the grounds of the residence for the Australian Embassy and as is traditional began at 5:30 in the morning just before dawn.

ANZAC Day is one of Australia's most important national commemorative occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldier forces quickly became known as ANZACs and the pride they soon took in that name is known on this day.

According to the program at this morning's commemoration, the ANZAC commemoration began simply at 4:00 AM in 1919 in Toowoomba. Captain Harrington and a group of friends visited all known graves and memorials of men killed in action in World War 1 and placed flowers (not poppies) on the headstones. Afterwards they toasted their mates with rum. In 1920 and 1921 these men followed a similar pattern but adjourned to Picnic Point at the top of the range and toasted their mates until the first rays of dawn appeared. A bugler sounded the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'.

Lt. Colonel Richard Watson, Defence/Defense Attaché to FSM, Palau, RMI, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu gave the call to commemoration. He reminded the people in attendance that the price for the Battle of Gallipoli was not only thousands of soldiers who died or who were wounded. The families of those soldiers also suffered. Watson poignantly shared his memories of the effects of that battle on his own family. He spoke of one relative who spent 40 years in silence after losing a loved one at Gallipoli.

He also talked of his memories as a child when he heard a great uncle screaming out in terror. When he asked why he was told that his uncle was remembering things that he shouldn't.

On this day in Pohnpei, Lt. Colonel Watson said that those memories and

those people should never be forgotten.

"Youth for Change" performed a different and moving rendition of "Abide With Me", hauntingly accompanied by the ukulele.

The poetry chosen for this year's ANZAC Day Commemoration did not whitewash the horror that was the Battle of Gallipoli. The poems spoke of the men who died horrific deaths and many who were gravely wounded during what Lt. Colonel Watson called a poorly planned campaign. The poems also spoke of the many loved ones who were left behind to grieve and to deal with the aftermath of that horrific battle. The poems also served as a reminder that we should never forget the sacrifices that were made and were not in vain.

Commemorative wreaths were laid at the foot of the flag poles bearing the flags of Australia and New Zealand after which the Last Post was sounded while officers of the FSM National Police first raised the flags to the top of the mast and then lowered them to half mast. One minute of silence was recognized before the flags were once again raised to the top of the poles as Reveille was sounded.

The National Anthems of Australia and New Zealand were then played before Australia Ambassador Fraser gave the ANZAC address.

A traditional "gunfire breakfast" of bacon and egg biscuits was served after the conclusion of the ceremony. A single shot of rum for those who wished to take it was also available to commemorate the ration that ANZACs received before going to battle.



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US Embassy farewells Cook and welcomes Brackett at reception

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

April 22, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—This evening United States Ambassador Doria Rosen hosted a “Hail and Farewell” reception at her home for incoming and outgoing Economic/Consular Officers for the US Embassy to the FSM.

After a two year tour, William Cook will turn over the reins of his position to Jeanette Brackett who served in other U.S. Embassies prior to arrival in the FSM.

Ambassador Rosen presented Mr. Cook with a framed letter from the State Department congratulating him on the quality of his cables . She also presented him with a beautiful hand carved wall hanging.

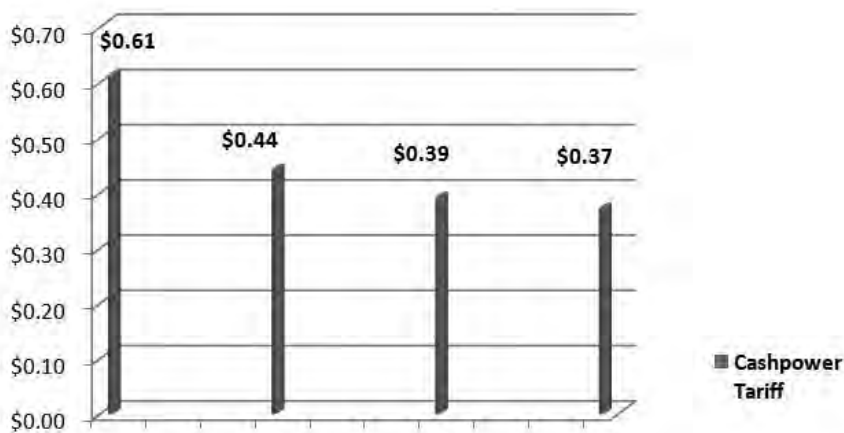


COM-FSM Pohnpei Campus holds “Skills Expo”

On April 28 and 29, the College of Micronesia FSM Pohnpei Campus held a “Skills Expo”, an exhibition of COM’s Vocational and Technical training. During the “Skills Expo”, High School Seniors could walk around the small campus and witness displays from the various training programs the college has to offer. After they had seen what they wanted to see they could sign up for classes in a particular trade.



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**KALAHNGAN,
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...WCT

Continued from front page

This was intended to provide students with well-defined guidelines regarding the expectations and responsibilities appropriate for the medical profession prior to their first day of class.

Since its conception at Columbia, the WCC has spread rapidly to schools of medicine, dentistry, osteopathic medicine, and nursing worldwide.

New Tokyo Medical College, also known as NTMC, is a professional medical school located in Kolonia, Pohnpei, Micronesia. It is the first fully-approved medical school established in the Northern Pacific Ocean Area to cultivate medical professionals. It was founded as a non-profit education foundation with its vision to contribute in nurturing of medical professionals needed for the Federated States of Micronesia and its neighboring Pacific Islands.

NTMC has obtained the approval for its establishment from the State Government of Chuuk on June, 2009. It also has received official approval from the National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia for establishment of non-profit foundation in May 2011, and was formally established as a 6-year medical college. The school is recognized by the Foundation for Advancement of International Education and Research (FAIMER) and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), and listed on the International Medical Education Directory (IMED). In addition, NTMC is listed on the World Directory of Medical Schools under the directives of World Health Organization (WHO).

NTMC offers many open and innovative education curriculums in order to cultivate medical professionals who are equipped to be competitive in the dramatically changing 21st Century and who possess strong ethics and a sense of duty. It also thrives to promote an intellectual environment that can achieve wider innovation and advancement in the medical and health fields through various collaborative efforts with many reputable education institutions in Asia and the United States.

NTMC currently offers both 6-year and 4-year MD programs for highly qualified students from the local area as well as from other parts of Asia. The faculty members of NTMC are composed of dedicated professionals and educators from United States, Philippines and Korea. The current total number of students enrolled in NTMC's program is 60. The first cohort, all of which are excellent local students from Micronesia, will graduate from NTMC in 2018, and they will begin serving the underserved area upon completing their residency training as early as 2020.

NTMC will continue to make significant contribution to the local community and maintain its founding motto by cultivating and supplying much needed well-trained

local doctors for the area of Micronesia and its neighboring Pacific Islands on a steady basis. At the same time, it will also continue to enhance and improve the quality level of its medical training and education through establishment of collaborative relationships with local hospitals and institutions including Pohnpei State Hospital.

Dr. Hong, the founder of New Tokyo Medical College is a former AMEDD (Army Medical Department) officer. Dr. H. Christian Hong was nominated by the Board of Regents in May 2012 to serve as president of New Tokyo Medical College. His nomination was confirmed by the Board of Regents the same month and he was sworn in as the first president of New Tokyo Medical College.

Prior to his New Tokyo Medical College appointment, Dr. H. Christian Hong served as Chief of Immunology, Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), San Antonio, Texas. Other assignments include Principal Investigator (as a Captain) at Department of Radiation Medicine, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, Maryland, and Captain, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, District of Columbia.

