

Pohnpei vehicle registration fee increases by 300% for most



Traffic comes to a standstill during the anti-corruption parade in Kolonia, Pohnpei

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

January 11, 2017

Pohnpei, FSM—A law tripling the registration fee for most vehicle owners from \$10 to \$30 in Pohnpei is now in effect. Owners of heavier vehicles will pay a higher registration fee.

The Pohnpei State Legislature sent the bill to Governor Marcelo Peterson for his consideration but he vetoed the bill and attached a letter explaining his objections.

“The increase in fees for most, if not all, is more than three-fold; a concern shared by our citizens, more so for the unemployed and those with meager resources. The bill no doubt will have a substantial impact on current and future owners of motor vehicles,” the Governor’s letter said.

“In the alternative, I take this opportunity to recommend proposed legislation to increase sales tax on items such as alcohol and tobacco that have a negative impact on the health and welfare of our people. Similarly, proposed legislation to increase the penalties and fines for criminal offenses, namely for repeat offenders may be appropriate as well,” the letter concluded.

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On December 28, 2016, at exactly 19:45 and at the direction of the CS Dependable, the submarine fiber optic cable repair ship, FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) disconnected power from Segment 4 of the HANTRUI Branching Unit to Pohnpei Terminal Station by putting their Power Feed Equipment in the short circuit position after ramping voltage and amperes down to zero.

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

January 12, 2016

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Standing with Ulithi- Tornado rips through island

By Katlyn Murray

The community of Ulithi stands vigilantly against the threat of natural disaster. The atoll in Yap State faced significant damage in the wake of Super Typhoon Maysak, with nearly all the homes, agriculture, and public infrastructure destroyed or significantly damaged. Since April 2015, the community has been rebuilding with the materials that they had on hand along with help from international aid organizations.

On December 22, 2016, a water spout turned tornado ripped through the island, tearing apart over 20 newly repaired homes and cook houses along its path. "It sounded like a jet was flying low over the island. Luckily, we had been warned that Typhoon Nock-ten could be headed in our direction so we were prepared for a potential disaster. If we hadn't received warning about Nock-ten, this tornado would have claimed lives on Falalop," said local resident Jon Rumal Jr.

A non-profit organization based in Guam, Micronesia Conservation Coalition, has stepped in to raise funds for the community. The organization primarily works on marine conservation and research in Yap, Pohnpei, and Guam, but is also concerned with supporting Micronesia communities and local culture.

"I love this community. They don't have much monetarily but are rich with love, family, and community. The community housed a bunch people at the eco lodge when we had to be evacuated from a live-aboard boat because of a tropical storm. We had to spend three days on the island. I was shocked at the power of constant

winds for three days on a low lying island. It is devastating to see the impact that reoccurring natural disasters are having on this beautiful island. Micronesia Conservation Coalition wants to help the community in any way we can," extolled MCC's founder and Executive Director Julie Hartup.

The organization has launched a fundraiser with a goal of raising \$20,000 to purchase construction materials and agricultural supplies to repair the island. As this is not a marine conservation effort, MCC will not take any administrative percentage from the fundraising. 100% of proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly towards purchasing building materials, like roof sheeting, nails, hurricane strapping, and concrete to repair foundations, as well as agricultural products and tools requested by the community, and shipping to get them from the mainland to families in need.

Donations can be made by visiting <https://www.crowdrise.com/standing-united-with-ulithi/fundraiser/micronesia-conservation-coalition>.



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Former FSM employee charged with crimes for allegedly withholding password for Passport system

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

January 3, 2016

Palikir, FSM—A former employee of the FSM Division of Immigration and Customs is scheduled to be arraigned on March 14 on National Government charges relating to the alleged withholding of the administrator password for the FSM's Machine Readable Passport system. That system is required in order to print and issue passports which the FSM cannot currently do.

The criminal action information on the charges filed on December 21 by the Department of Justice allege that he was the only holder of the password and that he now refuses to release it after his employment was terminated. Affidavits accompanying the information on the criminal action say that at the time that all of the employees were locked out of the system, there were approximately 100 passport applications waiting to be processed.

On December 27, the Department of Immigration and Customs issued a notice

to FSM citizens that it no longer had the capability to issue passports until further notice.

David Wolphagen was in charge of Information Technology at the Department of Immigration and Customs. Affidavits provided by employees responsible for issuing passports claimed that Wolphagen was the only person who had the administrative password for the system and that when passwords needed to be reset he was the only one who could do it. At least one of the affidavits said that he sometimes reset passwords from off-site but that he never shared the Administrator password with anyone at Immigration.

Six affidavits from witnesses and the investigating officer accompanied the criminal action information filing. One of the witnesses said that Wolphagen had previously said that if he no longer worked at the Division, the system would go down one day and no one would be able to fix it but him.

The investigating officer's affidavit said

See "Passport password" on page 7

Amplifying the voice of youth in Pohnpei to live a drug free life



Micronesian Productions, in conjunction with a Canada Fund for Local Initiatives grant, is working to amplify the voices of women and youth in Pohnpei. In the month of December, the youth of Pohnpei are focusing on the benefits of living a drug free life. Around the holidays, when youth are out on vacation, they tend to use and abuse alcohol and tobacco and need to hear good reasons why not to use these substances. High school students from around the island in the Upward Bound program were asked to write personal statements about living a drug free life and record them for their peers. These statements were playing on 89.5FM Paradise Radio and are posted to YouTube under the Micronesian Productions channel. Around 70 UB students recorded messages for their peers to hear good reasons why not to use drugs.

In addition to the messages, Micronesian Productions was able to help sponsor the annual Holiday Hoops Basketball Tournament that COMFSM holds for high school boys and girls teams. A total of 15 teams registered for this year's tournament including a boys and girls team from Xavier High School. At the opening ceremony on December 19th at the FSM-China Friendship

Gymnasium, a video on betel nut, produced by Micronesian Productions through a WHO grant through the FSM Tobacco Office was played, and two UB students read their statements to the crowd of over 100 youth present. Then, before the championship games were held, the UB students from PICS High School, Madolenihmw HS, and NMHS all performed songs about living a drug free live and staying away from alcohol and tobacco.

Many thanks goes out to Castro Joab and his staff at COMFSM for playing the recordings of the UB students before every game and to UB Director Diaz Joseph and his staff for coordinating the participation of the UB students in these events. The tournament was a big success in terms of being a drug free event and congratulations to SDA boy's and PICS girl's teams for winning both championship games. The results of the tournament were: Girls Results: Champions - PICS 2nd Place - SDA, and 3rd Place - OLMCHS. Boys Results: Champions - SDA, 2nd Place - ABC(CCA), and 3rd Place - NMHS. The video of this singing performance and some of the UB student testimonies can be seen on ICTV channel 18.

