

Mwokillese teen “rock star” in Pennsylvania gets by with a little help from his parents

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 24, 2022

Williamsport, Pennsylvania—All too often, we in the FSM hear sad stories of Micronesians who emigrate to the United States and fall on hard times. But for every one of those, there are more good stories: Micronesians who do well in their new home, who are able to pay their bills, are good citizens and who contribute to their communities. This is one of those.

In 1992, Maria Sepety, a Pohnpeian from Mwokilooa who grew up in Kolonia Town, emigrated to the United States to continue her education which she completed. Some time later she

met her husband who is currently a radio personality and program director at a classic rock station and she became Maria Sepety Lilley. Together the couple have two sons. This story is about Jossian, their oldest son. At 16-years-of-age, he has never been to Pohnpei or its outer island of Mwokilooa, but that is his heritage and he has dreams of one day coming here to learn more about where his mother grew up and more about where he came from.

Jossian came to our attention when his cousin, Kenneth Welles, another Micronesian in the U.S. success story, posted a video of his young nephew performing with a large rock band under

[Click here for continuation](#)



FSM Supreme Court rules that collections for State sales tax are exempt from reported revenue for GRT

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 20, 2022

FSM—On May 18, the FSM Supreme Court issued a declaratory judgment on two consolidated civil cases saying that State sales taxes collected by a seller are not subject to Gross Revenue Tax (GRT). The issue came before the court when three businesses filed two separate appeals of administrative decisions of the FSM Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA) that required those businesses to include revenue collected for sales tax in their GRT

calculations of revenue. The appeals, CA 2021-005 and CA 2021-006, were filed by Genesis Corporation, Isamu Nakasone Store, and Bargain Center.

The Court additionally ruled that DoFA must reimburse the portion of GRT taxes those companies had paid under duress that applied to the sales taxes they had collected.

The plaintiffs said that for 17 years they had been following Finance’s instructions and policies that businesses held state sales taxes in trust for remittance to the state and that no GRT

was to be assessed on the sales taxes collected. They said that “Finance, in 2020, abruptly and without prior written notice to any retailer, changed this policy so that state sales taxes were now included in a business’s gross revenue subject to taxation.” After the change in policy, they complied under protest and appealed the administrative decision.

Currently unresolved in the Court’s reversal of the DoFA’s administrative decisions is the matter of plaintiffs’ claims for attorney’s fees and the plaintiffs’ damages claims for alleged due process civil right violations. “The

plaintiffs may inform the court, within thirty days of this order, how and whether they intend to proceed on these claims,” the ruling said.

Though plaintiffs raised several issues, including that assessing GRT on sales tax receipts is unconstitutional vertical taxation, the Court did not rule on the constitutionality of the practice. It did say that sales taxes are assessed on the buyer and not the seller and that the seller holds collected sales taxes in fiduciary trust on behalf of the buyer until such time as the sales tax is paid. Revenue

[Click here for continuation](#)



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Pohnpei fiber optic cable in danger of failure partially due to dropped boulders from runway expansion

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

May 18, 2022

Pohnpei—According to Brady Barrineau, a commercial and industrial dive contractor, the Hantru Spur fiber optic line that carries data to and from Pohnpei is in jeopardy. Earlier this month, FSM Telecommunications Corporation brought Barrineau to Pohnpei to shore up the cable.

It was his third trip to Pohnpei. The first was when he served on the crew that ran the cable. The second was in 2017, which was when he discovered that large coral boulders had apparently been dropped on the cable during the expansion project of Pohnpei's runway. He said that it was obvious that they had been dropped there because the boulder's still have the cables attached to them that were used to hoist and dump them. Further, the boulders are at the top of a sort of "mound". The bottom of the lagoon drops off on all sides around them. "Boulders don't roll up hill even under water," Barrineau said.

During this trip, he discovered that the outside protective sheath had been abraded entirely away. That in and of itself is not a problem. The cable is heavily armored. It does, however, indicate that either the boulders or the cable itself, or both, have had some movement.

The cable was initially secured with what is called an "oceanic grip". One or more anchors are secured to the sea floor, which is attached to the fiber optic cable with heavy steel cables and a kevlar sheath all connected to a

shackle. The grip is in place to keep the cable from slipping into the enormous pressures of the ocean deep where it drops off in the open ocean on the other side of Pohnpei's reef. If it were to fail, the cable would very likely pull away from the beach manhole on the shore where it is connected to the equipment that makes fiber optic connectivity possible. Barrineau said that the cable is currently under enormous pressure, and the shackle on the oceanic grip had deteriorated so badly that it could have failed at any time.