Dr. Hong holds Diploma from U.S. Army Academy of Health Sciences; graduate and doctorate degree from New York Medical College, New York and Nova Southeastern University, Florida respectively. Additionally, he holds a professional degree in medicine. He was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal.



President Christian meets with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

U.S. Embassy to the FSM

During his recent visit to Washington, D.C., President Peter M. Christian met with Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas A. Shannon Jr. They discussed a range of issues including drought relief, the Paris Agreement and the Compact of Free Association.



U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell Receives FSM President Peter M. Christian in a courtesy call visit at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. April 26, 2016



U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and President of Micronesia Peter Christian



FSM President Peter M. Christian; Interior Secretary Sally Jewell; Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina.

Chief of Staff Leo Falcam, Jr.; FSM Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorin Robert; Chuuk State Governor Johnson Elimo; FSM President Peter M. Christian; Interior Secretary Sally Jewell; Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina; FSM Secretary of Justice Joses Gallen; Director Office of Insular Affairs Nikolao Pula



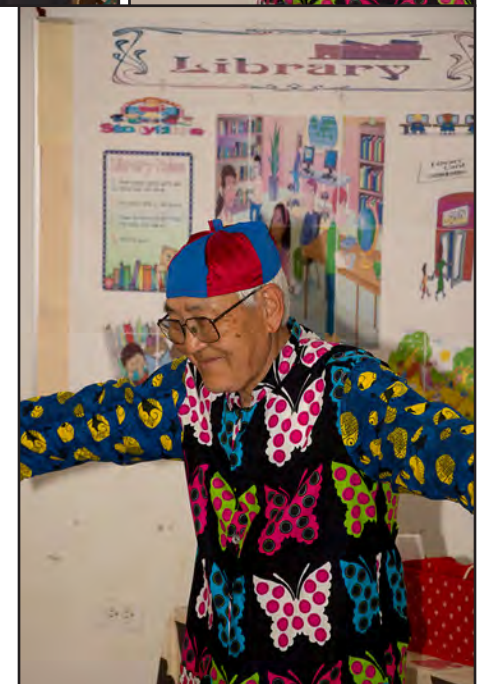
...Magician

Continued from front page

Watanabe performed twice at the Pohnpei Public Library. Today's performance was his last there and the best attended at the library. After each trick, the standing room only crowd of children who had waited patiently outside the door while he prepared for his show, gasped at what they had just seen as he pulled quarters from their ears, made water turn into confetti, scarves into a hat, and made balls and other objects appear to jump from his hand to the hand of a volunteer.

Watanabe performed at the State Hospital and at the elementary schools in Kolonia.

Japan's Ambassador Masaki Sakai attended Watanabe's performance at the library. He was surrounded by children who were enthralled with the show.



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Bank of Guam Appoints Takesy to Neighboring Islands Governmental Affairs



April 20, 2016, Hagatna, Guam. The Board of Directors, Management and Staff are pleased to report that Asterio Takesy has been appointed to a 3 year term as Vice President of Governmental Affairs (FSM, RMI, Republic of Palau) to promote the bank within the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to be posted in Kolonia, Pohnpei. He reports directly to the President and Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Lourdes Leon Guerrero.

"I want to underscore the importance of our business relations and long-term commitment with the three Freely Associated States of Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau by placing a senior official representative of the bank directly in our neighboring islands. I am therefore delighted to announce the appointment of Mr. Asterio Takesy as Vice President of Governmental Affairs, who is well known and respected throughout the three countries," said Bank President Lourdes Leon Guerrero.

"Bank of Guam will continue to be a development partner and good citizen of the community it finds itself in these changing and challenging times made worse by climate change," she added.

Takesy, who hails from Onoun Island in Chuuk State, has served in various senior posts of his country, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) having just completed four years in Washington DC as FSM's ambassador to the United States. At the regional level, he was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for six years stationed in Apia, Samoa. At the international level he served for two years on the United Nations' Executive Committee on Clean Development Mechanism.

"I am simply speechless by this unexpected singular blessing and honor. Lord knows I know next to nothing about banking; however, I believe the experience I gained through long years of government services will help me rise to the challenge of the task at hand. I am humbled by and grateful for President Leon Guerrero's vote of confidence," Takesy stated regarding his new appointment.

Posted in Pohnpei, Takesy has traveled for work throughout the Micronesian, Melanesian and Polynesian regions and throughout other regions of the globe.

For additional information, please contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258 or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com.

Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report and Audit Completed for the Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia

Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Trust Fund Committee of the Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia (the Fund) approved the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Annual Report at the March 22nd Trust Fund Committee meeting. The Annual Audited Financial Statements were also completed by the independent auditor, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, and presented to the Committee on the same date. Both reports have been released to the respective governments.

The Fund's restricted fiduciary net position value increased 4.3% to \$397,313,588 for FY15 from \$380,901,011 for FY14. The increase was primarily due to contributions from the United States government (\$26,976,960) and interest and dividend income from investments (\$19,765,695). There was a net investment income loss of -\$10,271,651.

The Fund had a weighted annual rate of return of -2.6%, following three consecutive growth years: 9.1% for FY14, 14.4% for FY13, and 15.9% for FY12. On a performance basis, net of fees, the Fund lost 2.8% but outperformed the benchmark loss of 3.4%. Overall, on a performance basis, net of fees, the Fund has had a 4.6% return since inception.

The annual audit performed by Baker Tilly was completed on time and according to U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Generally

Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. There were no negative audit findings.

As indicated in the Annual Report, the Trust Fund Committee contracted Funston Advisory Services LLC during FY15 to conduct an independent and objective external evaluation of the Fund to help guide the Trust Fund Committee as the Trust Fund proceeds past the first 10 years since inception of the Fund and anticipates that disbursements will begin after FY23. The evaluation found the Fund to be generally well governed with competent Committee and service provider performance according to industry standards and no non-compliance with the Trust Fund Agreement or Amended Compact.

A major finding of the independent and objective external evaluation was that costs for investment and administrative services were within the ranges of similar trust, endowment and foundation funds. The Committee has remained vigilant to contain such costs as an appropriate percentage of the Fund. As reported in the Annual Report, investment expenses for FY15 were 0.76% of restricted fiduciary net position compared to 0.75% for FY14. For FY15 administrative expenses were 0.07% of restricted fiduciary net position compared to 0.04% for FY14. The increase in administrative expenses is attributed to the cost of the external evaluation.

The Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia was established by the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, as codified in the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (U.S. Public Law 108-188, December 17, 2003). The Trust Fund's purpose is to contribute to the economic advancement and long-term budgetary self-reliance of the FSM by providing a source of revenue for the government and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia when certain grants under the Amended Compact of Free Association expire in 2023.

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School (OLMCHS) shines in the 2016 Pohnpei Public Library Day Essay Contest

The Pohnpei Public Library held its Library Day on April 15, 2016. Highlight of the event was the awarding of winners in the Art and Essay Contests which is open to all schools in Pohnpei. OLMCHS students bagged nine of the twelve awards in the high school category. This year's theme is "Library: A Place of Learning". All winners were awarded with gift and cash certificates from different sponsors. The OLMCHS Essay Winners are the following: 12th Grade: 1st Place Asmara Pretrick; 11th Grade 1st Place Molisi Toli, 2nd Place Talualelei Overhoff, 3rd Place Tyler Nanpei; 10th Grade: 2nd Place Julie Piana Mongkeya, 3rd Place Rianna Malie Richard; 9th Grade: 1st Place Kensley Giltamag, 2nd Place Keana Musrasrik, and 3rd Place Carina Bertha Jano.



