

# Small fire department crew extinguishes dramatic vehicle fire in Pohnpei



By **Bill Jaynes**  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

August 27, 2018

**Pohnpei**—During the evening commute on Monday, August 27, a sedan dramatically caught fire on the road near The Rusty Anchor. No one was injured in the blaze that ultimately burned everything on the vehicle that could burn, leaving it sitting on the road side on just its wheels, the tires having burned completely away.

Captain Patrick Carl of Pohnpei’s Department of Public Safety said that firefighters are currently still in training. The plan for the manning of a fire department 24 hours a day will be implemented by October but for now, the trained firefighters go home at the end of their training day at 5:00. When the report of the fire came in, all of the officers had already left for the day. Carl said that he was also stuck in the traffic caused by the burning vehicle when the call came in. He said that he drove back to Kolonia to get the truck. He was able to find two officers who had not left yet

and the three responded immediately to the vehicle which was in full conflagration when they arrived at dusk.

The three responders were able to put the blaze out, though it was difficult to extinguish.

Carl said that the new fire department has responded to an average of one car fire per month for several months now. Last month they responded to a car fire at T-3. Two minors were charged with arson in that fire.

He said that he didn’t yet know the cause of this afternoon’s fire but that quite often the cause is a fault in electrical wiring of aftermarket products like stereo systems and business band radios. He encourages drivers who are installing products like these in their vehicles to be certain that they utilize a knowledgeable person to do the installation.

Photos provided by Pohnpei Public Safety

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## FSM Women’s Conference works together for progress

By **Bill Jaynes**  
*The Kaselehlie Press*

August 30, 2018

**Pohnpei**—With the theme “Working Together for Progress”, the 8th FSM National Women’s Conference kicked off with a welcome reception at the Kolonia-China Gym on Sunday, August 26.

The stated goal of the conference was to continue to build and support social development that is inclusive for women across the FSM. Hundreds of women from each of the four states participated in the event See “Women’s Conference” on page 7



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# More than 60 year old Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation building renovated

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 29, 2018  
*Pohnpei* — Dignitaries gathered this afternoon for a ribbon cutting ceremony at V6AH, Pohnpei's public radio station. The building had not been renovated in many years.



Commissioner Peterson Sam said that in addition to brand new paint and signage, structural repairs and improvements were made that now makes it possible to use areas that had long been relegated to storage. The hallways were widened to allow for access for people with disabilities. Other improvements are planned and in the works.

The purpose of the renovation was for the enhancement of early warning and supporting the effective delivery of public information and awareness raising. It was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (USRDA), and also by the FSM Congress. The project was implemented by the International Organization for Migration – PREPARE program with cooperation from Pohnpei Governor's Office and Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation.

The Master of Ceremonies for today's program was Brenda Eperiam. Deacon Augustine Damarlane gave the invocation. Speakers were Kester James, the Chairman of the PBBC Board of Directors; Governor Marcelo Peterson; Ambassador Robert Riley, US Ambassador to the FSM; Nathan Glancy, Chief of Party, IOM; and Lt. Governor Reed Oliver.

The ribbon was cut by Ambassador Riley, Mr. Glancy, and Governor Peterson.



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Bill Jaynes  
Managing Editor

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# Pohnpei legislators mulling mandatory vehicle insurance bill

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 30, 2018

**Pohnpei**—The Pohnpei State Legislature is considering a bill (LB 355-18) to require all vehicles to have a minimum of \$15,000 of Property Damage Liability Insurance and the same amount for Third Party Bodily Injury Liability before a vehicle can be registered.

The Justice and Governmental Operations Committee has already conducted at least one public hearing on the bill but a committee report has not yet been introduced.

“The Legislature finds that motor vehicle insurance is necessary to assure that injured Pohnpeians receive adequate compensation when they are injured in their person or their property. It is the intent of this legislation to require mandatory motor vehicle liability insurance in order to guarantee adequate protection for victims of car accidents who are injured in Pohnpei or who are injured while riding in motor vehicles which are operated in Pohnpei,” the bill says.

If the bill passes it would go into effect on January 1, 2019.

Certification of insurance would be required before a vehicle could be

registered. The insurance must be in effect for the entire year of registration unless the vehicle is sold or otherwise transferred, at which time the new owner would be required to have insurance before it can be re-registered.

