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Photos by Marlin Lee Ling



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Holidays filled with spirit, joy, and excitement!



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Photo by Bill Jaynes

FSM National Government recognizes & appreciates calm new year—let's keep it up!

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On January 3rd, 2019 His Excellency, President Peter M. Christian, and the rest of the Executive Branch partook in a Cabinet Meeting to plan out the next several months of this administration's goals. Near the end of the meeting Magdalena Walter, Secretary of the Department of Health & Social Affairs, noted that "This New Year...was so peaceful compared to previous years."

"Every New Year I talk to the police departments," said Secretary Walter, "And this year... everyone I met from all over—Madolenihmw, U, Kitti, Nett, Sokehs—they all say it's better than before. As I was driving around on January 1st, I didn't see any evidence of fighting."

While there were some

vehicular accidents throughout the country, there has not been a single New Year-related fatality for 2019.

Other National Government leaders agreed with the Secretary's perception, with some advising that the other FSM States—Chuuk in particular—were far more peaceful this New Year than some in the past. "It's good to have this respect for our islands and communities," said Secretary Walter.

The observations from Secretary Walter and the Cabinet echo the President's comments on December 24th, 2018 when he addressed the National Government staff at Cupid's Bar in Pohnpei. "I think it behooves

us all to be generous and respectful...during Christmas, people can be so nice to each other...I want to ask you all: can we be nice to one another all year long? Why wait?...we can be respectful, kind, and sincere with each other all the time," said President Christian.

The National Government of the Federated States of Micronesia both recognizes, and appreciates, the work of public officials and citizens alike in ensuring that this 2019 New Year celebration has been comparatively peaceful. From wahu to tirow, let's work together to make 2019 a successful and harmonious year for everyone who calls this country home.

In this EDITION of the KPress:

Robot captures students at Woleai High School

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FSM donates to Yutu relief

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Peter M. Christian attends Wenik ECE Center Christmas party

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Sit back, relax and enjoy the service
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Nauru Airlines



Coast Guard responds to grounded fish carrier in Marshall Islands

U.S. Coast Guard 14th District Hawaii and the Pacific

HONOLULU — The Coast Guard response continues to the grounding of the 308-foot Chinese-flagged commercial fishing carrier Ou Ya Leng No. 6 on Taka Atoll in the Marshall Islands, Wednesday.

A Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules crew arrived and made contact with the mariners who remain aboard the vessel and are awaiting rescue.

Initial reports from MRCC China stated the crew abandoned ship and were on the atoll, but upon arrival, the Hercules crew confirmed they are aboard the vessel and using emergency generator power. There are no reports of injuries or pollution.

Two fishing vessels are en route and expected to arrive Thursday. The Republic of the Marshall Islands has also dispatched their patrol vessel Lomor to respond.

At 4:15 a.m., Maritime Rescue Coordination Center China personnel notified the Coast Guard of a fishing vessel taking on water 180 nautical miles (207 statute miles) northeast of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

It is unknown at this time the cause of the incident, the nationality of the crew and disposition of any cargo or fuel.

“Our first concern continues to be for the 24 crew on the vessel, and we are working with our partners to effect a rescue,” said Brendon Ritz of JRCC Honolulu.

Weather in the area is reportedly 11-foot seas with 25 mph winds, forecast to degrade to 14-foot seas with increasing winds.

The Hercules crew came from Wake Island where they were previously involved in the Sincerity Ace case since Monday. Their home base is Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point in Hawaii.

The Ou Ya Leng No. 6 is reportedly a fish carrier targeting squid in the Western and Central Pacific Fishing Commission area now aground in the territorial waters of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Taka Atoll, also known as Toke Atoll, is a small, uninhabited coral atoll in the Ratak Chain of the Marshall Islands and is roughly triangular made up of six small islands with an area of less than a square mile and lagoon in the center. Around 400 people inhabit nearby Utirik Atoll. The Republic of the Marshall Islands is located near the equator and slightly west of the International Date Line. Its total population of about 53,000 people live across the nation's 29 coral atolls with Majuro as the capital.



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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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

KPress is looking for dedicated correspondents in Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae. We will pay you for articles and collection of ads. Contact us at the numbers or email above.

Chuukese passenger aboard crashed Air Niugini flight files law suit

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

December 28, 2018

Chuuk, FSM—Today, the law firm of Berman O'Connor & Mann filed a civil action against Air Niugini and “Does Entities 1-10” at the FSM Supreme Court in Chuuk on behalf of their client Tatiana Patricio. The civil action arises from injuries Patricio sustained as a result of the crash of Air Niugini Flight 56 on September 28, 2018 in the waters short of the runway at the Chuuk International Airport in Weno.

The Does 1-10 entities are insurance companies that provided general liability coverage and/or excess level liability coverage in policies issued to Air Niugini.

The civil action claims that Air Niugini was negligent in failing to provide safe travel on Air Niugini Flight 56 during its approach and descent to the Chuuk Airport.

It alleges that Air Niugini and its pilot and crew failed to properly and reasonably:

- a. Monitor the flight’s position and altitude;
- b. Monitor the aircraft’s descent below the approach profile;
- c. Note the aircraft’s descent below Minimum Descent Altitude;
- d. Confirm a proper read-back and understanding of the landing clearance;
- e. Properly respond to an emergency situation; and

- f. Otherwise utilize reasonable care and circumspection in the interests of air safety.

The Civil Action is asking the court to render judgment including but not limited to:

- a. Pre and post-impact pain and suffering of the Plaintiff;
- b. Property damage prior to death to personal belongings, including, without limitation, luggage, wallets, money, briefcase, coats, toys, passports, clothing, and jewelry;
- c. Mental anguish and grief of the Plaintiff;
- d. Medical expenses;
- e. Pre-judgment interest; and
- f. Any and all other damages to which Plaintiff may be entitled under applicable law.

PUC looking at a brighter Pohnpei in 2019

Nixon Anson
General Manager of PUC

January 4, 2018

Pohnpei—In 2018 PUC received over \$3 million in projects and grants that are set to provide greater power stability to Pohnpei State. While some of these projects have started, PUC is still finding a few challenges in keeping the power on during the holidays. To keep our customers informed, we want to let you know some of the specifics of what is happening and when you can expect improvements.