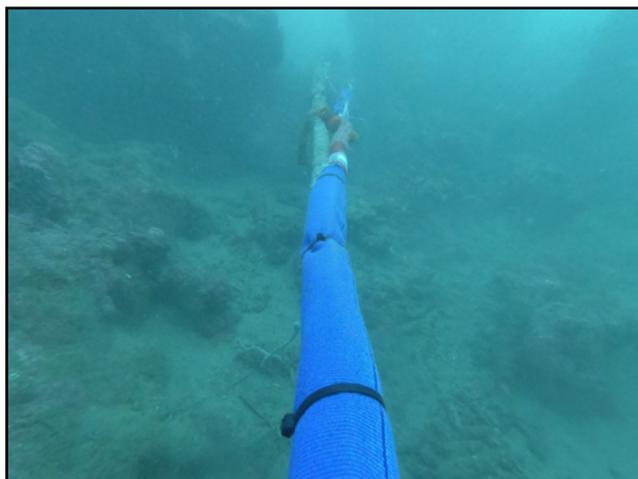
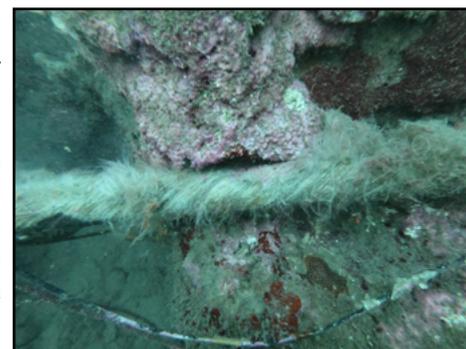
During this trip, Barrineau backed up the existing oceanic grip with two more, tightened in such a way that if the main shackle were to fail, the backups would come into play without causing excessive shock to the fiber optic cable.

All of the above details make it seem as if the boulders, which are still on and compressing the cable, are not a problem, but that is not the case. Barrineau said that the cable in Rota was heavily damaged by boulders rolling over it, completely cutting off internet services to the island by the

fiber optic method. He said it took several months to restore that line. If the boulders were to roll, as could happen in a tidal event or for other reasons, the same could happen in Pohnpei.

To resolve that issue and others, tentative plans call for Barrineau to return in September. At that time, he will use a series of "come-alongs" and other techniques to pull the boulders out of the way. He will also be ordering 100 meters of "articulating split pipe" to protect the cable. Essentially, an articulating split pipe is a protective pipe that is hinged to follow the contours of the cable and split to allow the two halves to come together to form a pipe surrounding the cable that are then bolted together to make it solid, and then further anchored to the sea bed.

FSMTC is bearing the cost of the preventive maintenance, which it is hoped will be sufficient, when it is completed to remove the immediate danger of internet service interruption through severance of the cable



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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June 8, 2022

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

Monday, June 6, 2022

She's here - FSS Tosiwo Nakayama arrives in FSM waters

Marine surveillance advisors

FSM's new Australian-built patrol boat, the FSS Tosiwo Nakiyama, arrived in the Pohnpei anchorage from Australia on 20 May. Following completion of quarantine, it is scheduled to come alongside the port of Pohnpei on 27 May to begin a new 20+ year chapter of protecting the people and waters of FSM. The crew of the FSS Tosiwo Nakayama returns to FSM after four months in Australia where they formally accepted the new vessel from the Australian Government and completed rigorous training.

With support and assistance from the Australian Navy Defence Cooperation Program – Sea Training Group (DCP-STG) - the crew were put through a complicated series of training evolutions to test their understanding of the vessel and demonstrate their ability to not only safely operate the vessel in normal circumstances, but also how to react to fires, floods and major engineering defects. This culminated in a six-hour final assessment where multiple fires and engineering defect scenarios were given to the crew, while also conducting boarding operations on mock fishing vessels.

The final assessment was conducted under the watchful eyes of CMDR David Ince, RAN, Commander DCP-STG and CMDR Steward Peter, Chief

of the FSM Division of Border Control and Maritime Surveillance. Both officers were impressed with the crew's performance and happily assessed them as fully competent and safe to operate FSS Tosiwo Nakayama across the full range of operational capabilities inherent in the Guardian Class patrol boats.