FSM President Christian signs on to the Paris Agreement at United Nations

FSM Information Services

April 22, 2016

New York—On Friday April 22, 2016, President Peter M. Christian participated in the High-level Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. During the Ceremony, President Christian joined representatives from 174 other countries in signing the Agreement, marking the largest number of countries ever to sign an international instrument in a single day. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the Agreement in Paris last December. The Agreement is the first universally applicable international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Agreement commits all of its Parties to keep global temperature

rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Agreement also provides for enhancing the ability of all countries—particularly developing countries—to deal with the impacts of climate change, including loss and damage. To achieve these goals, the Agreement provides for climate financing, a new technology framework to support research and development in climate technology, a new capacity building framework to enhance the capability of developing countries to take effective climate change action, and a robust transparency framework to ensure that Parties properly and fully account for the actions they take under the Agreement. The Agreement will enter into force after at least 55 Parties representing at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions ratify the Agreement.

After the signing, President Christian delivered a



statement that noted the historic milestone achieved by the international community with the adoption of the Agreement in Paris last year, while underscoring that the true test of the success of the Agreement lies in its implementation, particularly at the domestic level. President Christian called on all Parties to the Agreement to continuously update our emission reduction targets in order to "achieve nationally beyond what we talk about internationally." President Christian committed the FSM to take concrete actions in furtherance of its targets, including continuing the FSM's leadership role in advocating for the phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol. HFCs are greenhouse gases that are several orders of magnitude more potent than carbon dioxide, and whose phase-out will greatly aid in the fight against climate change.

President Christian concluded his statement with a plea to the international community to live up to pledges made in connection with the Agreement. Calling for international solidarity, President Christian expressed his hope that ours is "the generation of world leaders that not only talked about climate change, but

walked the deck of a sinking ship to find and plug the holes to save our ship."

Prior to participating in the High-level Signature Ceremony, President Christian visited the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center site in downtown Manhattan, where he laid a wreath in remembrance of the victims of the September 11 attacks.

President Christian was accompanied to the High-level Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement and to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum by First Lady Maurina Christian, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of Justice Joses Gallen, Governor of Chuuk State Johnson Elimo, President Christian's Chief of Staff Leo Falcam, Jr., Ambassador Jane J. Chigiyal, and members of the staff of the Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations.

OLMCHS back to back Pohnpei State Debate Champion

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School (OLMCHS) emerged again as the champion in the Pohnpei State Annual Debate held last April 21, 2016 at the Chamber of the Pohnpei State Legislature. The State Debate is a yearly competition among the high schools in Pohnpei to determine who will represent Pohnpei State in the FSM National Law Day Debate which will take place in Kosrae State, FSM, on July 12, 2016. The topic for this year's Debate is "BE IT RESOLVED that the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America shall be terminated, and such termination shall take effect no later than 2018."

This year's debate topic was so interesting that the Pohnpei State Legislature was overflowing with people. Everyone admired and cheered the debate skills and arguments of all the debaters - a clear proof of the extensive research done by the students. All Debate Teams took time out and went to interview the U.S. Embassy, FSM Department of Finance - JEMCO Administrator, Dignitaries, Lawyers and other personalities. A total of six high schools participated in this year's debate, namely: Pohnpei Island Central School (PICS), Calvary Christian Academy (CCA), Nanpei Memorial High School (NMHS), Madolenimw High School (MHS), Seventh Day Adventist (SDA), and OLMCHS. In the end, OLMCHS emerged as the runaway winner. The OLMCHS Debate Team is composed of Carisma Jano and Asmara Pretrick as main debaters; Tulaulelei Overhoff and Christina Ifamilik as alternates; and the team's coach is Mr. Russell Figueras. This is OLMCHS' fourth crown as Pohnpei State Debate Champions since joining in 2011. OLMCHS also won the National Debate held in Yap in 2011 and in Chuuk in 2013.

The Pohnpei State Debate was organized by the Pohnpei State Debate Committee. The 2016 Chairman is Mrs. Virginia John of Calvary Christian Academy. This year's judges were Attorneys Craig Reffner (FSM Department of Justice), Catherine Allen (FSM Congress) and Aaron Warren (FSM Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure); Moderator was Emy Musrasrik of the Migrant Resource Center (IOM) and Timer was Ms. Natalie Morton, a Jesuit Volunteer teacher at OLMCHS.

The Final Score was: OLMCHS (327), PICS (299), SDA (291), CCA (264), MHS (244), and NMHS (243).



Community Outreach Program in Sekere

by JAA-Pohnpei

On March 26, 2016, the JICA Alumni Association (JAA) of Pohnpei through the support of JICA Micronesia Office completed its Sekere Elementary School Paint Project for the 1st-4th grade elementary school building. On the day, about 20 individuals came out and helped with the painting of the school building in order to provide a better learning atmosphere and they were the JAA-Pohnpei Officers, the JICA Staff and volunteers, and community

members. Genesis Hospital partnered with JAA-Pohnpei by providing a tent, chairs, tables, water bottles and take out lunches for the group.

After the project completed, a plaque was placed on the newly painted Sekere Elementary building by JAA-PNI President Ms. Universe Yamase, to recognize the work and the people who were involved to make the project a success.



Pohnpei Public Library celebrates its 29th anniversary

By Pohnpei Public Library

April 27, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—This year Pohnpei Public Library celebrated its 29th Anniversary with a “Library Week,” from Monday, April 11 to Friday, April 15. The theme for this year’s celebration was “Library: A Place of Learning”. During the week the Micronesian Studies students from College of Micronesia-FSM were invited to share stories about Pohnpei to some ECE schools. The ECE schools that participated in this event were Lukop ECE, Wapar ECE and Wenik ECE.

On Friday evening, April 15, 2016, the library held a special celebration to commemorate the anniversary and to recognize essay and art contest winners. This event began with a prayer by Wahnporon Bruce Robert. The Vice President of the Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library (FPPL) Ms. Lynn Pangelinan welcomed everyone on behalf of the FPPL members and staff.

The program ended with the presentations of awards to the students who were selected as winners for the art and essay contest. Art winners were Whynona Inos, ECE Wenik School, Victoria Laphey Ioanis Wenik ECE School, Eunice Luke, Sapwalap ECE, Niaa Jonathan, 1st grade from Lukop Elem. School, Brandon Gomez, 1st grade from Ohmine Elem. School; Hannika Robert, 1st grade from Lukop School; Kaia Pillar Akinaga, 2nd grade from CCA School; Ashanti Kate Naranja, 2nd grade from CCA School; Jago Santiago, 2nd grade from Ohmine School; Alyssa Soriano, 3rd grade from CCA School; Thomas Primo, 3rd grade from Awak School; Artisha Lynn Kehpas, 3rd grade from Nett School.