During the holiday season, we have been having some technical problems with one of the new RUS funded generators that was installed in 2018. Parts to fix this generator should be here by the time this article is published and once we receive the parts, it will take a day and a half to

bring this unit back on line. This should help with the short power outages we have been experiencing. Of greater concern is that we are also having some technical problems on one of our base load generators, CAT # 4, and it has been shut down for repair. We have two technicians from Hawthorne Guam and Hawthorne San Diego assisting with these issues to bring CAT #4 back into operation and restore our power generation capacity to meet the needs of Pohnpei.

The main purpose of the technicians from Hawthorne are to work on the major overhaul of CAT # 1 whose repair is funded by the US compact, but we have asked for their assistance to repair CAT #4 as well. All parts for the major overhaul have arrived, and we are ready to carry out the work starting January 2nd, 2019. The overhaul will be done in three weeks if no major components of the unit is found to be defective, so, around the end of January we will have full power generation capacity plus back up capacity, and PUC should be able to minimize further blackouts from happening.

In the meantime, there will be un-schedule outages in some areas around the island in order for us to perform check-ups on the operational units. We are taking standby generators off line for more than 2 hours, so we don’t impact other customers without backup generators. Once PUC fixes two of the units, within 5 days, we will cease the 30-minute outages, but if we encounter other problems, we will have to carry out further unscheduled power interruptions. Once CAT #4 and #1 are both online, and the RUS

generator fix is completed, these outages should end. Future improvements to the Nahnpohnmal Power plant are coming in the near future and in 2021. PUC is looking to get a new utility grade set of generators to produce power for Pohnpei, so the future does look brighter.

We apologies for the inconveniences that these outages have caused to the people of Pohnpei over the holidays and we hope that all of our customers were blessed with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to meeting all of your power generation needs in the coming weeks.



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

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE KASELEHLIE PRESS WILL BE RELEASED ON: January 21, 2019

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements for this issue is the end of working hours on:

Wednesday, January 16, 2019



GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Josef R. Guillen, Sr., Secretary

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Date: November 26, 2018

The Department of Justice is soliciting proposal to purchase Twelve (12) vehicles describe as follows:

Nine (9) SUVs
Three (3) Pickup 4x4 Truk.

Special Instructions:

1. All vehicles must be black in color.
2. Two pickups shall have
 - a) FSM Police and Police seal on the two sides, front and rear. (Copy of the seal will be provided to the seller).
 - b) Police emergency light bar, emergency lights built in front lights, rear lights and on the side mirrors.
 - c) Police sirens
3. One pickup no police markings.
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
irg.secdoj@gmail.com
Department of Justice

Closing Date: December 27, 2018.

P.O. Box PS-105, Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941, Tele: 691 320/2608/2644

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CHINA donates STEM Building to OLMCHS



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School

On December 28, 2018, Ambassador Huang Zheng of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the FSM formally announced the approval of a grant from the Chinese Government to construct a much needed building for Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School (OLMCHS). It will be officially called as the FSM-CHINA FRIENDSHIP STEM BUILDING. In a simple handover ceremony at the Chinese Embassy in Palikir, Ambassador Huang handed the initial amount of \$100,000.00

to OLMCHS Principal Sr. Krista Namio, MMB. A formal handover ceremony will be scheduled in early 2019 for the remaining amount of the grant.

OLMCHS Principal Namio, on behalf of the OLMCHS Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Students thanked and expressed a sincere heartfelt gratitude to the Ambassador and to Government of the People's Republic of China for funding this valuable project. The project is part of OLMCHS' efforts to encourage its students to explore science and technology,

The Global Green-Grants Fund (GGF) provides grants to five new communities in micronesia

Micronesia Conservation Trust

The Micronesia representative on the GGF Pacific Islands Advisory Board, William Kostka, worked with five communities in Micronesia to successfully secure five grants to the GGF. The grants, which are approximately \$5,000 each, are to support communities with their sustainable development, food security, conservation and climate adaptation and resilience efforts.

The successful grantees include:

- Nimpal Channel Marine Conservation Area - funding to support management of the Nimpal Channel Marine Conservation Area in Yap by purchasing equipment and supplies for administration and operations. This include funds to purchase a laptop and accessories; printer, scanner, a copier, office supplies and awareness materials (stationery), as well as meeting costs and administration fee;
- Northern Reef Fishers Cooperative (NRFC) - funding to support data collection in the second largest fishing ground in Palau by NRFC to determine the impact of management of fish populations. Funding will be used to purchase supplies/materials for fishers' profile and awareness brochures, as well as to hire data collector to collect monthly fishery data. The funds will also be used to purchase sustainably caught fish from fishermen at the Northern Reefs dock and to resell in Koror for higher prices;
- Nan Ais Community, Palikir Pohnpei - to construct three (3) new toilet facilities and to renovation one (1) existing toilet for the community – the community has agreed to establish a revolving fund from the project funds, to help build more proper toilet facilities in the Nan Ais Community. The funds will also be used to purchase shovels and a chain saw to remove fallen trees and debris from their stream. The project proponent will also develop a short photos story of the project to be shared widely;
- Pohnpei Consumer Organization (PCO) - to establish farms that will serve as training centers and awareness for persons with disabilities. The activities will include stakeholder meetings, trainings, farm sites preparation, seeds and seedlings distribution, as well as monitoring and site visits;
- The Green Society - to raise awareness about the need to reduce plastics and other harmful imports to Pohnpei. The funds will be used to purchase a banner, run newspaper ads, make radio announcements, purchase stickers and materials, trash bags, gloves and t-shirt to raise awareness about the need to properly manage/reduce harmful trash and to raise awareness about this new organization - the Green Society of Pohnpei.

