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Pohnpei accuses the FSM of intentionally violating the State's COVID-19 protections in its handling of Chief Mailo

By *Bill Jaynes*
 The Kaselehlie Press

February 9, 2021

Pohnpei—On Saturday, February 6, dozens of FSM National Police officers occupied the parking lot of the Mangrove Bay Bar and Grill. When we asked FSM Chief of Staff Leo Falcam what was happening, he said that they were just conducting a little exercise.

On Monday, February 8, the Pohnpei State government issued a press release explaining their version of the events on February 6. The release said that the Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety (DPS) Chief Mailo security team witnessed one FSM National Police vessel as it approached the Chief Mailo, which has been quarantined at anchorage since arriving in Pohnpei. The release said that DPS knew that the purpose for the contact was to vaccinate the crew and passengers.

The release said that DPS and Pohnpei Health Department staff
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Pohnpeian to set world record in the Mariana Trench

Micronesia Conservation Trust

February 12, 2021

FSM--Happy International Day of Women and Girls in Science!

In recognition of the accomplishments of women in science in Micronesia, we are excited to announce that Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge (BRMC) Scholar Ms. Nicole

Yamase of Pohnpei, FSM will be joining an expedition to the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench. At 35,814 feet below sea level, it's known to be the deepest place on earth.

Ms. Yamase is currently completing her PhD in Marine Biology at the University of Hawaii Manoa Campus focusing on the ecophysiological responses of native and invasive algae under predicted climate change conditions. She is hoping to graduate this year.

The expedition is led by Mr. Victor Vescovo, World Record

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EPA Board of Directors orders dredging to stop at Ipwal and Ohwa and dikes to be removed

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 13, 2021

Pohnpei—On January 22, the Board of Directors of Pohnpei’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued orders that dredge sites in the historic Ipwal mangrove forest and in Ohwa must be shut down and the dikes built to service the dredge sites removed.

In November, the EPA ordered Joseph Ferdinand, who had hired contractors to perform the dredging operation, to open up the dike to allow water to flow into the west of the mangrove. Today, Francisco Celestine of EPA said that the contractor did open up the dike to allow waterflow and that the natural mixture of fresh and salt water has eased the pressure on mangrove which was dying

but he said the entire dike needs to be removed.

For now, there is no activity at the Ipwal dredge site. Celestine said that the EPA met with the contractors for that site who asked the EPA to give them two months to present a plan for removing the dike. The contractors asked for more time because of other contracts they were working on that deadlines during that time period. Because the drainage ways were opened in the dike and because there is not continuing dredging at the site, the EPA agreed to plan but Celestine says the timeline for establishing a removal plan will be strictly enforced.

The EPA board action on January 22 also ordered the complete closure of the Ohwa dredge site. Mr. Etse Zorro John

holds the previously issued permit for that site.

Celestine said that previously the EPA had issued an order to stop activities at that dredge site but that the contractor refused to sign the letter and continued their activities. He said that activities have now stopped at that dredge site and

that the Pohnpei Department of Public Safety is to enforce the EPA board order.

Celestine said that the EPA has begun a concerted campaign to ensure full compliance on all of Pohnpei’s many dredge sites. He said that he expects that EPA will be forced to issue more orders for other dredge sites in the near future.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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FSM auditors make recommendations for improvements in the FSM Postal Service

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

February 13, 2021

FSM—An audit of the FSM National Postal Service covering fiscal years 2017 through 2019 released to FSM President David Panuelo on February 11, 2021 listed several weaknesses in management and internal controls that if corrected would “greatly assist the FSM National Postal Service (to) improve its service delivery. While identifying some weaknesses, auditors also commended the Postmaster General for taking fast steps to deal with some of the items contained in the audit even before the audit was published.

The Office of the National Public Auditor held up the interaction with the National Postal Service (NPS) as a practice that needs to be emulated by other public institutions in response to audits. “In most cases, government departments, agencies and entities have negative perspectives whenever it comes to being audited, but this was not the case with the management of the NPS. Through our various meetings with the Acting Postmaster General, we

observed a true desire for improvements. The management was positive in their facilitation and stated that they looked forward to more audits and recommendations for improvement in the future,” the audit said.

The Postmaster General, in her response to the audit, in addition to immediately setting up some mechanisms to deal with two of the audit findings, committed to specific dates for dealing with each of the audit exceptions. She also pointed out that NPS has already been dealing with other matters through the establishment of a Financial Management System but that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, training ability has been limited within the last year.

In 2019, the FSM Congress amended the Financial Management Regulation (FMR) Act to require departments and agencies of the National Government to report their performance accomplishments and shortcomings to Congress and to the President within 30 days of the end of each quarter. Auditors concluded that the NPS was not aware of the change and so they established no internal mechanisms to enable effective reporting of performance. Auditors pointed out that the establishing Act that set up the NPS did not require reporting of activities to the executive and legislative branches other than to provide an accounting of funds in excess of \$20,000 that remained in the revolving fund at the end of a fiscal year. Any amount in excess of \$20,000 that were in that fund at the end of the year were deposited directly into the FSM general fund.

Auditors also found that the Act establishing the NPS did not require an oversight function from a Board of Directors, Committee, Councils or external bodies to drive and ensure effective decision making. They recommended that the FSM President should take necessary actions to recommend changes to the established Act of NPS so that the law requires the appointment of an oversight body, and then appoint suitable people to be members of any new oversight body if established by law.

Auditors pointed out that though the NPS has a five-year plan covering the years up to 2024, it is not currently translated into an operational plan. As a result, decisions are made based on historical indicators rather than future plans for improvement. It says that one of the potential effects could be poor postal services since the “entity is managed based solely on what the head of the organization thinks and not based on an established long-term strategic direction that integrates inputs of the entire organization, actual results, potential risks, required improvement, stakeholders, and the surrounding environment within which the NPS operates.”

Auditors said that poor internal controls, including lack of policies and procedures, pose a threat to efficient postal services. NPS needs to implement (actualize, as the auditors called it) the procedures it has recently developed. One of the findings resulted in new and implemented procedures for dealing with segregation of duties for managing the stockroom for philatelic stamps and products in order to eliminate any possibility of fraud. The same holds true for the process of receipting customer payments.

Another audit suggestion was that NPS should establish an adequate internal control mechanism to handle customer complaints. The NPS since developed a form for customer complaints and is in the process of implementing it. The form instructs customers to contact their local FSM Post Office if they are having a problem with delivery of mail such as “late arrival, tracking, attempted delivery, misdelivery, etc.” The form as developed thus far is for missing or damaged mail, or “other” item not on the list.

The audit said that NPS management informed auditors that there were no guidelines of procedures in place for handling customer complaints regarding missing, returned, damaged, and delayed mail. Customer complaints are recorded in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet by the Postal Inspector, “however, some cases were still filed (pending) unresolved and (a) few others were closed, while some have no status of activities taken to address them,” the auditors wrote.

The auditors said that one of the effects of the lack of a customer complaint process was that “customers are expressing their dissatisfaction and complaints on social media, jeopardizing the reputation of the NPS including the employees.” As an appendix, auditors included a small selection of examples of customer complaints expressed against NPS on social media. Auditors intimated that since it is difficult to determine or document whether management is addressing customer complaints in a timely manner, dissatisfaction is a continuing problem.

Auditors also found that there is no assurance that all fees for box rental are collected even after the NPS established a policy requiring box renters to pay rental fees at the beginning of each calendar year rather than on an anniversary date based on when the box was initially rented as had been the previous practice.

