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911 emergency service launched in Pohnpei already bringing faster emergency responses

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 7, 2018

Pohnpei—This morning the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety activated its 911 Emergency Communication Center and administered the Oath of Service to 19 firefighters. The firefighters are also trained Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) and the station is now manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Firefighters and EMRs are also on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



What the ceremony this morning means for Pohnpei is that it from this time forward, it will be easier for residents to access emergency services, both medical and police, and that response time should

be faster. Besides the oaths of office and the official opening of the 911 center, a highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of

an award to Firefighter Joseph Ainstein. Ainstein received the award for actions he took on November 25. EMRs were dispatched to the area of the public market in response to a call about a drowning

victim. When they arrived the victim was on shore and was not breathing. Ainstein performed a set of chest compressions that

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Accomplishments and controversy for FSM Swimmers in Hangzhou, China

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By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

December 19, 2018

FSM—FSM Swimmers made history and set new FSM records during the FINA Short Course World Championships set this year in Hangzhou, China that took place December 11-16. It was a historic first in that it was the first time in FSM history for swimmers from each of the four FSM states to participate in a world swimming championship.

FINA is the governing organization that oversees all

international swimming. The Short Course World Championship takes place in a 25 meter swimming pool and happens every two years in the even numbered years. On odd numbered years a Long Course World Championship takes place in a 50 meter pool.

To qualify for the FINA Short Course Championships the FSM swimmers had to compete in the Oceania Swimming Championships in Papua New Guinea last summer, which they all did in their individual events and also in Mixed Relay events.

The four FSM swimmers, each of whom set new FSM swimming records were 16-year-old Taeyanna Adams who is Pohnpeian and Chuukese; 19-year-old Kaleo Kihleng who is Pohnpeian and Kosraean; 24-year-old Tasi Lintiacio who is Chuukese and Yapese; and 16-year-old Margie Winter who is Chuukese. Each of the athletes not only dropped their finish times from their qualifying times at the Oceania Swimming Championships

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PNA focuses on electronic monitoring program

Honolulu 9 December 2018 — Electronic monitoring of fishing vessels operating in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean is gaining greater focus following directives by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia and Ministers of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) members.

PNA officials recently considered the development of a PNA E-Monitoring Program at a workshop in Honiara. The results of the Honiara workshop were reported to PNA officials and their Ministers during meetings last week in Honolulu in the lead up to this week's annual meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The workshop was a response to both the decision of PNA Ministers to put a priority on developing a PNA E-Monitoring Program, and to the commitment announced recently by the

President of the Federated States of Micronesia, H.E. Peter Christian, to 100 percent coverage of longline fishing vessels by electronic monitoring by 2023. In making the commitment, the President challenged other PNA members to meet this same goal through the "Technology for Tuna Transparency (T-3) Challenge."

"The outcome of the one-day workshop in Honiara was substantive for E-Monitoring development," said Eugene Pangelinan, Executive Director of the FSM's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority. Mr. Pangelinan noted that The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which has been supporting E-Monitoring trials in the region, has committed funding to assist development of an expanded program, while additional funding is also being sought.

Electronic Monitoring systems in fisheries use technology including video cameras, remote

sensors, satellites, and hard drives installed on fishing boats to provide a range of information, including information on retained and discarded catch. These technologies can be an invaluable tool for providing critical science and compliance data to fisheries managers, but they also support stakeholders throughout seafood supply chains with transparency about on-the-water operations.

In tuna fisheries, gathering information in this way is particularly important in the longline fisheries where the very large number of smaller vessels makes it impossible at this point to achieve the 100 percent coverage by onboard fisheries observers achieved in the purse seine fishery.

The Honiara workshop was funded by TNC and built on the progress made in an E-Monitoring trial in four PNA members — Palau, Federated

States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands — with TNC support. During the recent workshop in Honiara, TNC representatives outlined global and regional progress and opportunities in E-Monitoring in fisheries. TNC expressed its continuing support for work on E-Monitoring in the region.

"PNA parties recognize the importance and priority that needs to be attached to the development of E-Monitoring in PNA waters and across the Western and Central Pacific Ocean," said Ludwig Kumoru, CEO of the PNA. "Substantial progress was made at the workshop on designing a PNA E-Monitoring Program, including identifying areas where additional work is needed."

Among priorities identified by PNA is the need for the WCPFC to adopt arrangements for E-Monitoring in the high seas that are compatible with those being adopted by PNA.

Pacific fisheries leaders highlight Tuna Commission action

Parties to the Nauru Agreement

Honolulu 14 December 2018 — Pacific Islands fisheries leaders expressed satisfaction with the actions taken this week by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to support sustainability of the fishery, minimum labor standards for fishing crews, and expanded participation of Small Island Developing States in the work of the Commission.

A compromise worked out late on Friday, the last day of the annual meeting, allowed for extension of important provisions of the Tropical Tuna Measure that is essential to sustainable management of the tuna fishery, said Forum Fisheries Agency Director General Dr. Manu Tupou-Roosen and Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) CEO Ludwig Kumoru.

This includes continuation of provisions for a three-month prohibition on use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) by purse seiners in exclusive economic zones and high seas areas between 20°N and 20°S from July 1-September 30, and an additional two-month prohibition on FAD use on the high seas. By consensus, these FAD closures were extended for an additional

two-year period, through the end of 2020.

As part of the compromise, PNA members agreed to compromise language regarding the definition of FAD sets in 2019 and agreed to work with others on this broader issue.

"We're really pleased with the outcomes from this Commission meeting," said Dr. Tupou-Roosen. "We came into this week's meeting with the position to maintain the strength of the existing tropical tuna measure — and this is what we accomplished."

Mr. Kumoru agreed. "FAD closures are an important conservation action that reduces catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna," Mr. Kumoru said. "Maintaining the FAD closures is contributing to sustainably managing our tuna stocks."

Several other actions of significance were endorsed by the WCPFC this week, including:

- The adoption of the South Pacific albacore Interim Target Reference Point. "This is a milestone for the management of the South Pacific albacore fishery," said Dr. Tupou-Roosen.

- The adoption of minimum labor standards for crew on fishing vessels. "FFA Members continue to lead by setting the standards for responsible

fishing in all respects," Dr. Tupou-Roosen said, adding that this is the first tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization to take this critical step for addressing labor standards for crew on board fishing vessels.

- The decision for a 2019 review of the WCPFC transshipment measure originally adopted in 2009. "This review is critical to addressing the challenge of shortfalls in information from high seas transshipment activities, particularly on longline vessels," said Mr. Kumoru.

- The decision to provide compulsory funds to the Special Requirements Fund, which will help boost participation of Small Island Development State representatives in the decision-making processes of the Commission.

- The adoption of a measure for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme. This will allow for continued monitoring and assessment of compliance by all Commission Members with the Commission's obligations. "Doing this in a manner where it is effective, efficient and fair improves implementation of measures," said Dr. Tupou-Roosen. "The measure adopted provides a solid basis to ensure this as part of our future work."

Mr. Kumoru pointed out that in taking actions like adopting a resolution for minimum labor standards and agreeing to a review of high seas transshipments, the WCPFC is playing an important role in addressing a wide-range of issues affecting the fishery. "We are promoting action in support of human rights for fishers working in our fishery and that go to addressing concerns about trafficking in people and other illicit activities," said Mr. Kumoru.

Both credited the success of this week's work to the tireless efforts of the Pacific Island delegates to the meeting. "The solid outcomes are the result of the hard work, patience and tenacity of the FFA and PNA member delegations with valuable support from Ministers present, and the excellent cooperation they received from our key partners," said Dr. Tupou-Roosen and Mr. Kumoru.

They also specially recognized the very able leadership of outgoing Chair Ms. Rhea Moss-Christian. "Ms. Moss-Christian's steady hand, passion and commitment in steering the work of the Commission in the past four years has contributed immensely to advancing the Commission's work."

