

Sokehs Nahnmwarki moves to shut down Sokehs Government over audit results

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

May 4, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—On the morning of Tuesday, April 28, a group of Sokehs Traditional Leaders headed by His Majesty Herculano Kohler, Nahnmwarki of Sokehs arrived at the Sokehs Municipal building. When asked what his intentions were before the group headed upstairs to Chief Magistrate Michael Liemen’s office, Mr. Kohler said that he was going to shut the Sokehs government down until the next election in November.

He said that an audit released by Pohnpei’s Office of the Public Auditor on January 12 revealed that Sokehs had been allowing cash advances to employees and to non-employees and that it had been going on for a long time. He said that his intention was for the traditional leaders to assume control of the government until a new one could be put into place. He said that he had been told that prosecutors at Pohnpei State government would be pursuing charges of embezzlement against all of the people who took cash advances from the government.

The audit of Sokehs Municipality covered Fiscal Years 2010-2012. The last audit prior to that was conducted in 2005. “Unfortunately, most of the internal control weaknesses identified during this audit (2010-2012) are similar to those reported in our last audit report.”



The audit found that the Sokehs Government had total operating revenues during the period audited of \$1,316,829 and total expenses of \$1,254,323. It revealed that there were missing cash receipts resulting in undeposited collections totaling \$2,707 during the three year period.

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Pohnpei High School swimmers compete



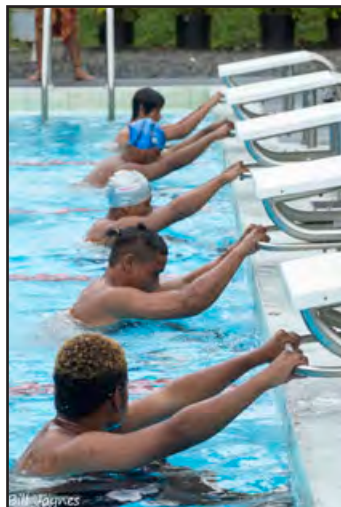
By **Mike Roberts**

The Pohnpei Public High Schools Championships was a huge success at the Pohnpei Swimming Pool, the first ever event of its kind for the State’s Public High Schools. Judging by the popularity by both competitors and spectators this will become an annual event as part of the Pohnpei Public School Education Week. The events drew around twice the number of swimmers and their supporters than the Micro Games Swimming competitions last year.

Schools represented at this event were PICS, MHS and NMHS, with PICS fielding two teams because of the size of the school.

Events were held over 25 and 50 meters, swum as heats and finals. Although teams had been training for the past two weeks at the Pohnpei pool, a lack of fitness of many of the competitors forced the meet into a second day, with

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Australia's support to FSM through the Pacific Patrol Boat Program

In the wake of Typhoon Maysak, Australia's support to FSM through the Pacific Patrol Boat program has been crucial in FSM's ability to respond immediately and effectively to all the disaster affected areas.

Through the Pacific Patrol Boat Program, Australia donated three patrol boats to FSM: the FSS PALIKIR and FSS MICRONESIA in 1990, and FSS INDEPENDENCE in 1997.

These PPB vessels are FSM's sovereign capability and have partnered with the FSM National Police in maritime surveillance and enforcement of FSM National Laws in their extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). They also play a key role in other national tasking such as the National Election support in early March, Search and Rescue (SAR) and the recent and continuing disaster relief effort to areas affected by Typhoon Maysak.

Typhoon Maysak hit FSM from 29 March to 1 April causing widespread destruction to properties, infrastructure and crops in Chuuk and the outer islands Ulithi and Fais in Yap.

The patrol boats were immediately deployed through the region to conduct damage assessment and to ensure delivery

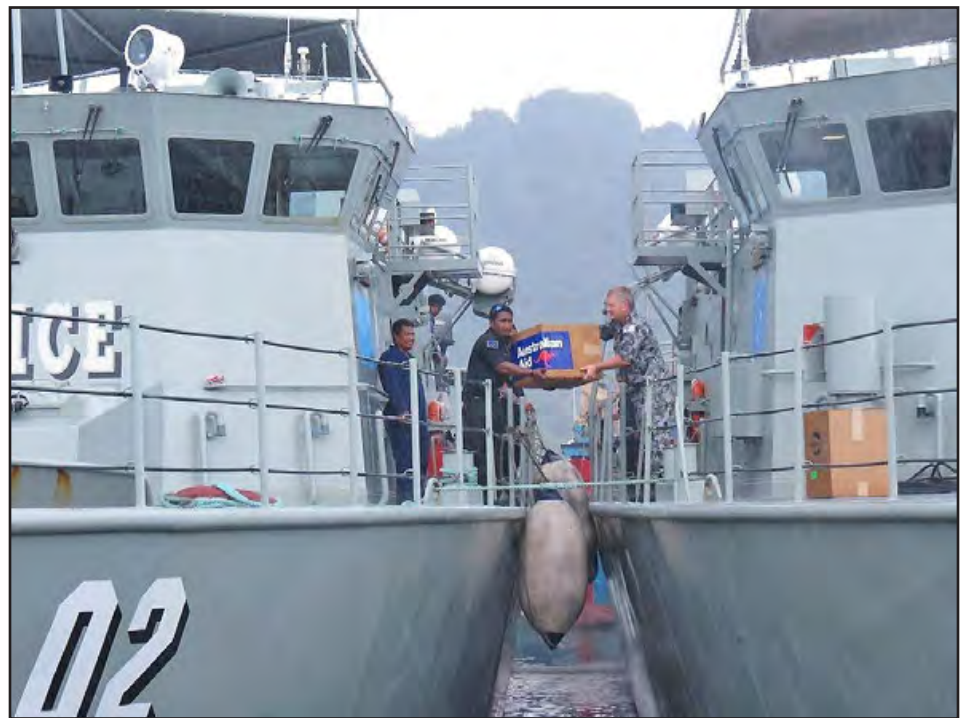
of urgent items and humanitarian supplies could be provided, along with assessment and medical teams.

Immediately after the passage of the Typhoon, the Government sent FSS INDEPENDENCE to the outer islands of Chuuk and FSS MICRONESIA was sent to Yap's outer islands.

While providing assistance, FSS INDEPENDENCE managed to apprehend four illegal fishing boats in FSM waters. This demonstrates that the flexibility to switch role when circumstances demand can be realized through appropriate training and mentoring, coupled with the dedication of the FSM National Police Maritime Wing officers and sailors.

Both vessels transported also national government officials to assess damages in the affected areas and identified key priorities.

FSS PALIKIR was also deployed to provide assistance to the outer islands of Chuuk and Yap but had to return due to some minor damage and needed minor repairs. The Australian Defence Force Technical Advisor CPO Hamilton assisted the National Police Maritime Wing with the preparation and deployment of the vessels.



The vessels visited isolated islands bringing cases of bottled water and medical supplies.

logistical support.

Alongside Australia's assistance through the Pacific Patrol Boat program, the Australian Government announced on 13 April funding of USD\$75,000 to the International Organisation for Migration for humanitarian supplies including shelter materials and tools, hygiene kits and

The FSM Government continues to utilize the Pacific Patrol Boats to provide assistance to the affected areas.

The Pacific Patrol Boat Program is one of the major contributions of Australia to the FSM and the most significant contribution Australia has made to their development.

Current status of the Maysak relief fund with FSM Finance

FSM Information Services

May 01, 2015

Palikir, Pohnpei – As of today, May 1st, the Federated States of Micronesia Department of Finance and Administration confirms the receipt of the following donations for deposit in the Maysak disaster relief fund.

1. Government of the People's Republic of China	\$500,000.00
2. Government of the Republic of Palau	\$75,000.00
3. The World Health Organization (WHO)	\$5,000.00
4. Tuvalu Permanent Mission to UN	\$500.00
5. A Private Donor from Palau	\$500.00
Total	\$581,000.00

These donations are received and managed by the Treasury Division of the FSM Finance to be used strictly for Maysak disaster relief.

The FSM Government has appropriated \$1,500,000.00 for relief matters. According to a Treasury staff, the FSM appropriation and the foreign donations are not kept together, but they may be used in the same way, for the same purposes.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has also provided a communication from the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, which indicates a message of condolences and a pledge of \$50,000 USD to be provided for relief efforts. The FSM Treasury has not yet received the pledged donation.

Correction

In the previous issue of The Kaselehlie Press in the article "Buses Drive up attendance at Chuuk High School" we failed to notice that the author of the article had provided a caption that said the school buses were paid for by Japan. They were in fact paid for by the Government of the United States as the article says.

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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National Steering Committee Meeting held in Colonia, Yap

GEF Small Grants Programme FSM

April 13-14, 2015, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme-FSM (GEF SGP) convened its annual National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting in Colonia, Yap State at the Small Business Development Center conference room. The meeting reaffirmed the Programme's core commitment to continue to enhance its grant making support to all FSM NGOs, and Community-Based Organizations to access the available GEF resources within the country. Through funding portfolios from the GEF CORE and STAR funds and additional SIDS-CBA funding provided by the Australian Aid partnership, the SGP FSM Programme committed to an ambitious goal to grant over \$800,000 hundred thousand USD remaining in 2015 to provide support to community driven projects that aim to mitigate threats to the FSM environment and support community empowerment and sustainable livelihoods development.