Essay winners were Janet L. Etger, 4th

grade from Lukop School; Lou-Saintra Sahle, 4th grade from Lukop School; Jaydyn Cherri Ponaport, 4th grade from Nett School; Grant Houston, 5th grade from PCS; Isabella Kostka, 5th grade from Awak School; Jeney Pelep, 5th grade from Nett School; Lavonna Abraham, 6th grade from Ohmine School; Quincy Le-tish Mae Gomez, 6th grade from Nett School; Jonnah Helgenberger, 6th grade from Nett School; Noah Adams, 7th grade from CCA; Fiji Meshak Phillip, 7th grade from Ohmine School; Vince Joy Perman, 7th grade from CCA; Audrey Antreas, 8th grade from Awak School; Mary Jae Ardos, 8th grade from Seinwar School; Mariona Olter, 8th grade from Nett School; Kensley Giltamag, 9th grade from OLMCHS; Keana Mursarik, 9th grade from OLMCHS; carina Jano, 9th grade from OLMCHS; Nicole Faye S. Liao, 10th grade from CCA; Julie Mongkeya, 10th grade from OLMCHS; Rianna Richard, 10th grade from OLMCHS; Molisi Toll, 11th grade from OLMCHS; Tulau Overhoff, 11th grade from OLMCHS; Tyler Nanpei, 11th grade from OLMCHS; Asmara Nanpei Pretrick, 12th grade from OLMCHS; Isako Peterson, 12th grade from CCA; Fiona Matiea Nelson, 12th grade from CCA.

Pohnpei Public Library wants to express its gratitude to the following businesses, individuals and agencies for their contributions and support that made this Library Week successful one. Sponsors include 7-stars, Leo Etscheit Enterprises, Ace Office Supplies, Arnold’s Pizza, Pohnpei Arts and Crafts, Bank of FSM, China Star Restaurant, Happy Mart, P-4, Panuelo Gas Station, PCR Nantelik Restaurant, Pohnpei Utilities Corp, Sea Breeze, XIX Store and Ms. Lou Ann Garvey.



Blinded by shortsightedness



Coalition of Conservation NGOs in Pohnpei

Conservation work takes years and years and sometimes more years to see positive results. Those of us who work in conservation have to be able to “see the future” and look towards it to keep getting up every day and putting in the effort to keep our projects going. Unfortunately, people who illegally fish and take protected species don’t see the future, or for that matter, see ahead to the next 10 to 15 years and see that their actions could have major consequences in their lifetimes. They are blinded by their shortsightedness. Maybe they need a few dollars for their daily needs or want to harvest a turtle out of a marine protected area to eat at a family event. When they do this, they damage years of conservation efforts to protect a species or an area.

This happened recently out at Ant Atoll. A boat was caught poaching turtles the weekend before Easter. Rohsa Kitti, who happened to be staying out at Ant for a week and overseeing the protection of the Biosphere Reserve there, was able to apprehend these poachers and called for assistance from the Pohnpei State Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW).

The DFW has 11 Marine Protected Areas to manage with 8 officers and one boat. There is no way the DFW can keep a watch on all of our MPA’s, so frontline efforts from communities and individuals are necessary to assist the DFW to curb the illegal fishing. We can all lend a hand. Fishermen know that during the months

of March and April, groupers are not allowed to be sold in the fish markets, but some people know there is a need during Easter for fresh fish and sell directly to church groups, who either don’t know of the ban or don’t think it’s their job to enforce the ban. It’s up to all of us to know the laws of our local fisheries and assist to enforce and/or comply with them. If we are all in the same “canoe” then we should be rowing in the same direction. To do this, everyone who buys fish should know the laws and rules about not fishing in MPAs, size limits, and not selling grouper during the spawning season. If we are blinded by our immediate need, then we overlook the needs of the future.

Here in Pohnpei, we need to have government, community, and private sector partnerships if we are to see improvements in the management of our resources. Even our traditional leaders can get involved, like the Soukisenleng (Nahnmwarki of Kitti) who has put out a poahngoak (official declaration) prohibiting fishers from breaking these fisheries laws in Kitti so now there is a way for recourse in the traditional system to prohibit illegal fishing and punish those that get caught. We need greater individual awareness and self discipline to enforce the laws. DFW can only do so much. If we can look past our small, immediate needs, and see the real reason for our conservation work, then we can all look to the future and see a strong fishery with lots of biodiversity; enough for us to enjoy in our lifetime and more for our grandchildren’s grandchildren to enjoy. Do your part and Pohnpei will always have enough fish for everyone to enjoy.

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Midwives: health heroes for women, adolescent girls and newborns

International Day of the Midwife 2016

Statement by Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA, The United Nations Population Fund

5 May 2016

On this International Day of the Midwife, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, salutes the contribution of midwives to saving the lives of women, adolescent girls and newborns, sometimes under very difficult circumstances, in hard-to-reach communities, in humanitarian emergencies, and in fragile and conflict-torn countries.

Well-trained and supported midwives working in communities are uniquely positioned to provide the compassionate, respectful and culturally sensitive care a woman needs during pregnancy and childbirth. Midwifery is equally important for newborns during the critical first month of life, and is a significant contribution to sexual and reproductive health in general.

Midwives are, therefore, essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In the past 25 years, the world has almost halved maternal deaths, but every year, some 300,000 women still die during pregnancy and childbirth, and almost 3 million babies do not survive their first four weeks of life. A vast majority of these largely preventable deaths take place in developing and crisis-affected countries. If deployed in larger numbers, trained midwives could avert

approximately two thirds of these deaths. Significant investments in midwifery are essential if the world is to achieve its ambitious goals of reducing maternal and newborn deaths.

UNFPA is helping train and support thousands of midwives in more than 100 countries. A recent survey estimated that in 57 of these countries, UNFPA has trained 66,000 midwives over the past seven years. These critical health-care providers can help more than 11 million women to give birth safely each year, but much more needs to be done.

On this International Day of the Midwife, we at UNFPA renew our commitment to working with global partners and countries to strengthen midwifery skills and capacities. We call on countries to acclaim and reward midwives who are working in challenging and hard-to-reach areas, where their services are most needed. We also urge countries to invest in quality training, good working conditions, decent salaries, adequate workforce policies and possibilities for professional growth.

Midwives are our heroes and the backbone of sexual and reproductive health. Let us support them and the women and newborns at the heart of their care.

Six Pacific islands ratify the Paris Climate Accord

The Pacific islands, amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, have displayed global leadership this weekend when the Paris Agreement opened for signing on 22 April. Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu were six of the 15 overall countries that submitted their ratification during the special signing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

“We congratulate and commend our member countries for their leadership in not only signing but also taking that extra crucial step to ratify the Agreement, helping to ensure it will come into force,” said Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

“We are committed to work with CROP agencies, our member countries and partners to help our region address climate change, the biggest threat to island survival.”

The Paris Agreement has far exceeded the historical record for first-day signatures to an international agreement. Overall there were 175 parties that signed the Paris Agreement, for which 12 out of 14 Pacific islands put pen to paper in signing the agreement signifying commitment.

“The signing of this agreement comes at a critical time for Pacific nations, and the Pacific Community will maintain unerring commitment to work with other CROP agencies and the region’s countries and territories to maintain the momentum for collective action,” the

Pacific Community Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, said.

The Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, The Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu were the Pacific islands that signed once it was open for signature in New York.

“Only by working together can we address the most serious issues brought upon us by the effects of climate change. The CROP agencies will continue to work together, The Pacific will continue to work together, and the World must continue to work together, to save our vulnerable brothers and sisters, and future generations,” said Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

The Pacific islands contribute to less than 0.03 percent of the world’s total greenhouse gas emissions but are amongst the most vulnerable to its effects. The island region is also amongst the first to feel the impacts of climate change.