PALM Third Ministerial Interim Meeting (MIM3)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

On January 17 (Tue), Japan will host the Third Ministerial Interim Meeting (MIM3) of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process at the Ikura Guest House, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo.

The Meeting will be attended by participants of such as Foreign Ministers from 14 Pacific islands countries, Australia, and New Zealand. From Japan, Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will attend and preside the meeting with the co-chair, Hon. Lorin S. Robert, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia which currently serves as the chair of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

Japan has been hosting the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting in Japan every 3 years since 1997 to forge close cooperative relations with Pacific islands countries by discussing various regional and global issues in a candid manner. Since 2010, the Ministerial Interim Meeting has been held in the year between two Summit meetings. In the MIM3, the Participants will overview the follow-up of the outcome of PALM7 in May 2015, and exchange views toward the PALM 8 to be held in 2018.

Japan and Pacific islands countries which are bonded by the Pacific Ocean will have a discussion in order to address the common challenges toward peace, stability and prosperity of the Pacific region.

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...Registration

Continued from front page

In mid-December, the Legislature overturned the Governor's rejection of the bill and the new law took effect on January 1, 2017.

Vehicle registration fees have remained the same since before Pohnpei became a State according to the Justice and Governmental Operations committee report recommending the veto override. That report said that previously \$9.85 of the across the board \$10 registration fee for vehicles had gone to the municipalities where vehicles were primarily parked. The other 1.50 went to the Pohnpei treasury for government operations. None of the funds was specifically earmarked for road maintenance.

The new law finally provides money for the Paved Road Maintenance Fund. 50 percent of registration fees will go to that fund. 25 percent will go to the Division of Police and Security Fund, and the remaining 25 percent will go to the treasuries of the local governments where the vehicles are regularly parked or stored.

The law says that motorcycle registrations will cost \$25 annually. The rest of the fees are a bit harder to define. The law says, "(b) Jeep, Sedan, and other vehicles not specified in Paragraph (c) of this subsection--\$30, and (c) pickups, trucks, buses and other vehicles not specified in the foregoing paragraphs, weight in pounds at the time of original sale in the state of Pohnpei."

It then goes on to list the registration fees by weight for those types of vehicles. Vehicle owners of that type that are under 2,000 pounds will now pay \$35 per year. Those that have vehicles 2,000 to 2,999 pounds pay \$40. Vehicles between 3,000 and 5,999 pounds will cost \$45 for registration. Vehicles between 6,000 and 7,499 pounds cost \$95. Registration for those between 7,500 and 9,999 pounds cost \$100. Vehicles of 10,000 pounds or over now cost \$350 for annual registration.

The committee report recommending passage of the bill into law said while it is true that the increase is three times the current registration fee, it is also true that the cost of maintaining roads in Pohnpei has increase by 500 percent since Pohnpei became a State. It said that on a daily basis, more than 6,000 vehicles travel the roads in Pohnpei and that each month, 45 new cars arrive at the dock.

Continued on next page

Sustainably caught tuna tonnage forecast to double in 2017

Parties to the Nauru Agreement

December 31 2016

Majuro, Marshall Islands—Growing global market demand for MSC-certified tuna and fishing industry interest is expected to see “wild catch” tuna tonnage double from the waters of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement in 2017.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) operates a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified free school caught skipjack and yellowfin tuna fishery in the western and central Pacific fishing zones of its member nations.

In 2016, tuna fishing fleets complying with strict chain of custody rules that met MSC certification requirements delivered over 55,000 metric tons of sustainably caught free school tuna to market, said PNA CEO Ludwig Kumoru. “We expect the volume to double to about 100,000 metric tons in 2017 based upon existing orders,” he said. “With strong fishing industry buy-in for PNA’s MSC-certified fishery, we see the market for sustainably caught tuna continuing to grow. This benefits everyone — the fisheries industry, retailers, and PNA members. Most importantly, catching tuna without using fish aggregating devices (FADs) means tuna are being fished sustainably.”

A “free school” catch means a catch by purse seiners without the aid of FADs. This is verified by onboard fisheries observers at sea where the free school tuna is rigidly segregated in the hold of a purse seiner, and a rigorous chain of custody system is in place through transshipping to a processing plant and finally to the retailer so that consumers know with absolute confidence the story behind the tuna they buy in the store.

“PNA has gone above and beyond what others do (to ensure tuna caught meets

free school catch requirements),” said Bill Holden of the Marine Stewardship Council. He pointed out that MSC certification makes the PNA tuna fishery more transparent. To meet MSC requirements, the fishery is also audited annually and every five years an extensive review is conducted, he said. In addition, PNA has been proactive in addressing conditions of the certification. Holden said a condition of MSC certification for the skipjack tuna fishery was development of “target reference points” for the tuna stock. This was developed by PNA and adopted as policy for this fishery by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission at its 2015 annual meeting, he said.

The next step is a harvest control strategy, which PNA is now engaged in developing for endorsement by the WCPFC, Holden said.

PNA Commercial Manager Maurice Brownjohn, who has developed the certification and chain of custody systems from the start, said MSC certification is the “gold standard” for fisheries sustainability. “MSC-certified skipjack and yellowfin from PNA waters now accounts for over 90 percent of all MSC-certified tuna being traded globally,” Brownjohn said. “PNA’s MSC chain of custody system is now seen as the global standard for free school caught tuna.”

From the initial MSC certification in December 2012, it took another year for PNA to develop and implement the rigorous chain of custody and traceability system before tuna was marketed as MSC-certified sustainably caught fish.

In addition, pointed out Mr. Kumoru, “at the outset of PNA’s move to meet MSC standards in our fishery, a number of industry players objected to PNA raising sustainability standards for the fishery and even attempted to block us through



legal interventions. But PNA withstood these challenges and has demonstrated the viability and financial benefit of free school caught tuna. Today we are seeing strong industry participation to provide MSC-certified tuna to consumers.”

Since 2014, the volume of MSC-certified tuna from PNA waters marketed globally has continued to increase exponentially as more industry players see the benefit of participating in the scheme.

Fishing vessels that deliver free school caught tuna that meets the strict sustainability guidelines get as much as \$100 per ton extra, and retailers are able to sell this tuna at a premium because it is sustainably caught.

The PNA established Pacifical as its marketing co-brand for pMSC-certified tuna, which in turn is paying dividends to PNA members from this Pacifical tuna marketed in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, USA and elsewhere. Retailers are paying up to a 20 percent premium for MSC-certified Pacifical tuna compared to tuna caught using FADs.