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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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COM-FSM's 5th Nursing Program "Capping & Pinning" Ceremony

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—at 1:00pm on Monday, December 17th, 2018, the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, attended the College of Micronesia's 5th Capping & Pinning Ceremony for graduates of the Nursing Program. Also in attendance were Magdalena Walter, Secretary of FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs, Kapilly Capelle, Director of Pohnpei Department of Health & Social Services, Joseph Daisy, President of the College of Micronesia (COM-FSM), Karen Simion, Vice President of Instructional Affairs, Dr. Tulensru Waguk, Chairman of the Board of Regents, and approximately 100 more distinguished guests, representatives of COM-FSM, National Government, Pohnpei State Government, families, and friends of the graduates. The ceremony's purpose was to present the pins and caps for the fourteen (14) graduating nursing students, nine (9) of whom are from Pohnpei, three (3) from Kosrae, and one (1) each from Chuuk and Yap.

After an opening prayer, the reading of the COM mission statement, and welcoming remarks by Ms. Karen Simion, Secretary Magdalena Walter gave her inspirational message for the students.

"Our people face many challenges with non-communicable diseases," said Secretary Walter, "like diabetes, heart problems, high cholesterol...and even communicable diseases like tuberculosis, leprosy... I don't say this to scare you, but to inspire you: we need your help. This is the largest group of nursing graduates ever so far...and you know, in three of the four FSM states, the average nurse works 12 hours per shift...I'm sure all of you will become employed..."

Following Secretary Walter was the Keynote Speaker, Director Kapilly Capelle, who said "This pinning and capping ceremony is a tradition...it says that you're competent and qualified to care for sick and wounded people. This group of nurses, today, to be pinned and capped—they have successfully completed a course of study... that demonstrates that these nurses are prepared."

"Nurses are compassionate, nurses are angels in white—nurses are hardworking, attentive, responsible, caring, meticulous, educated, productive, intelligent, merciful...and most important of all, nurses are empathetic. They have empathy..." Director Capelle continued, emphasizing the profound role nurses play in maintaining

a society's health. After sharing a heartfelt poem on the nobility of nursing as a profession, Director Capelle said "I want to extend, on behalf of Pohnpei State Government...I wish to hire you. I have a copy of your Personnel Actions signed and dated today for all of you from Pohnpei State... and on these Personnel Actions, your effective date of employment is December 20th, 2018. So with that, I congratulate you for your successful journey...and now you can start working anytime."

After the good news from Director Capelle, and a brief discussion on the symbolic purpose behind the pins and caps—they symbolize professionalism and tidiness, that the wearer subscribes to the ideals of devotedly providing care—the capping and pinning of graduates began. After every graduate was pinned and capped, the graduates conducted the Nurses' Prayer and Nurses' Pledge, and followed it all with a song.



Providing closing remarks was Joseph Felix Jr., Instructional Coordinator at COM. "This nations needs more nurses than ever before...that's you," he said. "Who knows, maybe one day you'll be treating us, the people here in this room." The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia recognizes and appreciates these young people, the studies they've completed, and the careers they're about to begin. Our Nation is still developing—which means that there are limitless opportunities for citizens to help fill the gaps. Interested in serving your country like these new nurses, but still need to complete your education? Visit the College of Micronesia website here: www.comfsm.fm/

Holiday Wishes for a Merry Christmas & a Joyous New Year



the spectrum, so too have we endured, and we will continue to endure, as we work together to build our communal vision of independence, our dreams of prosperity, and, yes, peace, unity, and liberty. For these are not only the words on our country's seal, but the ideals for which we stand together as one Nation.

We've accomplished much in 2018, and in 2019 we'll go even further. But, for now, as our families and communities celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior on this blessed and important Christmas day, let us be thankful for one another, thankful for our families, and thankful for who we are as Micronesians.


From myself, Vice President George, and our families: Lenwo, Rananim, Mogethin, Kaselehlie—and a very Merry Christmas and joyous New Year to each and every one of you. God bless the Federated States of Micronesia.

President Peter M. Christian

Dear Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia,

Christmas is a season of unity, and unity for us all cannot be taken for granted; unity is, indeed, our greatest strength. Unity in our families, unity in our communities, unity in our islands, and unity in our country. We are four stars shining across the seas, and we are all each other's brother's keeper and our sister's keeper. It is a blessing to be of this country, as it is a blessing to serve you all as your President.

We in Micronesia are richly endowed in the good things from this Earth, in the love of our families, and the fellowship of our neighbors. Though we face many challenges across



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The Office of Personnel will be accepting application/resume from today December 17, 2018 to January 04, 2019.

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4. 4 SUVs with no police marks.
5. 5 SUVs marked with Police decals, emergency lights and sirens as described in item 2 above.
6. Price must include Shipping and Freight costs to: Yap--1 SUV; Kosrae-- 2 SUVs; Chuuk--1 Pickup and 1 SUV police marked and 1 SUV unmark; Pohnpei, 1 police pickup marked, 1 pickup unmarked, 3 Police Marked SUV and one unmarked SUV.

RFPs can be submitted via first class postage mail or by email to
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Closing Date: December 27, 2018.

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...Swimming

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but each also set at least one FSM record for the individual events in which they each competed. Of the eight swims in China, six are new FSM National records.

Each of the swimmers was already an FSM national record holder in various events.

Taeyanna Adams competed in the 50 meter Breaststroke and scored a new FSM record at 37.00 seconds. She also competed in the 100 meter Freestyle and scored a time of 1:08.41.

Kaleo Kihleng competed in the 50 meter Freestyle and set a new FSM record of 25.47 seconds. He also competed in the 100 meter Freestyle and maintained his current FSM record of 55.83 seconds.

Tasi Limtiaco swam FSM records in each of the events he swam. In the 200 meter Individual Medley his time was 2:08.69. In the 50 meter Breaststroke his time was 28.89.

Margie Winter also set two FSM swim records. In the 50 meter Butterfly, her time was 31.57. In the 50 meter Freestyle, her time was 28.86.

At the Oceania Swimming Championship in PNG the FSM Swimming team was the first

FSM team to become eligible to compete in a relay event at a world championship. The FSM relay team had the fastest qualifying time of any of the relay teams in the Micronesian region and scored high among all of the participants from Oceania. As a result, they were eligible to compete in two relays in China - the Mixed 4x50 Freestyle relay and the Mixed 4x50 Medley relay.

According to documents, the FSM swim coach had submitted the qualifying swim times for each of the events to Sweeter Daniel, President of the FSM Swimming well before the deadline to enter the events in China. Their qualifying time in PNG for the 4 x 50 meter Mixed Freestyle relay had been 1:52.97 on June 26, 2018.

But when the team arrived in Hangzhou, the athletes and their coaches discovered that the FSM Swimming Association had submitted entries only for the individual events and not for the Mixed Relays for which the team had qualified and trained. Had they been entered, it would have been a second "first" for FSM swimmers in FSM history at the Hangzhou swimming competition—the first time an FSM team had competed in a Mixed Relay in an international competition.

The Oceania Athlete Advocate stepped in to attempt to help the team get registered for the events they had planned to swim but was unsuccessful. The team was unable to participate.

National Auditor says MiCare has been troubled by management issues but new team optimistic

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 20, 2018

FSM—The Office of the National Public Auditor conducted an audit of MiCare operations specifically covering the years 2015-2017. It shows that in 2015, MiCare had a positive net position of \$367,805 but that over the next two years the position declined. By 2016 MiCare had a deficit of \$449,795 and by the end of 2017, the deficit was \$1,143,942.

In 2017, MiCare hired a new Executive Director. The auditor says that the new leadership team is optimistic, yet much work needs to be done.