Global Green-Grants Fund (GGF) believes solutions to environmental harm and social injustice come from people whose lives are most impacted. Every day, our global network of people on the frontlines and donors come together to support communities to protect their ways of life and our planet. When local people have a say in the health of their food, water, and resources, they are forced for change and to act. The next round of GGF grants will be in March 2019. Contact William Kostka at 691-320-5670 or at director@ourmicronesia.org for more information on these grants.

and hopefully become doctors, nurses, and engineers, the professions that the island and country are in need of at this time. The proposed STEM Building will house the school's Science Laboratory, Computer Laboratory, and additional classrooms for future elective classes.

On the other hand, Ambassador Huang reiterated the Chinese Government's commitment to help improve the quality of education in the FSM. He further stated that this project is the start of many more future developments as part of the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

jointly announced by H.E. Chinese President Xi Jinping and H.E. President Peter Christian of the FSM, in their historic summit at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea last November 16, 2018.

On hand to witness this significant event were Mr. Zhang Weitao, the new Councilor and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Chinese Embassy, Mr. Wu Yibo, the new Second Secretary of the Embassy, Ms. Pearcylyta Cubacub and Ms. Fatima Dollasa, both teachers of OLMCHS.

Robot captures students at Woleai High School Robotics League program expanding in Yap

By Joyce McClure

January 2, 2019

Colonia, Yap — The people of Woleai, a coral atoll approximately 360 miles from Yap’s main island, stood amid the palm trees and lush foliage beside the WWII-era air strip. As the plane landed, they came to greet the visitors with leis and crowns of sweet-smelling plumeria. The chiefs were waiting to welcome us, as we walked down the path to the high school toward the open-air stage with its brightly painted checkerboard floor. The students sat on the lawn below the stage as we climbed the steps, shook the elders’ hands, said hello to the school principal and took our places to be introduced.

The scene was reminiscent of a Paul Gauguin painting of beautiful women, small children and men in traditional sarongs – colorful, striped, handwoven lava lavas for the women and red or blue thu’us for the men. Overhead were coconut palm and breadfruit trees that seemed to touch the sky.

Woleai maintains its traditional way of life, but the reason for our visit was pure 21st century delivered in a box—a robot-in-a-box to be exact.

Sent by Habele, a South Carolina-based nonprofit organization founded in 2006 by three Peace Corps volunteers who had taught in Yap’s Outer Islands, the bits and pieces that would become a working robot were carried to the island’s high school by Amelia Weiss, Habele’s director of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs. The students would become the latest from nearly 20 high schools across Micronesia to join Habele’s Robo League.

“We were struck by the tremendous potential we saw in students from remote island communities and formed Habele to increase academic opportunities for them,” said Matt Coleman, CEO. “The U.S. provides significant funding for education in the FSM, but existing opportunities and programs don’t always work as an integrated and efficient educational or career pipeline for the students. So rather than setting up a different system or providing a parallel system, we look for areas in the existing education structure that are seeing results and seek to turbocharge them with local buy-in and direction.”

Robotics was a perfect fit for Habele’s formula. The idea originated with a partner school in the U.S. that took an interest in the organization’s work and wanted to share equipment that had benefited their own students. In 2013, Yap Catholic High School became the first school to participate in the program that gives students hands-on

experience in STEM instruction. Rather than just “dumping robotics kits on the school,” the program was designed to form long-term partnerships that identify an opportunity and provide equipment and training. YCHS formed a robotics club and began generating interest from other schools in the state.

By 2018, every high school on the main island had a robotics club that participated in the annual Robo League competition in which each school’s club is both paired and pitted against the other clubs in a game that tests the skills of the students and their robotic designs.

The statewide Robo League began getting recognition from national leaders which resulted in high schools in Chuuk and Pohnpei being added to the program. “Thanks to the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs,” Coleman noted, “Habele was provided with the means to pursue that expansion. Our hope is to see the Robotics League benefitting students in all four states of the FSM.” For now, the program is expanding into the neighboring islands of Yap and recently brought Ulithi into the partnership.

“The Robo League has increased communication and collaboration among the high schools of Yap as well as with our community partners,” said Michael Wiencek, principal of YCHS. “This year we even created a Student Leadership Team that designed this year’s game and rules.”

Woleai principal Stan Retogral noted the hands-on approach that allows students to apply theoretical lessons to the project. Four students from each class from among the school’s 154 pupils were invited to participate in the program. A group of student observers was also brought into Weiss’s day-long training.

“You’ll develop skills for a lifetime,” Weiss told the students, including “teamwork and perseverance.”

She invited a student to open the box, and the parts were revealed. Shy at first, but with Weiss’s encouragement, the boys and girls formed into two teams and set to work pouring over the instructions, identifying the parts, seeing which ones fit where. Before



long, a quiet cacophony of voices was sharing, comparing and testing the ingredients. Weiss moved among them, asking questions and encouraging everyone to explore. Lunchtime arrived but the students didn’t want to stop.

Nearly six hours later, the robot was complete. It was time to test it.

On the first try, the wheels didn’t spin properly. They went back to the instructions. Missing parts were found and inserted. The circle expanded again to give room for the robot to turn and spin and pick up a tennis ball included in the kit. They flipped the switch and used the remote control’s joy sticks. A cheer went up as the metal contraption came to life, racing across the concrete floor, the students laughing and clapping as it showed what it could do.

They will add to the basic kit in six or seven weeks when a larger box arrives on the island with materials for a more expansive design. Then the real work will begin as Woleai’s Robotics Club creates their entry for the 2019 Robo League competition.

“We’ve already seen very real results,” said Coleman. “In 2017, students from YCHS represented the FSM in an international robotics challenge in Washington, D.C. One of those competitors is now studying engineering in the United States.”



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Interior Highlights Fiscal Accountability in the Island Areas Supports Island Government Finance Officers Association Winter Meeting

Office of the Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs

WASHINGTON – Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, applauded the success of the winter meeting of the Island Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA), which convened in Honolulu, Hawaii from December 4 - 6, 2018. The IGFOA meets twice yearly to encourage finance officers from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to discuss common challenges and share successful best practices in fiscal accountability and financial management.

to continue implementing concepts presented at the conference. Such commitments include refinement of finance office performance measures, implementation of forthcoming GASB standards, development of Popular Annual Financial Reports, development of cybersecurity plans, and strategies to manage insular government debt.