The Paris Agreement endorsed during the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France, marked a watershed moment in taking action on climate change. After years of negotiation, countries agreed to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, while pursuing efforts

See “Paris” on back page

The Salvation Army meets with the Governor

Officers of The Salvation Army from Pohnpei and Chuuk recently met with Governor Marcelo Peterson to discuss further ways the Army could strengthen

partnership with the government in the service of the people in Pohnpei.

On their visit, the SA officers conveyed

their heartfelt congratulations to Governor Peterson on behalf of The Salvation Army. “Our good Lord has put you in this position at the right time for a purpose and together with all our leaders and members, we commit to support you as our God appointed leader to lead our people at this crucial and important stage in the life of our beloved country” said the visiting officers.

The Salvation Army, a global Christian Church with an acute social concern is currently active in 127 countries worldwide. Their mission is to save souls, grow saints and serve suffering humanities.

Since 1993 The Salvation Army in Pohnpei has been actively engaged in the business of helping and transforming human lives, families and communities. Their Church and Community Centers are centrally located in Kolonia and Madolenihmw where poverty and human suffering is prevalent.

Captain Taylor Santos, OIC of Pohnpei Salvation Army said in his letter to the governor: “For about 23 years now, our church and community center has faithfully served to meet the needs of the community without discrimination. Throughout the year, the Corps shares the love of Jesus

Christ by providing human care and life-sustaining programs and services to the people of Pohnpei such as the following:

1. Community Outreach through home visits and counseling for those in crisis situation.
2. Spiritual and moral value formation for the children, the youth, men and women in the community through our weekdays and Sunday programs.
3. Relief and emergency services during calamities and as the need arises.
4. Christmas cheer and gift giving to children, hospital patients, prison inmates and shut inn patients.
5. Provide low income families the opportunity to acquire and enjoy basic needs at affordable price through our occasional “charity sale” or “thrift shop” in coordination with our Guam and Hawaii office.
6. Help provide accommodation facility and other practical support to external migrants coming to the island.
7. Network with other NGO’s and GOs in serving the under-privileged and the marginalized people of our society.

Governor Peterson vowed to extend his full support to the Army particularly in their programs and services to alleviate poverty and human suffering.



Governor Marcelo Peterson is flanked by the Salvation Army Officers namely (from left to right) Captain Senelyn Santos, Major Lilia Macayana, Major Jaime Macayana and Captain Taylor Santos

Crossword - Food...

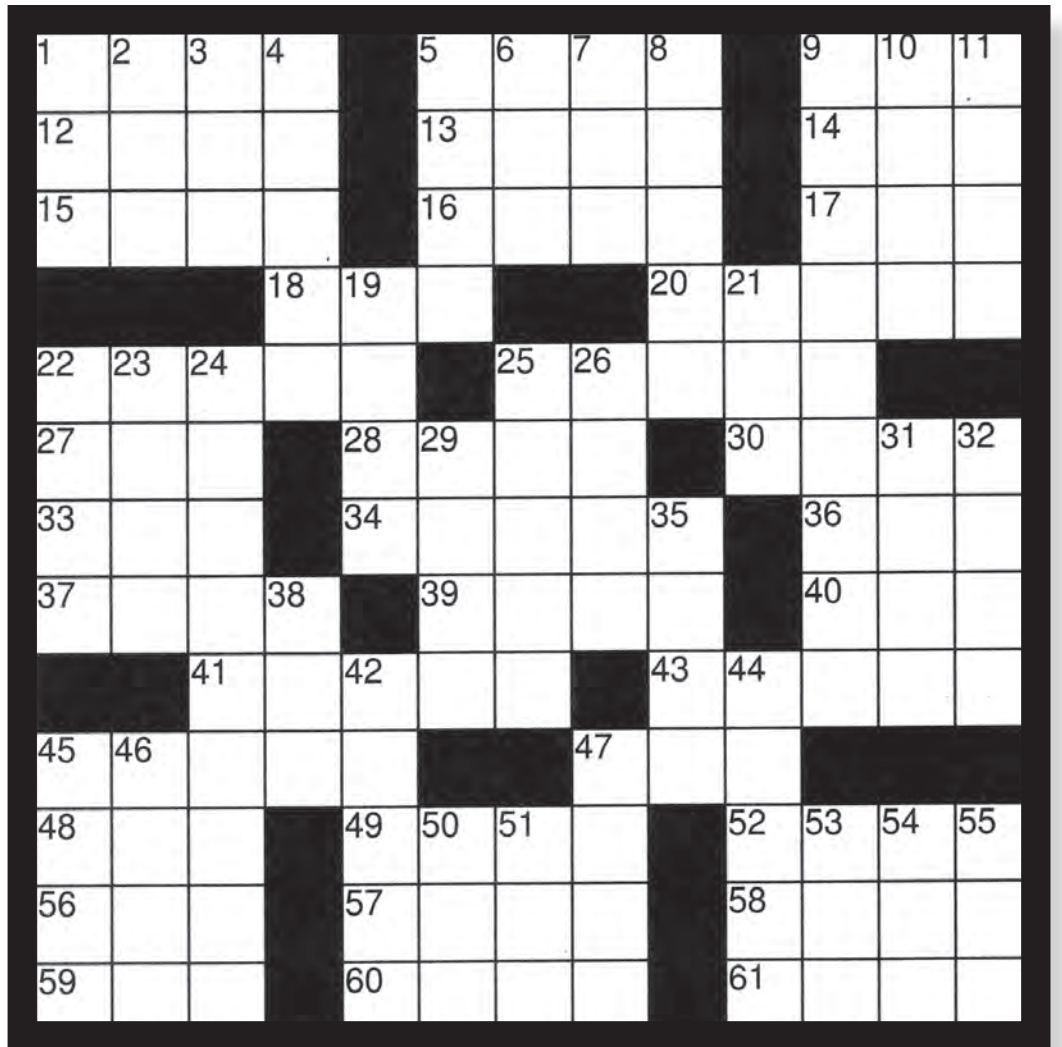
ACROSS

- 1. Dutch cheese
- 5. Brewer's yeast
- 9. Absorb, like gravy
- 12. Part of IPA
- 13. Recipe words
- 14. Another part of IPA
- 15. Italian cooking style?
- 16. Broil
- 17. Food school, for short
- 18. Recipe abbr.
- 20. Hungry-Man rival
- 22. Soy sauce
- 25. Red wine also called Shiraz
- 27. Way more than 18 Across
- 28. ___ Moco (a burger with a fried egg, rice, and brown gravy)
- 30. Spirit sometimes used in tapenade
- 33. Sushi tuna, often
- 34. Dos Equis, for one
- 36. Strong Brazilian coffee
- 37. Jicama or horseradish
- 39. ___ trout
- 40. Place often having a quaint restaurant
- 41. Frequent detail for Chinese food
- 43. Stovetop
- 45. Epicure's pride
- 47. Where to skim from
- 48. Sushi squid
- 49. A lubricating liquid

- 52. ___ apple
- 56. Sushi fish
- 57. Their tails are used in soup
- 58. Common fruit shape
- 59. Tea ___
- 60. More than merely dip
- 61. Keg tapper