OPA found that there had been inadequate corporate governance. It found that management had inadequate annual budget that failed to implement the Strategic Plan of the organization in order to achieve its goals and objectives. It found that there was a lack of a risk management policy and framework. There was a lack of performance evaluations for the Administrator and Senior Management. There was an absence of effective information and communication technology controls resulting in the breakdown of MiCare's operations and loss

of critical data. It found that there was an absence of performance results and measures to implement monitoring and reporting controls. Management had not developed adequate internal policies to provide necessary direction and guidance in managing their day-to-day operations. There was no code of ethics and independence declaration for Senior Management and members of the Board of Directors which could and likely did result in conflict-of-interest decisions, though the audit did not specifically accuse MiCare of that. The Board and Management failed to provide effective oversight and guidance on management of the Plan's accounts receivable.

Auditors made many recommendations for improvement under nine general headings: Corporate Governance, Annual Operation Plan and Budget, Risk Management, Performance Evaluation, Information Technology, Performance Monitoring and Reporting, Internal Policies and Procedures, Code of Ethics, and Collection of Accounts Receivable.

One of the items discussed was the difference between premiums collected and claims paid out in any given year. Of particular difficulty was the Chronic Refill Option Program. Under that option, the plan covers a 30 day

supply of as many prescriptions as necessary, per month, per year. To access that option, the covered person must pay an annual deductible of \$200 to the Plan. In 2016 there were 162 covered people who took advantage of that option for a total of \$32,400 in deductibles paid to MiCare. However, MiCare paid out \$346,062.27 in claims under that option, \$313,662.27 more than it had collected in deductibles. It was just one example of problems that Management and the Board will need to resolve for the solvency of the program.

Another difficulty is collections on the Promissory Notes Program. That plan was established to assist referral patients who encounter difficulties in advancing 50 percent of prosthesis costs. The period for repayment for referral patients under the plan is six months. In 2013 60 percent of the promissory notes were still outstanding at the end of the year for a total of \$94,906 not paid off of the \$157,178 advanced to referral patients. The amounts steadily increased so that by 2017, 95 percent of promissory notes for that year were unpaid for a total of \$434,454.89 unpaid of the \$455,873.08 advanced that year.

On the whole, the management response to the audit agreed with the findings. It also pointed out that MiCare is a non-profit

entity. Just the same, the athletes prevailed in their individual events despite the disappointment in the backdrop of their performances.

Early this week we contacted Sweeter Daniel and asked her if there was a reason that she had not registered the FSM swimmers to swim in the relay events. "Who told you to ask me that question," she asked. When we replied that some of the athlete's parents had asked us to find out if there was a reasonable explanation, she replied, "Sorry, never mind," and hung up the phone.

Some of the athletes and coaches arrived home this afternoon.

One athlete's parent said that it was unfortunate that FSM sports dirty laundry had to be aired in front of the international swimming community. The parent said that the relay could have been one of two firsts for the FSM and the athletes were disappointed but they performed really well anyway and that the FSM could be proud of them.

entity. "MiCare has an investment," it said, "but charging unreasonable premiums to members for purpose of profit may decrease enrollment, thus great contribut(ing) to financial woes."

In the past, the National Government has had to subsidize MiCare for its solvency.



...911

Continued from front page

were unsuccessful. During the second set of compressions she began to breathe and to cry. Ainstein and his partner Dalferd Perez transported her to the hospital where she was treated on an emergency basis.

The 911 system has already resulted in at least one rapid response that meant that one home did not burn down when it easily could have. At approximately 8:30 on the evening of December 8, the day after the 911 center officially opened, the 911 dispatcher received a call about a fire burning inside a home near the Kolonia Community Health Center. He dispatched firefighters who arrived and put out the fire which had been caused by a butane gas stove. "The home owners are very fortunate that the neighbors called in on time, otherwise the fire could have set the rest of the house on fire," said Chief Patrick Carl.

It's just the kind of response that the Department of Public Safety had hoped for. Chief Carl said that it works on cell phones as well, even if the cell phone has no credits left on it.

While people should not hesitate to use the system there are also some things that they should know, said Chief Carl. The 911 emergency system is for currently happening emergency use only, Chief Carl said. For instance, if you come home to find that your house has earlier been burglarized, it would be better to use the phone number 320-8633 to report the crime rather than 911. But if, for example, there is an ongoing machete fight outside your home, or if someone is in medical



distress and needing immediate medical attention, Pohnpei residents should not hesitate to use the 911 system.

Residents need to know as well that when they call, the dispatcher has a list of questions to ask in order to assess what services need to be dispatched. As soon as they know enough in order to dispatch the proper emergency responders they will ask the caller to remain on the line while they alert the proper responders whether those are law enforcement, fire, EMRs, or all three. The dispatcher will then return to the line to continue to ask questions in order to aid in the continuing emergency response. They will need to know the caller's phone number and name in order to have continuing contact with them. All of this is so that responders can get rolling as quickly as possible and so that they can continue to receive information even as they are responding to the scene of an emergency.

Dispatchers use a computerized system to aid them in their dispatch decisions

with tabs for many different types of emergencies that lead them to different sets of questions to ask the caller. All of them designed to give the best type of emergency response DPS can provide.

The 911 system has three lines that roll over to the next available line to the dispatcher if any are busy. That process is transparent to the caller. Also, phones within the center are programmed for single button contact of the various emergency response units in Pohnpei. They also have radios, one for on island response and one for the outer islands in the event that phones at the response units go unanswered at the time of an emergency.

Chief Carl wanted to be sure that people understand that the 911 system is an emergency response dispatch number at the Department of Public Safety and is completely unrelated to the 411 telecom phone directory service. Apparently, since the service opened dispatchers have received calls from confused callers who

want to know a phone number.

Chief Carl said that the International Organization for Migration also provided funding for a new radio tower that has eliminated many of the areas where radio communication had previously been impossible. There are still many areas in Pohnpei where radios cannot be reached but Carl said that DPS hopes to find funding to continue to eliminate those areas through the use of repeaters.

Vital FSMPC announces price decrease

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, December 19, 2018 – The Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation announces to its valued customers an upcoming decrease in the wholesale price of gasoline, kerosene and diesel. The price decrease of 10 cents per gallon will go into effect on Friday, December 21, 2018. Kosrae currently maintains the lowest pump prices in the nation, at \$4.25 per gallon of gasoline, while Chuuk holds the national high at \$4.75 per gallon.

However, when comparing the greater Micronesian region, Pohnpei's pump price of gasoline is lower than Palau pump prices by \$0.14, Majuro by \$1.00, and Nauru by \$2.37 per gallon.

In the past five weeks, pump prices at all three of Guam's fuel suppliers (Mobil, Shell and 76

have dropped by \$0.40 per gallon. "Rapidly falling international oil prices have seen the pump price differential between the FSM and Guam exceed \$0.35 per gallon," stated FSMPC CSIO Mr. Mathias Lawrence. "The upcoming price reduction will bring us back within our benchmarks, and it is our hope that gas stations throughout the nation will take this decrease and pass along some of the savings to customers," Lawrence said.

FSMPC Chairman of the Board of Directors Mr. Faustino Yangmog remarked that "thanks to the current downward trends in regional and international oil markets, FSMPC's customers will be able to enjoy some savings at the pump this Christmas. We still have some higher cost inventory in our tanks, and the markets remain volatile. While we hope that oil prices will stay low throughout December and January so

that we can pass on further reductions in the New Year, market analysts indicate that they may return to the highs experienced in the latter half of 2018."

According to the American Automobile Association, Inc., decreasing crude oil prices are directly attributed to ten consecutive weeks of inventory growth. However, the organization forecasts rising prices for 2019. "With inventories now falling, crude prices could increase. If this proves true, then motorists will likely see pump prices increase during the first quarter of 2019." [1]

[1] "Domestic Crude Inventories Drop For Second Week" American Automobile Association, Inc., December 13, 2018, <https://gasprices.aaa.com/domestic-crude-inventories-drop-for-second-week/>.

Request for Proposals

The Office of Planning and Budget/Project Management Office solicits Request for Proposals to be received until 3:00 P.M. local time, on February 21, 2019 for the provision of professional consultant services to perform Engineering Assessment and Design to replace the existing Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant located in Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia.