Auditors also found that NPS lacks a framework to provide reasonable assurance that there is a process of managing risk to manage uncertain events that may affect or disrupt postal services.

The final finding was that NPS had not implemented all of the audit recommendations of the previous audit that was conducted in 2013.

All 31 pages of the audit can be found online at www.fsmopa.fm.



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Micronesian Presidents say they see no benefit in continuing as part of the Pacific Islands Forum

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

February 14, 2021

FSM—On February 3, 2021, leaders of Pacific Islands Forum nations selected former Cook Islands Prime Minister Nick Puna to be the new Secretary General of the regional organization, succeeding Dame Meg Taylor of Papua New Guinea. Last year, saying that it is Micronesia's turn to lead the Forum, Micronesian leaders nominated RMI Ambassador to the US Gerald Zackios for the position of Secretary General.

On February 8, the Presidents of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, and the Republic of Kiribati virtually convened the Micronesian Presidents' Summit (MPS) to discuss the next course of action. The result of that meeting was a communique signed by all five Presidents announcing their intention to withdraw from the Pacific Islands Forum.

"President Panuelo and the other Presidents of the MPS expressed great disappointment with the appointment process for the position of Secretary General within the Pacific Islands Forum. President Panuelo expressed

frustration at how several Pacific Leaders suggested the Gentlemen's Agreement (to rotate leadership amongst the regions) doesn't exist or that they've never heard of it," the FSM's press release on the decision said.

"President Panuelo and the other Presidents of the MPS expressed unity and solidarity within the Micronesian subregion, and reaffirmed that the subregion's mutual position is that, per the October 2nd, 2020 Mekreos Communique of the MPS, as the Gentlemen's Agreement was not honored, Micronesian countries see no benefit to remaining in the Pacific Island Forum," the FSM press release said.

Some analysts have said that the fact that South Pacific members of the Forum seem to have been surprised by the Micronesian leaders' resolve to withdraw from the organization only serves to illustrate the sort of marginalization that leaders of North Pacific countries have long expressed.

"The Micronesian Presidents jointly agreed that all five nations will initiate the formal process of withdrawing from the Pacific Islands Forum, as set out in Article XII of the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Each nation will undertake this process with respect to its own internal

legal and procedural requirements and final decision rests with respective governments," the Micronesia Presidents' February 2021 Communique said.

There has been much speculation on what FSM's "legal and procedural requirements" are. The nation's chief legal officer, FSM Secretary for the Department of Justice Joses Gallen said that his office had not yet been formally requested to issue a legal opinion on FSM's requirements for leaving the Forum. He said that his initial legal advice to the President is that Congress doesn't need to approve FSM withdrawal from PIF. He said that Congress can only ratify treaties such as the treaty that established the PIF and that the process for withdrawal is defined in the Treaty that Congress ratified. He opined that the act of withdrawal by the President is well within his authority to conduct foreign affairs.

At press time, President Panuelo had not yet signed a letter intended for FSM Congress Speaker Wesley Simina outlining his intentions and next steps. According to the FSM Public Information Officer, that has been in draft form for several days but is not yet ready for release to the Speaker and therefore not yet to the public. We are told that letter would have gone a long way toward

explaining the processes but could not yet be released.

The agreement that ratified FSM's involvement in the Pacific Island Forum requires a year before it will be official on paper. However, that does not mean that Micronesian countries must wait that long before carrying out their intentions of withdrawing. In practice it can be done much sooner than that.

President Panuelo has told several regional news entities that the FSM's intention and resolve is clear. It intends to withdraw from the Pacific Island Forum. He has said that FSM's presence in the international arena has already been well established and the decision to leave the Forum should not affect FSM's influence on major issues of the region.

Several regional news organizations and others have opined that the decision of the Micronesian region to leave the Forum would somehow give China a greater foothold in the Pacific region. During an interview on Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Pacific Beat program last week, FSM President David Panuelo said that on the contrary, China urged the FSM to reconsider its position on leaving the Forum.



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The Project is for 12 months, targeting short-term interventions mentioned above to respond to the impact of COVID-19 directly. Due to its limited timeline, the coordination between the Ministry of Natural Resources & Commerce and SPC needs to be strengthened to prioritize implementation

The Project is looking for an experienced and qualified individual to perform the

role of National Project Coordinator in FSM. The national project coordinator will lead the coordination and execution of MICCO19 activities on the ground, working with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Commerce's guidance and relevant/primary stakeholders.

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February 08 - March 08, 2021

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Congress passes salary increase act for National Government employees

By FSM Congress PIO

February 1, 2021

PALIKIR, POHNPEI— After 24 years of salary freeze for the employees of the national government, the Congress finally passed a legislation to affect change in the Federated States of Micronesia’s National Government Public Service System (PSS) through Congressional Act 21-241.

Through CA 21-214, the 21st Congress passed a one-time increase in the annual salary for all full-time employees of the FSM national government under the PSS who have successfully completed their initial probationary period. The salary increase applies as follows:

- 15% - Employees classified between pay level 1 and pay level 14;
- 10% - Employees classified between pay level 15 and pay level 28; and
- 5% - Employees classified at pay level 29 and above.

According to the Bill, the salary law will take effect in the new fiscal year, October 1, 2021. The one-time salary increase does not apply to exempt or contract employees of the FSM national government.

Since the national government salary freeze and the early retirement program went into effect in April of 1997, various attempts have been made by the Congress to balance wages against the steadily increasing cost of living in the Nation. In 2008, through Public Law No. 15-41, the national government employees under the Public Service System were provided a one-time increase in base salary. Other attempts for an increase were made in the subsequent Congress bodies but the measures always lacked the needed votes for passage.

During the 18th Congress in 2015, the Congress passed a cost-of-living allowance (COLA) of \$40 per 80 hours for all employees of the FSM national government as signed into law as PL No. 18-114. Understanding the significance of government wages in the Nation’s economy, the Congress continued its salary discussions in the subsequent years with the relevant departments and offices, with continued proposed legislations to address the salary issues.

24 years after the '97 salary freeze, on January 20, 2021, the Congress finally agreed on legislation to address the increase of wages for employees under the Public Service System and at the same time lessen the pay disparity between the lowest wage earners and the top of the pay scale and passed Congressional Act 21-241.

Pohnpei Public Library makes improvements for its patrons

By Pohnpei Public Library

February 12, 2021

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei Public Library is starting the new year off with great gusto. There is a lot that has been happening at your library, and we are proud to let everyone know.

The inside has been upgraded, especially in the children’s section. New shelving was donated by the U.S. Embassy, and then with staff and volunteers, the entire children’s library section was repainted. The hard work paid off and many thanks to all of the people who helped and made the improvements possible, including the U.S. Embassy and the Pohnpei Rotary Club.

We also want to thank the Pohnpei Fishing Club, who allow us to raise money at

their fishing tournaments. Things were a bit slow due to the pandemic, but we still raised some money for new books and our video projects.

With the help of the Pohnpei Catholic School, Ardy George, and Jenna Panuelo, we are still conducting reading sessions of children’s books and posting them on our web site and You Tube. Go check it out.

We also want to thank Bill Jaynes, a wonderful photographer who donated his art to grace the children’s section of the library.

With all of these improvements, we do want to show off so please come to the library.

We are also seeking to cut costs and go green by installing solar energy panels to assist with the library.

There are many people to thank and who have supported us. Again these contributions are very much appreciated.