DOWN

- 1. Farm spray watchdog
- 2. Indian legume or dish
- 3. ___ purpose flour
- 4. Like some beans
- 5. Food fish
- 6. Fruity drink
- 7. Advised quantities, for short
- 8. Seder spice
- 9. Artificial sweetener beverage
- 10. Aglio e ___
- 11. Fruit shaped like a light bulb
- 19. The "meat" of onion or garlic
- 21. ___ prik (hot sauce)
- 22. ___ fruit
- 23. Hostess product
- 24. Seasoning from a shaker
- 25. One without much meat



- 26. ___ Imperial apple
- 29. Seasons a pan, perhaps
- 31. Flan mold
- 32. Ice cream holder
- 35. UK candy bar
- 38. A "short shot" of a beverage
- 42. Red Bordeaux wine
- 44. Chef's garb
- 45. Bow ___ (farfalle)
- 46. Caribbean fruit resembling a peach
- 47. Loosely cover meat
- 50. Kitchen gadget
- 51. Black-eyed or goober ___
- 53. Caviar, for instance
- 54. ___ Tai (drink)
- 55. Shape for some kitchens

K Press Puzzle Pleasure



Your Word List Goes Below

Score

Insert the proper consonant into each empty circle to create the maximum number of 4-letter words. In the example, "V" would form the words "hovel," "verse," and "vying," but "T" (as shown) forms the words CATCH, HOTEL, TERSE, and TYING, for a total of 4 words. If you choose the right letters, you'll hit the 52-word Score. Use each consonant only once.

- C
- D
- G
- H
- K
- M
- P
- R
- T
- V
- Z

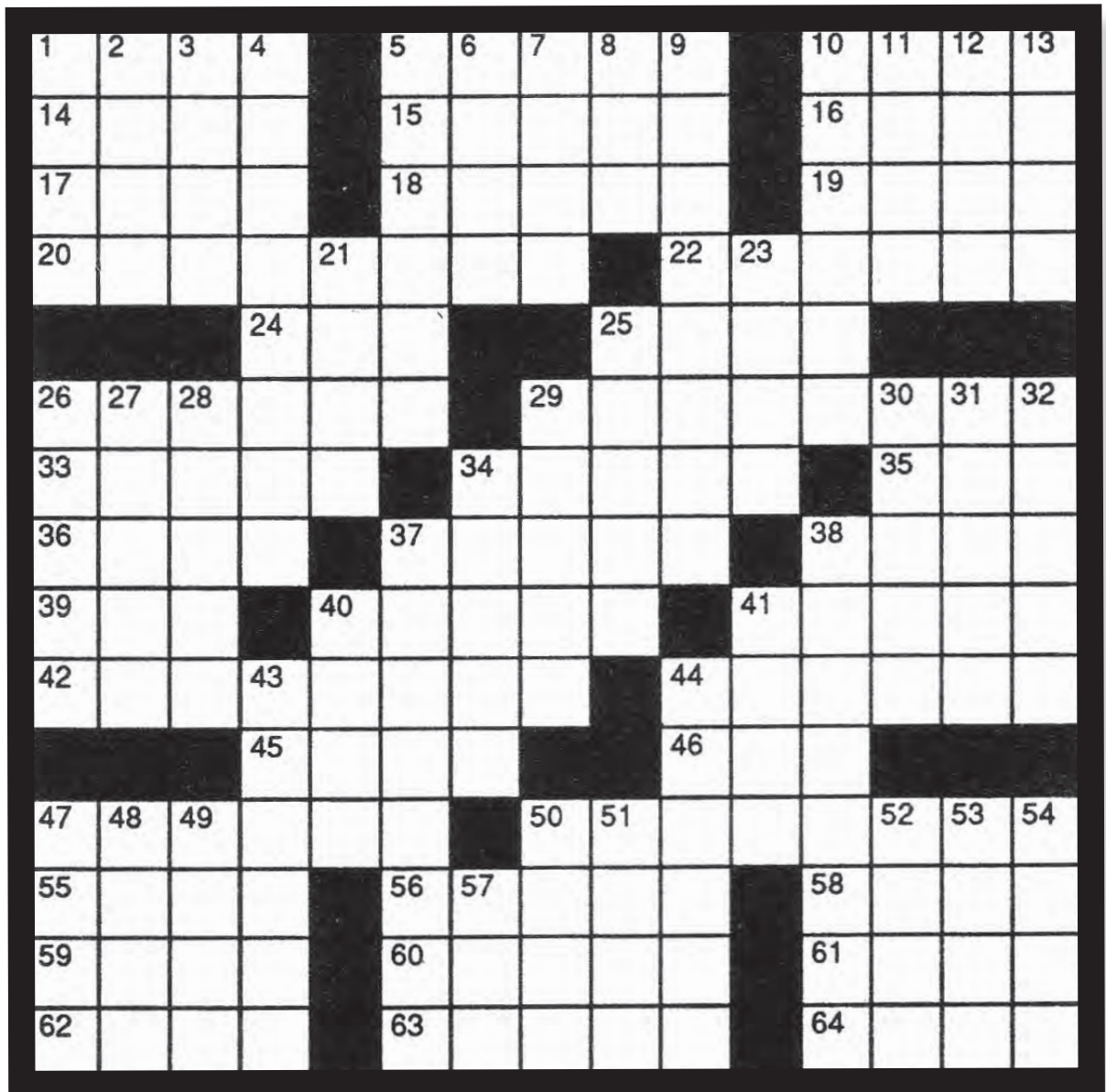
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Dull
- 5. Board game
- 10. Breton or Highland Scot
- 14. Underdone
- 15. Wading bird
- 16. Notion
- 17. Grows old
- 18. Rub out
- 19. Tidy
- 20. Exposes to atmosphere
- 22. Revises
- 24. Rowing device
- 25. Remove from liquid's top
- 26. Makes a monarch
- 29. Moved up and down
- 33. Pits
- 34. Equals
- 35. ___ carte (2 wds.)
- 36. Among
- 37. Assigns position to
- 38. Mix with spoon
- 39. Increase motor speed (colloq.)
- 40. ___ for oneself; manages alone
- 41. Stockholm native
- 42. Small spaces for climbing
- 44. Steeples
- 45. Operatic solo
- 46. Fedora or derby
- 47. Moving masses
- 50. Burned surface
- 55. Back
- 56. Loathed
- 58. Healthy
- 59. Sea eagle
- 60. Oxlike antelope
- 61. Wicked
- 62. College head
- 63. Short simple song
- 64. Close completely