LCDR Paulino Yangitesmal, Commanding Officer of FSS Tosiwo Nakayama stated "this is a proud day for me and my crew. It has been a fantastic experience demonstrating that we can safely operate this vessel no matter what situation the trainers threw at us. We thank DCP-STG for the professional manner in which this training has been conducted and particularly the valuable knowledge that they have given us throughout this period".

After completing the training in Perth, the FSS Tosiwo Nakayama sailed up the Western Australian coast to Darwin and then onto Cairns to undertake a final maintenance period prior to commencing the passage to FSM.

A formal welcoming ceremony and blessing of the boat will be held on 4 June, in conjunction with the final farewell ceremony for the last of the older Pacific Patrol boats, the FSS Palikir, under the Command of Lcdr Kayven Yarotailug.



Director Elnei designated Acting Lt. Governor while Governor off island for medical referral

By Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

May 18, 2022

Pohnpei--Governor of the State of Pohnpei, Hon. Reed B. Oliver, departed today, May 16, 2022, for a medical referral off-island. The Governor was accompanied by First Lady, Mrs. Estle G. Oliver.

Acting Lt. Governor, Hon. Christina Elnei has been designated by Governor Oliver. Congratulations to the First Acting Female Lieutenant Governor of Pohnpei, a historic occasion for Pohnpei. Best wishes for a speedy recovery and return to Pohnpei for Governor Oliver.

Subsection (2) of section 2-102 of Title 3 of the Pohnpei Code reads,“(2) When the Lieutenant Governor is temporarily absent from the state, is temporarily

disabled, or is constitutionally prohibited from exercising the powers and duties of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the powers and duties of the Office of the Lt. Governor shall devolve upon the Attorney General, the Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration, the Director of the Department of Education, the Director of the Department of Health Services, the Director of the Department of Public Safety ... (etc) in the order named.”

Subsection (5) of Section 2-102 reads in pertinent part,0

“...No officer shall act as Governor or Lieutenant Governor under this section unless the officer has been appointed and confirmed prior to the time the powers and duties of the Office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor devolve upon the officer...”

As the Office of the Attorney General is filled by an Acting Attorney General, an appointment that does not require legislative confirmation, the line of succession falls to the



Director of the Department of Treasury and Administration.

During the absence of the Governor and Lt. Governor, Ms. Elnei, as Acting Lt. Governor shall exercise the powers and duties of the Governor.

...Rock star

Continued from front page

big, professional lights. It wasn't some hack band playing music as best they can but that really only someone who knew them would like or be impressed by. This performance was astounding and Jossian carried himself on stage as if he was a seasoned performer, strutting the stage, pounding out classic David Gilmore (Pink Floyd) guitar solos and rhythm guitar parts, and singing as if Roger Waters himself was on stage. His performance raised goose bumps on this long-time musician's arms. I didn't get far into the video before I reached out to Welles and asked him to put me in touch with him so that I could write about him.

Welles put me in touch with Jossian's Mom who facilitated an interview with Jossian, though finding time in the busy teenager's schedule was different. His band "gigs" (performs) three or four times a month, and of course, there are rehearsals and his school studying which has not suffered at the hands of his pursuit of music. Our first attempt for an interview failed because he had to be at the performance venue with a smaller five-piece band than appears in the video linked to this article ([see the video at this site](#)). On that night, his band played classic rock hits of the 60's and 70's such as songs by Steppenwolf, ZZ Top, Led Zeppelin and Janis Joplin—a well-rounded set and also not particularly easy.

We finally caught up with Jossian in Rochester, NY where his family was taking a short weekend vacation. After de-briefing his previous night's gig, Jossian told us that he has been playing guitar for only four years. He said he struggled along on his own for a few months and then began taking lessons most influentially in his musical studies, at the Uptown Music Collective in Williamsport, Pennsylvania (<https://uptownmusic.org/>).

The Collective is an astounding non-profit music program for young people where participants study modern music of all types. Though, through the influence of his parents, Jossian grew up listening to classic rock, at the Collective he has studied many different modern genres. The Collective's website carries several testimonials from students who have studied there and Jossian's testimonial from when he was in eighth grade features as the third listed.

At that time he said, "The collective has strengthened my work ethic and attention to detail. I [want] to live up to and grow beyond what my expectations from others are, which I owe to my peers and

teachers' belief in my own potential..... The teachers at the collective are what makes the collective what it is today. They encourage you and they aren't afraid to hold you accountable so that you can live up to what you are capable of and grow beyond your own self-imposed boundaries...My love for music has grown beyond enjoying my favorite musicians play. Now, through performance, I can express that love for music in a personal way. I have grown a great amount of confidence to play in front of others."