Pohnpei Department of Education announces top teachers and principal of the year

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap

February 4, 2021

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei Department of Education recently announced its top three teachers of the year and the principal of the year pictured below:



Overall Teacher of the Year (TOY): Melza Miguel, Wone Elementary School



TOY 1st Runner up, Janalyne Aidel, Nett Elementary School:



TOY 2nd Runner up, Ashly Abraham, Sapwalap Elementary School



Overall Principal of the Year, Charles Armstrong, Wone Elementary School

...Chief Mailo

Continued from front page

members noticed that not a single person on the boarding party was wearing personal protective equipment and “very few even had masks on. They later retracted that statement saying that the boarding party did wear masks and gloves but that no one wore the full body personal protective equipment as they should have been wearing.

“The FSM Health Staff did not follow the established protocols by checking in at the Emergency Operations Center at the Department of Public Safety or Pohnpei Port Authority, instead launching from Mangrove Bay,” the release said.

It also said that Dr. Rally Jim, Pohnpei Task Force Medical Advisor and Public Health Chief along with the Chair of the State COVID-19 recommended a seven-day quarantine period for the police officers and medical personnel who were involved in the boarding of the MS Chief Mailo. Dr. Jim advised the task forces that although the positive case aboard the Chief Mailo has been classified as a “historical case”, minimal risk is still present until a negative test result can be confirmed.

At the time of the Press Release, only three members of the boarding party were in quarantine in Dekehtik. It asked for the six National Police Officers to present themselves for quarantine.

Pohnpei State issued an update on the situation at the end of the day saying that the six officers had voluntarily arrived at the quarantine facility in Dekehtik where they would spend the next seven days. The update also said that all members of Saturday’s boarding party tested negative for the virus on arrival back at Mangrove Bay. It said that they would be tested again at the end of the quarantine period before being released back to the community.

On February 9, Wincener David, Pohnpei’s Chair of the COVID-19 Task Force wrote a letter to Livingston Taulung, Chair of FSM’s COVID-19 Task Force and Carlson Apis, FSM Secretary of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure, essentially demanding that the MV Chief Mailo be on its way to its home port in Chuuk. The letter included an attachment of a memo reporting a hearsay phone conversation between

Dr. Rally Jim and a Chuuk official that occurred at about 3:00 PM on January 6 during which the official is reported to have said that the leadership of Chuuk is ready to receive the MS Chief Mailo. Dr. Jim reported the official as having said that Chuuk could handle both vaccinations for the crew and passengers of the MS Chief Mailo on its arrival.

“It is obvious that ever since its arrival in Pohnpei about a month ago, despite dubious reasons

that brought her to Pohnpei from a COVID-19 infected area, Pohnpei State Government had to risk its staff for humanitarian reasons to assume the responsibility to help and assist including provisioning and quarantining services required under the existing health emergency decrees and protocols imposed by the State and National Governments,” Pohnpei’s COVID-19 Task Force chair wrote. “That was the right thing to do to ensure our resident population was protected from potential exposure and harm of COVID-19 virus. Pohnpei State Government through its Task Force did its honest best to serve, assist and help the crew throughout the period and now they are ready to go home.”

“...Unfortunately, what FSM did on Saturday 02/06/21, disrespected peoples peace, sense of security and trust in how we should be handling this delicate situation. In fact, FSM breached

our own established protocols in handling this kind of process by unilaterally did what they did and disregarded the safety of the staffs involved, their families and their community members and the safety of the population at large. That was a direct violation of the decrees of both the FSM and State Emergency Orders.”

In the most strongly worded paragraph of the letter, David wrote, “Why is it still here is a cause of concern. It is not in the best interest of our cooperative purpose. Our cooperative working relationship here in Pohnpei to prevent and contain COVID-19 is a call for both the nation and the state to heed and it will continue to be for many months, if not years, to come. Cooperation, transparency and honesty are imperatives under the circumstances without which our People will be victims. The Task Force on behalf of People of Pohnpei State, implores you to take the necessary step(s) to have MV Chief Mailo depart Pohnpei as soon as possible. In fact, its owners/ stewards are waiting for it.”

...Nicole Yamase

Continued from front page

holder for having led the Five Deeps Expedition making him the first person to visit the bottom of the five oceans of the world. Once this journey is complete, Ms Yamase will become both the youngest person and only the third woman to ever journey to the Challenger Deep and will set a world record.

Is she scared? Not at all! In fact, she is more than thrilled. “Never

in my lifetime did I think I would ever have the opportunity to visit the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench. I am so humbled to represent the FSM and women in STEM. This accomplishment is definitely not mine alone to claim but the whole Micronesia region. Kalahngan lap to Victor Vescovo, his crew, and the Micronesia Conservation Trust for making this possible.”

More on this to come!

Kapingamarangi Drought - Call for Donations

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap

February 10, 2021

Pohnpei--On January 29, 2021, the Kapingamarangi Municipal Government declared a State of Emergency due to the continuing effects of drought. The Kapingamarangi Task Force, previously activated to respond to drought conditions late last year has been reactivated by the Governor of Pohnpei State.

In reviewing recent relief efforts and existing conditions on Kapingamarangi Atoll, the Task Force has confirmed an urgent need for food to be delivered to the people of Kapingamarangi. Water tanks delivered during recent relief efforts, donated by Micronesia Conservation Trust, International Organization for Migration - Micronesia, and the Embassy of Japan, are providing enough fresh water for

the 200 plus population for an extended period of time.

Kapingamarangi Atoll’s drought conditions have been downgraded from D4 - Exceptional Drought to D3 - Extreme Drought. The immediate and long-term effects of local crop production are severely affected.

The next trip to Kapingamarangi to provide food and supplies is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021. The Office of the Governor, Kapingamarangi Municipal Government, and Kapingamarangi Task Force kindly invite donations of food (rice, ramen, canned meats, etc) from the general public to assist the people of Kapingamarangi. Please contact the Office of the Governor at 320-2235 for details.



HAPPY CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR!

Congratulatory Message by H.E. Ambassador Huang Zheng on the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Ox

February 12th, 2021, is the Chinese Lunar New Year's Day, also known as the Spring Festival, which is the most important and grand traditional festival of the Chinese people. On this occasion with pleasant implications of going home, happiness, auspiciousness, hope, harmony, love and warmth, on behalf of the staff of the Chinese Embassy in the FSM, I wish our FSM friends in all walks of life and the Chinese compatriots in the FSM being healthy, happy, and prosperous in the New Year.

In the era of globalization today, the Spring Festival has already become a festival for people all over the world to share and celebrate together. Although the COVID-19 pandemic prevents me from inviting local friends to gather together for a feast of the Chinese cuisine and culture gala on New Year's Eve, it can not keep us from looking back at and prospecting our cause of promoting friendship, cooperation and development.

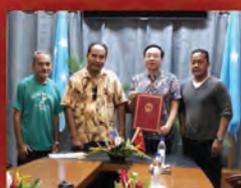
In the past year, faced with the sudden COVID-19 pandemic, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government adhere to the notion of putting people and their lives first and took unprecedented epidemic control and prevention measures with resolve and decisiveness. With the people all over China united as one, we secured major strategic victories in our fight against the pandemic. We have actively engaged in cooperation and exchanges with the international community against the pandemic in an open, transparent, and responsible manner and shared at the earliest time possible the knowledge about the virus and the experience in containing its spread, doing all we can to provide humanitarian aid in support of the global endeavors to stem the pandemic. So far, China has provided various kinds of assistance in response to the pandemic to more than 150 countries and 7 international organizations, including the FSM. We are pushing forward cooperation on research, development and application of COVID vaccines, committed to making them public goods that are truly accessible and affordable to people in all countries. China has decided to provide 10 million doses of vaccines to COVAX in the coming months, mainly to meet the urgent need in developing countries.