If the vehicle owner lies about having insurance, the Director of the Department of Public Safety would have the power to revoke a registration. If that action is taken, that vehicle would not be eligible for registration for six months. If a person’s registration certificate is revoked, the registration certificate cannot be transferred in any other name unless the Director is satisfied that the transfer was made in good faith and not for purposes of defeating the purposes

of the law. The Department of Public Safety would be authorized to immobilize any vehicle that has a revoked registration certificate.

The bill, in its current form would require insurers to notify the Department of Public Safety of any insurance cancellations or lapses. The Director would then inform the insured that insurance for the vehicle has been cancelled. The insured would then have 30 days to procure a new policy or reinstate a policy. If that is not done within the imposed time limit, the owner of the vehicle would be fined \$500 and the vehicle will be subject to impoundment.

# Traffic snarled in Pohnpei as hundreds gather at Pohnpei Public Market on “deadline day” for legal actions on alleged squatters

By **Bill Jaynes**  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 31, 2018

**Pohnpei**—Two weeks ago, Pohnpei’s Attorney General Dana Smith issued notices for alleged trespassers on Pohnpei state lands at the Public Market site in Kolonia and on property located near PICS High School to vacate or face legal action.

That legal action didn’t come in the way that some expected it would come. The expectation of a forced removal of so called “squatters” at the Public Market had never been planned. Just the same,

protestors gathered en masse, ready for a confrontation that was never intended and was never planned.

Quietly, the Attorney General filed civil actions at the Pohnpei Supreme Court against more than 200 alleged squatters at both sites as he had promised to do in his public notice and direct service methods. Those notices never said that the alleged trespassers would be physically removed on August 31, only that those who are occupying the properties in question should be out on or before August 31.

One of the civil actions alleges that a parking structure may have been built

within the boundaries of a road easement and also on two lots of the public market land. Another has to do with people who have established living quarters on that land. One last civil action is against the actions of people who have allegedly occupied buildings that were intended for ex-patriate employees of the Pohnpei State Government. The Government has not been able to use the properties for their intended purpose because they were occupied by other people who allegedly had no permission to be there. Meanwhile, the government has been paying rent for those employees while the people who

occupied the housing, allegedly without permission have been paying nothing for the use of the properties.

The civil actions filed this morning have asked the court to issue an order directing all of the many defendants, their family members and agents to vacate the parcels of land in question and to remove their personal possessions and property from the premises. Pending litigation of the case, the civil actions ask the court to issue a Writ of Possession directing the Director of the Department of Public Safety or a responsible official of the State

to remove Defendants from possession of the properties. They ask the court to enjoin (stop) the defendants from further committing acts that keep the State from entering the named parcels of land and renovating the structures for use by the Pohnpei government. They also ask for the court to order the defendants to pay reasonable rent as damages for the time they wrongfully used the land and also to pay for “special injury” to the parcels of land and improvements found there.

The civil actions were only filed this morning and the court will require that defendants be given opportunity to respond before anything is done. The decision on what to do next will be in the hands of the Pohnpei Supreme Court.



Albert Osbert of Madolenihmw and Cornelio Cantero of Kolonia were selected as Luen Thai Scholarship recipients. They will leave for China on Monday, September 3 and will study International Economy and World Trade at Quanzhou Normal University for five years. All expenses will be paid by Luen Thai.



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## Fraud Awareness presentation at 8th FSM National Women's Conference

On August 27, 2018, Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) presented its Fraud Awareness Program at the 8th FSM National Women's Conference. The conference was held at FSM-China Friendship Center (COMFSM) and attended by more than 300 delegates of women from Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae States from different fields. The theme for this year's conference is "Working Together for Progress". The conference provided a good opportunity for POPA to promote its value and benefits especially to FSM women. This is the first time POPA distributed brochure about Public Auditor office as part of its Communication Strategy. The Fraud awareness which focused on "Working together for good governance was presented by Ms. Sophia Pretrick, Investigative advisor of POPA. Ms. Pretrick emphasized the impact of women in preventing corruption in Micronesia. The first day of conference focused on the important role of women in improving social development across Micronesia. They represent 49% of total population of Micronesia. For more information about Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor visit the POPA's website: <http://opapni.fm/>



## UNICEF and SPC partner to improve data for children, women and people with disabilities across the Pacific islands

28 August 2018

**SUVA, Fiji** – Today, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and The Pacific Community (SPC) announced a new partnership to support the strengthening of data collection and data analysis to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children, women and people with disabilities across the Pacific islands and territories.

The collection and dissemination of reliable data of children and women worldwide is vital to identify and plan for their needs and to inform policies.