At this meeting the NSC reviewed a number of proposals from NGOs and CBOs and approved \$100,000.00 in support of community projects. The NSC also visited a number of grantee partners in their communities to learn firsthand work being carried out by the grantee partners. In addition, the Programme also hosted the first grantee peer learning exchange among the Yap grantees network held at the Marina Bar and Grill restaurant.

The SGP Programme National Coordinator Mr. Patterson Shed and some NSC members later participated in the FSM GEF-6 portfolio prioritization exercise from 16-17 April also held in Yap. SGP FSM put forth its proposal for fund replenishment under the Country GEF-6 STAR fund allocation with adoption and strong support by the participants. SGP FSM was also given the opportunity to highlight Programme progress to date through presentation at the workshop.

The SGP is a funding modality of the GEF, approved by the GEF Council on a replenishment basis and implemented by UNDP on behalf of the GEF partnership. The Programme seeks to provide maximum country, and community-level ownership. As a global Programme, the SGP brings together over 125 country programmes across world regions. Within the FSM, the Programme is hosted by the United Nations Joint Presence Initiative office (UN JPI) located on Kaselehlie Street in Pohnpei. SGP FSM is optimistic that the FSM government will continue to co-fund the Programme to be able to maintain same level of support to communities across the country.



President Obama signs a disaster declaration for the FSM

The President today declared a disaster under the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended, due to Typhoon Maysak during the period of March 29 to April 1, 2015.

The President's action makes federal funding available for U.S. Government emergency relief and reconstruction assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia in accordance with Public Law 108-188, as amended, including Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement to the Compact of Free Association. Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori requested a disaster declaration on April 17, 2015.

The United States Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance will coordinate U.S. Government disaster assistance efforts in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.



Taro and Breadfruits transformed into flour at CRE-COM

College of Micronesia Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE) received a new Milling Machine from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through a Senior Volunteer (SV) Mr. Toshiaki Sugiura, who is assisting as an instructor in the field of Agricultural Products Processing at CRE, College of Micronesia.

On April 16, 2015 a 3-phase Milling Machine with 200 volts and 750 watts was installed and tested at CRE College of Micronesia. SV Sugiura and his colleagues demonstrated on how to make flour from dried taros and breadfruits by milling. Though dust from the dried, milling crops was all over the room during the demo, no audience exited the room because they were amazed by the product of the milling. Flour made from the dried taro and breadfruit will enhance local food consumption and awareness for healthy diet. This project will enable the local farmers to utilize the abundant taros and breadfruits by transforming them into flour for cooking. What is more important, the flours made out of Taros and Breadfruits contains more nutrition, said a nutritionist at CRE. This will be beneficial for the local farmers who wish to sell flour to local markets and for exportation in the future. The milling machine will be utilized by the organization and local people who are interested in using it.



**THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
WILL BE RELEASED ON:
May 25, 2015**

**Deadline for submission of articles or
advertisements for this issue is the end of working
hours on:
Wednesday, May 20, 2014**

Sentencing for civil rights violations against slavery and involuntary servitude in the Chuuk "Blue House" Case

Weno, Chuuk— On April 23, 2015, Acting Chief Justice Ready Johnny found the defendant, Silisio a.k.a. "Sirco" Tipingeni guilty on all ten charges brought by the FSM government in *FSM v. Tipingeni*, Criminal Action 2013-037. The Department of Justice's criminal information included eight counts of criminal deprivation of the civil right against slavery and involuntary servitude, one count of aggravated money laundering, and one count of aggravated criminal mischief. Justice Johnny imposed a one-year sentence for each count, to be served consecutively for a total of ten years. The sentence includes probation with conditions that include: (1) home confinement in Uman except for medical emergencies; and, (2) twenty weekends at the Chuuk State jail with the balance of the incarceration suspended on the condition the defendant successfully complete probation. Acting Chief Johnny noted that this was the first case of its kind prosecuted in the FSM and that it was important to make a statement that such crimes will be punished in the FSM. FSM Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General Aaron Warren handled the case for the FSM Government. FSM Chief Public Defender, Julius J. Sapelalut, handled the defense.

In its opening statement at trial, the Government contended that the defendant's role as the primary recruiter in Chuuk was critical to carrying out a criminal enterprise

that involved multiple co-conspirators both in Guam and in Chuuk. During its case-in-chief, the Government showed that the defendant recruited eight young Chuukese women to work in Guam based on false promises of legitimate work in restaurants and retail stores. Once the women arrived in Guam, however, the defendant's co-conspirator, Song Ja Cha, met them at the airport. Their passports were immediately taken and they were taken to the "Blue House Karaoke Bar" where they were told they must work to repay the debt for their travel from Chuuk or they would be arrested. The victims were locked inside the Blue House, and if they protested, they were deprived of food, beaten, and threatened with arrest. Damning testimony was presented of one of the defendant's daughters and his niece who corroborated that the defendant had ordered the daughter to return to the Blue House after she ran away despite the daughter's pleas that she was beaten if she refused to have sex with Blue House customers. The Government also showed that in 2007, the defendant received over \$10,000 in wire transfers, a watch, and other remuneration from Song Ja Cha for the recruitment of the victims.

In addition to the defendant and Song Ja Cha, other co-conspirators included members of the Guam police force and two Chuukese women who acted as enforcers to intimidate and monitor the victims in order to prevent them from running away from the Blue House. Two

other prosecutions, one in the Guam Federal Court and one in the Guam Superior Court, had previously resulted in convictions of Song Ja Cha and the other co-conspirators.

The investigation and preparation for trial was the result of unprecedented cross-jurisdictional coordination and assistance between the FSM and U.S. governments. In response to a request for assistance from the FSM government, the U.S. government authorized the Guam and Honolulu FBI offices to provide technical, logistical, and financial assistance for the prosecution. Honolulu based FBI victims specialist Monica Rowsey facilitated the travel and preparation of victims to testify at trial, and the preparation of victim impact statements for sentencing. Guam based FBI Special Agent Jason Dodd assisted throughout the preparation of the case by facilitating authorization for evidence held by U.S. authorities to be released to the FSM Department of Justice for use in the case; locating and coordinating meetings with witnesses in Guam, Saipan, Honolulu, and the mainland U.S.; and by providing technical expertise and support to the prosecution. FBI Special Agent Jason Dodd also testified for the FSM government both at trial and at sentencing, providing critical testimony showing the connection between the defendant's recruitment in Chuuk and the criminal exploitation of the victims in Guam, the long term trauma to the victims, and the financial greed that motivated the defendant to trick and deceive his own daughters and relations into conditions of slavery.

The underlying events in the case took place primarily during 2006 and 2007 when the victims were recruited from Chuuk. By the time of trial, most of the key witnesses no longer resided in the FSM. However, all but one of the alleged victims and other key eye witnesses testified for trial, some by live testimony and others by video recording that was prepared at the FBI Field Office in Guam. Those victims who returned to Chuuk to testify were briefly reunited with their families who they had not seen since their recruitment to Guam in 2007.

Human trafficking charges under the Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 (Public Law 17-38) could not be charged in the Chuuk case, as the events occurred before the 2012 law went into effect. However, in his closing argument, AAG Warren remarked that although the case was brought under the criminal civil rights provision and other provisions of the FSM Code, the case was "a textbook" example of human trafficking. In the U.S. State Department's most recent annual Trafficking in Persons report, the FSM was upgraded to Tier 2 from Tier 2 Watchlist due in large part to the priority placed by the FSM Government on addressing human trafficking through dedicated initiatives for public awareness and law enforcement. The successful investigation and prosecution of human trafficking offenses are key criteria that are evaluated in the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons report.

Congress adjourns back to back sessions Addresses Maysak efforts and repeals tax reform among others

PALIKIR, POHNPEI – Congress adjourned its back-back special sessions as called by both the President and the Speaker where they addressed urgent and pressing issues for the Federates States of Micronesia.

President Manny Mori had called for a special session to address the devastation in the wake of Typhoon Maysak which ripped through States of Chuuk and Yap during Easter week 2015. He submitted a \$4.8 million budget request: \$100,000 to replenish the amount decreed from the Executive Branch and a one-month proposed feeding program for Chuuk at \$4.6 million and for Yap at \$114,858.

The Eighteenth Congress had answered the call with a two-day session, but absent a preliminary assessment of damages and costs in the aftermath of Typhoon Maysak, Congress passed Congressional Act 18-124 to appropriate \$1.6million as funding towards the initial relief efforts in the in the States of Chuuk and Yap until a clear and comprehensive assessment of damages and costs is provided to Congress by those offices and agencies mandated. The Congress encouraged the Executive Branch to resubmit a funding request once the assessment is provided.

While they await the official reports, Members have diverted funding for certain public projects and social programs in their states to instead be utilized in the ongoing relief efforts in the affected states. And,

understanding the vulnerability of island nations to natural disasters, especially typhoons and cyclones - Congress included \$100,000 in the Act to assist ongoing relief efforts in Vanuatu in the wake of Cyclone Pam.