In the past year, by coordinating efforts in pandemic prevention and control and in economic and social development, China became the only major economy to achieve positive growth in 2020, with an increase in GDP by 2.3% to reach a new level of 100 trillion RMB (15.5 billion USD). We've made the historic achievement of establishing a moderately prosperous society in all respects and achieved decisive success in eradicating extreme poverty, lifting 100 million rural people from which under the current standard. We've seen major breakthroughs in science and technology innovation. China has continued to quicken her pace of opening up, with the foreign trade volume and the amount of foreign capital actually used both increasing bucking the trend, especially the imports of goods and services outpacing the global average by a large margin. High-quality Belt and Road cooperation has been advancing steadily. China contributed to 39% of global economic growth last year, highlighting China's role as an important driver of the world growth and the global market confidence, which has illustrated once again that China's development has a bright prospect that brings about opportunity to the world.

In the past year, though the pandemic temporarily severed the in-person contact between the Chinese and the FSM peoples, it brought even closer our hearts and minds. In the warm-hearted congratulatory messages exchanged between Chinese President Xi Jinping and FSM President David W. Panuelo on several historical occasions, both heads of state reiterated their important consensus reached during President Panuelo's historic state visit to China in December, 2019, which is to develop in length and depth the China-FSM Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and to consolidate our "Great Friendship" on the fundamental bedrock of the One-China Principle. Bearing in mind that we're on the same boat, China and the FSM have been standing in solidarity, offering mutual assistance and working together to fend off COVID-19, as well as resolutely opposing any attempt at stigmatization, politicizing or labeling the virus. China has donated 30 modular isolation units worth about 1.2 million USD, customized to satisfy the FSM's need for COVID-19 response. For the same purpose, China has provided to the FSM around 150,000 USD of medical supplies and several cash donations in the total amount of 230,000 USD. We have also shared first-hand knowledge, provided technical support to and coordinated policies with the FSM for combating the virus. Some Chinese sub-national governments, enterprises and friendship organizations have also generously lent their helping hands to their FSM counterparts. In spite of monumental difficulties and economic losses incurred with the pandemic, relevant Chinese contractors tried their best to push forward the China-Aid projects in the FSM under the framework of the Belt and Road. The Khamar Bridge reconstruction project in Pohnpei has been completed and handed over in time. In addition, China is going to donate 10,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, adding more dynamics to the FSM's efforts to eventually overcome the pandemic, lift the travel ban and reopen businesses.

Nowadays, the human society should properly face and address the four major tasks in the world of our times. The first is to step up macroeconomic policy coordination and jointly promote strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth of the world economy. The second is to abandon ideological prejudice and jointly follow a path of peaceful coexistence, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. The third is to close the divide between developed and developing countries and jointly bring about growth and prosperity for all. The fourth is to come together against global challenges and jointly create a better future for humanity. The way to properly deal with the tasks is through upholding multilateralism and building a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity, which is the fundamental connotation of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy.

According to the 12 zodiac animals in the Chinese traditional culture, Year 2021 is a year of the ox. Ox symbolizes diligence and integrity in the Chinese culture. In the New Year, China is embarking on the new journey of comprehensively building a modern socialist country. We would like to join hands with the FSM and other countries to work steadfastly and diligently, by taking a realistic and pragmatic approach and upholding the common values of humanity, i.e. peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, toward building a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity in pursuit of an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.



中华人民共和国驻密克罗尼西亚联邦大使馆

EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Micronesian boy, stranded abroad for one year after drifting to the Philippines, finally reunites with his family on Polowat

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On February 9th, 2021, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—received a genuinely heartwarming phone-call from Melson Dillippy, the boy from Chuuk State’s remote island of Polowat, who confirmed he has been reunited with his family.

Melson—who has, with his family, given permission for his name and this information be shared— was in a fishing boat with members of his immediate family when the boat was lost in early March 2020. A search and rescue operation was implemented, inclusive of assistance from FSM patrol boats and the United States Coast Guard, but the boat wasn’t found.

Citizens of the FSM from Chuuk State recognized Melson when his photo was taken and shown on a Filipino news broadcast. These citizens informed the FSM National Government of the development, who quickly moved to ensure that Melson would be assisted by the Nation’s Honorary Consul in the Republic of the Philippines.

After several months in the care of the

FSM’s friends in the Philippines, Melson joined the crew (as a passenger) of the MV Chief Mailo—a National Government vessel that predominantly serves the remote islands of Chuuk State—which was otherwise undergoing drydock repairs at the time. In September, 2020, the MV Chief Mailo went to General Santos City in the Philippines where, after several COVID-19 tests and several months of waiting, the vessel eventually received clearance to enter the FSM.

On February 6th, 2021, the crew of the MV Chief Mailo received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. That same day, an FSM patrol boat retrieved Melson to take him home to Chuuk State.

After a brief and warm reception in Weno, Melson successfully and safely made it home to Polowat the morning of February 9th, 2021.

“Something that must be said,” President Panuelo said in a statement, “Is that we must all—Yapese, Chuukese, Pohnpeians, and Kosraeans—give a loving applause to Melson, his family, our friends in the Philippines, our crew on the Chief Mailo, and our first responders across the FSM for their efforts to safely bring this young man



Melson poses with relatives, a priest, and Senator Romolow

home. In what has been a difficult period for us all, it has no

doubt been in many ways unimaginable for us to put ourselves in Melson’s shoes. He has demonstrated our Nation’s best values of resiliency, endurance, and a positive attitude in the face of enormous challenges, and the Nation welcomes him back home

to the FSM. I want to thank Chuuk State, including the Honorable Johnson Elimo and the Chuuk State COVID-19 Task Force, for being Micronesians first and for opening their hearts in welcoming Melson back home. I also want to thank the Honorable Robson Romolow for coordinating the call between Melson and I this morning. Welcome home, Melson!”

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Lawyer claims defendant in Yap murder case never advised of his Miranda rights

By *Joyce McClure*
Pacific Island Times

February 7, 2021

Yap--Colonia, Yap — Anthony Rutun Teteth, one of the two defendants in the Rachelle Bergeron murder, was neither read his Miranda rights nor asked to sign a waiver-of-rights form during his arrest that was followed by a three-day interrogation, according to his attorney.

Defense Attorney Marstella Jack of Pohnpei is asking the FSM Supreme Court to suppress Teteth's confession during his interrogation at the FSM National Police Station on Oct. 25, 2019.

Teteth has been charged along with Francis Choay Buchun with violating the FSM Weapons Control Act in connection with their alleged possession of a 12-gauge shotgun and ammunition that was used in the killing of Yap's former acting attorney general on Oct. 14, 2019.

FSM Supreme Court Judge Larry Wentworth presided over four pre-trial hearings held via Zoom between Dec. 17, 2020 and Feb. 2, 2021.

Witnesses called to the stand included Captain Kasner Aldens, Investigator Raynard Jonah and Officer Charles Otoko of the FSM National Police. Those present during the arrest testified that Teteth was read his rights.

Teteth denied any knowledge of the murder and any involvement in it during his arrest and during a four-hour interrogation at the FSM National Police Station.