DOWN

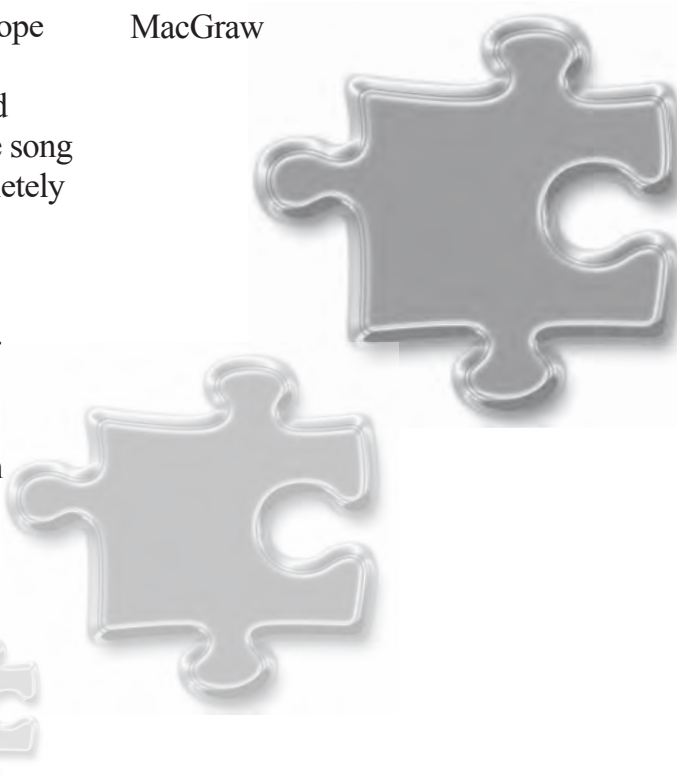
- 1. A tie
- 2. Furious anger
- 3. Tract
- 4. Gave as gift
- 5. Shouts hurrah
- 6. Mr. (Ger.)
- 7. Historical periods
- 8. Distress signal
- 9. Tennis shoes
- 10. The movies (British)
- 11. Paradise
- 12. Heavy metal
- 13. Makes lace
- 21. ___ Christian Andersen
- 23. Fail to hit
- 25. Looks for
- 26. Map
- 27. "___ and Juliet"
- 28. ___ drab; camouflage color
- 29. Causes to go
- 30. Essential drink
- 31. Leave out
- 32. Challenges
- 34. Chinese bearlike animal
- 37. Enjoyed
- 38. Sticks for whipping
- 40. Shape
- 41. Box in exhibition
- 43. Become firm
- 44. Poorly done
- 47. Storage building
- 48. Telegram
- 49. "___ Karenina"
- 50. Law (abbr.)
- 51. Penny
- 52. Possess
- 53. Writer-director Kazan
- 54. Small valley
- 57. Actress MacGraw



K Press Puzzle Pleasure

DOWN

- 1. A tie
- 2. Furious anger
- 3. Tract
- 4. Gave as gift
- 5. Shouts hurrah
- 6. Mr. (Ger.)
- 7. Historical



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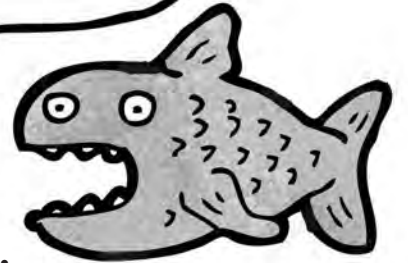
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Fish Talk



“FSM NORMA and Maritime Surveillance Hold Fisheries Management and Surveillance Working Group Meeting”

On April 20, 2016, the FSM Department of Justice’s Maritime Surveillance Wing hosted the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) and other relevant government agencies for a Fisheries Management and Surveillance Working Group Meeting. Under Title 24 of the FSM Code, the Working Group is tasked to formulate and implement a national fisheries management and surveillance strategy, recommendations of which would be consistent with the objectives and principles of conservation, management and sustainable use of fishery resources.

During his opening remarks, NORMA Executive Director Eugene Pangelinan noted the importance of collaboration and interconnectivity in order to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and to work more efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Pangelinan also underscored NORMA’s ongoing initiative to have a fully functional Information Management System by December 2016. “A lot will happen in the next year or two and it is important to maintain close collaboration and cooperation, particularly as we develop standard operating procedures. The IMS is a step in that direction,” Pangelinan said.

Topics covered during the meeting included the Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency’s recent IUU Quantification Study Report that estimated that illegal fishing in the Pacific is costing more than \$600 million a year and is mainly being carried out by legally licensed fishing vessels. Mr. Pangelinan suggested that the FSM needs to be more vigilant on enforcement of agreed upon terms for licensed vessels.

“Under the Vessel Day Scheme, there is a great need to ensure compliance,” Pangelinan said.

The Study suggests a range of ways to address the problem, some of which the FSM is already implementing, such as stronger supply chain monitoring, electronic technology and observers on vessels.

Other Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) discussion items included the FSM’s National Plan of Action (NPOA) on IUU implementation, transshipments, catch validations, flag state permits, port inspections, the recent Shark Workshop, Vessel Monitoring System updates and ongoing collaboration among relevant national and state agencies.

As laid out in Title 24, the Working Group is made up of appropriate representatives from NORMA and the Department of Justice. In addition, representatives from other relevant agencies within the national and state governments engaged in activities related to MCS may be invited to participate. Attendees to the WG typically include the Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure, who could not send a representative to this meeting, and the Pohnpei Port Authority, represented by Mr. Danny Ludwig. A representative from the FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs, Ms. Shinmaysin Gonzaga, was also on hand to update the group on efforts towards Food & Safety Legislation with regards to fisheries.

Also attending the meeting for the first time was a representative from the Pohnpei Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mr. Clay Hedson.



Palau Customs Officers discover ATM card skimming devices intended for delivery to Palau visitor

Koror Palau, On April 25, 2016, Palau Customs Officers discovered ATM card skimming devices hidden inside a DVD player to be delivered to a visitor to Palau. A Fed Ex package was received by the Customs Office at the Palau International Airport. The package originated from Indonesia and was addressed to a non-resident female purportedly staying at a local hotel in Koror. Upon inspection of the package, Custom Officers discovered a DVD player concealing ATM skimming devices inside of it.

First Hawaiian Bank in Saipan was a recent target of a card skimming scheme and has notified its customers to monitor their bank accounts for any unwarranted

transactions. The devices discovered in the package destined for Palau permit the user to disguise the device on an ATM machine and recover bank data, including the Personal Identification Number (PIN), from an unsuspecting card holder when they use the ATM machine.

The Customs Office with the assistance of the Financial Intelligence Unit and representatives from Bank of Guam and Bank of Hawaii identified the devices. It is believed that the package contained skimming devices for each of the FDIC regulated institutions on the island. The FIU is in communication with the U.S. FBI regarding the event.

Investigators from the Drug Tasks Force and Customs Office tracked down the addressee of the package. She was identified as a female individual traveling on a Romanian passport. She and her male traveling companion, also from Romania, were questioned extensively regarding the package. They claimed to have no knowledge of it. Because the officers lacked sufficient evidence to charge no arrest was made and the suspects departed Palau on April 27, 2016.

The community needs to be mindful of the ATM card skimming threat and notify your bank or law enforcement personnel if they discover anything suspicious with their local bank ATM.



Letters to the Editor

NO to Sea Cucumber exportation!

Dear Editor

On Tuesday, April 26th, during a legislative hearing regarding the planned sea-cucumber harvest in Pohnpei which many locals, including our NGOs oppose, a Pohnpeian lawyer representing the foreign company who will buy the sea-cucumbers from Pohnpeians, quipped, what are the NGOs contributing to Pohnpei other than creating conservation areas and putting local citizens in jail?

Firstly, only the Government has the legal mandate to create conservation areas and put people in jail and not the NGOs, and that smart Pohnpeian lawyer knows this very well. To answer the question of what the three conservation NGOs, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) do besides creating conservation areas and putting local citizens in jail, as purported by our local lawyer, let us explain some of the things that we actually do. MCT, TNC and CSP hire approximately 30 people, mostly locals, who use their salaries to support their local families, contribute to our economy, and pay taxes and our organizations also support Micronesia communities when they are in need. In doing this, our three organizations have brought millions of non-compact funding dollars into our economy, giving hundreds of grants to local communities and supporting capacity building to thousands of local community members around Micronesia. We have served so many communities that we can't mention everything we've done since the late 1990s.