“There has been huge buy-in by private tuna labels and growing interest from brands globally,” said Mr. Kumoru. “Today, over 200 purse seiners are participating in the PNA scheme, which is why we anticipate the volume of MSC-certified tuna delivered to market to rise to 100,000 metric tons in 2017.”

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Continued from previous page

The committee report rejected the Governor’s recommendation that the Legislature instead look at increasing penalties and fines for criminal offenses. It said that the Pohnpei Constitution bars the setting of excessive bails or fines, so that method of raising revenue would be constitutionally banned.

The report argued that if a person can afford to purchase a vehicle for thousands of dollars, the person “most likely” can also afford to pay for the privilege of using public services like roads. “Thus, your Committee believes that it is consistent with our reform policies in revenue generation to sustain essential

public services moving forward.”

The law says that registrations shall expire and should be renewed each year in accordance with a monthly schedule established by the Director of the Department of Public Safety. It then codifies a requirement that the rules and regulations regarding expiry and renewal dates of registration be based on an alphabetical identification numbering system based on last name or the first noun in the name of a company or other entity.

That system has been somewhat problematic for enforcement in the past. DPS quite frequently runs out of license plates with the correct first letter of a

vehicle owner’s name. When that happens they often issue license plates with the incorrect first letter. It makes it difficult for police officers on routine patrols to easily tell from looking at a license plate whether the vehicle is properly registered or not. Further, when a vehicle owner goes to DPS to renew their vehicle registration, it is not uncommon for the traffic section to try to charge a late registration fee for a vehicle owner who is in compliance with the law but who was

issued a license tag that does not reflect the name of the owner. It sometimes requires a bit of explaining even though the vehicle owner’s registration card clearly lists the name of the owner and the date of previous registration.





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Local Stressors, Resilience, and Shifting Baselines on Coral Reefs in Kosrae



Aerial shot of Kosrae's western reef on the leeward side of the island near Okat Harbor

A study from Kosrae was just published examining how reefs and fishes may have changed over a longer period of time that we typically can observe in our lifetimes. Historical baseline data from Kosrae was used to examine changes in fish and coral assemblages since 1986 to present day. This historical dataset was collected by the Army Corps of Engineers for all FSM states, however, many historical reports get lost over the years or data become unavailable as computers die out. In Kosrae, a copy of the report and all datasets were preserved with both Katrina Adams, from the Kosrae Village Resort, and the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO), prompting the study.

ecosystem resilience over the years, as fish composition shifted to smaller species in lower trophic levels, driven by losses of large predators and herbivores. Lower resilience means that corals take longer to recover from small stress events, such as extreme low tides, bleaching, or passing large-wave events. While prior literature and anecdotal reports indicate that major disturbance events have been rare in Kosrae, small localized disturbances coupled with reduced resilience may have slowly degraded reef conditions through time. Improving coral-reef resilience in the face of climate change will therefore require improved understanding and management of growing artisanal fishing pressure and a greater focus on watershed pollution in the few urban areas that exist.

This study was complimented with a second study that is nearly completed, where a more detailed look at catch records for key fish species behind the changing reefs was examined. Together, these studies hope to define tangible ecosystem-based management objectives for reef fisheries, and we plan to start translating the results with the KCSO partners in more detail this upcoming year.

The work in this study represented the Master's thesis for Mr. Matt McLean, and included many project partners: KCSO, Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs Division of Marine Resources, Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority, and Dr. Peter Houk's research lab at the University of Guam. This project was funded through the US National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Micronesia Conservation Trust. A copy of the study can be obtained by emailing to houkp@ugam.uog.edu

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November 07, 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION: All FSM registered corporations.

Persuant to title 36 of the FSM code and the FSM Corporate regulations (2-74), every corporation registered under the FSM National Registrar of Corporations is required to file an annual exhibit or annual report with the office of the FSM Registrar of Corporations between January 15 and April 15 of each year. The exhibit shall be made as of December 15 of each year, and shall contain such information provided in the annual report standard form. However, if a corporation has adopted a fiscal year basis, such company may file its report within 90 days immediately following the end of the fiscal year.

Failure to file an annual exhibit or annual report for two consecutive years is a sufficient legal basis for involuntary dissolution. A notice of intention to dissolve your corporation for non-compliance will be served upon any registered corporation that is in violation of this provision.

Annual exhibit forms are available at the Office of the National Registrar of Corporations, Department of Justice, Palikir Pohnpei, FSM 96941. Exhibit forms can also be downloaded from the FSM Registrar's website at www.fsmroc.fm. For more information please call 320-8089 or 320-2608 or write to the Office of the Registrar of corporations, Department of Justice, P.O. Box PS-105, Palikir Pohnpei FSM 96941, or by e-mail: fsmroc@mail.Fm



Despite the small island size and limited human population growth over the years, substantial shifts in the way coral and fish species were distributed around the island were found. Resources that were once in the best condition (plentiful coral growth and high numbers of large-bodied fish) on the western, leeward side of the island have been hit the hardest by fishing pressure, as leeward reefs offer protection from the prevailing northeast waves and greater access for fishermen over the years. In turn, the wave exposed east coast is slowly becoming a refuge for framework building corals (i.e. table corals such as Acropora), and larger herbivores and predators. This does not appear to be unique to Kosrae in Micronesia, but the rare look into a past window helps resolve how change may have occurred.

The results of the study suggest that unsustainable fishing has slowly reduced

...Passport password

Continued from page 3

that he accompanied Chief Ricky Falcam to speak with Wolphagen at his residence. He testifies that Wolphagen refused to provide the administrator password and insisted that they leave his house and not return.

Another of the witnesses testified that Wolphagen did return all tangible property to the Division and an inventory was completed for those items.

The FSM Department of Justice has charged him with three criminal counts. Count one is "Obstructing Administration of Law and Other Government Function". The penalty for that crime is not more

than one year in prison. Count two is "Retaliation for Past Official Action". The penalty for that crime is imprisonment for not more than 10 years. Count three is "Tampering with Public Records or Information". The potential penalty for that crime is imprisonment for not more than one year.

Wolphagen has not yet entered a plea and is presumed to be innocent. His arraignment is scheduled for March 14 at the FSM Supreme Court. It is at that time that he will enter a plea of "guilty" or "not guilty". If he pleads "not guilty" a trial will be scheduled at that point.

Again, he is presumed to be innocent unless proven otherwise

Improving Island Life



LYON

Mwoakilloa Treasurer charged with alleged theft of over \$13,000

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

January 13, 2016

Pohnpei, FSM—Deetor Lebehn, has plead “not guilty” to charges related to the alleged theft of over \$13,000 from the Mwoakilloa government while he served as treasurer there.