With the Act signed as Public Law No 18-115, Congress notified the President through Congressional Resolution No. 18-260 that during "the period of emergency, the President is authorized to decree for emergency relief purposes a maximum of \$1,500,000, as appropriated in PL 18-115." Another major issue addressed during the two special sessions is the repeal of the Unified Revenue Authority (URA) Act of 2010. Through CA 18-125, Congress has called for the repeal of Public Law No. 16-75 which established the FSM Unified Revenue Authority and to allow for a three-month transition period for the national departments and agencies affected. Early on, Congress had requested - in futility, for the President to delay implementation of the URA until all components of the tax reform are in place to avoid unintended consequences and political fragmentations. With the implementation of the URA, the concerns expressed by Congress have now materialized and expressed by certain states. While Congress called for the repeal of the new tax system, Congress is still hopeful for a tax reform process and encourage its advancement as noted in the report by the Committee on Ways and Means: "once all four states show the willingness to proceed with the process, Congress is willing to

revisit all relevant and necessary tax reform measures."

Also of note is CA 18-126, a measure to allow changes in various areas of the FSM Venture Fund to enable major corporations the flexibility to do business in the Nation, especially major corporations from Japan. Congress exercised its constitutional right and overrode the President's veto of CA 18-117 to permit certain deductions for purposes of the Gross Revenue; CA 18-120, to require funds appropriated for the FSM Trust Fund to be deposited within 30 days of appropriation with proof of deposit submitted by the Secretary of the Finance and Administration one business day from its deposit; CA 18-121, to appropriate a supplemental funding of \$5,000,000 million towards the FSM Trust Fund; and CA 18-123, to fund public projects and social programs in the four states.

In its continuing efforts to assist the state governments especially at the grass root level, Congress passed four more measures to amend certain funds previously appropriated for public projects and social programs in the states or change allottees of said funds, and those measures are contained within: CA 18-127, CA 18-128, CA 18-129 and CA 18-130.

In addition to the Congressional Acts, Congress also adopted various resolutions to fund various health and social programs along with three nominations:

Congressional Resolution 18-254, confirmed Churchill Edward as the National Representative on the College of Micronesia Land Grant Board of Directors; CR 18-255, confirmed Johannes Berdon as Chuuk's representative on the College of Micronesia Board of Regents; and CR 18-257, confirmed Marcus Samo as Chuuk's representative on the FSM MiCare Board of Directors.

The grants adopted during the special sessions included: CR 18-263, to approved a \$500,000 grant from the US DOI-OIA, to fund the FSM Single Audit for FY2014 as required under the amended Compact; CR 18-264, to approve \$130,000 from USDHHS-HRSA, to fund the implementation of the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program; CR 18-266, to approve a \$44,220 grant from the US DHHS-HRSA, to fund the HIV Care Grants in the FSM; CR 18-267; to approve a \$122,498 grant from the US DHHS-CDCP, to fund the implementation of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Ebola Supplemental Grant; and CR 18-268, to approve a \$394,192 from the US DHHS, CDCP to fund the Tobacco Control and Diabetes Prevention Program in the FSM.

Following the passage and adoptions of the measures requiring their actions, the Congress adjourned its back to back special sessions on Friday, April 17, 2015.

...Sokehs Audit

Continued from first page

It said that disbursements were not all properly recorded, supported and disbursed in accordance with applicable laws, policies and procedures. It said that Sokehs Government employees continued to receive cash advances despite the restrictions on such by Financial Management Regulations. Specifically it reported that employees owed a total of \$25,775.92 in uncollected cash advances.

The audit did not include the auditors' detailed working papers on the advances that Mr. Kohler had in his hands on the morning of his meeting with Lieman. Those papers listed the details of the balances of cash advances for 36 employees and council members. Those details spanned 16 pages.

When the group of traditional leaders entered Lieman's office, the Nahmwarki demanded that the Chief Magistrate resign voluntarily and that he hand over the Municipality's checkbook. He said that if he did not do so then he would shut down the office by force.

Lieman explained that checks were now printed by computer through a new computerized accounting package specifically designed for small government operations. He said that he had taken steps to rectify the situation and respectfully declined to resign, and asked the Nahmwarki to allow the legal system to work.

With no agreement reached, the traditional leaders left and the Nahmwarki began making phone calls after which he left to file a complaint at the Pohnpei Attorney General's office. During a conversation later in the day he said that he had filed a complaint and now the matter was in the hands of the legal system.

He did not close down the municipality "by force".

During a later interview Michael Lieman said that his office has already taken steps to deal with the results of the audit. He has issued a directive to everyone who has outstanding payroll or other advances. All advances must be paid by the end of this fiscal year even if it means seeking a bank loan in order to do it. The person with the highest balance owes over \$9000. The next two highest, which includes the Magistrate himself, each owe in excess of \$2000. Most of the other advances are for relatively minor amounts.

Lieman said that the auditors were incorrect when they said that cash advances are "strictly prohibited in Part 4 Section 4.3 of the Sokehs, FMR." He turned to Part 14 section 14.16 of the Sokehs Policy manual that says that cash advances can be made in event of emergencies.

A press release that came out shortly after the audit was released in January but never published said that the Sokehs Municipal Government was upgrading its financial accounting system to one that is specifically designed for municipal governments to track spending against their annual budget. The Chief Magistrate of Sokehs, Hon. Michael Lieman, hired Advantage Business Solutions Inc. of Fertile City in Iowa State to build and install the new system, ClerkBooks Municipal Accounting, so that it is specifically tailored to the needs of his municipal government. "In the past, we've had challenges in our Finance Office for tracking spending against the annual budget with our existing software. This new system is built to help us better manage our budget and our funds", said Chief Lieman. In light of the recent audit that was done on the municipal government, Chief Lieman believes that many of the recommendations of the State Auditor will be addressed using this new system. "If this works out as well as we hope for, we will encourage other municipal governments to utilize ClerkBooks to help them better manage their finances", noted the Chief.

He said that the treasury is still loading information into the computerized system, a process that is nearly complete. When that process is completed, the company will verify that everything is correct and all of the applications that Sokehs needs are in place. Then they will train employees about the reports that the system will be able to do. Once payment is made for the system, the company will transfer the system permanently to the Municipality. The system also has Internet connectivity so the company will be able to provide online support in the future as it is needed.

Lieman said that the council's committee on Justice and Governmental Operations has met and instructed him to have a plan in place and report on that plan by Friday, May 8. He said that his office is working to compile current cash advance balances but that regardless of the amounts, his directive that all employees and others with cash advances must be paid in full by the end of the fiscal year.

The Sokehs Constitution provides only two means of unseating an elected magistrate. One is an impeachment process that begins in the council. The other is by petition of 40% of the voters in Sokehs followed by a ballot issue in which 51% of voters must vote to unseat the magistrate for it to become effective.

Lieman asserted that "the Mwoalen Wahu (the traditional leaders) are aware that they don't have any authority by or above Sokehs Law." He speculated that there may have been another, more political reason for their attempting to shut the government down until elections.

"I will do whatever it takes to resolve the issue and to make sure that it won't happen again," said Lieman, and implored the traditional leaders to let the legal process work.

FSM and China sign Air Service Agreement

FSM Embassy in Beijing

Ambassador Akillino H. Susaia (Left) and Administrator Li Jiayang exchanged handshakes after the signing of the Air Service Agreement between FSM and China.

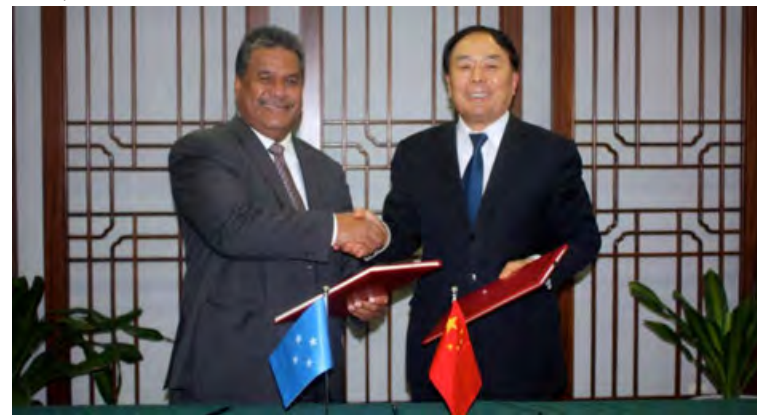
May 4, 2015 (FSM Embassy, Beijing) A historic moment in the FSM-China relationship was realized today with the signing of an Air Service Agreement (ASA) between the Governments of the FSM and the People's Republic of China. The signing ceremony was held at the Headquarters of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and was signed by His Excellency Ambassador Akillino H. Susaia and the Honorable Li Jiayang, Administrator of the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

During their meeting prior to the signing of the ASA, Ambassador Susaia and Administrator

Li both acknowledged the historical occasion and the importance of the Air Service Agreement for the two countries in terms of strengthening bilateral relations and the promotion of tourism and trade between FSM and China. Ambassador Susaia expressed appreciation on behalf of President Mori and the people of the FSM to Administrator Li for the opportunity to cooperate with China in the area of civil aviation. Both sides agreed to work together to encourage airlines to implement and make the ASA meaningful.