For any inquiry, contact: Samuel Luzano, PMO Manager, Project Management Office, YCA Complex, P.O. Box 970, Colonia, Yap, FM 96943. Tel. (691) 350-2324; E-mail seluzano@yapstategov.org



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Public Auditor hosts talent show for International Anti-Corruption Day



By Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor and Bill Jaynes

December 9, 2018

Kolonia, Pohnpei—The Pohnpei Office of the State Public Auditor (POPA) united with the Youth-4-Change to commemorate the International Anti-Corruption Day at the Kolonia/China Friendship Gymnasium. The event was a success with singing, dancing, video clips, and messages conveying the seriousness of corruption and how we can help reduce, prevent and educate the youth and the public in Pohnpei. Corruption is a global concern which poses serious threat to the development of a country and its people and is a serious crime that can undermine social and economic development in all societies.

The International Anti-Corruption Day marks the joint international campaign efforts by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Drug and Crime (UNODC) in the fight against corruption.

The Pohnpei Public Auditor, Ihlen Joseph stated in his speech that, "Corruption is everywhere, in the family, in the church, in schools, in clubs and organizations and in

the government." No country, region or community is immune to corruption. The theme for this year is 'United Against Corruption.' which is the United Nation's global theme. The Youth-4-change worked with POPA in their program to cultivate creativity against corruption. There were seven different talents showcased on that day. Around 175 people showed up from all ages. The event was sponsored by UNDP.

Performers used music and drama to convey the message that corruption affects everyone including those who are involved in it. There were solo acts, and group acts and music ranged from pop style to rap. The winners of the competition were Ozzy and Ray who told the audience that they had written and recorded the accompaniment for their rap only the night before. It had a catchy hook and was very well done from memory. The second place winners were LSJ, who sang a song they had written. Raymand Poetry won third place with their drama about a politician who runs on a platform of fighting corruption but in order to win the election so that he can fight corruption, makes a corrupt deal for campaign finances.

The other performances were good as well and judges decided to also give each of the fourth through seventh place winners a prize as well.

POPA hopes that the audiences captured the messages to be able to implement or share with their families and friends for a better Pohnpei.

Salomon Saimon, ESQ.

Attorney at Law

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New law firm opening December 22, 2018 representing clients in Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap with general practice of law. Attorney has about 22 years of litigation and general representation.

Firm charges contingency fee (only paid when client is paid in fee-generating cases and some collection matters) and hourly rate plus costs. Promotional fee of \$95/hour for all representation agreements reached between December 22, 2018 and February 22, 2019. After February 22, regular hourly rate of \$100 for all FSM clients and \$120 for non-FSM clients.

Request for Proposals (Re-posting Date: December 17, 2018)

The Office of Planning and Budget/Project Management Office solicits Request for Proposals to be received until 3:00 P.M. local time, on January 14, 2019 for the provision of professional services to perform Engineering Assessment and Testing of two steel potable water tanks located in Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia.

For any inquiry, contact: Samuel Luzano, PMO Manager, Project Management Office, YCA Complex, P.O. Box 970, Colonia, Yap, FM 96943. Tel. (691) 350-2324; Email seluzano@yapstategov.org



IOM celebrates International Migrants Day

The International Organization for Migration

Who is a migrant? A father who travels to the United States to support his family.

Who is a migrant? An aunt who leaves the Philippines to find work in FSM.

Who is a migrant? A daughter who moves from the outer islands to go to school in the mainland.

Who is a migrant? A family who has to flee their home before a typhoon hits.

Who is a migrant? Me, you, us.

We here at the International Organization for Migration, or IOM, work on these questions every day in FSM. While each day is as important as the last, on December 18th of every year we celebrate International Migrants Day. On this day, we highlight the positive contributions of migrants and their fundamental role in sustainable development.

Who is a migrant? For us, a migrant is any person who is moving, or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of



residence, regardless of the person's legal status, whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary, what the causes for the movement are, or what the length of the stay is. In short, almost everyone is a migrant.

Migration is an important social and economic phenomenon in FSM, and the states of Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae and Pohnpei have all changed for the better thanks to migration. Whether it be a coworker, a student, a foreigner, or just a friend, we can all count on

the positive contributions of migrations to society.

Just as we would treat our own fathers and mothers, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, and even that one cousin who sometimes gets a bit too loud during birthdays, with respect and dignity, so must we treat migrants. After all, whose loved one has not been a migrant?

We all deserve to be treated with dignity.



Find and follow us on Facebook @ IOMMicronesia to keep up to date on our activities in FSM.



The family of late Engineer/Businessman Herminio Dela Paz Alfonso or "Hermie otherwise known as "Luhk en Kowpworopwor", Sokehs or "Riting en Roson Mwahu", Nett would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who joined us during our time of mourning and expressed their love, support and condolences through words, deeds, and in kind for the loss of our dearly beloved. He was a loving Husband, a doting Father, a Son, an Uncle, a Brother, a leader, a Boss, and a dear friend to many.

Words are inadequate to express the depth of our gratitude to each and everyone of you for the comfort offered by your presence, love, prayers, and support during our time of deep sorrow. We simply say Kalahngan Lap Maingko, Kinisou Chapur, Maraming Salamat Po, and Thank you very much for standing by us during the most difficult time in our lives. God bless each and everyone of you and may the Light and Love of the birth of our Saviour this Holiday Season fill your hearts and home with peace, love and joy all throughout the coming days.

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10)

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year to All!

In Gratitude and Prayers,
Dr. Merlynn Abello-Alfonso and Family



68th COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES



The College of Micronesia-FSM celebrated its 68th Commencement Exercises on Wednesday May 18, 2018, at the Main Gym of the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center. With the theme “Today we follow, tomorrow we lead”, 208 candidates graduated from the Career Technical and Technical Education Center (CTEC) and National campuses.

Commencement speaker at this year’s commencement exercises was Congressman Ferny S. Perman, of Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, who encouraged the graduates to “use the skills and knowledge that COM-FSM has bestowed upon them and the entire nation is behind their back.”

College President Joseph M. Daisy Ed.D. provided the welcoming remarks at the ceremony. Mitchell Marino and Maryfe Quiambao delivered the Valedictory address.

Conferring degrees to graduates was given by Board of Regents Chairman, Dr. Tulensru Waguk, and accepting the graduates was the Secretary of the FSM Department of Education, the Honorable Kalwin Kephas.

In attendance were the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the college’s Board of Regents Johannes Berdon, and Pelma Mingii. Also in attendance were members of the

diplomatic corps, leaders from both the local and national governments, and members of the college community at large.

Twenty six of the 208 candidates graduated with academic honors. Twelve achieved the rights to be on the President’s List, and fourteen made the dean’s list.

Seventy Four students were graduated from the college’s degree and certificate of achievement programs in the summer of 2018. Thirty four were from the National Campus, 10 from CTEC, 9 from Chuuk Campus, 16 from Kosrae Campus, and 5 from Yap Campus.



During this Holiday Season we pause to reflect the past and express sincere gratitude to friends of the College.

Happy Holidays

Tell us how the college helped you become successful! Share your story by emailing us at alumnisuccess@comfsm.fm. We want to hear about your achievements.

National Campus
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Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941
Phone: (691)320-2480
Fax: (691)320-2479
E-Mail: national@comfsm.fm

Chuuk Campus
P.O. Box 879
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Kosrae Campus
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Yap Campus
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College of Micronesia-FSM is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

www.comfsm.fm

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NOTICE OF INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

Please take notice that as of June 30, 2018, the following SAVINGS and CHECKING ACCOUNTS on deposit with Bank of Guam[®] are inactive and the accountholders listed below must immediately contact their respective Bank of Guam[®] Branch, otherwise, the funds contained in these accounts will be transferred to the Secretary of Finance during the month of January 2019, pursuant to 29 FSMC §106 (16) and 29 FSMC §602 and under the procedures set forth in 17 FSMC §102. Please take note that after January 2019, all inquiries pertaining to the accounts below must be directed to the Secretary of Finance.