A May letter to Chief Magistrate Mason Henry from the Office of the Public Auditor said that Henry visited the office of OPA in February asking them to look into why there was only \$85 in the Mwoakilloa operating account at the Bank of the FSM. He wanted to know also why there was on \$7 in its project account at the same bank. He told the auditor that vendors were calling seeking payment for outstanding bill the government simply didn’t have the money to pay.

Pohnpei OPA conducted a complete review of financial transactions from fiscal year 2013 through the first quarter of fiscal year 2016. According to OPA’s management report, over \$11,000 of total were for 60 checks written to the treasurer. \$4,126.48 was for “salary purposes”. \$3,656.70 was

for travel reimbursements. \$1,412.00 was for car repair reimbursement, and \$1,158.15 was for “other expenses”. In addition to those checks there was one for \$3,000 for Lebehn to participate in a Nigerian internet scam. As happens in those cases, that money was totally lost.

There were several other problems at the municipality including employee charges for fuel that were never repaid and several other irregularities but Lebehn’s alleged offenses were sufficient for OPA to recommend prosecution.

The government filed a criminal information at the court listing 40 separate charges for individual acts many of them similar but for different instances of alleged criminal activity.

Prosecutors say that a trial date has not yet been set and that there is some consideration for a change of venue because most of the witnesses are in Mwoakilloa.

Lebehn has pled “not guilty” and is considered to be innocent unless proven to be otherwise.

Muslims for Peace

Islam is a religion of Peace, Love and Tolerance. For more than 100 years the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the leading Islamic organization to categorically reject terrorism in any form. A community that stands for education, integration and interfaith peace, we welcome all to visit our mosques, mission centers and events that bring people together to understand more about the true peaceful teachings of Islam. We are committed to helping others, engaging local communities and working for the common good. In essence “Love for All, Hatred for None” is the unique banner upheld by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and a message that we believe is the basis for lasting peace.



Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
Promised Messiah and Mahdi
& Founder of the
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

“Whosoever killed a person... It shall be as if he had killed all mankind; and whoso gave life to one, it shall be as if he had given life to all mankind.”
The Holy Quran (5:33)



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY
Federated States of Micronesia

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.MuslimsforPeace.org
Ph: 691-370-6900 / 970-8800
P.O.Box 726 Kosrae, FM 96944
AhmadiyyaMicronesia@gmail.com

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client, eBay Inc., 2145 Hamilton Ave., San Jose, California 95125 USA, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:



Which is used in connection with On-line trading services, namely, operating on-line marketplaces for sellers and buyers of goods and services; online trading services in which sellers post products or services to be offered for sale and purchasing or bidding is done via the Internet in order to facilitate the sale of goods and services by others via a computer network; providing evaluative feedback and ratings of sellers' goods and services, the value and prices of sellers' goods and services, buyers' and sellers' performance, delivery, and overall trading experience in connection therewith; providing a searchable online advertising guide featuring the goods and services of online vendors; providing a searchable online evaluation database for buyers and sellers; advertising and advertisement services; business services, namely, providing a website that gives users the ability to create customized web pages featuring user-defined information in the field of intellectual property rights and intellectual property enforcement policies, in order to assist program participants with inquiries and requests regarding use of intellectual property by others in an online marketplace. International Class 35.

Further, take notice that eBay Inc., 2145 Hamilton Ave., San Jose, California 95125 USA, attaches singular importance to its above referenced trademark and will immediately take the strongest legal actions to protect its intellectual property rights against any person(s) or business(es) found to be infringing those rights. Note that any infringing or unauthorized use of this mark while be met with civil and criminal action including injunctions, orders to seize, audits, full damages and costs.

Any inquiry regarding said trademark may be referred to the attorneys for eBay Inc., 2145 Hamilton Ave., San Jose, California 95125 USA as follows:

Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.
2875 Michelle Drive, Suite 170
Irvine, California 92606
United States of America
Telephone: (714) 2831155
Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com

Fiber optic repair means slow internet in Pohnpei and almost no internet services in RMI

FSMTC had bought backup bandwidth and taken other steps to minimize the impact

Pohnpei, FSM—The fiber optic line that provides data and voice service to the FSM was as “offline” as it could get as of 7:45 on December 28. The branch that services the Marshall Islands also had to be turned off. Fiber optic service to the two nations will remain offline until the owners of the HANTRU1 cable that stretches across the ocean floor from Guam to Kwajalein, Marshall Islands is able to finalize repairs to the cable.

The estimated date for completion of repairs has changed several times since the project began as new faults were found. At press time, the ship’s schedule listed the completion date for repairs as January 18, but a spokesperson for Truestone, one of the owners of the cable provided a different date in an email to FSMTC. “There were a number of technical challenges locating the fault,” he wrote. “We have now found the fault and have started the process of making the repair. The current schedule shows the repair complete between 1/21 and 1/24. The later date includes contingencies due to bad weather or other unexpected circumstances.” By press time, FSMTC was unable to ascertain which of the dates is actually correct.

Both MINTA (Marshall Islands National Telecommunications and Authority) and FSMTC (FSM Telecommunications Corporation) are customers who pay for services on the line. Neither was responsible for the repairs that are underway.

When the fiber optic cable was shut down for repairs, the Marshall Islands all but shut down. The College of the Marshall Islands rescheduled its start up for the spring semester because of it. The Bank of Guam said it couldn’t process allotments as it had previously done. The government could not process purchase orders or payments because they were web based. Home users were entirely cut off and businesses had very limited daily access and had to schedule it. Many could not, and some had services of an hour or less per day if that. This evening, MINTA proudly sent a mass message to users saying that effective today Internet connection would be available to government offices and business during working hours and that home users would have access from 7 PM to 7 AM.

The front page of today’s Marshall Islands Journal says that MINTA had finally bought \$40,000 worth of bandwidth.

FSMTC customers have not had it

nearly so bad. Because FSMTC had arranged to send the O3B transmissions to a provider in Hong Kong instead of routing those transmissions to Pohnpei and then out through the fiber optic cable, those customers have seen slightly faster Internet connection than they had previously. Pohnpei customers who have the greatest demand for Internet services nationwide have suffered the most during the repair.

Like MINTA, FSMTC initially shut down home ADSL but only during the 8 AM to 5 PM working hours in order to let commerce flow, even if more slowly. No businesses had to queue up or schedule internet hours. The repairs were only supposed to take a few days, but the Tyco crew making the repairs off the shore of Kwajalein found more extensive damage than they had initially thought there might be and the end date for repairs was rescheduled several times. FSMTC bought more bandwidth and at 3:30 in the morning on January 10 began using that bandwidth to provide service to their home ADSL users 24 hours a day.