During a subsequent cross examination, the prosecution asked Teteth how he could not have known about the murder that happened on a small island where news travels quickly. The incident took place 10 days prior to his arrest.

When questioned if Teteth was given a waiver to sign, Aldens replied "no."

Jack then accused the captain of being "very excited" about working with the FBI to the extent that he forgot the waiver.

The witness denied being "excited," expressed his respect for the FBI and restated that the rights read to Teteth during his arrest were very clear.

A secret audio recording of a conversation between Buchun and Teteth was revealed to the suspect during the first night of interrogation. Recorded by Buchun, the

two men were talking about a shotgun and its location and the lawsuit.

Upon hearing about the tape, Teteth broke down and confessed that "he had killed her" with "tears and a shaking voice, face down," according to the captain.

The confession led the police and FBI to the location of the gun.

The interrogation ended for the night when Teteth asked for an attorney.

The following day, Quintina Letawerpiy, then an attorney with the Yap Public Defenders Office, was summoned to represent Teteth and called to the witness stand to testify about her role during the interrogation.

The defense said the audiotape was played during the interrogation but was not in the transcript of the interrogation. None of the officers could explain why it was not. Teteth later testified that it was not played when he was being questioned.

Jack also asked the captain if he had told Teteth that he needed to cooperate or he would be sent to Pohnpei.

"Yes, I did say that but it's part of the interrogation technique we use," he replied.

Jack asked if he was trying to scare Teteth. "No," he replied. She then asked if he had made any plea offers on the first day or the second day. "I don't recall," the captain replied, "but that's the technique we use."

"Do you use it to try to induce a confession?" Jack asked. "Yes," Aldens replied. "How was it voluntary when it was induced?" she asked.

"He cooperated with the officers after he confessed; it's a formula technique," he replied.

Jack said the captain had told the defendant "to remember these guys are from the FBI and I'd man up if I were you."

"That's part of the interview technique," he again replied.

"You were pressuring him. You asked him questions over and over again during the four hours. He kept saying no. Don't you think that was a lot of pressure for someone with no criminal record?" Jack asked.

Aldens replied, "I may repeat questions, but not pressure."

When called to the stand on Jan. 14, Teteth was questioned if he was aware that the police were supposed to read him his rights. He replied yes.

Teteth testified that no one asked if he needed a lawyer and he did not ask for one even though he knew he had the right to legal representation.

Letawerpiy was at the police station when Teteth arrived the morning after his arrest and initial interrogation. She informed him that he had two options – cooperate with the police 100 percent or be sent to Pohnpei away from his family.

She advised him to cooperate with the police, Teteth said. But according to Letawerpiy, she did not advise him which option to accept nor did she counsel him in any way during the next two days.

When asked if Letawerpiy told him that he had the right to remain silent, Teteth responded that she did not. Questioned if he understood what self-incrimination means, he said no. He also denied that he knew what he was confessing to.

Asked by the prosecution when he realized he had been arrested "about a murder," Teteth replied that it was after Letawerpiy arrived. He then decided to "tell her everything" and relayed "the whole story."

The prosecutor, Jeffery Tilfas, asked why it took Teteth more than a year to bring up the issue of not being read his rights.

During the final hearing on Feb. 1, Jack said Aldens had testified that he had the waiver that Teteth signed and had agreed to send it to her, but had not done so. She questioned if a waiver really existed. Tilfas rebutted that a reading of rights and a waiver are two different things, and, according to the testimony of the arresting officers, he was read his rights when arrested.

The defense then asked the court to reopen the motion based on new evidence. Judge Wentworth granted the right to reopen due to "the seriousness of the charge" and requested a copy of the interrogation transcript that was redacted by the defense by Feb. 2.

Yap State Supreme Court is also hearing pre-trial motions for the state's 13 charges that include murder, manslaughter and aggravated assault. The next hearings are scheduled for April 16 and May 7.



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Ebeye now offers support services to local survivors of violence against women and girls

February 15, 2021

Republic of the Marshall Islands, RMI-Women United Together in Marshall Island's (WUTMI) is officially launching its new support service for women in Ebeye today.

The support service is called Weto In Mour (A Place of Life): Violence Against Women and Girls Support Service. It is based in Majuro and now also operates in Ebeye.

"The women and children survivors of domestic and family violence in remote and island locations need support, and so it is critical that we expand our original Weto in Mour service in Majuro, out to islands such as Ebeye," said WUTMI's Executive Director, Daisy Alik-Momotaro.

"We've received incredible support from iroj laplap (Chief) Michael Kabua, the Kwajalein Local Government, lerooj Anta James John and the Rukjenleen Club advisors help us develop this centre and make this launch day possible,."

The Weto In Mour centre in Ebeye will provide support to survivors of violence along with education and awareness to help prevent gender-based violence.

Funding for the Ebeye centre is from the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, via UN Women, complementing support from Australia through Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women) that funded the Majuro Weto In Mour – the first ever service for domestic violence survivors in RMI. Pacific Women also provide technical support for all WIM staff.

"Today sets a milestone in the RMI

in our fight against sexual violence and harassment against our young adolescents and women of all ages," Ms Alik-Momotaro said.

"Surveys have shown that an alarming one in three Marshallese women have experienced some form of abuse in their lifetime. RMI's rates of violence against women and children are staggering and unacceptable for a nation whose culture is built on peace, care and love for family and clan; a traditional structure that has existed for centuries. The Republic of the Marshall Islands is a matrilineal society where land inheriting is passed through the lineage of women.

WUTMI established RMI's first counselling service called Weto in Mour in 2016, with the support of Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women). Weto in Mour continues to increase awareness about violence against women and to improve the referral network and services provided for its survivors.

"WUTMI is committed to ensure that perpetrators, child molesters, pedophiles and human traffickers are punished to the highest extent of the law," Ms Alik-Momotaro said.

"Safe havens must be established in our hospitals, police stations, courthouse to protect survivors once a case is reported." For more information:

Women United Together in Marshall Island's (WUTMI), Executive Director, Daisy Alik-Momotaro

Email: wutmi26@gmail.com or alik_momotaro@yahoo.com

Declaration of Public Health Emergency extended to March 31st, 2021

FSM Information Services

January 31, 2021

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—

Per Congressional Resolution (C.R.) 21-245, the Declaration of Public Health Emergency originally implemented by His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on January 31st, 2020, has been extended to March 31st, 2021. Citizens interested in reading C.R. 21-245 may find it here: https://gov.fm/files/CR_No_21-245_Extending_the_Presidents_Public_Health_Emergency_Declaration.pdf

For the great bulk of citizens, residents, and stakeholders, including those residing in the FSM and those stranded abroad, C.R. 21-245 offers no change from the status quo of the past several months and is thematically similar to the previously enacted C.R. 21-228, C.R. 21-185, and C.R. 21-175. Economic provisions, such as cargo shipping and at-sea transshipment of fish, remain in place and unaltered. Travel into the FSM remains restricted; outbound travel from the FSM to the United States and other jurisdictions remains open, with the caveat that as of January 26th, 2021, the United States is requiring any individual traveling into its borders (including FSM citizens) to obtain a negative COVID-19 test no more than seventy-two (72) hours prior to departure.

Of the few amendments made to the Declaration of Public Health Emergency via C.R. 21-245, they include that, in the event a case of COVID-19 arrives into the Nation, the FSM COVID-19 Task Force may choose to temporarily halt interstate travel; and that, in the event of a medical emergency, such as

an individual on a fishing boat needing immediate medical attention, the FSM COVID-19 Task Force, in consultation with the relevant State Task Force, may allow that individual to disembark into the FSM for this limited purpose.