"Everybody has heard of, like, being able to take lessons," he said during our interview. "Where it ends up being different with the Uptown Music Collective is that it not only allows you to learn an instrument but you also get to do REAL performance scenarios... it's a lot of fun to play in the high-profile environments when we do our shows at the convention center." The school also teaches about the technical side of the performance craft; all of the multiplicity of equipment required to put on a good performance, skills that many musicians take a long time to learn after doing and some never do at all.

Guitar and vocals are not Jossian's only instrument. In his regular High School, he also plays tuba in their symphonic band. He said that he started on euphonium (baritone) in elementary school, but because he has the size and the lung capacity to handle the larger instrument, he switched to tuba.

Jossian has not absolutely decided that music will be his career, though he says that it will always be part of his life. "On top of playing music, I have a passion for helping people on kind of a personal level—like a one-on-one type of thing. So, one field that's really intriguing me right now is Social Work and becoming licensed in that," he said.

Jossian's parents have been nothing but supportive of his pursuit of music and have encouraged him throughout his experiences at the Uptown Music Collective. Jossian plays a Fender Telecaster and a Gibson Explorer that he would never have been able to afford as a teenager were it not for the support of his parents. They are supportive of both of their children and both of them are musical. Jossian's younger brother is a keyboardist.

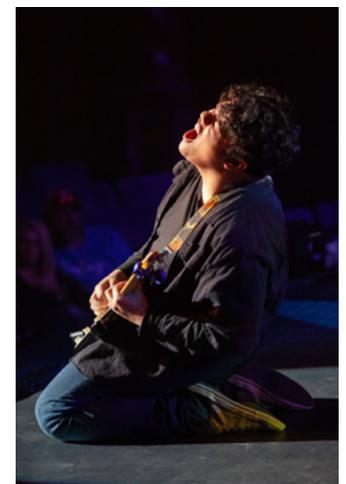
Maria says that though she is not a musician, she grew up with music and is extremely proud of her two boys.

I don't even know them other than our short conversations, but I'm proud of them too.

(Editor's note: After I completed this

article, I discovered that the humble teenager, Jossian Lilley had failed to mention that he not only PLAYED in the band that covered all of the music on Pink Floyd's classic album "Dark Side of the Moon", he was the co-director of the concert and drama experience. You

can see him talking with his Associate Director in this video "[Behind the Scenes of 'Us and Them'](#)". See him sing Van Halen's "Panama" [here](#) and play the Axl Rose guitar part in Guns N' Roses' "[Sweet Child of Mine](#)")



Two historical cases of COVID-19 found among 100 repatriates in Pohnpei

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

May 20, 2022

Pohnpei—100 repatriates landed in Pohnpei on May 14, 2022, after five days of pre-quarantine in Guam. Two positive COVID-19 tests were discovered during testing in quarantine, further testing showed these positive cases to be historical cases.

As an extra precautionary measure, the two passengers and their roommates/family members will be held in quarantine for an additional five days in the Medical Monitoring Area (formerly Misko Beach). Additionally, 11 repatriates remain in the Emergency

Medical Unit (former China Star Hotel) in quarantine for an additional five days. These 11 people are children below five years of age (who are not able to be vaccinated) and their families.

The remaining 83 passengers were released on the evening of Thursday, May 19, 2022.

The public is advised to remain calm, continue with sanitary and hygiene measures and get your COVID-19 vaccination or booster if you have not already done so. Thank you to the repatriates and families for their understanding, patience, and cooperation.



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March 2023 Accreditation Peer Review and Third Party Comment

The College of Micronesia- the college website at FSM is preparing for [Reports Archive](#) in July its comprehensive 2022. accreditation peer The college community and evaluation and visit the public are invited to take week of March 13, 2023. the opportunity to submit The college has prepared third-party comments the Institutional Self-concerning the institution's Evaluation Report and ability to meet Standards. will submit this report to Any member of the college the Peer Evaluation Team community or public by August 1, 2022. This may submit a third-party report will be available on comment by completing the

Commission's online third-party form, available via the College website at [Third Party Comments](#) or ACCJC's website at <https://accjc.org/forms/third-party-comments/>. The Commission staff must receive comments no later than February 1, 2023.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Mr. Petrus Ken
System Specialist
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Legislature revives year old proposed resolution of impeachment of DHS Director David

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 23, 2022

Pohnpei—The Pohnpei State Legislature has withdrawn from committee a proposed resolution to impeach Wincener David, Pohnpei's Director of the Department of Health Services. The proposed resolution was introduced in March of last year and was assigned to the Justice and Governmental Operations (J&GO) committee which never produced a committee report on the resolution. The resolution will now be considered by the Committee as a Whole after Senators voted to withdraw it from the J&GO committee.