UNICEF Representative, Sheldon Yett, said, "Statistically sound and internationally comparable data is essential for the targeting of resources to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and meet the needs of the most vulnerable. We welcome this partnership with SPC, which will work towards ensuring that global best practices are in place for data collection and analysis for women and children in the Pacific."

Through the collection of quality data, decision-makers are able to make positive change by identifying needs and monitoring progress in their countries. Quality data is essential for measuring a country's progress against the Sustainable Development Goals and currently in the Pacific islands, there is a lack of data to accurately measure this progress.

Highlighting the potential impact of this agreement for the Pacific, SPC's Deputy Director General, Audrey Aumua, said, "Good policy is formed on a foundation of good data. Through this agreement, SPC and UNICEF will be able to better support the work of Pacific leaders to improve the lives of women and children across our region."

The new UNICEF-SPC partnership aims to support Pacific island governments to:

- Improve the quality and

standards of data collection for children, women and people with disabilities

- Analyse and utilize new and existing data to report and monitor the situation of children, women and people with disabilities; and
- Disseminate statistics, engage stakeholders and advocate for the collection and use of statistics in policy formulation.

This new initiative is aligned to the joint UN Data, Monitoring and Evaluation Group, established in Fiji and Samoa, which coordinates efforts to improve data collection, analysis and utilization for evidence based decision making and policy development in the Pacific islands and territories.

The 2017 World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator reports that the Pacific Island countries rank significantly below the Asia-Pacific regional average and that the Pacific needs to improve specifically on health and poverty surveys as well as vital registration systems. Insufficient or no data risks leaving children behind on critical issues such as improving health, sanitation, education, and protecting children from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Regional initiatives, such as the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS), seek to address some data collection challenges, however, despite these efforts, greater attention is needed to produce regular statistics on marginalised populations, including children, women and people with disabilities.



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## Former "Saki Stores" employee sparks Immigration and Labor investigation

By Bill Jaynes  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 31, 2018

**Chuuk**— In an email circulated to a large group of FSM and international government officials and others, Vikas Bijlwan, a former Padma Enterprises-Saki Store employee from India made several serious allegations of wrong doing associated with the store. He made the claims from India after he was allegedly summarily dismissed from employment with the store in Chuuk on the evening of August 4 and handed a plane ticket for a flight that departed for India just over five hours later.

FSM Secretary for the Department of Justice Joses Gallen has dispatched investigators from Immigration and Labor to investigate the claims. In an online interview on Wednesday of this week, Gallen wrote that their investigation into various labor claims, including allegations that owners of the Saki store confiscated passports of foreign workers on arrival, a claim that if true might have meant that employees were held against their will, should soon be completed.

He wrote that Immigration and Labor were already assigned to investigate the claims when National Police officers in Chuuk began their own investigation so he instructed them to "hold on and not interfere with the immigration investigation."

"Yes, we will pursue to criminal investigation if warranted from the immigration report," he wrote.

Bijlwan claimed that employees feared reporting any of the accusations he made in his email because they had been told that the foreign owner allegedly claimed to have influence through bribery and other means with government officials including FSM Attorney General Joses Gallen.

Gallen said that he had no idea what would lead Bijlwan to make that claim. Gallen said that he is not a part owner of any Saki Stores and that he solely owns JG Stores with no partner. He said that he has no association with the owner of Saki Stores.

One result of the investigation so far is that employees from India whose work permits had expired were repatriated to India but at press time, the Immigration and Labor investigation had not been completed.

Bijlwan's widely circulated email message which included copies of his contract, his expired entry permit, and his passport also included a link to a "warning" he had written on "blogspot" to other Indian workers considering employment with the store. That warning included several allegations not under the purview of Immigration and Labor. We could not confirm whether those allegations are being investigated.

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### ...Women's Conference

*Continued from front page*

where they heard presentations from authorities on a huge variety of important issues that affect everyone in the FSM but focused on the particular impacts on women.

Organizers invited and encouraged men to also attend and many did. The vast majority of presentations were made by women but there were also presentations by men.

The stated objectives of the conference were to provide a platform where women from the four states can come together and engage in discussions on issues affecting them, to have a forum where FSM national and state level stakeholders can harmonize their understanding and status of women's issues in relation to different policy frameworks at the national, regional, and international level and to unify the collective efforts of the country's response to resolving women's issues. It was also to engage the participants of the forum with resource people in different fields to uplift the level of understanding and support for women and girls in the FSM.