It is the intent of the FSM National Government to achieve a 70% vaccination rate amongst its eligible population (i.e. adults aged 18 years and up) prior to the resumption of repatriation activities. Per C.R. 21-245, stranded medical patients are given the first priority for return into the Nation.

As of February 1st, 2021, approximately 5,048 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been given across the Nation. Approximately ten (10) second doses of the vaccine have been given. 1,072 doses have been administered in Yap State; 1,783 doses have been administered in Chuuk State; 1,675 doses have been administered in Pohnpei State; and 528 doses have been administered in Kosrae State.

As of February 1st, 2021, the FSM remains COVID-19 free. There are no cases of COVID-19 in the country.

Queries regarding the Executive Branch's execution of C.R. 21-245 can be relayed to the Manager for Environmental Health & Preparedness, Mr. Moses Prettrick, at mprettrick@fsmhealth.fm or at +691-320-8300. Queries may also be relayed to the Public Information Officer/Press Secretary, Mr. Richard Clark, at richard.clark@gov.fm or +691-320-2548. Citizens may also send a direct message to the Office of the President's Division of Public Information on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/piofsm/>



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89.5 FM

Interior awards \$1,033,100 to mitigate COVID-19 among Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i

We are Oceania to provide support to families most disproportionately impacted

U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA)

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) is announcing the award of \$1,033,100 in CARES Act grant funding to help Pacific Islander communities in Hawaii that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be administered by We are Oceania, a non-profit organization with culture and language expertise and liaises between Hawai'i state agencies and families from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic Palau.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been especially challenging for certain Pacific Islander communities in Hawai'i and these funds will provide much needed support," said OIA Director and Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular and International

Affairs Nikolao Pula. "We are pleased to be able to leverage the expertise and experience of We are Oceania to combat and fight the COVID-19 pandemic that has disproportionately affected Pacific Islanders."

The Honolulu Civil Beat reported last November that Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i are more than twice as likely to die from or be hospitalized by the coronavirus than other racial and ethnic groups, after adjusting for age and gender, according to data from the Hawai'i State Health Department. The report indicated that Chuukese, Marshallese, and Samoans are among the most impacted.

The funding will be used to support We Are Oceania's ongoing COVID-19 response in Hawai'i to migrants and families from the freely associated states, resident in Hawai'i, who are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funds will help train and provide specialists fluent in target Pacific Islander languages to answer and respond to queries about the pandemic, manage food drive efforts, deliver PPE, and provide cleaning supplies.

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, language and cultural barriers were observed to be the cause of most gaps in services for Micronesian populations in Hawai'i. These barriers were amplified during COVID-19, as families with limited-English were unable to appropriately self-isolate or access testing and other services, thereby contributing to the disproportionate number of Micronesian populations among the Pacific Islanders most impacted by COVID-19. Since the pandemic struck early last year, We are Oceania has also experienced an increase in the number of calls and emails from other service providers on Hawai'i seeking cultural and language

expertise in order to work effectively with Micronesian populations.

For more information on grant assistance provided through OIA, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, @InsularAffairs, and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin 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. Follow and "like" OIA on Facebook and subscribe to the OIA YouTube Channel.

2021 Ocean report launch affirms value of the Blue economy

By Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner

PIF, Suva, Fiji-

The Pacific's leadership on sustainable management of the world's biggest ocean continues with a suite of Ocean reports launched in Suva this week.

The collection centerpiece is the Blue Pacific Ocean Report 2021 by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner. Seven other reports focusing on ocean finance are also now available online at the OPOC website.

Attending today's virtual launch Forum Economic Ministerial Chair, Tuvalu's Minister for Finance, Economic, Planning and Industry, Hon. Seve Paeniu said ocean finance is a means of implementing the overall ocean policies and commitments and aspirations of our Blue Pacific Continent.

"Ocean finance is new but should be a significant part of the public finance machinery like climate finance, disaster finance and more," he said.

Minister Paeniu emphasized the entire Blue Pacific Ocean is worth hundreds of billions, with the Melanesia ocean alone worth USD548million.

"With that in mind and further encouraged by these Ocean Finance reports. It should be a serious premise to explore new and innovative financing streams from our Blue Pacific Ocean endowment fund, said Mr Paeniu.

"And start to mobilize and deploy sustainable investments and policies today. That will ensure maximum benefits from our ocean resources, resilience, meet the full cost of our future development and establish more autonomy over the global economies."

The Ocean Finance Reports cover areas such as taxes and subsidies and their alignment to ocean health objectives, finance models for marine protected areas, innovative insurance mechanisms for protecting ocean assets, ocean bond structures and accessibility, financing models for different types of community managed marine areas – are innovative and thought-provoking.

Dame Meg Taylor, in her launch remarks said the borderless nature of the world's oceans, demanded the willingness of all nations of the world to work together to protect the biodiversity and ecosystems upon which life on land also depends.

"The Pacific Ocean in its totality

deserves a focused attention and as the potential, with a reinvigorated development paradigm, to secure our future as one Blue Pacific Continent."

The Blue Pacific Ocean Report 2021 provides, among other things, the following:

- A holistic overview across the different ocean sectors within our Pacific region.
- Captures a stock-stake on the progress of ocean policy implementation.
- Highlights our progress as a region; and
- Proposes forward-looking strategies to improve ocean governance and sustainable use of our ocean resources.

The Blue Pacific Ocean Report highlights defining challenges and potential prospects for our Blue Pacific Ocean, which require our collective resolve. Impacts of sea level rise on our maritime boundaries, climate change, marine pollution, land-based externalities, geopolitics, and other key challenges.

Other launch guests included regional organizations and OPOC partners including Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency Director General, Dr Manu Tupou Roosen and World Bank Resident Representative to the South

Pacific, Mr Lasse Melgaard.

"Through our work we empower member countries in all aspects of sustainable fisheries management. Our collaboration with regional partners is holistic and crucial to all of our efforts on ocean health and sustainability," said Dr Manu Tupou Roosen.

"We are very excited to see the tangible results of this partnership with FFA, PIFS and OPOC come to fruition in the delivery of this innovative set of tools being launched today," said Mr Melgaard.

"The World Bank remains committed to continuing these regional partnerships in supporting Pacific Island Countries protect its oceans, generate sustainable economic development opportunities and strengthen community resilience across the region, for the future that Pacific children deserve to inherit," he said.

The reports can be accessed on: Blue Pacific Ocean Report- <https://opocbluepacific.net/publications/#blue-pacific-ocean-report>

Ocean Finance Reports- <https://opocbluepacific.net/publications/#pacific-ocean-finance-reports>

COVID-19 vaccines are an important tool in the fight against COVID-19

Authors: Dr Livinson A. Taulung (FSM Secretary of Health); Dr Eunyoung Ko (WHO Country Liaison Officer), Mr Carter J. Apaisam (FSM Immunization Program Manager).

FSM has worked hard to prevent COVID-19 from entering into our communities. Border closures and quarantine have been strong measures for FSM and many other Pacific island countries and areas (PICs) in fighting the pandemic. These border closures have kept us safe, but they have come at great social and economic cost. None of us want them closed forever.

Across the Pacific, FSM is one of the few countries that have already received and begun administering approved COVID-19 vaccines. This is an incredible milestone. The availability of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines mean that although this pandemic is far from over, there is some light at the end of a very long tunnel. Vaccines, combined with other proven public health measures, will be an important tool in ending the pandemic, globally.