Staffing Ambassador Susaia to the signing ceremony from the FSM side were Minister Counsellor Jackson T. Soram, First Secretary Vincent Sivas, and Tourism & Foreign Investment Advisor/Financial Management Specialist, Mr. John Yang.

For further information, contact the FSM Embassy in Beijing at Ph: (86)1065324708 or e-mail address: embassy@fsmembassy.cn



Akillino H. Susaia (Left) and Administrator Li Jiayang exchanged handshakes after the signing of the Air Service Agreement between FSM and China

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Contact Information:

For more information, please contact the VPIA Office at 320-2482 Ext. #127/128 or email Karen Simion, Interim VPIA at <mailto:ksimion@comfsm.fm>

Governor hires Miju Mulsan attorney as Assistant Attorney General

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 7, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM--Stephen Finnen, attorney for Luen Thai and Liancheng has requested an emergency telephonic hearing at the FSM Supreme Court on the issue of representation of the defendants in the civil case against the State of Pohnpei, John Ehsa in his capacity as Governor, Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA), and Miju Mulsan Company, Ltd.

Attorney Joseph Phillip has been the attorney of record for Miju Mulsan since the case was filed in 2013. Though he recently filed a motion to withdraw as Miju Mulsan's representative in the case, the court has not yet made a ruling on that matter. As of today, he is still the counsel of record for Miju Mulsan but the Governor has also hired him to be the Assistant Attorney General.

After former Pohnpei Assistant Attorney General Clayton Lawrence resigned from his position, Governor Ehsa hired Joseph Phillip to take the position against the strongly worded advice of his Attorney General for reason including ABA Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys. The Attorney General refused to sign the Personal Services Contract for Phillip.

On May 1, the AG filed a response strongly opposing Joseph Phillip's motion to withdraw as counsel for Miju Mulsan. That motion as well as a motion for protective order protecting records from Phillip reminded the court that on April 17, Phillip appeared before the court as counsel for Miju Mulsan and argued against the defendants State of Pohnpei, John Ehsa as Governor, and OFA.

Phillip, listing his personal P.O. Box address, filed notice to the Court saying that he will represent the State of Pohnpei, OFA, and Governor Ehsa, essentially switching sides on the basis of his not having been paid by Miju Mulsan.

The AG's office, having been given court approval to withdraw as the Governor's counsel is already representing Pohnpei State and OFA.

After the April 17 hearing, the court granted a motion by the Attorney General to quash a subpoena to depose Assistant Attorney General Lawrence. On April 29, Phillip appeared in the the Office of the Attorney General seeking to be given the case files on the Civil Action which the court had ordered protected. He was then still the attorney for Miju Mulsan though the Governor had hired him as Assistant Attorney General as well. The court still has not dismissed Phillip as Miju Mulsan's attorney.

"At the current time, Joseph Phillip is representing Miju Mulsan Company, Ltd., and claiming to represent Governor John Ehsa, the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture (OFA) and Pohnpei State," the Plaintiff's request for an emergency telephonic hearing said.

"Initially it appears that Mr. Phillip would have unwaivable conflicts in representing Pohnpei State and the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture," the emergency hearing request said. "In addition, he has not provided any documentation showing retention by these entities or that Miju Mulsan waives any conflicts with his representation. It is unclear if Mr. Phillip could represent the Governor, who is currently unrepresented, while representing Miju Mulsan. If he does represent both then there would be the assumption that their interests are aligned in this litigation, which then may subject Miju Mulsan to further liability in this action."

Luen Thai has claimed over \$120,000 in damages from the defendants.

"Another issue is that Mr. Phillip is now apparently working in the Pohnpei State AG's office at the insistence of the Governor, yet he has filed his notice of appearance from his private address. His appearance then would be as a private attorney," the telephonic request said. "It is unclear if Mr. Phillip can take new private cases while working for the State AG's office."

"...Mr. Phillip is still Miju Mulsan's counsel until withdrawal is granted. His premature actions in appearing for other defendants while still counsel for Miju Mulsan is aggravating all the about conflict issues," it said. "As stated in the AG's opposition to Mr. Phillip's filings, the issue was already decided by the court in this matter that one attorney could not represent all four defendants."

On April 30, the Attorney General filed a response to plaintiff's motion for damages of over \$120,000 due to the alleged contempt when locks were placed on the Luen Thai facility at the Dekehtik dock. That motion essentially argued that Pohnpei State was an innocent bystander in that action, and OFA was compelled to participate in the alleged

contempt acts. It claimed that "Miju Mulsan, through its agents and representatives participated, acted, concerted and encouraged the alleged contempt act."

That motion provided several affidavits in support of its response. One was from the OFA director.

On May 4, while Mr. Phillip was still the court recognized counsel for Miju Mulsan, he filed a "Motion to Strike Response to Supplemental Brief on Damages Filed by Attorney General Pohnpei State." He did so as "the undersigned counsel for defendants John Ehsa, in his capacity as Governor of Pohnpei defendants Pohnpei State and OFA."

He explicitly excluded his client Miju Mulsan from his response.

The court already ruled that the Attorney General could withdraw as counsel for Governor Ehsa while still representing Pohnpei State and OFA but Phillip again argued from what he said was Miju Mulsan's position, that the Governor and the State are inseparable.

He also argued that the Attorney General did not have the Governor's authorization to file a response and "therefore must be stricken as sham."

Luen Thai's request for an emergency hearing and also in their Motion Opposing Mr. Phillip's withdrawal as counsel for Miju Mulsan suggested that no one seemed to know who Miju Mulsan's principals are. They alleged that though Miju Mulsan had deposited thousands of dollars into an individual's personal bank account, under deposition, that person said that he did not have a contract with Miju Mulsan and did not represent them.

Luen Thai says that the matter of representation is so up in the air that they don't even know for certain who they should make service of their motions on at Miju Mulsan.

At press time, the Court had not yet scheduled an emergency telephonic hearing on representatives in the case.



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Lifesaving of Pohnpeian by CPR Awareness Seminar at COM-FSM

JICA Alumni Association

Pohnpei Branch held a collaborative seminar with Mr. Tatsuhiko Tsukakoshi and Ms. Miyuko Nakanishi, (JICA Senior Expert Volunteers), Pohnpei State Hospital, COM-FSM, and with Mr. Rick Herman (Certified CPR instructor) to hold a Seminar on: Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) at COM-FSM National Campus on March 11, 2015.

The team invited Dr. Payne Perman, a physician at Pohnpei State Hospital, as one of the guest speakers to lecture on CPR Cases at Pohnpei State Hospital. Mr. Rick Herman discussed about the Basics of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Airway Obstruction (Choking). The seminar was a success and was attended by more than 100 participants, which include COM-FSM students, staff, faculty, Pohnpei State

Nurses, ambulance drivers & Hospital employees, and other community groups. Participants had the opportunity to practice for life saving with the mannequins provided by the International Organization for Migration and the COM-FSM Public Health Program.

The JAA-Pohnpei Branch expressed its appreciation to all the Agencies, Departments and individuals that took part in this CPR Seminar; JICA FSM Office for the Funding, COMFSM for the venue, IOM, Pohnpei State Hospital, Dr. Payne Perman & Certified CPR Instructor Mr. Rick Herman.



Certified CPR Mr. Rick Herman demonstrating CPR

Power Sector Improvement Project commenced for the State of Kosrae

Japan International Cooperation Agency

On March 23, 2015, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), FSM Department of Foreign Affairs, Kosrae State Government, and Kosrae Utilities Authority held the signing of Minutes of Discussions on the Preparatory Survey on the Project for Power Sector Improvement for the State of Kosrae in the FSM. The Minutes was signed by JICA Team Leader, Mr. Fuyuki Sagara, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Honorable Lorin Robert, Governor of Kosrae State, Honorable Lyndon Jackson, and General Manager of KUA, Mr. Fred Skilling. Also present at the meeting was Assistant Secretary of Energy Division, Mr. Hubert Yamada.

The objective of the Project is to secure efficient and stable power supply through

renewing diesel engine generators, associated substation and distribution facilities in the State of Kosrae in order to improve the quality of life for the people, as well as to contribute to economic development of the country. In addition to this Project, the team explained JICA's Energy cooperation concept of "Hybrid Islands Initiative" which aims to reduce fossil fuel consumption and to enhance energy security for Pacific Island Countries by both adopting appropriate renewable energy and improving operation and maintenance for higher-efficient diesel engine generation. The second field survey for the Project was held from March 9th - 28th 2015. Based upon the findings including identified project components, JICA is ready to commence on the Project for the State of Kosrae.

Collaboration Works of Reliable Development Partners facilitated Solid Waste Management in the FSM

Japan International Cooperation Agency

The Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM), in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), hosted the fourth National Joint Coordinating Committee meeting on the Japan Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (J-PRISM) on March 4th 2015 at the OEEM Conference Room. J-PRISM is a five-year technical cooperation project (2011-2015) with the purpose of strengthening human and institutional capacity based for sustainable solid waste management.