The signing of the resolutions and outcome documents won't come until after we have gone to press. Those will be much more specific than the stated hope of outcomes on the printed program for the conference.

Those hoped for outcomes are an increased awareness and understanding of issues affecting women in the FSM; a better understanding of national and state level policy frameworks that are guiding the governments' work to advance the status of women of the FSM; priorities of the states identified to the progress of women's status and linking them to available technical assistance and funding support; improved coordination of the FSM national and states' government actions to respond to regional and international commitments to advance the equitable development for women in FSM.

On day one the presentations began with lessons for the FSM on women, democracy and accountability in Pacific Islands, and continued through good governance, climate change issues and its impact on women, the role of women in sustaining a healthy nation and onto the important topic of women's participation in politics in the FSM, including the recently introduced temporary special

measure to add four new seats specifically for women in the FSM Congress. The day ended with a reception hosted by the Australian Embassy where several more presentations were given.

On day two the presentations began with discussions on women's economic empowerment and the morning concluded with a presentation on FSM Social Security. After a break the topics were Micronesian women and sustainable futures for FSM, and regional projects targeting women to ensure gender inclusiveness. Dinner was hosted by Pohnpei State Legislature.

On Wednesday presentations were made for recommendations from the states followed by a climate adaptation survey. After lunch presentations centered on gender violence and family safety issues and mitigating services designed to help. The United States Embassy hosted a dinner reception that included presentations on qualifications of a mother to be a leader by PhD candidate Myjolyne Kim and a presentation on Human Trafficking eradication enforcement efforts. Before dinner the video on FSM Female Pioneers was screened. Organizers hope to be able to find funding to flesh out the content of the video to include interviews and more listed FSM female pioneers. The video was produced by Micronesia Productions

as a volunteer effort.

On Thursday, before afternoon breakout sessions, presentations centered on women's health issues. Dinner was hosted by Kolonia Mayor Jose San Nicolas at Flamingo.

A closing reception will be hosted by FSM Congress Speaker Wesley Simina and Senator Ferny Perman. It will include performances from each of the states.



# Pohnpei firefighters stage a fiery training exhibition at Peilapalap

By *Bill Jaynes*  
The Kaselehlie Press

August 22, 2018

**Pohnpei**—As part of their ongoing training, Pohnpei's Fire Fighters staged an emergency exercise in the courtyard of the government building in Peilapalap.

Trainers had established a scenario for the training. The scenario they developed was that someone was trapped in a burning home. The firefighters were first to control the raging fire and then seek to find and rescue the trapped person. Meanwhile, the scenario said that one of the fire fighters was to be overcome by smoke inhalation and would require rescue and emergency medical response as well.

The simulated house fire was set in several barrels containing a mixture of gasoline, diesel fuel and car tires. After the fires were lit, firefighters rushed in as a team to put out the stubborn flames. The water sources for the powerful hoses were two fire department vehicles and the

hoses ran through the building.

Captain Patrick Carl said that he had not expected the training blazes to be quite as blackly smoky as it was. Several spectators had no choice but to leave before the exercise was over due to the fumes.

Once the flames were under control, emergency medical responders rushed in to treat and evacuate the mock victims who were each loaded onto ambulances at which point the exercise ended.

Later in the day the fire fighters also participated in a vehicle extrication exercise where a mock victim was trapped inside a wrecked car.

Carl says that the current training will continue through September and that once the training is complete, his Division of the Department of Public Safety will put the plan into place that would set up a 24 hour emergency response team in early October.



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*Tyana Musrasrik  
PC: TRiO Program*

College alumna Tyana Musrasrik graduated from COM-FSM in Spring of 2016 with a degree in Micronesian Studies. As a student with greater dreams she continued her education at Eastern Oregon University (EOU). She will be graduating this year as part of the class of 2018 with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology.

Tyana was recently featured in a newspaper "The Observer" where she shared that, "I chose this major mainly because I was interested and curious in wanting to know why society is the way that it is" She added; "I have a passion for social justice. I want to help give a voice to the underrepresented whether it be the minorities, low-income, disabled, or the LGBTQ community."

Tyana will have that opportunity in her new role as Eastern's Privileged Campus Advocate. According to "The Observer" this new program, which is a collaboration between EOU and Shelter from the Storm, will open up as an advocacy office on campus in hopes of removing barriers for students and staff to seek help and support for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In the interview, Tyana mentioned that this opportunity came about during her practicum/internship. As a student at EOU, Tyana maintained a 3.7 GPA, served as the Student Coordinator for the Student Council for Multicultural Affairs, was a Diversity Mentor at the Multicultural Center, and was a teaching assistant for a sociology course.