CHUUK BRANCH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

JAYBOONE SUKA
PO BOX 520 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

ARLEEN AIZAWA
PO BOX 1315 - CHUUK FM 96942

YURIE AIZAWA
PO BOX 100 - CHUUK FM 96942

HENZEL AKAPITO
PO BOX 745 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

AKIRA ALEX
MOEN - TRUK, FSM 96942

NERIO ALEXANDER
PO BOX 1525 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

APONUT BARGAIN HOUSE
PO BOX 1088 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

MANUELA R ASAN & ATLINA HAMO
PO BOX 5335 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

AMUO ASOSON
PO BOX 185 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

ATENY ATEN or JAYLEEN ANDON
PO BOX 912 - CHUUK FM 96942

SHERRYL ANNE BANTILAN
PO BOX 965 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

SERINO BUALLJAY
PO BOX 873 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

ROFICH CHIENEN
PO BOX 1420 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

CHUUK AIZAWA RESORT INCORPORATED
PO BOX 100 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

DASIANA CHUWEINUK
MOEN, TRUK 96942

SALVATOR D EJERCITADO
PO BOX 1347 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

ROSALIA ELIAS
PO BOX 1315 - CHUUK FM 96942

ENCHI ERAM
PO BOX 803 - CHUUK FM 96942

FINALISI IRAS GOSPEL BEAM
PO BOX 727 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

ROSALY FRANCIS or STEVE FRANCIS
FEFAN ISLAND - CHUUK FSM 96942

INGEITI FRED
PO BOX 1428 - CHUUK FM 96942

PAULA HAIMEN or APIA RUBEN
PO BOX 1079 - CHUUK FM 96942

VITALINA HARICKY
PO BOX 525 - TRUK FM 96942

OBET HELLY or STIMA HELLY
PO BOX 734 - CHUUK FM 96942

FUTALINA HERRY or HERRYANN HERRY
PO BOX 1197 - CHUUK FM 96942

ANNELORE SUDA HIKUTA
PO BOX 27266 - BARRIGADA, GU 96921

JR STEPHEN IFRAM
PO BOX 838 - CHUUK FM 96942

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS COMMISS
PO BOX 662 - CHUUK FM 96942

ISLAND PC CONNECTION
PO BOX 62 - CHUUK FM 96942

TAKESY JACOB or ANNE SHARSY
PO BOX 282 - CHUUK FM 96942

LEE ANN JESSE
PO BOX 194 - CHUUK FM 96942

RUTHY JOSEPH or TOMMY JOSEPH
PO BOX 587 - CHUUK FM 96942

LIWINA KELLER for STEPHANIE STEPHEN
PO BOX 352 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

KATSAN KHAN
PO BOX 560 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

DORIS J KILLION
PO BOX 186 - PENIESENT WENO
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

LEG AKIOSY
PO BOX 193 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

TOREN LOKOPWE
PO BOX 97 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

BEGONIA MAIPI or ALMA WICHEP
MOEN ISLAND - TRUK STATE 96942

VICTORIA MARCUS
PO BOX 535 - CHUUK FM 96942-0535

RUSTY MARAS MARTIN
PO BOX 653 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

LIMA ADAM MATHIAS
PO BOX 611 - CHUUK FM 96942

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SAPUK VILLAGE - WENO, CHUUK, FM 96942

MC STORE
PO BOX 1364 - CHUUK FM 96942

KENER MILLER
PO BOX 1397 - WENO CHUUK FM 96942

MORI SALLY
PO BOX - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

JIM MORI
PO BOX 365 - CHUUK FM 96942

CHAKKII MUTTO aka SOFINUS PATIS
ULUL ISLAND - TRUK STATE, FSM 96942

WHITNEY NAKAYAMA
PO BOX 419 - TRUK FM 96942

BENITO NEREO
PO BOX 1648 - CHUUK FM 96942

INONI NETHON or DERENSIA NETHON
UMAN MWANUKUN - CHUUK FSM 96942

JOHN NEWO
MWAN VILLAGE - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

RAIN NIKAMUJ or RAFINA NIKAMUJ
MOEN ISLANDS - TRUK, FSM 96942

ANTHONY OTTO
PO BOX 627 - CHUUK FM 96942

HERENSIA OTTO
TONOAS MWANON - CHUUK FSM 96942

ROSELY M PONUN
PO BOX 534 - CHUUK FM 96942

MERINA I RAED if SEMIRIN RAED
PO BOX 706 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

JAI RAM
PO BOX 305 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

ENORITA RECKY
PO BOX 743 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

CHINTA S RESELAP
PO BOX 510 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

STEPHEN RICHMOND
906SE CLATSAP ST. - PORTLAND, OREGON 97202

WILFRED ROBERT or DANNA RUTH ROBERT
or BARTOL MWAREY
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TACHINA ROSOW
PO BOX 545 - FOUP TOL
WENO CHUUK FM 96942

ITORIE H ROTENIS
PO BOX 267 - TRUK FM 96942

SONIA SAINASH
PO BOX 561 - WENO CHUUK FM 96942

MAYLEEN SANA
PO BOX 669 - CHUUK FM 96942-0669

KILARA SATAK
PO BOX 945 - CHUUK FM 96942

ANN SEWELL t/f MAY SEWELL
PO BOX 837 - CHUUK FM 96942

TARLYN SIMINA or GLADWIN OTIS
PO BOX 1485 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

FRANCIS SOIEN
PO BOX 112 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

DARLEEN SOS or MERCY SOS
PO BOX 53 - CHUUK FM 96942

IVONY SOTER
PO BOX 1151 - CHUUK FM 96942

JESSICA JESSY STANLEY if KEANU STANLEY
PO BOX 549 - CHUUK FM 96942

FAUSTINO A TIO or VICKETA TIO
PO BOX 981 - CHUUK FM 96942

SENINA WIA t/f JENIFIF ANGIWIM
PO BOX 24 - CHUUK FM 96942

JOHN WILLIAM t/f JEVRIK WILLIAM
PO BOX 573 - CHUUK FM 96942

LOVE T WILLIAM t/f SILFALYNN WILLIAM
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NANIS WILLIAM
PO BOX 1241 - WENO, CHUUK FM 96942

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CHATTERING ORGANIZATION GROUP
PO BOX 217 - CHUUK FM 96942

GENESIS COMPUTER SYSTEM
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PACIFIC GLORY ENTERPRISE
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INGRID BIZA and JAKE ANSON and ANGIE IOANIS
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KOLONIA POHNPEI 96941

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PO BOX 3084 - MAJURO MH 96960

ANCA DEMA
PO BOX 1951 - POHNPEI FM 96941

PISENTE DORES
PO BOX 564 - POHNPEI FM 96941

HAINSTANLEE H EHSA
PO BOX 1693 - KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941

WALDEN ELIAS
PO BOX 587 - POHNPEI FM 96941

EZRA EZRA
PO BOX 1284 - CHUUK FM 96942

ROBERTSON FRED
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FRANKY FREDRICK
PO BOX 143 - KOLONIA, POHNPEI 96941

SENIORIDA HAM - HOLD TO POHNPEI 96941

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PO BOX 396 - POHNPEI FM 96941

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ERMIHNE KARLOS
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ELWEL KILMETE
PO BOX 2280 - POHNPEI FM 96941

KATSUYA KITAMURA
PO BOX 934 - KOLONIA POHNPEI FM 96941

SA MUN KO
PO BOX 2420 - KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941

IN SEOP LEE
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JANET LEKKA
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WALLEY WELSON LEMUEL
PO BOX 580 - POHNPEI FM 96941

KEITLEEN LOUIS
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LUKOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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PO BOX 392 - POHNPEI FM 96941

JENEVY MARK
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ANKEL MARQUEZ
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NANSEIHPA MIHKEL
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PELIMI MOSES if ANTHONY GIACOMINO
NO STREET ADDRESS
MAND METELONIM, PONAPE CI 96941