The IGFOA will reconvene during the summer of 2019 in conjunction with the U.S.-based Government Finance Officers Association. The IGFOA meetings are organized by the Graduate School USA Pacific and Virgin Islands Training Initiatives, all funded through the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program.

The Secretary of the Interior is



responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided under the Compact of Free Association to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and

the Republic of Palau. The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, executes these responsibilities, on behalf of the Secretary, through the Office of Insular Affairs whose mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas.

“We continue to support the training of island government finance officers in best practices for fiscal accountability and financial management,” said Assistant Secretary Domenech. “Solid financial accountability is critical for any government in order to effectively manage public resources for the people they serve.”

Forty-three heads of finance and senior accounting officials from throughout the insular governments attended the winter meeting. Topics for the week concentrated on:

- the outturn of FY17 single audits;
- reviewing FY17 Performer scores;
- examining growing unfunded pension and social security liabilities in the insular areas;
- managing procurement and installation of Federal Management Information Systems;
- enhancing insular government finance office performance measures;
- addressing cybersecurity issues; and
- previewing forthcoming Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards pronouncements and their potential impacts on island governments.

At the conclusion of the meeting, representatives from each insular area presented an IGFOA Action Plan, which summarized commitments

Kosrae and PICS emerge as “Holiday Hoops” men’s and women’s basketball champions

*By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press*

January 4, 2019

Pohnpei—Men’s and women’s basketball teams from all over the FSM met in the FSM for the recently concluded “Holiday Hoops” competition. Competitions were divided between the Kolonia China Friendship gym at Spanish Wall Park and the China FSM Friendship gym at the College of Micronesia FSM in Palikir.

With the exception of Yap, each of the four FSM States was represented by at least one team. A total of 11 men’s teams and four women’s teams competed. The Marshall Islands was invited to send a team but was unable to manage it in time.

The competition opened with a ceremony on December 23rd and ended with the men’s finals on December 30 and the women’s finals on December 31.

The Chuuk High School team took third place in the men’s competitions. Xavier High School took second place, and the men from Kosrae High School took the championship position in the final men’s tournament.

Calvary Christian Academy women took third place. Pohnpei Seventh Day Adventist women took second place. Pohnpei Island Centrals School women emerged as the champions in the women’s competitions. According to organizers, ten sponsors stepped up to help fund the competition. They were:

FSCO Pohnpei Stevedoring, FSM Department of Education, FSM Department of Health/Youth Program, Pohnpei State Strategy Prevention Frame Work - Partners for Success (SPF-PFS), Kolonia Town



Photos by Marlin Lee Ling

Government, Pohnpei State Stop Underage Drinking Prevention Organization, Pohnpei State Sports Office, College of Micronesia – FSM, Central Union for Young Adult (CUYA), and Pohnpei Ace Hardware.

Several Youth Awareness Campaign messages underpinned some of the central values of the tournament. They were:

“Stop Underage Drinking”, “Children Should NOT Raise Children”, “Say Yes to Education Say No to Teen Pregnancy”, “Stay in School More Opportunities Ahead of you”, and “Stay in school you are the future of the nation tomorrow”.



President Christian & NORMA staff surprise hospital patients with Christmas cheer

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On December 28th, 2018, His Excellency Peter M. Christian, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, joined Eugene Pangelinan, Executive Director of the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA), Kester James, Acting Director of Pohnpei State Hospital, Bernolina Hedson, Nursing Midwife at Pohnpei State Hospital, Marko Kamber, President of Caroline Fisheries Corporation, and NORMA staff to surprise patients at Pohnpei State Hospital with Christmas presents.

Both hospital staff and patients alike were warmed by the thoughtful gesture. As part of the good vibes and the Christmas spirit of giving, President Christian personally shook the hand of every patient he saw—pausing, too, to briefly discuss how that particular patient may have been doing, and to wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

How did this brilliant idea originate? “I planned it a week ago,” said Executive Director Pangelinan, “when I saw all these cars beeping and throwing candies. I thought we should do something for those in the hospital, too.”

Gift boxes, buckets, and bags were prepared by NORMA staff with donations from all the major fisheries companies operating in the FSM, including Liancheng Fisheries, Caroline Fisheries Corporation, Taiyo Micronesia, Kasar Fisheries Corporation, National Fisheries Corporation, Dayang Seafoods, City Pro Management, and FSM Seafoods. Gifts were available for every demographic imaginable, from newborns to little boys and girls, and from men and women to parents and grandparents. President Christian noted his appreciation to the FSM fishing industry, both for their generosity this Christmas and for the

essential role they play in our economic development.

After all the patients at Pohnpei State Hospital received gifts, the NORMA staff went onwards to both Genesis Hospital and Pohnpei State Correctional Facility.

Just as the spirit of giving is what Christmas is all about, healthy and sustainable fisheries is what NORMA is all about. Interested in learning more about the role NORMA plays in our economy, or wondering how you can join the team? Call NORMA at 320-2700, email at info@norma.fm, or visit their website at <http://www.norma.fm/>



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www.comfsm.fm

Follow us online:



Position Vacancy Announcement

The Micronesian Registration Advisors, Inc. (MRA) is looking for 3 full-time or 6 part-time Administrators/Office Managers who will be responsible for managing the operation of a one-man office in Pohnpei.

Duties will include but not limited to: greeting visitors, answering telephone calls, submitting monthly reports, establishing and maintaining office filing system, among others.

The Administrator/Office Manager must possess a high school diploma, speaks and writes English well, and, skilled in the use of computers including email and Microsoft office.

For a full time employee, the salary will be around \$200/week and for a part-timer, the salary will be \$100/week.

Interested applicants must submit a resume to the Micronesian Registration Advisors' Office via PO Box 902, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941. For more information on the position, please call Linda Peterson at 320/1830/4508/8969.