She was also a TRiO student and a member of the Navigator's Club, Latino Impact Club, and the Mission for Environmental and Social Awareness Club. She will also be inducted into the National Society for Leadership and Success before graduation. During her time at COM-FSM, Tyana was a cheerful and smart student, and was on the President's list when she graduated. Tyana was an active member of the Peer Coaches where she is described as being friendly and always wears that contagious smile.

The College congratulates Tyana on her success, and wishes her the best in her promising career.

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# Matson and Amcres host Pohnpei Fishing Club Tournament

*Pohnpei Fishing Club*

*August 18, 2018*

**Pohnpei**—The Matson Tournament was last weekend. We had a good turnout and there was a lot of fun out on the water, even though the big fish seemed to be hiding for most of the day.

Some of our anglers were able to seek out and find some bigger fish. Matson and Amcres, our sponsors put up some great cash prizes, which were competed for very heavily.

Biggest Fish \$700 - Barracuda 39.2lb - Bill Dakano on Pepe Erepani  
2nd Biggest \$400 - Wahoo 32.3lb - Konrad Engleberger on Bavaria II  
3rd Biggest \$300 - Mahi Mahi 27.9lb - Mark Figueras on Pohnpei Surf Club  
4th Biggest \$200 - Wahoo 16.5lb - Patterson Lawrence on Ms Pakin II

Biggest Fish Species

Skip Jack \$100- 12.5lb Marlino Mikel  
Barracuda \$100- 11.6lb Esperanza Guiuan  
Mahi Mahi \$100- 14.1lb Tygres Panuelo

Junior Angler \$50

Denzel Lawrence- 5lb Barracuda

The awards ceremony took place after

the tourney. Thanks to Mangrove Bay for supporting the weigh in. Also thank you to everyone who worked on the tournament and who helped out.

We want to thank Matson and Amcres for being big supporters for the tournament. Support them and bring in some containers.

We still have a few tournaments left this season, so get prepared.



# Federated States of Micronesia forges a way forward to health security in the Pacific

*World Health Organization – Western Pacific Region*

**20 August 2018** – The Federated States of Micronesia has become the first Pacific island country to complete a Joint External Evaluation (JEE).

JEEs are voluntary, and involve a team of local and international experts working together to evaluate the country's preparedness for outbreaks and health emergencies. This includes a set of core capacities required under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) – a legally-binding international instrument signed by 196 countries across the globe, including the Federated States of Micronesia. The JEE process provides countries with recommendations on how to strengthen their national systems and address identified gaps, as part of an ongoing

process of learning and improvement.

“This has been a week of thoughtful discussion, valuable insights and new ideas — but also a recognition of what has already been working well,” said Magdalena Walter, Secretary of Health and Social Affairs. “We know that by working together we can better protect our people from outbreaks and emergencies.”

Dr Li Ailan, Regional Emergency Director for the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Western Pacific, praised the country for being at the forefront of health security in the Pacific: “The Federated States of Micronesia should be proud of the fact that this is the first JEE in a Pacific island country.”

The JEE in the Federated States of

Micronesia was conducted from 13-17 August and included experts in a range of disciplines including surveillance, antimicrobial resistance, risk communication, emergency management and biosecurity. WHO supported the country to prepare for the evaluation and ensure it was appropriately tailored to the Pacific island context, where geographically dispersed populations make delivering health services and managing emergency response operations logistically challenging and expensive.

“We are happy to have supported the Federated States of Micronesia through the JEE process,” said Dr Eunyoung Ko, WHO Country Liaison Officer. “Now we'll continue to work together to implement the recommendations and catalyze further progress towards health security.”

In the Pacific, WHO works closely with national authorities and regional partners to collectively prioritize, implement and fund sustainable national and regional health security capacities, guided by the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III) and the Pacific Health Security Coordination Plan 2017-2022 (PaHSeC). These strategic frameworks support countries and partners to take collective action to accelerate implementation of the IHR at national and regional levels.

Other countries in the Western Pacific Region that have conducted a JEE include Australia, Cambodia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Viet Nam.



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Replace the letters in this Cryptogram with other letters to deduce the quote or message within the puzzle.

Hint: M = I.