To date, essential workers in FSM have received COVID-19 vaccines, including healthcare workers and frontline workers, including those who work at the airport, seaport and in the quarantine facilities.

Secretary of Health, Dr Livingston A. Taulung, who is considered a frontline worker, received his first COVID-19 vaccine on 14 January. "I had minimal pain on the injection site which resolved the following day. I've felt myself and haven't experienced any side effects over

the past three weeks. I'm thrilled that we're able to offer COVID-19 vaccines to our citizens. These are important for protecting us as individuals; for protecting our families, loved ones, colleagues and wider communities", said Secretary Taulung.

WHO Country Liaison Officer for Northern Micronesia (Marshall Islands, FSM, Palau) Dr Eunyoung Ko, is also considered a frontline worker and received her first COVID-19 vaccine on 1 February. "In my home country, I don't fall into a priority group for vaccination, so I feel extremely grateful to have received a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine here in Pohnpei where I work", said Dr Ko. "Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine has received an emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which WHO considers to be a stringent regulatory authority, as well as having received an interim recommendation from WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts.

While current evidence shows that the existing COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing illness, people who are vaccinated may still be able to pass virus onto others. That means that in FSM and other COVID-contained PICs, there is always a risk that cases of COVID-19 will be introduced into the community.

COVID-19 vaccines are now available in all FSM states, with priority given to those aged 45 and over, and to those with underlying medical conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

"Being vaccinated is one of the best

preventive measures for a healthy and safe community. We need as many people of possible, vaccinated against COVID-19", said National Immunization Program Manager, Mr. Carter J. Apaisam. At the same time, vaccines will unfortunately not allow for a return to pre-COVID life any time soon. So as these vaccines are rolled out globally, everyone everywhere, including in FSM, must use or be ready to use the public

health measures (e.g. frequent hand washing, mask-wearing and physical distancing) following the government's protocol, to protect our community and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

To confirm your eligibility and where to go to receive your COVID-19 vaccines, please call your immunization clinic: Pohnpei 320-3144/2217; Chuuk 330-3945; Yap 350-2114; Kosrae 370-2125.



Dr Eunyoung Ko (WHO Country Liaison Officer) receiving her first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Pohnpei State.

Pohnpei State Public Elementary Schools resume normal hours

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap

February 9, 2021

Pohnpei--This is to inform the general public that Pohnpei State public elementary schools will resume their normal school schedules starting Monday, February 15, 2021.

The decision to resume normal school hours was brought before the COVID-19 Task Force by the Director of the Department of Education, Mr. Stanley Etse, on Monday, February 8, 2021, and unanimously approved.

School hours for all Public Elementary Schools continue at their regularly scheduled times, on Monday, February

15, 2021:

ECE - 3rd Grade: 8:00 AM to 12:15 PM
4th - 8th Grade: 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Thank you to the students, teachers, and parents for your cooperation and patience during this school year.

For more information, please contact the Department of Education at 320-2014 or the Public Information Officer at 320-223

Website: <https://pohnpeistate.gov.fm/2021/02/09/pohnpei-state-public-elementary-schools-will-resume-normal-school-hours-starting-monday-february-15-2021/>

Public Announcement February 1, 2021

The FSM National Department of Education (NDOE) announces that an application for funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is being submitted for US Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 covering the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The FSM continues to receive IDEA Part B funding from US Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)-Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to provide special education and related service programs and services for eligible children with disabilities, ages 3-21, and their families.

IDEA requires that the annual application for funding be made available for Public Review and Comment. Consistent with this requirement, The FSM NDOE announces that the Annual State Application under Part B of IDEA for FFY 2021 will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, OSERS on or before May 21, 2021.

The FSM NDOE announces that a 60-day public review period and a 30-day public comment period will be

made available to allow the public an opportunity to review the application and to make comments. The dates for the 60 day public review will be from February 22, 2021 – April 30, 2021. The 30 day public comment period will be from April 5, 2021 – May 14, 2021.

Copies of the Part B Application FFY 2021 are available at each State Department of Education and at the FSM NDOE Division of Special Services website, <https://fsmsped.org>, and FSM Department of Education website, <http://national.doe.fm>.

Please submit any comments concerning the application to:

Wayne Mendiola
Acting Secretary
Department of Education
FSM National Government
P.O. Box PS 87
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Comments may also be submitted via email to: wayne.mendiola@national.doe.fm and aalbert@dss.edu.fm
Additional information can be obtained by calling 691-320-8982/1055/7228



Sports Word Search

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

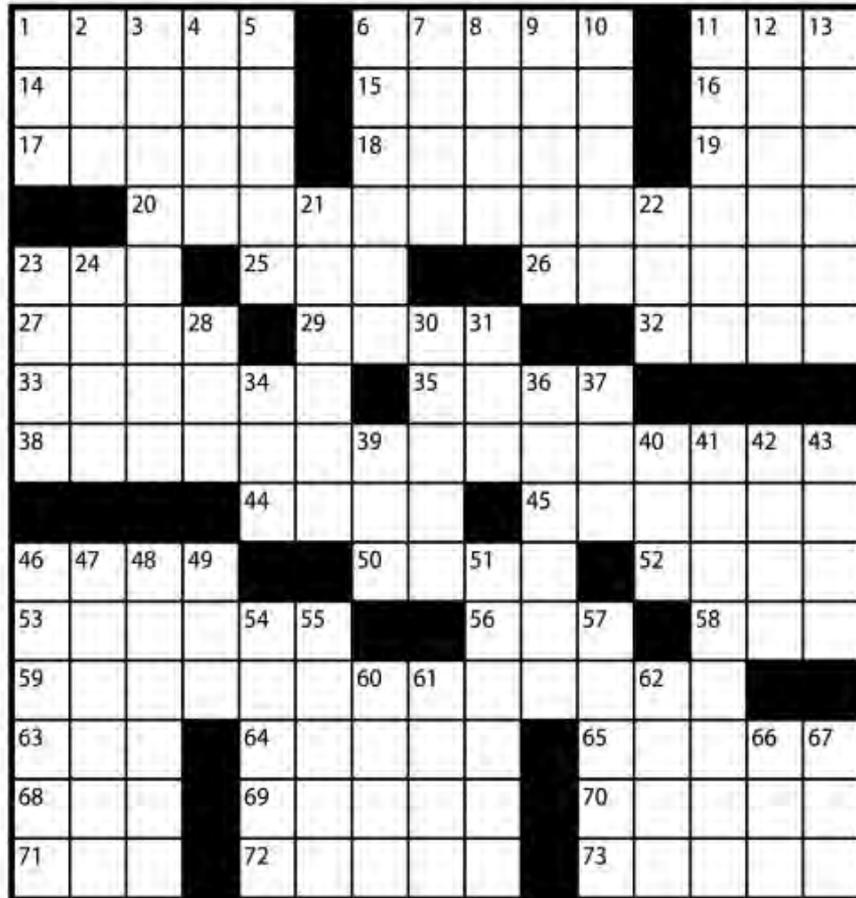
S U H S Z M E N N J T S S O F
 D E E C L M G H N N E H E Q Z
 P C I W A Z G F J I E T G G E
 Q H I R E N S J R H O X N E M
 W E O H R C I R G M X R A Q R
 U E B U T E E P A M P U R D K
 Z S L B C B B T S S K H O T K
 V E F H W W O E I K X P T N T
 W X K A F E F T U P V Z T X G
 C R R I S M D P D L T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