As we depart 2018, we would be remiss not to acknowledge and express once again our deepest appreciation to the traditional leaders, church leaders, government leaders, individuals, families, friends, groups, and organizations in Micronesia and abroad who expressed their condolences to the family of the late PODIS PEDRUS, who was called to heaven on September 1, 2018. Your words of wisdom and comfort during our time of sorrow lifted our spirits to move on and continue living life. Thank you and God bless you all from his surviving wife, Sarako, eight children, and 20 grandchildren. Kamagar, Kinisou, Kalahngan, Kulo, Arigato, Danke, Muchos Gracias, Merci, Gänxiè nì.

PODIS PEDRUS (Man of God)
Former Lepen Mwoar, Wein Pingelap
Former Kaun en Pwihn/Soulik, Mand, Madolenihmw
Former Government Official



NOTICE OF LAND SALE BY AUCTION

Pursuant to the orders of the FSM Supreme Court entered on December 24, 2013 and July 1, 2015, and appellate opinions, judgments, orders and mandates entered on May 1, 2018 and May 28, 2018 and on subsequent dates, public notice is hereby given that the parcel described below will be sold by auction to the highest bidder under the following terms:

Parcel no. 023-A-70, land known as Dolonier, situated in Nett Municipality, Pohnpei State with an approximate area of 4,620 square meters, as shown on the determination of heirship made on October 29, 2001, the deed registered on July 24, 2013, and as described on cadastral plat no. 023-A-06 filed in the Pohnpei State Land Registry, together with any buildings, fixtures and other improvements thereon.

- There is no minimum bid amount.
 - Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "April 11, 2019 Land Auction" by personal delivery to Rendy Abraham at the front entrance area of the FSM Supreme Court courthouse in Palikir, Pohnpei on Thursday, April 11, 2019 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The deadline for submitting bids will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2019.
 - All bid submissions must state the full name, mailing address, phone or fax numbers, e-mail address or other valid contact information for the bidder.
 - All bid submissions must clearly state the bid amount and must include a deposit of 5 % of the total bid amount by cashier's check. If the bid submission does not include the 5 % deposit, the bid is immediately disqualified.
 - The winning bidder shall be notified in writing and payment of the remaining balance of the bid must be paid to the FSM Development Bank no later than ten (10) calendar days after notice of award is given. If the winning bidder fails to pay the remaining balance of the bid within the required time, the deposit shall be forfeited to the FSM Development Bank.
 - Upon qualification and full payment of the winning bid, the non-
- winning bidders shall have their 5% deposit returned to them within two (2) business days.
 - The winning bidder shall be conveyed title through a duly issued Court order transferring title to the parcel, including all buildings, fixtures and other improvements on the parcel.
 - The winning bidder must be eligible to hold title to land in the Federated States of Micronesia and must provide proof of such eligibility.
 - If the winning bidder who has been provided notice of award by the Bank fails to remit payment within the required time, his/her deposit is forfeited to the FSM Development Bank and the notice of award will be granted to the next highest bidder, and the same conditions will apply.
 - The parcel and any improvements thereon are offered for sale "as-is" with no guarantees or warranties as to their condition whatsoever.

Questions concerning this auction may be directed to Nora E Sigrah, Legal Counsel, email: noras@fsmdb.fm, FSM Development Bank, PO Box M, Pohnpei, FM 96941, phone no. 691-320-2840, website: www.fsmdb.fm

FSM donates to Yutu relief

CNMI Office of the Governor

31 Dec 2018

In a presentation ceremony on Capital Hill Friday, Federated States of Micronesia Honorary Consul to the CNMI Diego T. Benavente presented to acting Gov. Victor B. Hocog a \$100,000 donation from the FSM to assist in recovery efforts relating to the damage the Commonwealth sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu.

Also in attendance were presidents of the different associations for each of the FSM's states, the chairman of Yutu relief efforts for FSM citizens, Rep. Ivan A. Blanco, along with Finance Secretary Larissa Larson.

According to Benavente, this donation is in addition to an earlier appropriation FSM President Peter Christian and the country's congressional leaders made in the same amount to support the relief efforts for Typhoon Mangkhut which hit Rota in September.

"I am pleased to accept this for our people here in the CNMI for further distribution to those severely affected by Yutu," said acting Governor Hocog who further expressed appreciation on

behalf of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for the generosity of our counterparts in the FSM, who also contributed manpower assistance to expedite the restoration of utilities in the villages.

For his part, Rep. Ivan Blanco said, "This is a very generous donation and a mindful one. With this being a season of thanksgiving, we cannot thank our leaders in the FSM enough for the help they have given us in the past, and most especially during this trying time."

Chuukese Association president Own Cholymay expressed the sentiments of his countrymen by saying that they feel blessed for all the support and assistance given to their citizens residing in the Northern Marianas.

Benavente also mentioned that along with the monetary and manpower donations given by the FSM government, they have expressed the desire to also provide construction workers and carpenters to assist in rebuilding homes damaged by the typhoon. In a meeting Benavente had with President Christian, he mentioned it was a "great idea because people do need construction professionals at this time." He also noted that local money was appropriated by the FSM to assist



Acting Gov. Victor B. Hocog receives a check for \$100,000 from Federated States of Micronesia Honorary Consul to the CNMI Diego T. Benavente and leaders from the various FSM states. Joining them are Rep. Ivan A. Blanco, CNMI Chuukese Association president Own Cholymay, and Secretary of Finance Larissa Larson.

in travel expenses incurred for workers helping the CNMI's relief efforts.

After presenting the check to the Department of Finance, Hocog expressed gratitude for leaders from the FSM from all branches of the government as well as the consul general for coming out and seeing the effects of Super Typhoon Yutu has had on their compatriots in the CNMI.

"We'd like to see more leaders coming this way to meet with our FSM

citizens to establish more connections among the citizens and residents in the Commonwealth and build a stronger relationship as we continue to expand and grow a better livelihood for them," he added.

Hocog also expressed optimism that the cash contributions for both Yutu and Mangkhut recovery will be used accordingly to help affected FSM citizens from both storms to return their lives back to stability.