Bandwidth is a measurement of how many bits of digital information can be transmitted per second over a medium like fiber optic cables. The telecom providers sell bandwidth packages that they are expected to provide to their subscribers. How much bandwidth a telecom provider needs depends on the bandwidth packages it has sold and the expected number of users they expect to be simultaneously accessing the fiber optic cable at any give time.

The HANTRU1 cable and its spurs have maximum capacities of 160 Gbps (giga bits per second). Half of that is available FSM and RMI but neither has purchased anywhere near that amount.

FSMTC has purchased “pipelines” that allow them to access 4 Gbps if they absolutely need it, but they never have come even close to needing it. FSM wide access needs average about 1 Gbps for both Internet and long distance phone services, but the standard deviation on that average is quite high. At about 10:00 each evening, as ADSL customers are watching Netflix movies or doing other things on their computers at home, Pohnpei’s data demand peaks at about 1.2 Gbps. In the wee hours of the morning the fiber optic demand is quite small for quite a while.

There are also monthly peaks. On the second Tuesday of each month,

Microsoft sends out patches and updates to Windows users. On that day, the incoming data demands peak drastically as thousands of computers across the FSM download those updates over the course of the next few days. Microsoft’s most recent update was sent two days ago. Given the already small bandwidth availability, Internet service became noticeably slower. Other major software companies also send updates at about the same time, further draining already limited bandwidth.

Both FSMTC and MINTA (Marshall Islands National Telecommunications Authority) have known for months that the repairs were scheduled but seem to have made substantially different types of preparations to cover the loss of bandwidth that the fiber optic cable provides.

MINTA prepared a backup plan with its satellite service provider for 50 Mbps (megabits per second) for the entire nation, 3% of its average bandwidth, all but shutting down Internet services and also interrupting some voice services.

FSMTC worked with its satellite provider (ABS-Satellite) to facilitate 197 Mbps of new bandwidth. When the repairs began, FSMTC already had the backup bandwidth in place divided as follows:

- 101*/30** Mbps for all Pohnpei only internet traffic.
- 20/20 Mbps for international voice traffic in/out of FSM.
- 5/5 Mbps additional for Chuuk voice traffic.
- 4/4 Mbps additional for Kosrae voice traffic.
- 4/4 Mbps additional for Yap voice traffic.

*download bandwidth
**upload bandwidth

At 3:30 on Tuesday morning, FSMTC turned on an additional 100 Mbps download speed and 30 Mbps upload



speed that they acquired from their satellite provider at an additional cost.

O3B mid-range orbit satellites can provide close to fiber bandwidth. O3B satellites have a much lower orbit than traditional satellites so can minimize what is called “latency”, the time it takes to transmit a signal to the satellite and for the signal to travel back to another point. It is what FSMTC is using to provide service to Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae. FSMTC could possibly have chosen to utilize that technology but the initial investment for it would have been \$300,000 for terminals and activation. It would have made no economic sense to make that investment for backup bandwidth considering that they are already set up with ABS, their satellite service provider.

Even though the slow connection speeds were not their fault FSMTC has said that they intend to credit Pohnpei customers for their ADSL subscriptions for the number of days that the fiber optic cable is down.

Navigation | Marine Engineering | Fishing Technology



FSM-Fisheries and Maritime Institute

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Yap Campus
P.O. Box 286
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E-Mail: yap@comfsm.fm

Student Success is our Success!

College of Micronesia-FSM is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Follow us online:



VALENTINES

BINGO

February 18, 2017

Saturday, 3:00PM Pohnpei Campus Gym

Sakau will be SOLD!

Raffle

Apple Watches, Iphone 7, Refurbished Motorcycle, Custom Made Table, Pig and Many More!



BINGO

BLACKOUT GRAND PRIZE

\$1,500



Proceeds will go towards the COM-FSM Endowment Fund
All ticket holders are eligible for raffle prizes.
Must be present at time of event to win Bingo prizes.

Spring 2017 COMET

The COM-FSM Entrance Test (COMET) will be administered nation-wide. A test fee of \$5.00 will be collected at the time of testing.

- 1) Pohnpei January 26 - February 4, 2017
- 2) Kosrae January 30 - January 31, 2017
- 3) Chuuk February 1 - February 6, 2017
- 4) Yap February 8 - February 10, 2017

For up to date information and testing times, please refer to the College website at www.comfsm.fm, or contact the nearest campus to you.





JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
FSMTC VA. NO. 01-17



DATE: January 04, 2017
POSITION TITLE: President/Chief Executive Officer
LOCATION: FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) Headquarter, Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.
COMPENSATION:
 • Salary: Depending on Qualification
 • Use of Assigned Company Vehicle
 • Medical and Life Insurance
 • Housing if recruited outside of the Federated States of Micronesia
 • Entitled to FSM Social Security retirement system, vacation leave, FSMTC Retirement Plan, Internet and other services at no charge as stipulated in the Company policies.

SUPERVISOR
 Reports to: FSMTC Board of Directors
JOB SUMMARY:
 Under the general direction of the FSMTC Board of Directors, the essential functions of the job of President/CEO are to lead, plan, coordinate, research, analyze, and implement development strategies with primary aims to improve and expand the productivity of the Corporation, within the context of its mandate to provide telecommunication connectivity for the people of the Federated States of Micronesia.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversee all operations and business activities to ensure they produce the desired results and are consistent with the overall strategy and mission.
- Lead the Corporation in setting strategy and direction, modeling and setting the Corporation's culture, values, and behavior.
- Motivate subordinates to advance employee engagement and develop a high performing team.
- Review financial and non-financial reports to devise solutions for improvements
- Analyze problematic situations and provide solutions to ensure the Corporation's survival and growth.
- Maintain a deep knowledge of the market, industry and customer community.
- Formulate policies and planning recommendations to the Board; decides or guides courses of action in operation by staff.
- Responsible for the coordination of Board's meetings and formulation of materials needed for Board meetings. Advises the Board.
- Ensures staff and Board have sufficient and up-to-date information. Interfaces between Board and employees and between the Corporation and community.
- Looks to future for change opportunities. Responsible for the implementation of strategic goals and objectives of the Corporation.