CYNTHIA N MUSADA
PO BOX 2123 - POHNPEI FM 96941

ROBERT NANPEI
PO BOX 836 - POHNPEI FM 96941

EVELYNN NETH if ELDONNA NETH
PO BOX 1747 - POHNPEI FM 96941

NAIMY D OBED or PATRICK OBED
PO BOX 1164 - KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941

COOPER LEE OLTER or BEAURINA MARTIN
12948 S BLACK FOOT DR - OLATHE, KS 66062

HIROAKI ONOZAWA
1-24-1-701 - AMAGASAKI, JP 66100-0033

ABHILASH BABU PANACKAL
PO BOX 189 - KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941

MARY PETER
PO BOX 898 - POHNPEI FM 96941-0898

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HOLD TO POHNPEI BR 96941

YOSPER ROBERT
1526 PINEVILLE RD BLD 2 APT 10
NEOSHO, MO 64850

TERINA SAM
PO BOX 159 - POHNPEI FM 96941

STACY SANTOS or AMELIA ANDREAS
PO BOX 1137 - POHNPEI FM 96941

WELSON SANTOS
PO BOX 2281 - POHNPEI FM 96941

LYDIA SOLOMON
PO BOX 1435 - POHNPEI FM 96941

LYDIA SOLOMON
PO BOX 1435 - POHNPEI FM 96941

CARYTA SONDEN or VICTOR SONDEN
PO BOX 2010 - POHNPEI FM 96941

CYNTHIA SONDEN
PO BOX 884 - POHNPEI FM 96941-0884

JULIE A TAWERILIB
230 BELLUGA AVE UNIT B - JBER, ALASKA 99505

JAYCELYNN I UNTALAN or MIKE S UNTALAN
PO BOX 1365 - KOLONIA, POHNPEI 96941-1221

ROY H WILLIAM or ELINDA W WILLIAM
NO STREET ADDRESS - SOKEHS, PONAPE CI 96941

YAOP YAOP
PO BOX 69 - POHNPEI FM 96941

POHNPEI BRANCH CHECKING ACCOUNTS

NAIVELINA NAILY APIS dba WYSIWIYG
PO BOX 2235 - POHNPEI FM 96941-2235

NICHOLAS J BAKER
PO BOX 1762 - POHNPEI FM 96941-1762

CHARLES L BROCK
PO BOX K2642 - POHNPEI FM 96941

ROSEMARY BERNADETTE DUDA
PO BOX 190 - COLONIA, YAP 96943-0190

HUDSON EMILIOS
PO BOX 1274 - POHNPEI FM 96941

FSM JAPAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
PO BOX PS309 - PALIKIR, POHNPEI FM 96941

DOLLAR UP ENTERPRISES
PO BOX 1659 - POHNPEI FM 96941-1659

MAJURO TRADING CO INC.
PO BOX 2311 - KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941

KATE A MCDERMOTT
PO BOX K3297 - POHNPEI FM 96941

PACIFIC IMPORT & EXPORT CO
PO BOX 685 - POHNPEI FM 96941

PARADISE MEDIA POHNPEI
PO BOX 1748 - POHNPEI FM 96941-1748

PAULUS PERMAN dba P4 CAR RENTAL
PO BOX 779 - POHNPEI FM 96941-0779

POHNPEI STATE ATHLETES COMMITTEE
PO BOX 1734 - POHNPEI FM 96941-1734

SPC NORTHREP PROJECT
PO BOX Q - POHNPEI FM 96941

KOSRAE BRANCH CHECKING ACCOUNTS

JOHN D MCKENZIE
PO BOX 637 - KOSRAE FM 96944-0308



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Environmental organizations host first ever “My Life My Responsibility” fishing tournament

By *Pohnpei Fishing Club*

December 1, 2018

Pohnpei—The Micronesia Conservation Trust, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, and the Pohnpei Menin Katengensed Fish Market hosted the first ever “My Life My Responsibility” fishing tournament for members of the Pohnpei Fishing Club. 22 boats entered the tournament. Many wahoos were landed during the day but some anglers were successful with other species as well.

The tournament was a big fish tournament. The top five biggest fish received cash prizes with the grand prize being \$350. There were also prizes for the three biggest fish in each species if there were more than three of each species caught. There were also three prizes for lady and junior angler.

CATEGORY A: BIGGEST FISH

- Rayanna David \$350 1st Place for Biggest Fish 33.5 yellowfin
- Wilbur David \$300 2nd Place for Biggest Fish 32.5 yellowfin
- Dane Nighswander \$250 3rd Place for Biggest Fish 26.0 wahoo
- Kevin Ihara, Jr. \$200 4th Place for Biggest Fish 25.0 wahoo
- Kirino Olpet \$150 5th Place for Biggest Fish 21.0 wahoo

CATEGORY B: BIGGEST SPECIES

YELLOWFIN TUNA

- Francisco Sohl \$100 1st Place-Biggest Species 15.5
- Rumina Kohler \$25 PMK Voucher and \$25 Fuel Voucher 2nd Place 5.5

SKIPJACK

- Rumina Kohler \$100 1st Place 12.0
- Selino Maxin \$25 PMK Voucher 2nd Place 8.5
- Sendo Welsin \$25 Fuel Fuel Voucher 2nd Place 8.5

WAHOO

- Steve Finnen \$50 Cash and \$25 PMK Voucher 1st place- 20.0
- Nelson Bartolome \$50 Cash and \$25 Fuel Voucher 1st place- 20.0
- Nathan Glancy \$25 PMK 3rd Place 18.0

MAHIMAHI

- Jimmy Obispo \$100 1st Place 18.5

RAINBOW RUNNER

- Santriko Ioanis \$100 1st Place 9.0
- Rayanna David \$25 PMK Voucher and \$25 Fuel Voucher 2nd Place 6.5

CATEGORY C: LADY ANGLER

- Michelle Sannicolas \$200 1st Place- 18.0 Wahoo
- Lara Trott \$150 2nd Place- 16.0 Wahoo
- Maria Spegal 100 3rd Place- 15.0 Wahoo

CATEGORY D: JUNIOR

- Gabby Edward \$100 1st Place 16.5 Mahimahi
- Junior Ioanis \$75 2nd Place 15.0 Wahoo
- Chris Edward 50 3rd Place 13.5 Wahoo

It was a great tourney and we want to thank the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, the Micronesia Conservation Trust and the Pohnpei Menin Katengensed Fish Market

Give a big round of applause to all the anglers who went out. We are also pleased to work in whatever way we can with the conservation groups involved and will wear the t-shirts to support conservation.

Everyone have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are looking forward to a great 2019 for fishing.



Request for Proposals

The Office of Planning and Budget/Project Management Office solicits proposals to be received until 3:00 P.M. local time, on January 24, 2019 for furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment necessary to complete the Colonia Wellness Center Project located in Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia.

For any inquiry, contact: Samuel Luzano, PMO Manager, Project Management Office, YCA Complex, P.O. Box 970, Colonia, Yap, FM 96943. Tel. (691) 350-2324; Email seluzano@yapstategov.org

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Letter to the Editor

The article on page 10 of your recent issue "Four arrested in conjunction with illegal dredging in Sokehs" should have read "Four wrongfully arrested for no valid reason at all"

The arrest of Mr. Jose San Nicolas, and his friends Mr. Sohs Abraham, and Mr. Juan San Nicolas was most unfortunate! And very sad indeed! The arrest was without probable cause. The arrest was without a warrant. The arrest was wrongful. The search was conducted without probable cause. The search conducted was without a warrant. The search was illegal. The search was scary. And their confinement in jail was illegal.

As couple of days later, the Pohnpei law enforcement gang, equipped with a search and an arrest warrant arrested Jose San Nicolas, Sohs Abraham, Juan San Nicolas and John Sog. A couple of days later, the Pohnpei law enforcement gang again raided The San Nicolas business premises.