DHSA Program Manager Dionisio E. Saimon wins MCHB Director's Award

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Dionisio E. Saimon, Program Manager for the Family Health Services Unit in the Department of Health & Social Affairs (DHSA), has spent his career fully committed to the health needs of our country. This commitment was recently recognized by the United States Government in the form of Mr. Saimon's receipt of the 2017 Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) Director's Award. These awards are presented annually to select individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the health of infants, mothers, children, adolescents, and children with special health care needs.

"For the 20 years I've been working with this program," said Mr. Saimon in a December 21st, 2018 meeting, "it's the second time the award has been given in the Pacific...the first time was to another Program Manager in Saipan but this, this is the first time for the FSM. The award is the result of many people working hard together; it's a team effort, not just me."

In a brief meeting with Mr. Saimon, H.E. President Christian extended his sincere thanks and congratulations to Mr. Saimon for his accomplishments. "It is not very often that our citizens receive this level of award and the deserving recognition from entities or organizations external to the FSM", the President stated. The Governments and citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are proud of Mr. Saimon and the positive contributions his work has produced for the benefit of the Nation.




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Mileage 98,000km Color White



Ref.0100031381 **PRICE: \$3,330**
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Year 2006 AT 1,490cc PETROL
Mileage 106,000km Color Orange



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SUBARU IMPREZA
Year 2006 F 1,490cc PETROL
Mileage 88,000km Color Silver



Ref.0100031550 **PRICE: \$4,050**
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Mileage 81,000km Color Dark Blue



Ref.0100029830 **PRICE: \$3,280**
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Year 2008 AT 2,340cc PETROL
Mileage 116,000km Color Silver



Ref.0100031552 **PRICE: \$3,070**
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Mileage 48,000km Color Pearl



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His Excellency Peter M. Christian Attends Wenik ECE Center Christmas Party

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On December 20th, 2018 His Excellency, President Peter M. Christian attended the Christmas Party for Early Childhood Education (ECE) students at Wenik ECE Center in Kitti, Pohnpei. Also in attendance were the Honorable Jordan Ardos, Isohkonedi Speaker, Quincy Lawrence, Assistant Secretary at the FSM Department of Education, Dionisio E. Saimon, Program Manager at Department of Health & Social Affairs, Hermann Semes Jr., Special Assistant to the Vice President, Arwelson Arpona, Acting Director of Pohnpei Department of Education, Centry Paul, Superintendent of Southwest (Kitti) Schools, Arthur Hebel, Principal of Nanpei Memorial School, Elise Ioanis, Wenik ECE Center Supervisor, other representatives of National, State, and Local Government, and, of course, the students of Wenik ECE and their families.

Supervisor Ioanis gave a brief speech about the Wenik students, which lead to a song and prayer. Principal Hebel paid his respects to everyone present and the importance of children and their education, which was followed by Acting Director Arpona informing the attendees that the students—each of whom wore a sign around their neck with a topic such as sea animals or teeth—would be presenting on what they learned this quarter. Acting Director Arpona also elaborated on the new administrative structure in Pohnpei Department of Education, i.e. that the Divisions of ECE, Primary, and Secondary have merged into one division served by four geographically-based superintendents instead of chiefs.

President Christian wished everyone a very Merry Christmas, and then went around the classroom to shake the hand of each student.

Then the stars of the day—the students—each gave a brief, perhaps 60-second long discussion on their assigned topic. “Teeth are important, so we must brush them to keep them clean!” said one student on the subject of teeth. “Trees surround us and make air for us to breathe, so take care of trees,” said another student on the subject of trees.

After the students’ presentations, Supervisor Ioanis and her teachers took turns leading various class-based activities, ranging from the students reading the Pohnpeian and English alphabets and sounding out the digraphs (e.g. Mw, Ng, Oa) and the compound sounds (e.g. ah, oah, oh) to identifying shapes and colors. Students were given worksheets to complete across the spectrum of academic subjects—from Pohnpeian Language to Mathematics to Science—and then gave their worksheet to President Christian for him to grade. President Christian was impressed, enthusiastic even, with the quality of the students’ work and the energy the students shared. “You’ve all done a very great job!”, exclaimed the President.

Supervisor Ioanis asked Assistant Secretary Lawrence to give a brief speech on education, where he then discussed the importance of Pohnpeian and Micronesian culture and the spirit of Christmas, to then briefly share that the FSM Department of Education works hand-in-hand with the State Departments of Education.

Following Assistant Secretary Lawrence was Special Assistant Semes, who reinforced the importance of education, the importance of family, and the importance of children, summing it up with wishing everyone in attendance a Merry Christmas.

The mothers and fathers then posed for photographs with their children, and afterwards gifts were handed out around the room. Everyone, from the President to each child, walked home with something.

“Christmas...is a time of family, good values, and togetherness,” said Superintendent Paul.

After group photographs with the President, families began to depart to enjoy their Christmas with each other.

ECE services, formerly entitled Head Start, are available throughout the major islands of the FSM and some remote islands. Numerous decades-long studies have shown that children receiving ECE services prior to beginning first grade are far more likely to complete their formal education.

Pohnpei holds first ever drum competition on New Year's Eve

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

January 4, 2019

Pohnpei—New Year in Pohnpei is a loud affair, of that there is no question. Tapping into some of that energy for positive purposes, CUYA (Central Union for Young Adults) and the Mayor of Kolonia Town sponsored a drumming competition at the Kolonia China gym at Spanish Wall Park. The idea was to give young people something positive to do on New Year's Eve and the competition end in time for young people to keep the 9:30 PM curfew.



Photos by Marlin Lee Ling

Several teams participated for the top cash prizes while a healthy number of people in the crowd cheered them on. As has been the tradition, drummers banged on whatever they could get their hands on—sheets of tin, garbage cans, acetylene tanks, biscuit tins, fishing floats...whatever they could use to make percussive sound with makeshift drumsticks.

When the dust had settled, three teams were chosen as the winners. A team calling themselves the "Mwahn Squad" won the third place prize of \$200. "Mwalok" won the second place prize of \$300. "Manga Team" left the building with \$500 in their pocket, the top prize of the evening.