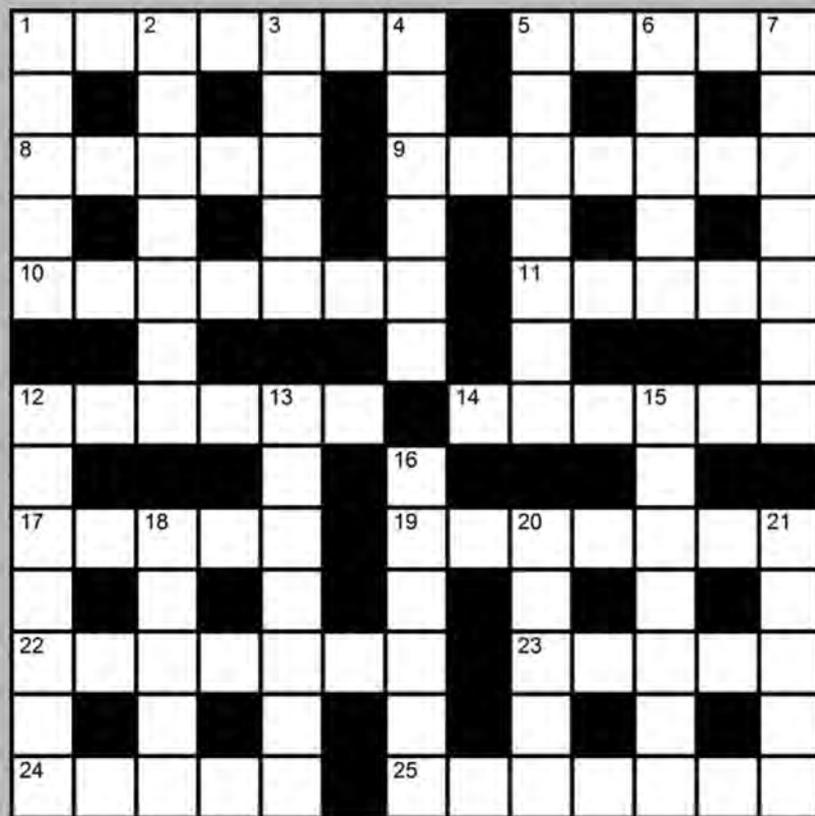
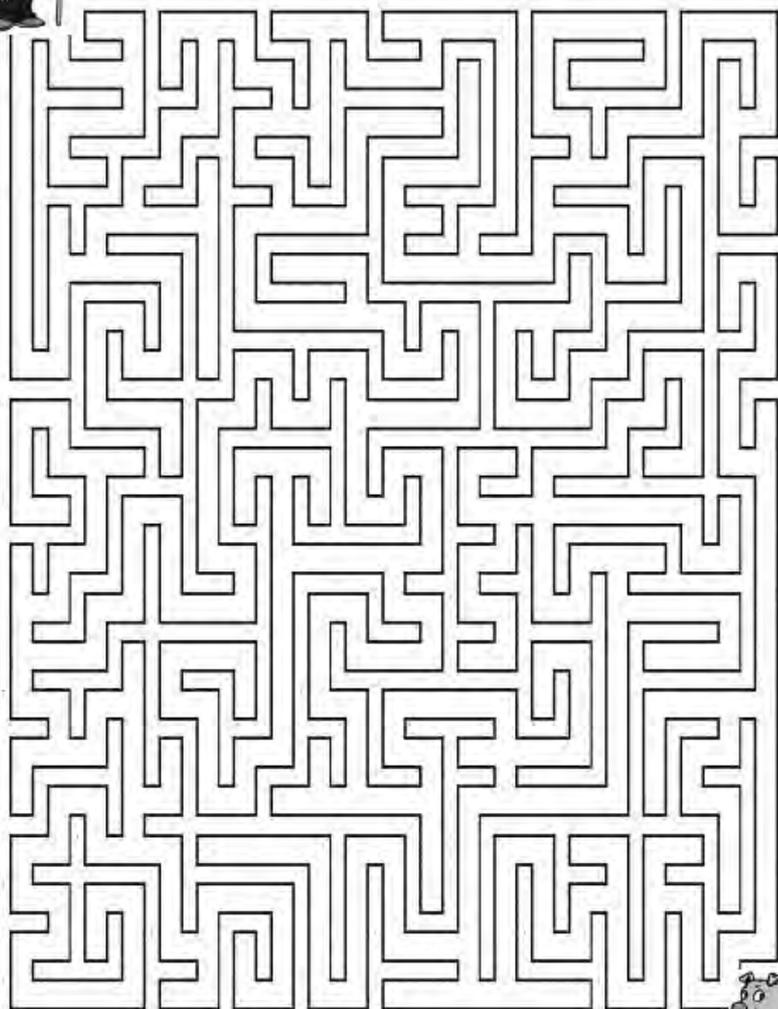
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**Across**