- Recommends yearly budget for Board approval and manages Corporation's resources within those budget guidelines according to current laws and regulations.
- Assures the Corporation and its mission, programs, products and services are consistently presented in strong positive image in the communities it serves.
- Performs other related duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Knowledge of the country and company policies, procedures, and guidelines.
- Knowledge of the businesses and the telecommunications industry.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Ability to communicate effectively using verbal and written skills.
- Ability to maintain a high degree of confidentiality as necessary.
- Ability to prioritize and give direction for completion of tasks and projects.
- Skills in making digital presentations.
- Ability to work independently and be self-directed.
- Excellent skills in organization and time/priority management.
- Ability to manage time of self and others to accomplish goals.
- Ability to provide supervision and direction to subordinate employees.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
 At least, a Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college with 10 years of work experience in business administration, public administration, telecommunications or related field with 5 years in an executive post. Ability to work extended non-traditional hours is required.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Detailed resume and employment application form. Employment application form can be obtained at the FSMTC website: [http:// www.fsmtc.fm](http://www.fsmtc.fm).
2. Two (2) reference letters or written statement on why the applicant should be chosen for this job.
3. Require to provide Police clearance from his/her respective country
4. Must be legally authorized for entry to FSM
5. Photo of Applicant
6. Copies of degree(s)
7. Selected applicants will be interviewed for this job by members of the FSMTC Board of Directors
8. Only short listed applicants will be contacted
9. Selected applicant will commence work late April, 2017



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
FSMTC VA. NO. 02-17



DATE: January 04, 2017
POSITION TITLE: Executive Vice President/Chief Operation Officer
LOCATION: FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) Headquarter, Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.
COMPENSATION:
 • Salary: Depending on Qualification
 • Personal Use of Company Vehicle
 • Medical and Life Insurance
 • Housing if recruited outside of the Federated States of Micronesia
 • Entitled to FSM Social Security retirement system, vacation leave, FSMTC Retirement Plan, Internet and other services at no charge as stipulated in the Company policies.

SUPERVISOR
 Reports to: President/Chief Executive Officer
JOB SUMMARY:
 Supports the work of the company's chief executive officer focusing on the establishment and optimization of day-to-day operations in the company.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Advises the management team on key planning issues and make recommendations on important business decisions.
- Directs and participates in acquisition and growth activities to support overall business objectives and plans.
- Develop, establish, and direct execution of operating policies to support overall company policies and objectives.
- Strategic planning and resource allocation. Demonstrates successful execution of business strategies for company products and services.
- Establish operational processes/process improvement.
- Ensure quality control of all company output as pertains to customer acquisition and delivery of services. Participate in capital marketing development of the company.
- Ensure all department heads are fully informed of operational objectives.
- Set operational and / or performance goals for each department which are aggressive, achievable and tied to long-term goals.
- Develop, establish, and direct execution of operating policies to support overall company policies and objectives.
- Establish and monitor performance reporting systems.
- Monitor department performance against performance goals to ensure that progress is being made.
- Conduct regular meetings with department heads to ensure that priorities are clear and coordination

is good.

- Ensure activities comply with organizational requirements for quality management, legal stipulations, and general duty of care.
- Facilitate resolution of issues between departments.
- Take charge in high-priority crises.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Ability to lead, plan and manage change.
- Passion, or the willingness to become immersed in work.
- High-level interpersonal and oral communication skills, with demonstrated capacity to cooperate and communicate effectively with people at all level.
- High-level analytical and writing skills.
- Ability to work autonomously and under limited direction, to exercise sound judgment, take initiative and be flexible.
- Ability to generate respect and trust from employees and the public.
- Demonstrated organizational and administrative skills, ability in problem-solving, priority-setting and working on deadlines.
- Strong organizational skills
- Strong time management skills
- Strong negotiation skills
- The ability to set priorities

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
 Any combination equivalent to graduation from a recognized college with a bachelor degree in business administration, public administration, or related field plus five (5) years of experience in office management or staff work.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Detailed resume and employment application form. Employment application form can be obtained at the FSMTC website: [http:// www.fsmtc.fm](http://www.fsmtc.fm).
2. Two (2) reference letters or written statement on why the applicant should be chosen for this job.
3. Require to provide Police clearance from his/her respective country
4. Must be legally authorized for entry to FSM
5. Photo of Applicant
6. Copies of degree(s)
7. Selected applicants will be interviewed for this job by members of the FSMTC Board of Directors
8. Only short listed applicants will be contacted
9. Selected applicant will commence work late April, 2017

Send materials via certified U. S. Mail to:
 Mr. Ludickson D. Edward, Human Resources Manager
 FSM Telecommunications Corporation
 P. O. Box 1210
 Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
OR Via E-mail to: ludick.edward@fsmtc.fm
Deadline for Applications: March 03, 2017

FSM Telecommunications Corporation is an equal opportunity employer. No employee or applicant for employment or promotion, on the basis of any impermissible criterion or characteristic including, without limitation, race, color, national origin, religion, marital status, disability, sex, age or any other protected class as defined y federal and state law, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for an Electronic-Reporting/Electronic-Monitoring (ER/EM) Coordinator based in Pohnpei, FSM. The ER/EM Coordinator services include:

General Scope of Work

- Oversee and coordinate vessel and onboard electronic reporting of data and information for NORMA.
- Coordinate all work on video electronic monitoring activities of NORMA.
- Establish and implement e-reporting and e-monitoring procedures including implementation of standards in equipment, data collection and storage.
- Install and provide trainings or tutorials in use of hardware and software to observers and fishing companies in e-reporting and e-monitoring.
- Assist in implementation of e-reporting and e-monitoring trials and/or transitioning of NORMA to full programs when appropriate.
- Ensuring secure storage and accessibility of e-reporting and e-monitoring data from collection to data analysis/utilization.
- Work closely with NORMA staff and partners in the FSM, the Pacific region and internationally in areas related to e-reporting and e-monitoring and represent FSM interest in meetings as may be assigned.
- Assist with other duties as may be assigned by the Chief of Research Division.

Minimum Qualifications and Short-listing Criteria

- Bachelors Degree in computer science or related field. An Associates degree could be considered if extensive relevant professional experience is proven.
- 2 years relevant professional experience.
- Relevant IT skills/experience with android based devices, operating database systems, Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Internet Browsers.
- Demonstrated experience in supervising staff and in delivery training and providing necessary guidance.
- Good written and oral communication skills, especially report writing.
- Proven ability to work independently and under limited supervision.
- Project management experience and/or skills.

Additional Desirable Qualifications

- A general understanding of the technical aspects of E-Reporting and E-Monitoring
- Experience working in Tuna fisheries sector and with Pacific Islands.

Remuneration

- Salary will be based on the Local Labor Market Payscale and/or depending on qualifications.
- This will be a 2-year full-time position under contract with FSM NORMA subject to renewal based on performance.