The competition was the first ever of its kind. CUYA hopes to make it an annual tradition that young people can look forward to each year.



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

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Attorney at Law
Law Offices of Salomon M. Saimon, a Professional Corporation
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salomonsaimonpc@gmail.com/kittilaw@hotmail.com

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.

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Sports Word Search

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

Words

- Basketball
- Football
- Hockey
- Rowing
- Cricket
- Badminton
- Javelin
- Boxing
- Archery
- Netball
- Running
- Karate
- Swimming
- Taekwondo
- Judo
- Rugby
- Gymnastics
- Tennis
- Cycling
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

There is one word missing. Can you work out which one?

Healthy Foods Easy Word Search

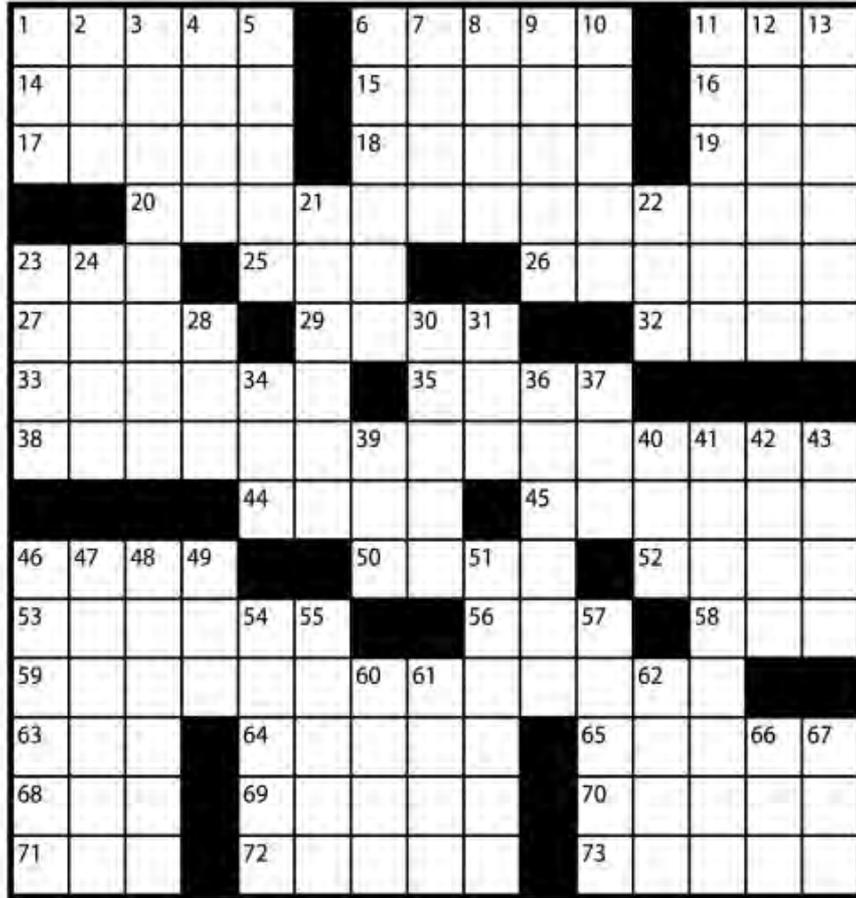
S U H S Z M E N N J T S S O F
 D E E C L M G H N N E H E Q Z
 P C I W A Z G F J I E T G G E
 Q H I R E N S J R H O X N E M
 W E O H R C I R G M X R A Q R
 U E B U T E E P A M P U R D K
 Z S L B C B B T S S K H O T K
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 C R R I S M D P D L T J W K B
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

BEANS
 CASHEWS
 EGGS
 SPINACH
 TOMATOES

BLUEBERRIES
 CHEESE
 ORANGES
 STRAWBERRIES
 YOGURT

8	+	5	+	10	=	
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9	+	7	+	10	=	
+		+		+		+
10	+	10	+	9	=	
=		=		=		=
	+		+		=	

Anger Management



ACROSS

- 1 Haciendas, por ejemplo
- 6 Shots in the dark
- 11 Brewery fixture
- 14 Bit of publicity
- 15 Fido: dog: ___: parrot
- 16 Hurricane center
- 17 Cardiologist's concern
- 18 Broadcast studio sign
- 19 Fun and games, for short
- 20 Civil War infantry of Gaelic immigrants
- 23 Feathery wrap
- 25 Enjoy a repast
- 26 Take down for questioning, maybe
- 27 Cannonballs' paths
- 29 Workout centers
- 32 Greek sandwich
- 33 Perceiving
- 35 Portable digital media player
- 38 Unwelcome merger
- 44 Pa in Paris
- 45 Guatemala neighbor
- 46 Act as a lookout, perhaps
- 50 Pretentious
- 52 School building, briefly
- 53 Excavation find
- 56 Sport official
- 58 ___ Cruces, NM
- 59 Meat-ban cause
- 63 Nail, as a test
- 64 Deceivers

- 65 Affords temporarily
- 68 Two, in Toledo
- 69 One of 12
- 70 Former Portuguese territory in China
- 71 Industrious carpenter, e.g.
- 72 Sight, for one
- 73 Apple holders

DOWN

- 1 Letters on some Civil War buckles
- 2 ___ Z (completely)
- 3 Comes up, as a sub
- 4 Opposite of pro-
- 5 Step of a process
- 6 Erratic
- 7 Nickname for Antoinette
- 8 Economist Greenspan
- 9 Bounty captain
- 10 Arab republic
- 11 Quaint assent
- 12 Naval response
- 13 Scientific or industrial prefix
- 21 Dicker on price
- 22 It may be underfoot
- 23 Crushing blow
- 24 Black-and-white treat
- 28 Pose
- 30 Diagonal joint
- 31 Health resort
- 34 Chill in the air
- 36 "Sure"

- 37 Not-so-hot grade
- 39 Time period
- 40 ___ Ironsides
- 41 Extremely rough action
- 42 The Scribe
- 43 Radiation units
- 46 Spain's navy, back in the day
- 47 Guiding tower
- 48 Firstborn
- 49 Sign of nerves, perhaps
- 51 Minor scrape
- 54 Coke and Pepsi
- 55 Appropriate
- 57 Tropical trees
- 60 Repair argyles, e.g.
- 61 Bulb output, maybe
- 62 Plane reservation
- 66 Hoover or Roosevelt, e.g.
- 67 "Hel-l-l-lp!"