Pohnpei Public Lands Trust Board of Trustees, Pohnpei State Government Permit No. 059-15, issued its Permit No. 059-15 to Marcia David and Reed David, Jr., on January 12, 2018, as permittee to remove dyke and landfill at Danpei, Sokehs. Attached herewith is a true and correct copy of Permit No. 059-15. As a permittee, the Davids entered into a contract with Whitesand Company for the dyke removal and landfill. Whitesand Company is a local company which engages in sand mining and dredging and is owned by Miko San Nicolas and his nephew, Larry San Nicolas. Attached herewith are copies of Whitesand Company business license.

VCS Company is a local company

which engages in construction, import of construction supplies and operation of a cement block plant in Kolonia. VCS is owned by Juan San Nicolas. Attached hereto is a true and correct copy of its business license. VCS does not engage in sand mining and dredging.

There exists a privity between The Pohnpei Public Trust Board of Trustees, Pohnpei and the permittees, Marcia David and Reed David, Jr., by virtue of issuance of Permit No. 059-15 to the Davids by the Board of Trustees. As permittee, the Davids are answerable to the board of trustees for issues or matters pertaining to the terms of the permit. However, instead of arresting the permittee for an alleged possible violation of the terms of the permit, Pohnpei State law enforcement gang went out and engaged in the often competitive enterprise of ferreting out crimes and illegally arrested Jose San Nicolas, Sohs Abraham, John Jog, and Juan San Nicolas and threw them in jail.

Thus, the wrongful and illegal arrest of Jose San Nicolas has radically re-defined the meaning of the word "Permittee" by introducing additional new elements in its ordinary meaning. The word "Permittee" now has a new meaning: One who engages in construction, imports construction supplies, and operates a cement block plant can be considered as "Permittee", and subject easily to wrongful and illegal arrest by the Pohnpei law enforcement gang.

*John Weilbacher
via Larry San Nicolas*

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Letter to the Editor

Illegal sand mining and dredging

It is reported that illegal sand mining and dredging is the third largest global criminal enterprise behind counterfeiting and drug trafficking. Illegal sand mining and dredging is ranked higher as a global criminal activity than human trafficking and illegal logging, ranked fourth and fifth respectively. Air, water and sand are the most consumed natural resources in the world and we are running out of sand because organized criminal syndicates motivated by greed and business profit are illegally harvesting sand all over the world. Sand is used extensively in construction and is the principal component of concrete, glass, mortar, and brick manufacture. Sand is used throughout the world to make landfills and construct artificial reefs and has many industrial uses such as in hydraulic fracturing to harvest underground natural gas and in the manufacture of chemicals and plastics. Sand is not a sustainable resource. It takes millions of years to make a bed

of sand and indiscriminate extraction of the resource has severe environmental and social consequences. Uncontrolled mining of sand causes erosion, flooding and loss of shorelines. It is reported that 75% to 80% of the world's beaches are retreating, in part caused by harvesting sand. When a large volume of sand is sucked up from the ocean floor waves and currents are impacted and gravity gradually fills in the hole impacting the coast line of adjacent shores. It is reported that 25 islands in Indonesia have disappeared in part because of illegal sand mining. Sand is essential to maintain our source of food and its uncontrolled harvest can result in loss of habitat for marine life, loss of biodiversity, and in the long term, impaired food security. The Pohnpei Legislature amended Chapter 9 of Title 42 of the Pohnpei Code to regulate and control mining and dredging. The Legislature established a statutory regime to regulate and control all mining and dredging for materials, including coral and sand, on public trust lands and designated the Board of Trustees of the Pohnpei Public Lands Trust as the sole entity to authorize issuance of permits to mine or dredge. The Board of Trustees and Pohnpei State Government, with a view toward protecting our shorelines from erosion

and limiting damage to marine habitat, must serve as stewards of this limited natural resource and be the guardians of our future wellbeing by regulating the mining of sand and dredging of coral, determining the appropriate locations of

mining and dredging and restricting the amount of material which can be taken from any one location.

Dana W. Smith

Opinion Editorial

In the Pacific Islands the ocean is life and we need local and global action to safeguard it for future generations

By Carlotta Leon Guerrero

Wherever in the world you're reading this we share a backyard—our ocean. In fact, we humans share nothing so completely, or as vast, as the ocean.

Here in the Pacific Islands, the ocean is life. For thousands of years it has provided food, dictated the weather, and served as the transportation system for our people. On Guam, we're seeing a resurgence in traditional voyaging and sailing, a cultural practice that ties our people and history to the ocean. Enabling this renaissance to reach its full potential requires a healthy marine environment, as wayfinders rely on nature to provide navigational tools—such as birds, fish, and currents—to help them find islands beyond the horizon.

But in the brief span of my lifetime, our ocean has become warmer, more acidified, more polluted, and increasingly devoid of sea life, a deadly combination that threatens the viability of many coastal communities and, in some cases, entire island nations.

Clearly the time to act is now, and the big blinking arrow of scientific evidence points us to a way to responsible ocean stewardship: the creation of marine protected areas that keep full ecosystems intact, such as the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument does in my own ocean backyard. Scientists tell us that these large marine protected areas work. They protect the thousands of creatures that depend on a healthy food web, and they bring more and bigger fish, and have higher biodiversity, than do unprotected areas—thus ensuring ecosystem health and balance. Above all, by protecting our ocean, these areas help build resilience in the face of climate change.

That's why I have become a Pew Bertarelli Ocean Ambassador, joining other leaders from around the world in a new initiative to advocate for the creation of large marine protected areas as one of the most effective ways to protect and conserve the ocean. All of us in the ambassador program,

including co-chairs John Kerry and David Cameron, staunchly believe that a healthy ocean is vital to humankind's future.

Protecting the marine environment is not new to Pacific islanders. For millennia, we have recognized when areas have been fished too heavily and set them aside as no-fishing zones until they returned to their former productivity. Across Micronesia, this concept has a few different names: mo in the Marshall Islands, for instance, and bul in Palau.

The Pew Bertarelli Ocean Ambassadors, convened by the Bertarelli Foundation—under the guidance of foundation co-chair Dona Bertarelli—and The Pew Charitable Trusts, serve as ambassadors for ocean conservation and support national efforts to secure and implement marine reserves. While recent years have seen an increase in countries enacting protections, even taken together these measures are well short of what's needed. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has recommended safeguarding at least 30 percent of the world's ocean by 2030 in order to reverse negative impacts and sustain long-term ocean health; currently, only 3.6 percent of the ocean has any level of protection, and a mere 1.8 percent is classified as "strongly protected," according to 2018 data from the U.S.-based non-governmental Marine Conservation Institute.

As an ocean ambassador, I'll work to protect our marine environment so that someday my grandchildren will look out on her ocean backyard and see that it's as healthy as it was when I was a little girl. As a global society, we're very quickly approaching a definitive choice: to either protect this irreplaceable resource or forever forfeit our expectation that it will provide for us. I sincerely hope we have the collective conscience—and the political will—to choose the right course.

Carlotta Leon Guerrero, a native of Guam, is the executive director of the Guam-based Ayuda Foundation and served in the Guam Legislature from 1994 to 2000.

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The FSM welcomes the US Indo-Pacific Commander to Chuuk State to participate in Operation Christmas Drop

FSM Information Services

WENO, Chuuk—Admiral Philip Davidson, Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, in his first visit to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), was welcomed in Chuuk State this past Monday, December 10th 2018, by the Honorable Yosiwo P. George, Vice President of the FSM, representing President Christian, and the Honorable Johnson Elimo, Governor of Chuuk State. In brief meetings with the Commander, both Vice President George and Governor Elimo thanked him for his visit, and for the continued and on-going mutual support, assistance, and cooperation between our two countries pursuant to Title III (Security and Defense) of the Amended Compact of Free Association. The purpose of the Commander's visit was to personally meet with Leadership, and to participate in Operation Christmas Drop.

In opening discussions Admiral Davidson expressed his appreciation to the FSM for the visit, and reassured the FSM of the United States' commitment to the partnership, and specifically, the defense and security of the FSM. Additional discussions touched on current and future U.S. Military activities in the FSM, and the importance of these engagements in the continued productive relationship of our two Nations. The Commander also recognized the important presence and participation of two service members from the FSM: Technical Sergeant Mori, U.S. Air Force, from Chuuk State, and Lance Corporal Rodriguez, U.S. Marine Corps, from Pohnpei State. At the invitation of the Commander, the two service members flew in to Weno to join the Christmas Drop operation.