- 1 Peterbilt pilots
- 5 Laser-based 17-Across cousin
- 8 European big-rig brand
- 9 Ryder rigs, for example
- 10 ON-based carrier, \_\_\_\_ Terminals
- 11 Really write off a truck
- 12 Grassy highway divider
- 14 Long-term truck rentals
- 17 Palindromic speeder detector
- 19 Auto-hauler load, often (3,4)
- 22 Really rural road type (3,4)
- 23 Truck-stop rule breaker, perhaps
- 24 Truck buyer's requirements, briefly
- 25 Put the hammer down (5,2)

**Down**

- 1 Snow formation on road
- 2 Seasonal arctic highway (3,4)
- 3 Electronic daily records (1,4)
- 4 Clear-the-road sounds
- 5 Pintle-hitch eye
- 6 Tailgate another truck
- 7 Used-truck transactions
- 12 West Coast items
- 13 Pneumatic-suspension components
- 15 Killed the engine, in a way
- 16 Provincial maps' city sections
- 18 "Nothing runs like a \_\_\_\_" slogan
- 20 Brand on '70s Road Boss
- 21 Cargo-restraint type

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Change of Company Name

This is to inform the general public that the name of the Company has been changed, from "Dongbu Insurance Company, Ltd." to "DB Insurance Co., Ltd.", with effect from 3 August 2018 as approved by The Insurance Board of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The change of name of the Company as aforesaid does not alter the legal status or constitution of the Company nor does it affect any rights or obligations of the Company.

Moylan's Insurance Underwriters (FSM), Inc. remains as the authorized General Agent of the Company in the territory of the Federated States of Micronesia.

For and on behalf of  
**DB Insurance Co., Ltd.**

By:

**Shinchul Kim**  
**Guam - Branch Manager**

Place: Pohnpei, FSM



Pacific Sub-Regional Office

Title: Programme/Finance Assistant (G5)

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###### Your Experience

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CLOSING DATE: Friday 14 September 2018 (5pm Pohnpei Time)

## Interior provides \$1.3 million in FY 18 funding to protect coral reefs in insular areas

*Office of the Assistant Secretary  
Insular and International Affairs*

WASHINGTON – Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, this week approved \$1,345,256 in fiscal year 2018 grant funding under the Coral Reef and Natural Resources initiative to the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula was in American Samoa this week to co-chair the 40th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting where he announced the funding.

“The Assistant Secretary and I are pleased to provide these grants to the U.S. territories and the freely associated states and help protect coral reefs and marine resources,” said Director Pula. “From rehabilitation of corals, to outreach, restoration, and removal of invasive species and pests, these projects support an important aspect economies and livelihood for people in the islands.”

American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group - \$173,200 to restore and rehabilitate coral reefs at the Ofu-Olosega islands in American Samoa that have been damaged by an algae outbreak of *Valonia fastigiata*. Project managers will

be working closely with the National Park Service.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality - \$166,949 to support several projects including 1) participation in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meetings; 2) Laolao Watershed Management Plan Development; and 3) the Coral Nursery Development Project.

Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans - \$220,231 to support several projects including 1) Marine Tour Operator Workshop; 2) Coral Reef Management; 3) Coral Reef Conservation Outreach and Education; 4) Removal of an invasive bamboo plant, *Bambusa vulgaris* from priority watershed areas; 5) the Tasi Guides Program; and 6) the geotechnical investigation of rainfall-induced landslides in Piti-Asan watershed.

U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Coastal Zone Management - \$122,791 to support coral restoration and coral nursery operations, and 2) participation in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meetings.

Women’s Aquaculture Farming Initiative, Republic of the Marshall Islands -

\$134,582 to support a Women’s Coral Farming initiative in Mili and Arno Atolls to grow hard and soft corals for local use and to ensure protection of wild coral reef resources.

The Hawai’i State Museum of Natural and Cultural History and the Palau International Coral Reef Center - \$185,503 to establish biology-based regulations for the sustainable harvest of reef fishes in the Republic of Palau, build research capacity in Palau to develop the sustainable use of coral reef fishes, and help meet the subsistence and artisanal fishing needs of Palau residents.