In his opening remarks, Chairperson Andrew Yatilman who is the Project Director of J-PRISM, welcomed and acknowledged the presence of the participants which included representatives from OEEM, JICA Experts, FSM Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure (TC&I), Project Management Unit (PMU), FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs (DHSA), Secretariat of the

Pacific Community (SPC), Pohnpei State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Pohnpei Waste Management Services (PWMS), SPREP, JICA FSM, and the Embassy of Japan. JICA Resident Representative, Mr. Kaoru Iwasaki, also joined opening remarks in welcoming the participants and expressed his gratitude to all FSM counterparts for their keen participation and good contribution to the project. He further emphasized that ownership and strong commitment from FSM side are exclusive core factors in the succession of the project. The main purpose of the meeting focused on the progress of the activities and developments in the four states which allowed participants to discuss and exchange ideas on how to manage SWM efforts more effectively at the national and state levels. The meeting concluded with a tour visit to the Pohnpei Landfill site at Deketik which has been improved by appropriate technical methods with low cost through J-PRISM Project.



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FFA World Tuna Day statement, 2015

FFA HQ, Honiara, Solomon Islands
--First celebrated across the globe on May 2 2012, World Tuna Day helps strengthen the voice of Pacific nations striving to ensure their successes and challenges are part of the global tuna conversation. As the resource owners of the regions multi-billion-dollar fishery, it is clearly important that Pacific knowledge, progress and experiences must lead the global tuna conversations, and we fully support PNA's initiative for a World Tuna Day to keep the global focus on the region where a third of the world's tuna is fished.

Our story has always been strength through cooperation, and I want to thank and congratulate our country members at all levels, as they continue to enjoy the benefits their work is reaping across tuna fisheries in the region. I give full credit to those who have used regional strength to achieve success at national level and we will continue to offer that technical in country support.

Tuna fishing continues to make a rising contribution to GDP across the FFA members, with exports alone putting USD 300m into the region in 2013. In the same period, access fee (licensing) revenues to FFA members was worth USD323 million. And tuna is keeping the Pacific working, with jobs in the fisheries sector rising from 10,500 in 2010 to 18,000 in 2013.

In the ten years to 2013, more of the tuna caught in the WCPFC fishery covering Pacific nations came from domestic fleets. Added to that, while just under 20% of the tuna catch in the Pacific EEZs is caught by domestic fleets, that is still a rising trend, on top of another area of increase-- the amount of the catch being processed on shore, where the majority of the jobs are filled by women.

A range of factors lead to these upward trends, amongst them an ability to implement at national level the results of regional agreements and actions for fisheries licensing, compliance, and

monitoring policies, and management measures

Our challenge in the region is to continue this growth, including extending it to a broader range of the membership and to all fisheries. The success of the PNA members in leveraging huge returns from the purse seine fishery is our collective inspiration for also reforming and benefiting more from long lining for example.

And of course, fisheries are not all rosy. The Pacific faces numerous and substantial challenges including the overfished status of bigeye tuna, marginal economic status of albacore and concerted attacks on our sovereign rights from distant water fishing nations.

When it comes to deciding the future of what happens in our EEZs, it's imperative that the fisheries management solutions our Pacific member nations offer to

the world, and the challenges we are experiencing, are not lost at the WCPFC table, or in the post-2015 agenda for the oceans.

In the next 12 months to World Tuna Day 2016, we hope to see continued growth in tuna exports and values. Market access work, Monitoring, surveillance and information management, and taking control of challenges in the albacore fishery, will likely be part of that FFA postcard.

This year May 2 falls on a weekend, providing an opportune reminder of the strong family and cultural context in which many Pacific people enjoy Tuna.

However one intends to serve it up today, I'll repeat the three main reasons I gave last year for taking time out to celebrate tuna: it's healthy, it tastes good, and it's ours.

--FFA Director-General James Movick

East-West Center to oversee \$4 million in NOAA funding to help Pacific communities cope with climate change

May 5, 2015

HONOLULU -- The East-West Center has been awarded funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to continue to serve as the lead institution in the Pacific Regional Integrated Science and Assessment (RISA) program, which is designed to help island and coastal communities cope with the effects of climate change. This is the second full program award the Center has received from NOAA, and marks the program's transition into a new phase.

The \$4,099,785 NOAA grant will be shared over a five-year period by a variety of partners in the Pacific RISA program (see list below). The program was established in 2003 and is one of 11 regional RISA programs supported by NOAA across the U.S. The region covered by the Pacific program includes Hawai'i, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau and American Samoa.

"Adaptation to a changing climate is one of the greatest challenges that island communities are facing in Hawai'i, the Pacific and across the globe," said EWC Director of Research Nancy Lewis. "NOAA's continuing support of the Pacific RISA builds on a firm foundation established over a decade ago, and will enable the East-West Center to continue to bring together scientists, communities

and decision-makers to develop innovative adaptation strategies."

The Pacific RISA program is a collaboration among the East-West Center, University of Hawai'i International Pacific Research Institute, University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, University of Hawai'i School of Law, University of Hawai'i Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, University of Hawai'i Department of Geography, National Weather Service Pacific ENSO Applications Center, NOAA National Center for Environmental Information, Pacific Islands Climate Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative and various community groups and government agencies throughout the region.

Phase III of the program will continue to support the effective utilization of climate science to manage the impacts of the changing climate across diverse sectors in the Pacific Islands region. It will build on products and projects developed during previous phases to achieve four main objectives:

- Conduct place-based assessment of risk, vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies;
- Support implementation of these strategies;
- Evaluate adaptation plans and policy throughout the region; and
- Integrate technical climate information and policy outcomes.

Four men rescued off Pohnpei after their boat sinks

By Bill Jaynes

The Kaselehlie Press

May 2, 2015

Pohnpei, FSM—According to a press release from the United States Coast Guard and an article that appeared in the Pacific Daily News (PDN), four men have quick thinking, an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Beacon also called a PLB, a Personal Locator Beacon), and a coordinated rescue operation to thank for their lives.

PDN interviewed Lee Putnam, command duty officer for Coast Guard Sector Guam. He said that as the boat was making a turn, the front of the boat went under water in six foot seas. The entire boat was filled with water and went down in less than a minute.

He told PDN that one of the men dived down to the bottom of the 22-foot center console boat as it sank, grabbed a PLB, strapped it to his arm and activated it.

"That made all the difference," he told PDN. "If it hadn't been for that, we wouldn't have known until hours later.

At 4:01 PM on May 2, 2015, watch standers at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam's Joint Rescue Sub-Center (JRSC) received a Search and Rescue Satellite (SARSAT) alert for a 406 MHz PLB in the vicinity of Pohnpei. JRSC contacted FSM and told them about the situation. They requested the launch of the 52-foot patrol boat FSS Unity. An automated system also reached out to OCEANUS, a 93-foot Vanuatu flagged refrigerated cargo ship for participation to conduct a search in the signal's location. A request for aerial support was made to U.S. coast Guard's Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Hawaii. Broadcasts were also made advising mariners in the area of the distress.

FSS UNITY launched from Pohnpei and once on-scene, reported experiencing 25 knot winds, six-foot seas, and two miles visibility. JRSC Guam provided FSS UNITY with several updated SARSAT positions before the four men and their sunken 22-foot center console vessel were located 11 nautical miles west of Pohnpei. The men drifted one nautical mile in a little over four hours before their rescue. The men were recovered and returned to Pohnpei. No major injuries were reported.

Putnam said that when the men were found they were clustered together. Two men held onto empty gas cans, the third man grabbed a fish cooler, and the man who dived down to grab the locator beacon was holding onto a fishing float.

One of the survivors told Putnam that they saw the rescue boat pass by twice before it actually found and rescued them. Without the EPIRB the men would have been infinitely more difficult to find.

Having the foresight to carry a properly registered PLB greatly increased the men's chances of survival and being located by rescuers. An activated PLB will alert the nearest rescue center of the distress and allow them to better direct resources to the distress location in a timely manner. Having the proper survival equipment and signaling devices aboard a vessel are essential to having a higher probability of survival, if things go wrong at sea. It is recommended that all mariners inform someone of their travel plans and carry personal flotation devices for all persons aboard the vessel; an alert beacon, whether it be an Emergency Position Indicating Beacon or PLB; flares; and reliable communications.

Island States urge fast climate mitigation under Montreal Protocol 8 countries co-sponsor amendment to phase down potent greenhouse gas

1 May 2015 – Today eight Pacific Island States submitted a formal proposal to amend the Montreal Protocol Ozone Treaty to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the manmade greenhouse gases used in refrigerators and air conditioners. Led by the Federated States of Micronesia, which along with Mauritius was the first country to propose reducing HFCs under the Montreal Protocol in 2009, the group of amendment co-sponsors this year includes Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Palau, the Philippines, Samoa and Solomon Islands. The islands are urging fast climate protection to slow temperature and sea-level rise, and to reduce the intensity of storm surges and typhoons.