Operation Christmas Drop is the longest running Humanitarian Assistance operation in the U.S. Department of Defense. Since 1952, the United States Air Force annually leads a combined effort that deploys U.S. and other allied nation aircraft to conduct airdrop operations to deliver Christmas gifts to the people and communities of the outer islands of the FSM. This year, military aircraft from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force and the Royal Australian Air Force joined the Christmas Drop effort.

A U.S. Air Force C-130 from Guam arrived in Weno, Chuuk State, to perform one of many scheduled airdrop missions. Admiral Davidson invited National and State Leadership representatives to join him on the C-130 for this particular flight, which flew from Weno, and air delivered Christmas gifts to the island of Nama, in the Upper

Mortlocks Region of Chuuk. Joining the Admiral on the flight were Vice President George, Governor Elimo, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Robert Riley, Speaker Innocente Oneison of the Chuuk State Legislature, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Lorin Robert, Secretary of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management Andrew Yatilman, and other National and State government officials.

After completion of the successful airdrop mission, Vice President George hosted the Admiral and other Leaders and officials at a lunch function; Admiral Davidson departed Weno shortly thereafter.



Vice President George presents a framed gift to Admiral Davidson



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International Day of Persons with Disabilities commemorated

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The United Nations’ International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) was commemorated on Monday, December 3rd, with a community event in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei. Included among the approximately five hundred attendees were Honorable Reed B. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor for Pohnpei State, Monique Panaligan, Keynote Speaker and representative of the non-government organization (NGO) Pohnpei Women with Disabilities, youths, persons with disabilities, community and church leaders, Pohnpei State senators, and representatives from the FSM National and Pohnpei State Government.

The organizing committee chose Madolenihmw as a key location for this outreach program because, according to the 2010 FSM Census, Madolenihmw has the highest percentage of people with disabilities in Pohnpei State.

The theme for the 2018 International Day of Persons with Disabilities was “Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.” Keynote Speaker Monique Panaligan delivered a powerful speech from her own experiences as a person with

multiple disabilities, and as an advocate for women with disabilities through the NGO Pohnpei Women with Disabilities. “We are not people to be pitied or sad for,” she said, “But we ask that you take the time to learn about what disabilities are, educate yourself on different types of disabilities, understand them—and treat us like any other person.”

The event, hosted by person with disabilities, supported this theme with activities incorporated into the program focusing on education and awareness of what disabilities are, the importance of inclusiveness, and how such inclusiveness can be obtained through a community environment. One such activity was a student essay competition. The winners of the competition were: Carla Mae Henry, Martin Rodriguez Jr., and Nidisha George.

An informative day with strong and powerful messages, citizens were enlightened and heart-warmed to see so many people attend and support with disabilities in Pohnpei State. More projects and programs focusing on the rights of people with disabilities will be rolled out as organizers implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities (CRPD) in Pohnpei and the other FSM States.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Pohnpei State was made possible due to the generous support of the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs, FSM National Department of Education, Pohnpei State Department of Education, FSM Congressmen Dion G. Neth, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), World Health Organization (WHO), Pohnpei State Legislature, and Micronesia Productions.



Conserving coastal fisheries in Pohnpei

By *Sarah Elgen*
Science Fellow US Embassy Kolonia

December 18, 2018

Pohnpei—With its lush verdant rainforests, chattering colorful birds, and dense mangrove forests encircled by extensive coral reefs, the natural environment of Pohnpei is striking to the newcomer. Pohnpeians have successfully conserved and maintained these beautiful ecosystems and natural resources for centuries, but today they face new challenges from climate change, overfishing, forest clearing for sakau, piggery operations, and other human activities. The mix of sedimentation, contaminant run-off, and biodiversity loss from these new issues have ultimately created an unhealthy coral reef environment.

Pohnpei has a large coral reef area in relation to its human population size. However, land-based stressors and overexploitation of fisheries have impacted these natural resources, resulting in degraded coral reefs that have impaired ecosystem functioning and produce fewer fish. Pohnpei’s predominant type of coral reef fishing activity — nighttime spear fishing — leads to overharvesting, as fish are easily caught while sleeping. For instance, parrotfish, which is one of the most popular reef fish and a target of nighttime spearfishers, has experienced a notable decline in landings over the years. From 2006 to 2015, the annual overall volume of marketed parrotfish fell around 20 percent while the amount of fishing has increased and shifted from inner to outer reef areas. In general, Pohnpeians attest that they must fish longer and travel farther to catch fish — and the fish now harvested are increasingly smaller and immature, resulting in less reproduction and, thus, fewer fish for future generations.

Research suggests that people are fishing coral reefs at a highly unsustainable rate, targeting spawning and juvenile fish. Substantially more fish are now being caught than the reefs

are capable of producing, resulting in a downward spiral of reef populations. From 1970 to 2010, green humphead parrotfish (kemeik) declined 71 percent in abundance and 80 percent in size, and humphead wrasse (merer) declined 70 percent in both abundance and size. Though once common, adults of these two iconic species are now rarely seen, while the numbers of spawning fish have declined year after year. What’s more, giant clams, coconut crabs, and marine turtles have also become rare, and reports suggest declines in shark and manta species, as well. As some fish species become less prevalent, other species that are important to maintaining reef health are being more heavily fished, which will result in further loss of corals and erosion of reef ecosystems.

What can be done to restore coral reef fisheries in Pohnpei? As with many environmental problems, recovery requires a comprehensive approach to tackle stressors originating from multiple sources. Coral reef health would benefit from reducing soil and contaminant run-off. The coral reef fishery would benefit from monitoring fishery landings, enforcing existing restrictions on size and species of concern, and potentially developing restrictions for additional species currently not protected (as well as, perhaps, restrictions on fishing type, specifically nighttime spearfishing). Diversity and quantity of fish have improved where local marine protected areas have been established and enforced. In addition, increasing community awareness about the natural environment and developing community-based fishery management plans (as local non-profits are also doing) are important as well. As we become more aware of our natural environment, we value it; Pohnpei, with its rich and abundant diversity, deserves it.

Sarah was a Science Fellow at the US Embassy in Pohnpei. She works for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Honolulu

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Our family is touched beyond words for the generous contribution of love and words of comfort and care for our family during our beloved Kevin's passing. Thank you for your prayers, expression of love, support, & friendship during this truly difficult time.

We want to thank all those who took effort in the rescue search for Kevin Kooji Ihara, our beloved husband, father, son, brother, grandfather, nephew and friend who was lost and died at sea. We also thank you all for your compassionate prayers, contributions, and support for his funeral.

We especially want to recognize FSM Government, Pohnpei State Government, Uncle Jimmy & Aunty Angie Hiyane, Rosa William Hawley family & Staff, Adams Family & employees, Alex Tretnof, Sakies Lawrence, Pohnpei Fishing Club, Alloys Pohnpei Surf Club, Nathan Glancy, Kumer Panuelo, Andy Musrasrik, James Cook, Conrad Engelberger, Eddie Abraham, Saimon Mix, Sonsber Augustine, Francisco Elwise, Kalau Family, PMF family, Yoshie Enterprise, OLMCHS staffs & Juniors, U.S Cost Guard team, Fishermen from Kitty, Simon Ellis & Madolenihmw family who found him, friends, families, and everyone else for your hard work, support and contributions to this very sad situation. Words cannot express how thankful we are for your kindness, love, and support and we can only allow our Almighty Father to bless and reward you all for your good deeds. We are sure Kevin himself shares the same sentiments.

Kalahngan, Mayleen, Kevin Jr. Kiyoshi, Maybelline K. Mari, Kamalani Megumi, Roy T. Ihara, Uncle Nobuyoshi Takesue & family and Elwise family.