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance - \$142,000 to support the Tasi Watch Ranger Program which was developed to build and strengthen CNMI youth and community’s involvement in management of coastal and near-shore marine resources. This project includes efforts to remove invasive *tangan tangan* trees, *leucocephala*, and restore native species of trees and plants that were lost during Typhoon Saudebor in 2015.

Earlier this year, \$200,000 was provided to support the 2018-2020 National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Funds are made available through the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs’ Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative. Applications are generally submitted from October through May 1st each year. Funds are awarded once OIA receives appropriations from the U.S. Congress until they are exhausted.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior’s responsibilities for the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees Federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA supports the Secretary’s mission of Fulfilling Trust and Insular Responsibilities through balancing efforts and limited resources towards stronger economic and health capacities, and fiscal accountability in the U.S. insular areas.

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## Air drops and safety goals added to updated aviation risk standard

Global flight safety standards for contracted aircraft operators have been updated to include air drop threats, controls and defences in a collaboration involving the Flight Safety Foundation, air operators, humanitarian organisations and facilitated by the World Food Programme (WFP). Air drops are occasionally used by humanitarian organisations like WFP to deliver food and other basic supplies to remote areas.

Version seven of the new Basic Aviation Risk Standard (BARS) Program also includes the addition of safety goals at the top of each control and defence, providing industry with the ability to establish measures to rate the organisation's safety performance against each goal.

The BARS Program was created by the Flight Safety Foundation (FSF) in collaboration with some of the world's largest resource and mining companies to provide a more efficient means of monitoring, assessing and analysing risks associated with contracted aviation operators. FSF BARS Program managing director David Anderson said the inclusion of air drop risks and controls in the latest version of the Program responded to the continued rise in global humanitarian activity and the unique challenges involved in these operations.

"Air drop activity has its own unique set of risks and controls and is very different to other aviation operations, which is why we've dedicated an entire appendix in this latest version of the BARS Program to these activities," he said.

"The air drop section was developed in collaboration with humanitarian organisations and relevant operators and facilitated by the World Food Program, – the result is a common safety standard for aircraft operators to address the challenges of these complex operations."

Mr Anderson said the other significant update in the latest version of the BARS Program was the inclusion of safety goals – a result of industry feedback from resources, mining, construction and insurance organisations that contract aircraft and helicopter operators.

"No other standard has ever outlined 'why' a control is in place – the addition of safety goals to each control and defence in the standard is a significant step forward for our industry," he said.

"This provides aircraft operators with the guidance to establish metrics to assess how the organisation is meeting its safety goals, improving visibility and performance."

Mr Anderson said before the BARS Program existed there were no clear benchmarks for companies to assess the safety of their own, or outsourced, air operations. This created multiple audit levels that were carried out with no information-sharing or comparability between companies.

"Over the past seven years, the BARS Program has done more than 550 audits in 33 different countries for about 170 different aircraft operators," Mr Anderson said.



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## Chuuk's Premier Traveler's Destination



# L5 Hotel



"I've stayed at L5 for quite some time now and am always impressed by the customer service and how the staff are always up to ensuring your stay is more than you would expect." - Sep 6, 2016

"My family and I have stayed here 3 times during our visits to Chuuk. The staff welcome you with gleaming smiles and are always helpful and upbeat. Our take away from this hotel is the feel of its family atmosphere." - Jan 22, 2016

"So glad this place has re-opened and is where I will stay from now on in Chuuk." - Apr 6, 2016

reservations@l5hotel.fm  
(691) 330-7048/7049  
www.l5hotel.fm



Launched in 2013, The Vital Group's Corporate Social Responsibility Program is dedicated to giving back to the communities that we serve. Through this program, The Vital Annual Scholarship was established, and is being administered by The Rotary Club of Pohnpei. The scholarship is designed to support FSM students in post-secondary studies within the fields of Engineering, Accounting, Finance, Business, Agriculture, Chemistry and other fields relevant to Vital's sphere of operations. Vital also contributes \$5,000 per annum in support of The Rotary Club of Pohnpei's own scholarship program.

We are very proud to award The 2nd Vital Annual Scholarship to these five exceptional scholars from the FSM:  
Stewart Johnny (Agriculture) Pamela Fredrick (Computer Science) Andrew Musrasrik (Engineering)  
Jamilyn Mooteb (Physics) and Rennie Glen "RG" Taiwerpal (Agriculture).



RECIPIENTS OF THE 2018-2019 VITAL SCHOLARSHIP

# Congratulations!



The Application Season reopens April 2019. For more information, contact: rotarypohnpei@gmail.com