“Cutting HFCs, can reduce sea-level rise faster than any other strategy by avoiding the equivalent of up to 100 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by mid-century, and up to 0.5°C by the end of the century,” said Durwood Zaelke, President of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development. “The island States recognize that the HFC amendment is the world’s best near-term plan to slow climate change, making it a top priority for many countries already suffering climate impacts.” In early April FSM was hit by category five, super-typhoon Maysak, leaving thousands displaced. In 2013, one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded, Yolanda, hit the Philippines killing more

than 6,300.

“There is no way the world can achieve its agreed temperature stabilization goals if HFCs alone contribute warming of a half a degree Celsius by the end of the century,” said Andrew Yatilman, Micronesia’s Director of Environment and Emergency Management. “HFCs could represent 10-15% of global climate forcing by mid-century. We have the potential to take this projected forcing completely out of the system.”

Achieving an early climate win in the Montreal Protocol at the November Meeting of the Parties in Dubai would also bode well for a global climate agreement expected to be finalized during negotiations in Paris in December, Yatilman said. “Locking in an agreement in Dubai to prevent billions of tons of emissions would be the perfect cornerstone for a broader climate agreement in Paris.”

Support for the amendment is rapidly increasing. This year, India switched its previous opposition and for the first time presented a formal proposal to cut HFCs. At the extraordinary Montreal Protocol meeting last month in Bangkok, the 54 countries of Africa called for an immediate start to formal negotiations to cut HFCs.

Reducing HFCs has been a priority on

President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry’s climate agenda. “It is essential that we get a buy-in on this,” John Kerry told the Washington Post last week, “because HFCs are one of the most dangerous greenhouse gases on Earth — far more damaging and potent than carbon dioxide.” The U.S., Mexico and Canada re-submitted their proposal for the 6th year in a row. The E.U. has also filed a formal amendment proposal for the first time. Some countries have also included HFC cuts in their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to climate protection under the UN process, which is aiming for a separate agreement in Paris in December.

Formal negotiations are expected to start at the next Montreal Protocol Open Ended Working Group in Paris this July, following further inter-sessional negotiating sessions agreed to last month in Bangkok. The Montreal Protocol has already successfully phased out over 100 ozone-depleting substances, avoiding an equivalent of an estimated 9.5 billion tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. Fast implementation of the HFC amendment can add the equivalent of up to 64 billion tonnes of CO2 mitigation, and, according to a new analysis by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, countries can double their contribution to climate protection by improving the efficiency of air conditioners when they cut use of HFCs.

Pohnpei Swimming Club Meet

Saturday May 2nd saw the first club swim meet of the year take place. This took the form of a mini meet with swimmers having the opportunity to swim in a maximum of three events in their age group and three open events.

Some really fast times were posted in all age groups with the 9 and under boys and girls showing some great improvement since their last time trials two weeks prior to the event.

The Swimming Club began a pilot swimming program with the grade 5 students at the Kolonia Elementary School and it was great to see 13 of these novice swimmers attending and swimming in freestyle and breaststroke events. These kids really love swimming and being in the water and it is hoped the club can expand the program to include many more local schools.

The day ended with a communal lunch and social time.

A huge congratulations to all who participated.

JOB VACANCIES

Background

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an inter-governmental organization known for its dynamic work in the field of migration. The Organization has a global presence with over 450 offices worldwide, including four offices in the north Pacific region. The Head Office overseeing IOM’s operations across the region is located in Pohnpei, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). IOM also has sub-offices in the FSM States of Chuuk and Yap, and a sub-office in Majuro, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

IOM has administrative and finance assistant positions available in Chuuk and Yap, FSM, to support its climate change adaptation and relief activities in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), with the overall objective to address the critical needs that arise from natural hazards and climate change in the two Pacific Island nations.

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General functions

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- e) Experience working with an international organization, embassy or NGO is advantageous

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In order for an application to be considered valid, it should include a cover letter (not more than one page) and curriculum vitae highlighting the required education and experience.

Interested candidates may send their application to HRmicronesia@iom.int on or before 20 May 2015. Position title should be specified in the SUBJECT field. Application may also be hand carried to IOM’s office in Pohnpei, Chuuk or Yap

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FSM-US Mid-Joint Committee Meeting held at JRM

April 30, 2015

ASAN, Guam – Joint Region Marianas (JRM) hosted a delegation from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) as well as the U.S. Ambassador to FSM to provide a defense and security update called a mid-Joint Committee Meeting on April 29 at JRM Headquarters.

The working-level meeting was held in preparation for a Joint Committee Meeting later this year to be held in Pohnpei. This is the first time a meeting like this has been held on Guam.

Palau, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands welcomed the group Wednesday morning.

FSM's delegation included Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs Samson Pretrick, Ambassador to the U.S. Asterio Takesy, the President's Chief of Staff Leo Falcam Jr., Secretary of Justice April Skilling, Governor of Chuuk Johnson Elimo, Lt. Gov. of Pohnpei Marcelo Peterson and Lt. Gov. of Yap, James Yangetmai.

The lead American representative was U.S. Ambassador to FSM Doria Rosen.

Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, the U.S. Defense Representative for FSM, the Republic of



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AUSTRALIAN AWARDS PACIFIC SCHOLARSHIP (AAPS) INTAKE YEAR 2016

OPENING DATE: 23 March 2015
CLOSING DATE: 29 May 2015

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 2016 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 2015 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 are available at:
the Australian Embassy website www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

All completed applications MUST be typed unless there are extenuating circumstances that prevent the applicant from doing so.

Applications are due by the 29th of May, 2015.

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

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC AUDITOR

Request for Proposal (RFP) Annual Audits of the Federated States of Micronesia (5 Governments) Fiscal Year 2015-2017

The Office of the National Public Auditor for the Federated States of Micronesia invites interested professional accounting firms to submit written proposals to conduct the annual audits of the National and four State Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia for FY 2015, 2016, and 2017.

The audits will include financial and compliance audits of the Federated States of Micronesia pursuant to the Single Audit Act of 1984, as amended, OMB Circular A-133, OMB Super Circular, and the Amended Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America, for FY 2012, 2013, and 2014.

The audits will cover each reporting entity of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia as defined by U.S. Public Law 99-239 TITLE FOUR, Article VI, Section 461 (d). The audits will be performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, provisions of the Amended Compact of Free Association between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States of America and its related agreement for Implementation of Economic Assistance Programs and Services, and Federal auditing standards in the United States; including the Government Auditing Standards, issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO); the Single Audit Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-502), as amended; Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations; and Super Circular, OMB Uniform Guidance: Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

In addition, the auditor will be expected to follow the recommendations of the AICPA State and Local Government Committee as set forth in the accounting guide, Audits of State and Local Governmental Units, Revised Edition.

Proposals must be post-marked no later than June 15, 2015, and received at the FSM Office of the National Public Auditor at the address below, no later than 4:30 p.m., Pohnpei local time, or June 29, 2015 if by postal delivery.

A full version of the RFP document can be accessed at www.fsmopa.fm, or by contacting:

Mr. Haser Hainrick, National Public Auditor
Office of the National Public Auditor
Federated States of Micronesia

P.O. PS-05

Palikir, Pohnpei 96941

Phone: (691) 320-2862/2863 Fax: (691) 320-5482

E-mail: hhainrick@fsmopa.fm

Review underway for 2010 Pacific Future of Fisheries

Nadi, FIJI 4 May-- Pacific Fisheries officials dived into a sea of coastal and offshore fisheries issues this week, talking tuna and all things fisheries during a one day Future of Fisheries review meeting held at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi. Five years since the Future of Fisheries report was published, Offshore and Coastal fisheries have delivered some

new emerging challenges and milestones across the Pacific. Officials from both the FFA and SPC presented to national, industry and NGO stakeholders and development partners during the one-day event. The review is expected to round up in time for presentation to the annual Pacific Fisheries Ministerial in Tuvalu, in July 2015



Leaders of major regional organisations meet

The Interim Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum Mr Amena Yauvoli this morning received the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor DBE at the PIDF Secretariat in Nasese, Suva.

In welcoming Dame Taylor, Mr Yauvoli said, "I am very pleased that we can welcome to our Headquarters the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor. This is the first time the leaders of the Secretariat of the two regional organisations are meeting and it ushers in a new chapter in regional cooperation."

"The PIDF and the PIF are the only two regional organisations where leaders of the Pacific meet to discuss important development challenges faced by Pacific SIDS, for instance in our pursuit for low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive societies and communities. It is therefore important that the executives of

the Secretariat of the two organisations meet regularly to discuss their areas of mutual interest and complementarities."

"We agreed to work collaboratively and there will therefore be more such meetings between our two organisations in the future."

Present at the PIDF Secretariat to welcome Dame Taylor was the Interim Chairman of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) of the PIDF His Excellency Ambassador Patterson Oti of the Solomon Islands, his predecessor as Chair of SOC His Excellency Ambassador Gershon Jackson of the Federated States of Micronesia, and Fiji's Roving Ambassador to Polynesia and Micronesia Ambassador Litia Mawi on behalf of the SOC Vice Chair Mr Amena Yauvoli.