Application

The FSM NORMA invites consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned services by submitting electronic and/or hard copies of a) Letter of Interest, b) CV or resumé, c) support Degrees/Certificates and d) three 3 reference letters to NORMA no later than January 20, 2017. Selection will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 edition). Full Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained from:

NORMA, FSM National Government
Attn: OKean Ehmes, PROP Coordinator
P.O Box PS-122, Pohnpei, FM 96941
Office Telephone: 691-320-2700/5181
Email: moria.joseph@norma.fm. Copy to okean.ehmes@norma.fm

POHNPEI PORT AUTHORITY ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to announce to the general public that Pohnpei Port Authority is soliciting bid proposals for the following items.

1. Procurement and installation of a prefab building for PPA's equipment and work shop.
2. Leasing of one unit building located east of Pohnpei Port Authority's airport terminal with the following size dimension 20' X 90' or 1,800 square feet.

All interest individual/Companies may submit their interest proposal to the attention of Pohnpei Port Authority's General Manager Mr. Nelperson Etse email address netse@mail.fm. All proposals shall be accepted from now 'till January 31, 2017 at 5:00pm.

Pohnpei Port Authority reserves the right to reject any proposal received in connection with the above solicitation.

For more information please feel free and contact the PPA Marketing Division Mr. Luciano Abraham email address 1485sano1957@gmail.com or Mr. Bronson Sam at email address sambronson@yahoo.com or by contacting our phone number 691-320-2793/2682.

Thank you

Nelperson Etse
General Manager



PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTOR VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: January 12, 2017

CLOSING DATE: February 1, 2017

OPEN TO:

GENERAL PUBLIC

POSITION:

Information Technology Specialist

Local hire position based in Pohnpei. Any cost associated for relocation will be the sole responsibility of the candidate.

SALARY RANGE:

\$16,279 to \$22,377 (starting salary)

WORK HOURS:

Full-time; 40 hours/week (80 hours bi-weekly)

Final hiring contingent upon availability of funds

A copy of the complete position description listing all duties and responsibilities is available online at

<http://micronesia.peacecorps.gov/>

OR
via e-mail request to
Jermis Noket

applicants@fm.peacecorps.gov

The United States Peace Corps is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

VA No. 401-17-005

Letter to the Editor

Many Kosraeans believe that FSM Post Office Postmaster General Ginger MIDA deserves some sort of Medal for the effort she made to ensure Christmas mail to Kosrae actually arrived before Christmas.

Because of loading limitations on United flights this festive season, mail and parcel delivery for many weeks has been reduced. Over 10,000 lbs of Christmas

mail and parcels was being backlogged in other centers and unable to reach Kosrae.

So Postmaster General Ginger got on the phone, made numerous calls, pulled some strings and arranged a special flight to deliver mail to Kosrae, 2 days before Christmas. She also arranged for two Pohnpei FSM Post Office workers to come to Kosrae and assist local staff sort mail.

There was so much backlogged mail, that workers stayed until 12 midnight on Friday December 23 and all day Saturday, just to sort mail to ensure everyone received their Christmas Gifts.

However, if those good deeds by Postmaster General Ginger, Kosrae and Pohnpei Post Office Staff were not enough, a further surprise was waiting for

Kosraeans who went to their local Post Office very late on Friday night. There was Ginger, sleeves rolled up and helping in the sorting of parcels. Congratulations to all the FSM Post Office Staff, in particular Postmaster General Ginger for their efforts to make Christmas a joyous time for everyone in Kosrae.

Timothy Fenlon

FSM ratifies the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities are entitled to be full and equal members of society, to live in dignity, to control their own lives, and to make their own choices. In fact, these values are not far from our own national Constitution, which upholds a range of rights including freedom from discrimination, and acknowledges that, just as “The seas bring us together, they do not separate us” and “Our island nation enlarges us and makes us stronger”; so too, “Our differences enrich us.” The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or CRPD represents a radical transformation in the way we look at disability and those with physical, sensory or mental impairments. Importantly, we understand that there are challenges that arise from the social prejudices and other environmental barriers. It demands that we recognize that persons with disabilities have inalienable rights like everyone else; that they are part of the rich mosaic of humanity and human diversity; and that there is value in difference.

an overwhelming mandate from all four states following the passing of resolutions in support of ratification.

Article 32 of the CRPD states that there are international donors who will support CRPD ratified nations financially through grants and other means. This means that a new door will be opened for support for persons with disabilities. The biggest concern from the FSM is that it will be the most expensive treaty of all, but that’s not true. The States will need to gradually make improvements using their available resources.

The function of the CRPD is to open people’s eyes, ears, and hearts, to educate them and spread awareness. The FSM will need to begin placing significance on the accessibility of disabled persons to all public areas such as wheel chair ramps and elevators.

The CRPD ratification is such an important step for the people of the FSM as it shows that the people and its leaders put significance in the well being of everyone, including disabled persons.

The FSM took an important first step towards ratifying the Convention nearly five years ago. In the September 2016 Regular Session, the 19th FSM Congress ratified the convention with

New FSM Ambassador to the United States of America takes Oath of Office



Palikir, Pohnpei – A brief ceremony was held on January 9th at the President’s Office in Palikir for the swearing in of Ambassador-designate Akillino H. Susaia as the next Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Ambassador to the United States of America. Ambassador-designate Susaia was nominated by President Christian and confirmed by the 19th FSM Congress to serve as Ambassador to the United States. He succeeds former Ambassador Asterio Takesy. Mr. Susaia will serve as the 4th FSM Ambassador to the United States since FSM became a sovereign independent Nation.

Christian recognized and offered the United States Ambassador to the FSM HE Robert Riley who was present at the ceremony an opportunity to speak. He spoke briefly and said that he is delighted that there is a new FSM Ambassador to the United States because the post has been vacant for quite some time. He also said he will do his best to assist in the processing of the documents required before Ambassador-designate Susaia takes up his post in Washington D.C.

Ambassador-designate Susaia had served as Secretary of the Department of Transportation Communication & Infrastructure and the Department of Economic Affairs now Resources and Development in the FSM National Government after many years working in the Pohnpei State Government. He has also served overseas in different diplomatic posts including Consul General in the State of Hawaii and Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China.

In his remark at the swearing in ceremony, Ambassador-designate Susaia expressed his heartfelt gratitude to President Christian for the confidence placed in him to serve as Ambassador to the United States. He also expressed gratitude to the members of the 19th FSM Congress for their approval of his nomination. He pledged to do his best in upholding and performing the duties of FSM Ambassador to the United States of America.

President Christian congratulated Ambassador-designate Susaia on his new assignment. He then seized the opportunity and reaffirmed the steadfast commitment of the FSM Government’s special relationship with the United States referencing the political, economic, humanitarian, security and defense ties that bond the FSM and the United States under the Compact of Free Association. In an unprecedented gesture, President

Present at the Ceremony were some members of President’s Cabinet, senior staff of the various national government offices and agencies, Mrs. Mihpel Olter Susaia and some family members, and staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Susaia have 4 children and 9 grand kids.