But we want to share a few of our efforts during the past year with you and the people of Pohnpei and the FSM. When Chuuk and Yap were hit hard by typhoon Maysak, we contributed approximately \$50,000 in grants to some of the most affected communities of those two states to help them with their recovery efforts. This year with the drought, our organizations have supplied several communities (Pakin, Sapwufik, etc.) with water tanks and other resources and technical assistance to help them address their water security needs. We have also provided more than 10 families on Pohnpei with funds to help them with their farms, including money to help them convert their pigpens to the dry-litter system. This way, the contaminants from the pigpens will no longer pollute streams that provide water to hundreds of families. Today, these farmers are selling the compost from their dry-litter systems for \$6 a bag. Some of the farmers are making around \$300 per month from these new systems and their livelihoods have improved. And this year we are

launching the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund that will provide two Micronesia students with up to \$30,000 dollars each to pursue a masters degree and PhDs in the resources stewardship field. We have more projects and programs like this we can list, but we think these few examples provide some idea of how we help our local communities. We are not only helping Pohnpei state and the region with our conservation efforts, we are helping people and communities in need. The difference is that we are helping our citizens with environmentally and socially friendly solutions.

There is not a single person who works in our three organizations who is a pure environmentalist - a "greenee" or "treehugger". We are all in these roles because we are humanitarians who understand that the best way to eliminate poverty, improve quality of life, and ensure food security for the residents in Pohnpei and the rest of Micronesia is to manage our resources and add value to what the farmers and fishers produce so they make more. We want what's best for our people and not what's best for some individual or business who will leave us soon after they have gotten what they want, taking the benefits and profits from our natural resources with them when they go. Pohnpei, like the rest of Micronesia, needs to use our natural resources to improve the lives of our citizens, and not fuel these "boom and bust" schemes that only provide short term benefits to our citizens and extremely large gains to these rich individuals and their lawyers.

TNC, MCT and CSP are here now and will be here for many years to come to continue to help the people in Pohnpei and Micronesia to develop our resources while keeping our environments safe and productive for our citizens now and forever.

Our question: has this foreign company ever helped a community when it was in need? Is this company planning to stick around after all the sea-cucumbers are gone?

Finally, and ironically, while this very smart Pohnpeian lawyer is using his God-given talent to work for this foreign company, we, the NGOs are helping the Soumas of a community from his municipality to bring in a grant to help the local leadership and community members address their water security needs.

Willy Kostka, Ricky Carl and Eugene Joseph

Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

In the last Education Corner I finished with a comment about Directors of Education; Health and Public Safety being political appointments and the position is “up in the air” each time there is a change in Governors. This is a very touchy question for professional educators—What role should elected officials have in the public education process? What do elected officials know about school accreditation? After all FSM Accreditation is about teacher certification; student learning outcomes; standards/benchmarks; school improvement plans, teacher contracts and the host of other topics we have looked at in the EC these past months Unfortunately for many elected officials who come from other employment backgrounds—not a great deal is known about such. But it is important that they learn quickly and they do. They must—it has to do with money available of education now and as we move to Compact termination in 2023. It has to do with watching the tax dollars and presently these are tax dollars of U S citizens. So for now our legislators watch U S taxpayer dollars as part of their jobs and try to assure they are spent wisely. In fact they know that if there is not improvement in these education areas there will be less money. Presently there are more areas in need of improvement than available resources so improving and

not losing resources is the task at hand. Examples of areas for improvement are outlined in two reports released this past week by the U S Peace Corps. These are accreditation reports and analyze the six standards for FSM Accreditation 1) Leadership 2) Teacher Performance 3) Data Management 4) National and State Curriculum Mandates 5) Campus and Facilities Improvement and 6) School Improvement Plans. The first was a general report 11 Recommendations to Improve Our Schools (Donna Thompson and Richard Clark). A second a far more specific report Recommendations for FSM Accreditation—A Report by Response Volunteers on Pohnpei for Improving our Schools and State and National DOE Programming (Dr. Neen Hunt and Ms. Natalie Linton). The latter report is more detailed, has 11 recommendations for Pohnpei State within each many detailed specifics. The Hunt/Linton summation recommends a simplification for all of the accreditation process to overcome much of the confusion these past several years. It notes budget problems and requirement as fencing and maintenance which may be the same for a school of 200 or 600. Remember budgets rely on school size and school attendance. \$30,000 expenditure for a school is just not the same. This report sets a clear path

for Pohnpei’s improvement but there are difficulties. To improve in five (5) of the 11 suggested areas requires funding and funding outside the present Education Sector monies. Put simply it is a bit tricky. It will require some different sources of funding to improve enough to receive the usual expected education allocations. This will prove to be a challenge but we need to find a way.

The logical way to proceed with the Education Corner would be to take one or two recommendation per KPress edition and explain them in understandable language. Better would be to take recommendations and see which should be put first (prioritized) and best yet would be to see if Pohnpei could improve in all the areas noted by the Peace Corps Response Volunteers. Recall these PCRV are teams of highly experienced professionals in the accreditation field and usually volunteer 30 or more years of experience. The United States as the primary FSM Education funder accepts and values this kind of expertise.

Next edition we should take on one of my pet projects and that is the necessary curriculum materials to accommodate the standards to be taught. Both PCRV reports were quite plain—there are few student textbooks to match the required standards—and there should be. I

reported the same in the Data for Decision Making (DDP) in the sciences and the social studies. Certainly at present there are no ways to provide adequate science materials to students with the FSM Science Standards configured as they are. Science as suggested in the FSM Science Standards had not been taught successfully in the past, is not being taught successfully at present and will not likely be taught successfully in the future. It is difficult for Pohnpei to go against something as the accepted FSM Science Standards. But we do recall Albert Einstein’s definition of insanity. Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Sometimes a State must stand up and say—you should look again at doing science in this manner. Next issue we will speak to those curriculum materials matters and reemphasize the need for reading-writing-listening and speaking all the time—every day and in every class. The PCRV reports tells us that teachers are not giving instruction in English as is required and some teachers in the upper elementary grades are giving instruction in the vernacular. Teachers must carry on in the English language and they do not help students by constantly relying on vernacular. That only helps in keeping reading and writing scores low.

...Paris

Continued from page 11

to keep temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

Even as the agreement was adopted, countries recognised that present pledges to reduce emissions were still insufficient to reach these goals. The Paris Agreement mandates regular meetings every five years, starting in 2018, to review progress, and to consider whether it is necessary to increase ambition.

Vice-Chancellor and President for The University of the South Pacific (USP) Professor Rajesh Chandra lauded the efforts of USPs member countries for their wise and timely engagement in

such a crucial matter that concerns the future of our Pacific island nations.

“In our resolve to stabilise the future of our island nations, we stand firm with our CROP partners in ensuring that this Agreement comes into force. This could not have come at a better time especially when the Pacific region is constantly faced with natural disasters,” he said.

He added that a concerted effort such as this will go a long way in paving the way forward for Pacific island nations.

The Paris Agreement can enter into force 30 days after 55 Parties accounting for 55 percent of global emissions deposit their instruments of ratification. – UNFCCC/#4PacIslands

*Thank You
for Your
Sympathy*

On behalf of the Giltamag Family and the whole OLMCHS Family, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all, who in one way or the other, expressed their sympathy, love, care, and support during this time of mourning

*Eternal rest grant unto Kevin Giltamag O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace*

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