Accompanying Dame Taylor was the Deputy Secretary General (Economic Governance and Political & Security Programmes), Andie Fong Toy and Mr Rex



Dame Taylor & ISG Yauvoli;

New forum group harnesses diversity

Suva, FIJI, 10 April 2015 -- Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, is looking forward to hosting the seven distinguished individuals making up an important new sub-committee on the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

Secretary General Taylor said "The sub committee members bring a wide range of skills and experience to our work and will make it easier for Pacific Leaders to make informed decisions on the most pressing priorities for developing the region."

Ms Teresa Manarangi-Trott of the Cook Islands, she pointed out, was a founding member of the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation: "She has experience in strategic priority setting and high-level advisory work, and knowledge of economic management, public policy and sustainable development."

Ms Manarangi-Trott said she was keen to encourage the subcommittee to maintain a balance between the bigger and the smaller island states: "Small Island States have many challenges and needs and the sub-Committee will ensure equal treatment with larger island priorities".

Another sub committee member, Mr William Kostka of the Federated States of Micronesia, she recalled, "is Co-Founder of the Conservation Society of Pohnpei and the Micronesia Conservation Trust. He has served as Coordinator of both the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Marine Program."

Mr Kostka, who has a strong background in non-profit management, conservation financing, and civil society-government relations, said he was looking forward to add his experience to the work of the subcommittee: "In addition to serving and representing the views of civil society on the SSCC, my main interest is to assist the PIFS and our Pacific island leaders develop and/or strengthen regional, national and local sustainable financing mechanisms that support

resources management efforts in our region."

From the private sector, Mr Peter Kiely of New Zealand is Chairman of the Pacific Cooperation Foundation, an independent partnership between the private and public sectors in New Zealand and Pacific Island countries. Mr Kiely welcomes the opportunity to participate in the sub-committee:

"This is a wonderful opening for the private sectors of our region to be directly involved in the new process for setting regional priorities that will lift the economic development of the Pacific islands."

Mr. Leonard Louma a Consultant to the Papua New Guinean Department of Foreign Affairs brings to the Subcommittee work a lengthy and highly commended public service career which included regional integration policy implementation, strategic priority setting and regional development. Mr. Louma's diplomatic service included postings to Papua New Guinea's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, and Embassies in Paris and Beijing. Mr. Louma also served as Papua New Guinea's Roving Ambassador to APEC, ASEAN and ESCAP.

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism he welcomed as "a process to strengthen efforts at regional cooperation and integration aimed at better addressing development challenges faced by Pacific Island countries. I am humbled to be part of a Team in this historical process which manifests a fundamental shift in the prevailing development paradigm in our region. I am convinced the process puts development decisions firmly in the hands of Pacific Island leaders and the potential benefits squarely in the laps of Pacific Island peoples."

Other subcommittee members are Mr Lopeti Senituli, Mr John Davidson, Mr August Aitaro and chairman, Dame Meg Taylor.



Ms Teresa Trott



Mr William Kostka



Mr Peter Kiely

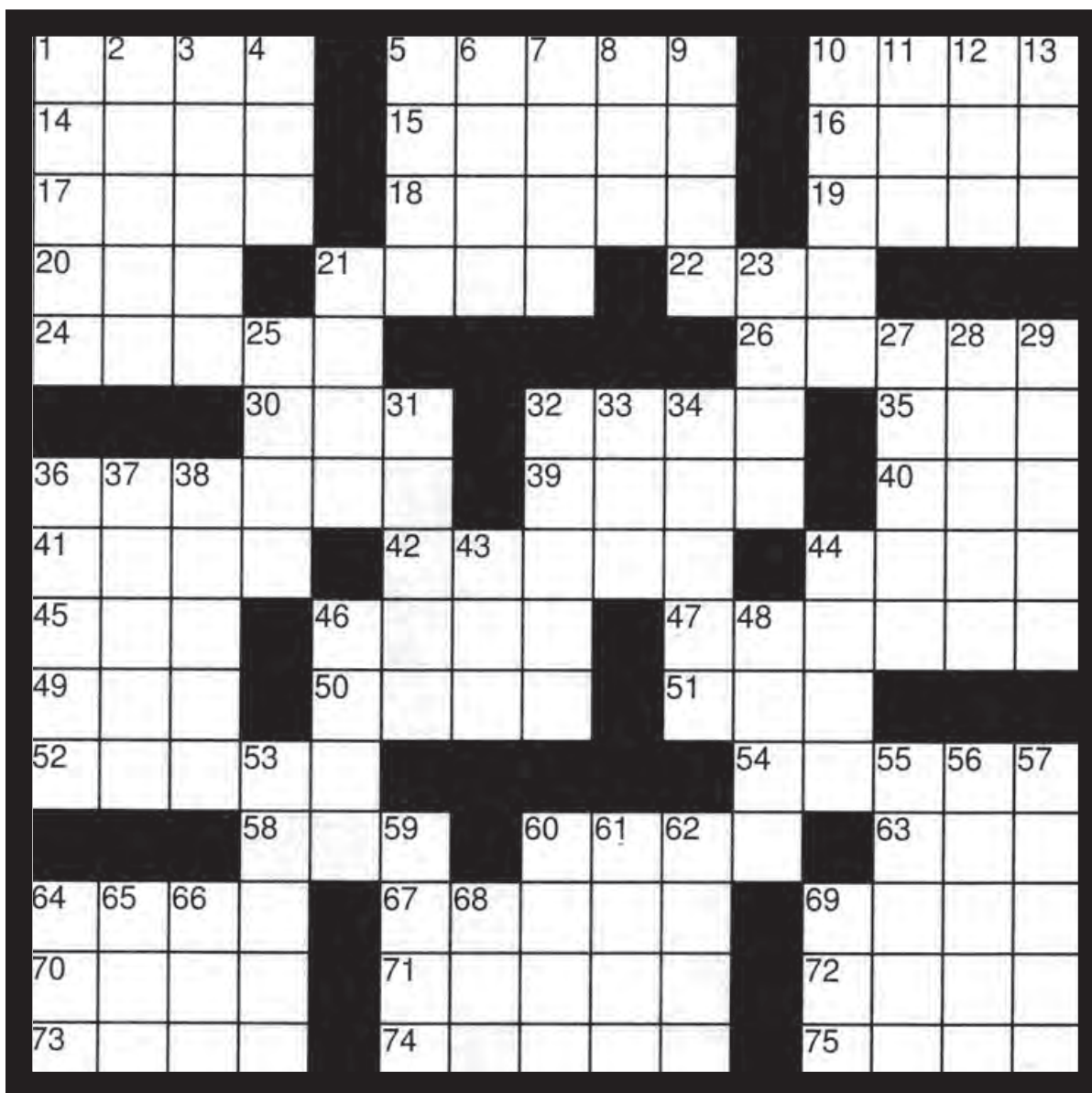
Crossword - A-plenty!

ACROSS

1. Baja rahs
5. Stamps
10. Pts. and qts.
14. Cap-___
15. Trash
16. Sand
17. Jazz fans
18. "Halt, salt!"
19. Blvds. and rds.
20. Map abbr.
21. Plan part
22. Tarzan's pal
24. "Walk away ___"
26. Warms
30. Small flap
32. Las Palmas cash
35. RSVP part
36. Cash back
39. Latch ___
40. Jazz gp.
41. Track path
42. Bad lad's grab
44. Bawl
45. Ran
46. Charlatan
47. Warns
49. Change and ___
50. Aardvark snacks
51. Garland
52. Harsh
54. Warmth
58. Flap
60. Nana
63. ___Baba
64. Smart
67. Hallway
69. Dash
70. 24-Karat
71. Gap
72. Staffs
73. Marsh grass
74. ADAs and TAs
75. Flank

DOWN

1. AMPAS award
2. Strand
3. Had
4. Grad. class
5. Bat a gnat
6. Mansard part
7. Stat
8. AF rank
9. ___trap
10. Match
11. D.C. Cab star
12. Draw
13. AL and WA
21. Pants part
23. "Rats!"
25. Catchall abbr.
27. MTMs
28. Lama's land
29. Smacks
31. Start
32. Standard and ___
33. Naval grad
34. Snach
36. Play parts
37. Match
38. Pass
43. ___ bran
44. Small dam
46. Catch
48. Slant
53. Ran a 10K
55. ___Lama
56. Chan man
57. Wash
59. Man___
- Mancha
60. Scams
61. Nap
62. Mars
64. Y class
65. Cast
66. Wrath
68. 1948 pact
69. 911 abbr.



RESTAURANT DINING

Is all this solving making you hungry? Then treat yourself to a nice meal at your favorite RESTAURANT. The 38 terms in this puzzle are all associated with dining out.