For more information, please call the Department of Foreign Affairs at (691) 320-2544.



Mr. Linter Kihleng speaks at the 2016 World Disability Day ceremony held at the Governor’s Conference Room on December 3rd, 2016.

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OLMCHS faculty & staff undergo First Aid training

While everyone was enjoying the Christmas break, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School (OLMCHS) Faculty and Staff went through a two-day First Aid Training with the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) last December 20 and 21, 2016. The training was facilitated by MRCS Disaster Management Officer, Mr. Morgan David.



Mr. David introduced to the participants how to assess an emergency (primary assessment) and showed them the stable side position. A lot of important topics were discussed from resuscitation (CPR), bleeding and shock, and various medical conditions. One of the participants, Ms. Pearcylyta Cubacub, expressed her appreciation for the two-day training. She further said that "the training was very successful because all the participants were able to do hands-on and put into practice all the lessons that were discussed." The said training was organized and sponsored by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through the efforts of Ms. Alyson Gombas and Mr. Michael Yarofaitoar.



Aside from trying to provide quality education to the students, OLMCHS is also trying its best to put in place the safety procedures of the school. Last September 9, 2016, IOM gave a workshop on School Emergency Management Plan (SEMP). Through the guidance of IOM, OLMCHS was able to formulate its SEMP and had a series of school-wide fire and evacuation drills. In November 7, 2016, OLMCHS successfully passed the Hazard Specific School Emergency Management Plan and fire drill with IOM and the Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety - Fire Division.



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Education Corner:

Richard Womack, Ed.D

Kolonia Town retailers renew their efforts for responsible alcohol sales and service

The New Year allows EC to review a little and catch any new readers with the story of Mr. Navarro Navarro. A young 22 year old Navarro begins his teaching career in a Roman Catholic School about the time of FSM Independence. He is hired as a last minute replacement for the regular 5th grade teacher who had taken severely ill. Navarro has the minimum requirements, a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college but he has no teacher education. We learned he was an excellent student himself and is very confident in the curriculum he will teach—that is he knows what to teach. However with no teacher training he has never learned the methods and strategies teachers use to teach—or how to teach. The young man has only his own experiences as a student and using those good experiences and good teachers he jumps right in and begins teaching the morning after he was hired. Readers have been asked to join Navarro in his journey to become a teacher. Readers can be assured Navarro makes mistakes but he learns from them. EC has been writing little stories about Navarro and asking readers to think like students and think critically. We use critical thinking questions which just mean the student or reader should explain the answer.

Navarro Continues

But how would the young man teach spelling, reading and writing? Navarro could barely remember how he learned to read English. It seemed one week he was not reading and the next week he was. He was a terrible speller and yet he had always received an A in spelling on his own report cards. He thought back and remembered how he easily memorized the 20 words usually just before the Friday spelling test and he rarely missed a single word. The unit tests or review tests took him a bit longer to memorize 100 words. Even though he had received his A's on the weekly tests, he always had to memorize the 100 words before the review test. But he wondered why he was such a poor speller? In college, he never wrote a single paragraph without a dictionary by his side and he was forever looking up the same words over and over. The 5th grade speller held the answer. The spelling book was just like the one he had in the 5th grade. The new words for the week were on a first page and then 2-4 pages of exercises using the words and rules to follow with spelling certain types of words. He knew without even thinking—make sure the 5th graders learn the spelling rules so they would not end up like him always looking up words over and over again in a dictionary. The spelling book also had the all important grammar rules. That together with his Teacher's Edition gave him even more confidence in the English language arts. Just because Navarro had always gotten A's in spelling did not mean he was a good speller. All of this worried Navarro at the idea of grading papers and tests. He had received A's in spelling yet he could not spell. Something was not right about that.

But with so little time Navarro did not have much of a chance to train himself about how to teach. He was, however, confident about a few things. He wanted to make the students curious about learning. He had learned better when he enjoyed the lessons and actively participated in them. He had liked the hands-on lab work and science fairs. Good films

especially for history would be better at times than just talking about history. History holidays could be a good idea as well. Memorization of facts or words did not necessarily mean that those facts or words would be remembered. He was still confused about how he would grade but he had a few good ideas about how he would try to teach. But in the back of his mind he also knew that not all of his students would be learning the way he had learned. Many of his own classmates hated science and hated history even though teachers tried to make classes fun and interesting. This fact bothered him so he knew he would have to learn more than just throwing a blanket over a kitten or showing a film. And his best friend Jimmy Devine got a D in history and he got to dress up as a knight at the Medieval Fair. Learning how to teach might take quite a while," he thought. "Quite a while indeed."

Then Navarro's thoughts were interrupted. They were interrupted by a nicely printed note signed by the principal Sister Mary Francetta. It read:

Dear Mr. Navarro:

On Fridays I usually have the teachers leave their lesson plans for the following week. I check to see if they are complete and leave them on the desks for the following Monday morning. As you are just getting acquainted with teaching 5th grade I will not be checking your lesson plans until the second Friday of the semester.

Also the 8th graders will love you for science after only one day. It is good that they are enjoying the class but do be sure they are learning something. Be sure and test them every week. In fact be sure you are giving your tests on a regular basis in all your 5th grade subjects. We usually do testing on Fridays and that way we have the weekend to do the grading.

Finally the 5th graders are just wonderful for the religion class. Father O'Hooligan visited the class and blessed the classroom.

**Yours in Christ,
Sister Mary Francetta, Principal**

Today's critical thinking question: Is it a good idea to have testing every Friday in all the subjects? Why or why not?

Central Union of Young Adults

December 22, 2016

Kolonia, Pohnpei—Some Kolonia Town alcohol and liquor licensees are renewing their efforts to establish responsible alcohol sales programs at their businesses in our community.

Recently, the Central Union for Young Adults of Kolonia town or CUYA has been in contact with alcohol licensees in our community to show their support for retailers who act responsibly when it comes to alcohol sales. Responsible alcohol service programs include these types of policies and procedures:

- Information about laws and penalties
- Information indicating the importance of avoiding sales to minors to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the community
- An emphasis on proper management techniques and policies to encourage compliance with the law
- Information on how to recognize false IDs Tips on how to refuse a sale safely

National research shows that these types of programs help reduce alcohol sales to underage youth. Also, these programs help protect licensees and their employees as well. In the coming weeks, CUYA or Central Union for Young Adults of Kolonia Town and the Kolonia Town Police department will be highlighting Kolonia retailers that are working to make sure these policies are consistently followed.

For more information, contact: Chief of Police, KTG at 320-2090



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