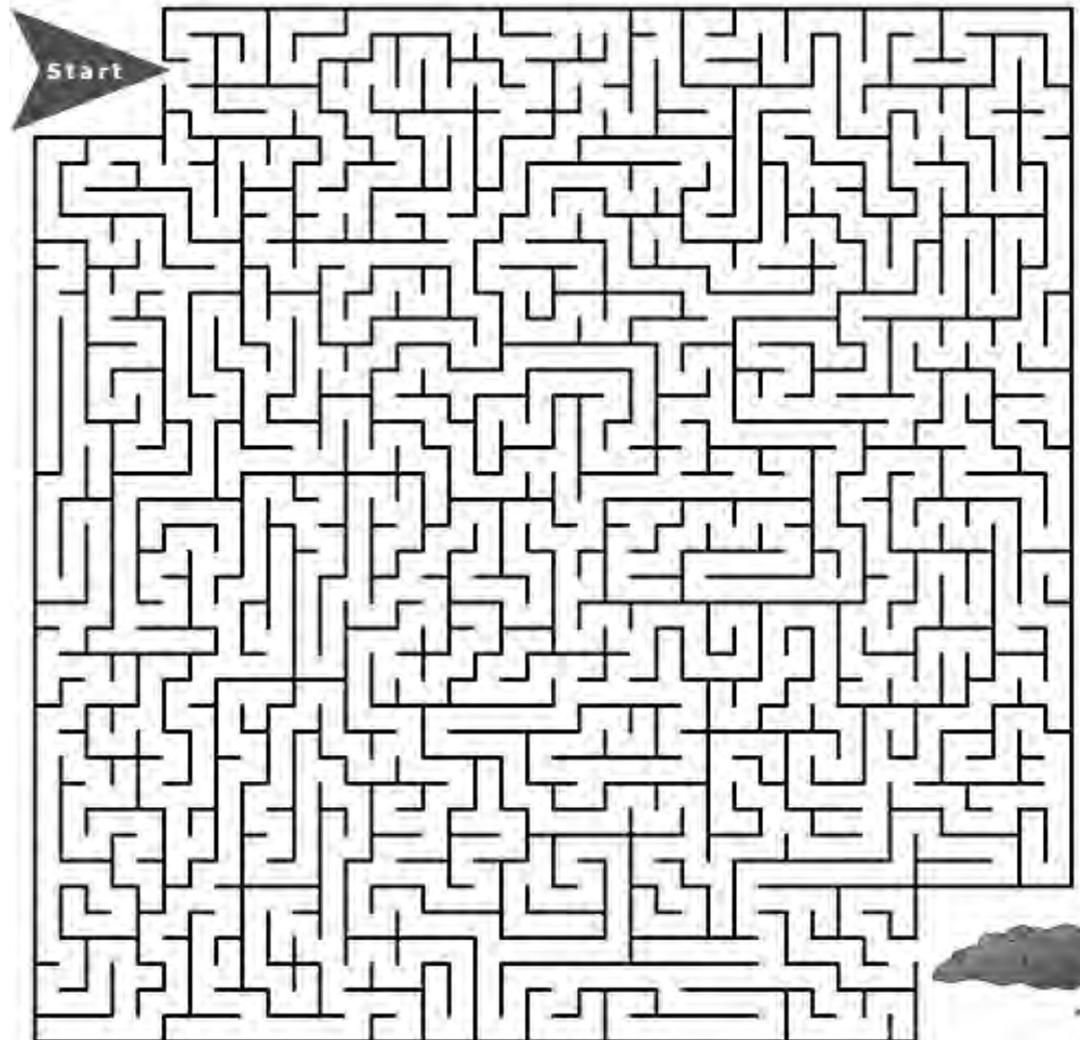
Answers to April 8 Puzzle

S	P	O	T	G	L	O	A	T	A	T	M	S		
P	O	S	H	Q	U	T	E	R	U	H	U	H		
A	L	L	Y	A	S	T	R	O	T	O	G	O		
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E	V	A	D	E	N	O	N	O		S	E	E	N	
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G	E	T	S		S	T	E	P	S		S	H	E	D

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			7		4	3		5	
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7		6		4		1		2
		7	9	8	3	4		
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				7				



Pacific Islands Development Bank provides \$2,000 to MCT's Operational Endowment Fund

On December 18, 2018, on behalf of the Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB), Mr. Diego Benavente presented a \$2,000 check to the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). Mr. Benavente and Minister Elbuchel Sadang, who both serve as a Directors for the PIDB Board and as Trustees on MCT's Board, along with PIDB CEO Aren Palik, former MCT Board Chair, secured this contribution. The funds will be deposited into the MCT Operational Endowment, which currently totals approximately \$800,000 and funds special programs and needs which the Board of Trustees determine are relevant to MCT's core programs. MCT Chairwoman Doreen Debrum, Treasurer Anna Mendiola, Regional Trustee Jared Morris, International Trustee Trina Leberer, International Trustee Megumi Araki, Executive Director William Kostka and Deputy Executive Director Lisa Andon received the donation on behalf of MCT. This donation of \$2,000 will assist MCT in securing further matching funds from our donors/friends for the Operational Endowment.



The MCT Board of Trustees, Leadership and Management, met in Pohnpei on December 17th and 18th, to spend time inventorying accomplishments, discussing lessons learned and considering the future for MCT and our work as we began the process of developing the MCT Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for 2019-2021. This special meeting and the subsequent regular quarterly meeting presented PIDB the opportunity to hand over the check and show its support to MCT and conservation in Micronesia.

Lisa Andon, Jared Morris, Anna Mendiola, Trina Leberer, William Kostka, Doreen Debrum, Diego Benavente and Megumi Araki



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