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

BOOTH
BREAD
BREAKFAST
BUSBOY
CASHIER
CHECK
COFFEE
COOK
COURSE
CUISINE
DINNER
DISH
DRINK
ENTREE
FARE
FISH
HOSTESS
KITCHEN
LUNCH

MAITRE D'
MANAGER
MEAT
MENU
MUSIC
NAPKIN
ORDER
PLATE
RESTAURANT
SALAD
SEAFOOD
SERVICE
SILVER
SOUP
SPECIAL
TABLE
TRAY
UNIFORM
WAITER



Micronesian Student Organization in Fiji holds Maysak fundraiser

Luan-Lavern Gilmete

The Micronesian Student Organization (MSO) seized the opportunity of USP Market Day and held a fundraising to support the victims of Typhoon Maysak in Yap and Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

The MSO President, Nick Santiago explained that this was the first fundraiser of the year and even though MSO members were given a limited time to prepare, they were able to exceed their targeted amount during that two day period.

“We had in mind five hundred dollars as a target, but we were hoping for anything that we could scrounge together. Every little bit helps in situations like this”, explained Suzanne Lowe Gallen, MSO fundraising coordinator.

Suzanne explained that the most challenging part is that many people in Suva do not know much about the FSM giving them less desire to donate to their cause. She further explained that “...while the fundraising was an incredible opportunity for public awareness, the “target” audience was college students who were not typically looking for ways to unload what little cash they may have”.

But even though many were not aware of the FSM, few had learned a little about it and offered their donations, said Suzanne. “Some people mentioned that they had wondered if there were any relief appeals after they saw the devastation on the news--so this fundraising allowed them that opportunity to donate to relief efforts. A couple of people came from across town just to make donations and offer some kind words of support for the cause.” Suzanne explained that USP Campus Life provided the stall for free, including a free table, given the purpose of the fundraising.

The President of MSO extended his gratitude and said “the helping hands of the kind-hearted and good spirited members and superiors made the task much easier than expected. Special thanks to my fellow officers, Suzanne, Berlino and wife, Ambassador, all the members of MSO, USP for the tent/stall and those who bought our goods or donated in one way or another.”

Typhoon Maysak left five people dead in the state of Chuuk and thousands displaced in Yap. This tragic incident occurred in March 2015.



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<p>Ref.19679 PRICE: \$3,490 CHEVROLET BLAZER Year 2001 AT 4,290cc PETROL Mileage 87,000km Color Black</p>	<p>Ref.19466 PRICE: \$5,140 TOYOTA HARRIER Year 2002 AT 2,360cc PETROL Mileage 91,000km Color White II</p>	<p>Ref.20883 PRICE: \$5,450 FORD EXPLORER Year 2002 AT 4,000cc PETROL Mileage 53,000km Color Silver II</p>
<p>Ref.20989 PRICE: \$3,640 TOYOTA RAV4 J Year 1996 AT 1,990cc PETROL Mileage 100,000km Color White</p>	<p>Ref.19927 PRICE: \$3,360 HONDA HR-V Year 2002 AT 1,600cc PETROL Mileage 61,000km Color White</p>	<p>Ref.19650 PRICE: \$3,890 MITSUBISHI PAJERO IO Year 2001 AT 2,000cc PETROL Mileage 53,000km Color Pearl</p>
<p>Ref.20288 PRICE: \$2,410 HONDA FIT (JAZZ) Year 2002 AT 1,339cc PETROL Mileage 52,000km Color Silver</p>	<p>Ref.20703 PRICE: \$2,650 CHEVROLET CRUZE Year 2004 AT 1,320cc PETROL Mileage 96,000km Color Black</p>	<p>Ref.20828 PRICE: \$2,610 TOYOTA PLATZ (YARIS) Year 2000 AT 990cc PETROL Mileage 57,000km Color Silver</p>
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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT- FSMNOC Secretary General

Position Title: FSMNOC Secretary General
Location: Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
Employer: FSM National Olympic Committee
Opening Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Closing Date: Friday, May 15, 2015

Status/Tenure: Full time - contract basis. It is renewable based on job performance and funding. A 3 months probationary period will be in place.

Salary Grade: non-graded
Salary: Considered depending on qualifications

Summary: This position is responsible for managing the operation the FSMNOC office and staff.

Applicant Resume

Any interested person should submit his/her resume to the FSMNOC office by the posted deadline.

Pohnpei Public Library celebrates 27 years



Martin 11th OLMHS. Donovan Jay Mihkel 12th NMHS.

This year Pohnpei Public Library celebrated its 27th Anniversary with a "Library Week," from Monday, April 6 to Friday, April 10. The theme for this year's celebration was "EVERY HERO HAS A STORY". On April 7 and 8, International

organization of Migration (IOM) was invited to share stories and activities in preparation of drought. A movie was held on Thursday night of that week to end the event before the ceremony on Friday. In addition, some students from public and private schools from K-5 to 12th grade competed in art and essay contest on the theme.

Essay winners were Ladeesha Mae Mendiola 4th Nett Elem. School, Lenisha Rae Robert 4th Nett Elem. School, Tichelle Pelep 5th Awak Elem. School, Wailer Olter Jr. 5th Lukop Elem. School, Aliyah Donre 6th Awak Elem. School, Relijane Yamada 6th Nett Elem. School, Mia Nicole Lane 7th Nett Elem. School, Trisane Werthog 7th Ohmine Elem. School, Boleen Makaya 8th Lukop Elem. School, Lativa Benian 8th Ohmine Elem. School, Janice Hainrick 9th OLMCHS, Larenda Ardos 9th NMHS, Mac Michelle Yeeting 10th OLMHS, Margie Johnson 10th OLMHS, Scarlett Lebehn 11th OLMHS, Asmara Pretrick 11th OLMHS, Jordan Ehsa 12th CCA Crystal Ezekias 12th CCA.

Flour from giant taro and breadfruit

Island Food Community of Pohnpei

Pohnpei Women Association Council (PWAC) coordinated with the Island Food Community of Pohnpei to demonstrate making flour from giant taro and breadfruit in workshops at Pohras, Sokehs on April 28 and at the Island Food office on April 30. Over 30 community people came to each session and enjoyed local foods prepared by the Pohnpei Women Association Council. Bread baked using taro flour was also served at the Island Food office session. Taro and breadfruit flour from local foods have more vitamins than imported wheat flour or rice.

about food hygiene and about storing foods at safe temperatures. At Sokehs, the College of Micronesia Extension Service representative told how to select and prepare banana shoots for planting. Banana shoots need to be cleaned to avoid spreading disease to new plants.

Two more workshops will be held. On Tuesday, May 5, the workshop will be in Wehisohn U at Inheriting Souna Nahs at 9:30 am. On Thursday, May 7, the workshop in Madolenihmw will be in Sapwalap at 10:00 am. Everyone interested in learning about healthier eating is invited to the workshops.

The Environmental Protection Agency staff explained food handling safety, reminding

Please call Island Foods Community of Pohnpei at 320-3259 for more information.



On Friday evening, 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 Perdus Ehsa. Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library (FPPL) Fundraising Chairperson, Dr. Rufino Mauricio, who is also the Secretary of the Department of FSM Education welcomed everyone. This year, library was fortunate to have Ms. Jennifer Heliaiser, Director of the College of Micronesia-LRC, to be the Keynote Speaker of the evening.

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 Elias Tom K-5 St. Paul, Latoya Ladore 1st Awak Elem. School, Neveah Sky Olter 1st St. Paul, Alyssa Soriano 2nd CCA, Sean Aquinaldo 2nd CCA, Mati Y. Santos 3rd St. Paul, Christen Kalio ECE Lukop, Louisantra Salle 3rd Lukop, Platon Pelep 8th Nett, Johnny

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 Governor's Office, Etscheit's Enterprise, Ace Hardware, Ace Office Supplies, Amcres Gas Station, Isamu Nakasone Store, Dollar Up Store, Happy Mart, Palm Terrace, Bank of FSM, 7 Stars, G & J Car Rental, Art & Crafts, Imelda's Shoe Store, PCR Nantelikh Rest., China Star Rest., Best Buy, Panuelo Gas Station, Pohnpei Fishing Club, Micropc.fm, IOM and Lou Ann Garvey.

Banana Bread with Taro flour

Ingredients

½ cup butter, softened
¾ cup sugar
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1½ cups coconut milk
2 cups giant swamp taro flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon nutmeg, grated
1 cup very ripe Karat or Taiwang bananas, mashed
Coconut oil, for greasing

Method

- Whisk butter and sugar in a bowl, then add eggs and coconut milk and mix well
- Sift taro flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt and nutmeg into the mixture and fold until just combined
- Gently stir in the bananas
- Pour into a loaf pan greased with coconut oil and bake in 350°F preheated oven for 1 hour or until the top springs back when touched or an inserted toothpick comes out clean

...Swim meet

Chia of ron fro pg

heats swum on Monday May 4th and finals swum the following day. The events finished with the all important team relays with much cheering from all team supporters.

Results are PICS #1 – 339 points, PICS #2 – 32 points, NMHS – 189 points, MHS – 30 POINTS

A huge congratulations to all attending. Competitors, Officials and spectators.

As a footnote, a huge apology from Director of Swimming, Mike Roberts, to all our regular daily swimmers who use the pool for closing to the public two days in a row.



Bill Jaynes



Bill Jaynes

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