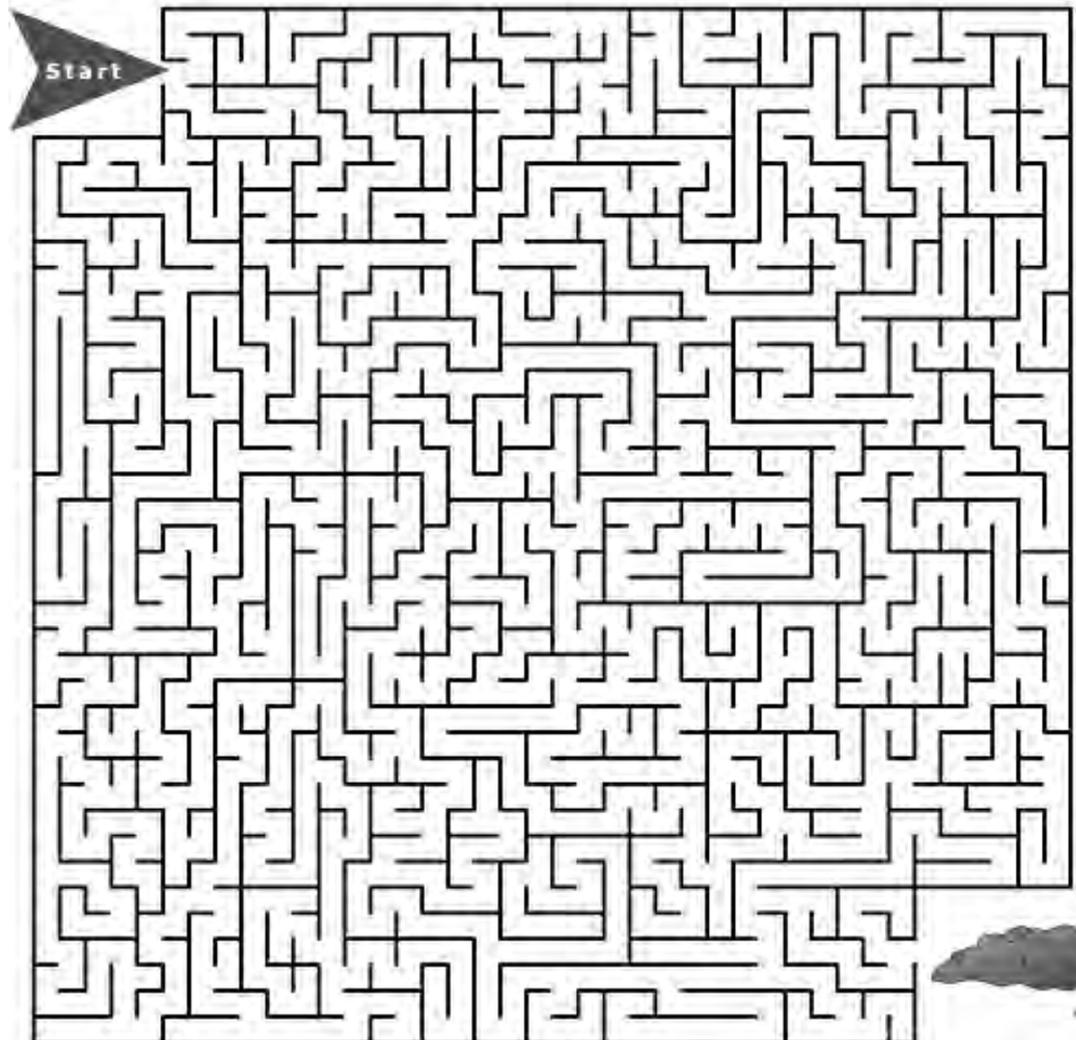
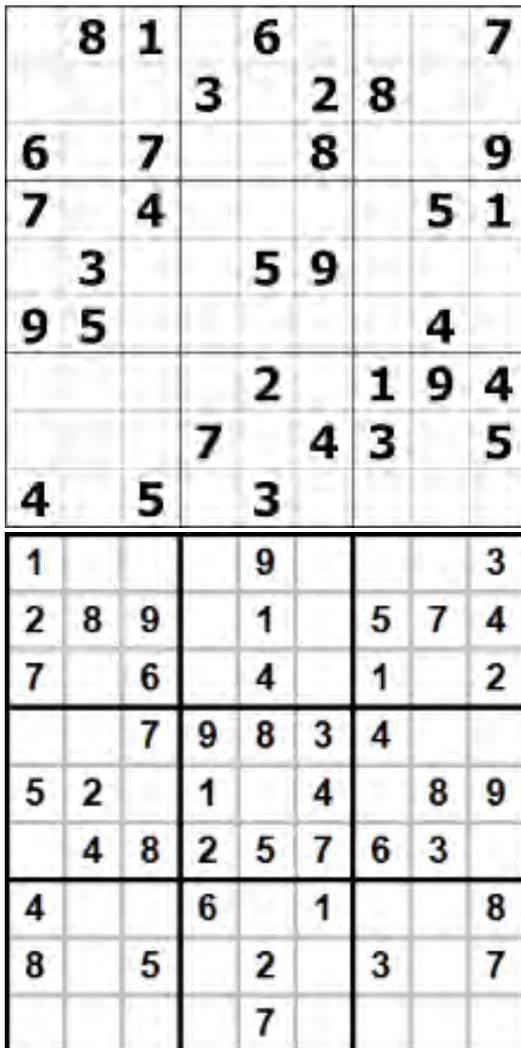
DOWN

- 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-ll!"

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College of Micronesia-FSM

Yap | Chuuk | Pohnpei | Kosrae

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College of Micronesia-FSM to Release Supplemental Financial Aid Grant Funding to Students

The college received supplemental grant funding, on January 14, 2021, for students from the U.S. Department of Education under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021(CRRSAA) in the amount of \$1,820,157.00. Students may use this grant funding for any component of the cost for attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care. Students may use the financial aid grant to satisfy outstanding account balance IF the student provides written or electronic affirmative consent.

Eligible students are those registered for spring 2021 as of Feb. 4, 2021.

RELEASE DATE:

Students in Pohnpei may pickup checks from the National Campus Business Office between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm as follows:

- February 16 Those students last names beginning with **A - E**
- February 17 Those students with last names beginning with **F - L**
- February 18 Those students with last names beginning with **M - S**
- February 19 Those students with last names beginning with **T - Z**

****Students must wear a mask and present COM-FSM ID to pickup check.**

OR if the student in Pohnpei prefers to have the check deposited to his/her bank account, please submit the account number to the Business Office at National Campus. (Email is okay).

Students at **Kosrae Campus, Chuuk Campus, and Yap Campus** need to submit personal bank account information to the fiscal officer at the state campus. The check will be deposited to the student's account. This account must be in the student's name.

[Scholarship Opportunity] Studying in China



The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the FSM welcomes COM-FSM students towards scholarship opportunities for studying in China.

Here are the Steps for applying:

Step 1: Log on to <http://www.campuschina.org> and fill in the application form. Your "Agency Number" should be 5831.

Step 2: Download the completed form and print two copies. Submit the copies and other corresponding documents to the Chinese Embassy no later than February 28, 2021.

For more details please feel free to consult the Chinese Embassy.

Contacts: Mrs. Zhao Yingguang / Mr. He Tingde (691) 320-5575

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