In January of last year, Governor Reed Oliver, in response to a December Legislative Resolution urging him to "instill new leadership" for DHS, appointed the Lt. Governor to assume full responsibility for the Department, effectively sidelining David. The Governor gave David the responsibility to oversee the activities of the COVID-19 operations and management. According to the

proposed resolution of impeachment, the appointment endeavored to provide "help with the ongoing concern and the dire need to oversee the operation and management of the Department of Health Services, with regard to public trust and confidence in the hospital and health services". The eight Senators who proposed to impeach David said that the fact of his having been "sidelined" was a dereliction of duty and cited the fact as the first of five articles of impeachment.

Article Two of the proposed but not yet considered resolution claimed that even after re-assignment, David "micromanaged" day to day activities of DHS. "Testimony adduced from witnesses who work at the Pohnpei Hospital revealed his mere presence at this facility engenders confusion amongst those previously under his tutelage (in terms of an appropriate chain of command), since these staff members were under the impression the Lt. Governor had displaced him." The resolution said that his violating by action, the Governor's directive, is an impeachable offense.

The third Article in the proposed impeachment resolution said that David authorized payments to physicians that were in excess of the amount provided for in the Budget Act of 2020 by \$103,000 a point that was made in a "by-request" audit by the Office of the Public Auditor of differential payments authorized by DHS to physicians. When those payments stopped, morale at the hospital suffered and several doctors resigned.

The fourth Article says that Director David failed to respond in writing as required by law, to the audit regarding salaries and differentials. It said that failing to do so was the impeachable offense of nonfeasance. "It is lamentable indeed that Director Wincener J. David failed to submit a response to the Public Auditor, on behalf of the Department of Health Services, which should have denoted the corrective action undertaken by his department," the proposed resolution says. "Furthermore, such nonfeasance on the part of this Director continued unabated, since the additional statutorily required monthly progress reports to the Public Auditor were similarly not transmitted."

The proposed Fifth Article also relates to "overpayment" of physicians. It claims that in doing so, the Director engaged in unlawful behavior that constitutes misconduct in public office.

During the time that has elapsed since eight senators introduced the proposed resolution of impeachment, Lt. Governor Feliciano Perman has been off island on a health referral and was unable to fill the role given to him by Governor Oliver. Director David returned to duties as the Director of DHS where he is currently serving.

It is not at all certain that the Legislature will adopt the proposed resolution of impeachment which would then be forwarded to the Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court. Since it has been withdrawn from committee, it must now be considered.

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...Sales tax

Continued from front page

held in fiduciary trust is not subject to sales tax.

DoFA pointed to the law that says that GRT is assessed based on all collected receipts without any deductions on account of the cost of the property sold, the cost of materials used, labor cost, TAXES, royalties, or interest paid, or any other expenses whatsoever.

"The court cannot agree with the Secretary's reasoning," the ruling reversing DoFA's administrative decision said. "The clause denying any deductions for 'the cost of property sold, the cost of materials used, labor cost, taxes, royalties, or interest paid or any other expenses whatsoever' all involve a business's cost of doing business - business expenses. The "taxes" in that

clause are taxes that the business (seller) pays that are business expenses, not the taxes the business's patrons pay, which are the buyers' expenses. The business (seller) acts as an agent for the state when it collects the state sales tax from the buyer. That is clearly stated in the Chuuk sales tax statute, see supra note 2, and implied in the Pohnpei sales tax statute if the sales tax is imposed on the buyer."

"...Accordingly, the Pohnpei or Chuuk state sales tax money received by sellers of goods and services, such as the taxpayers here, from the buyers of goods and services are moneys held in a fiduciary capacity by the sellers until they are remitted to the state tax authorities. Those state sales tax moneys are excluded from the FSM national gross revenue tax as moneys held in a fiduciary capacity. 54 F.S.M.C. 112(5) (b). The levying of a gross revenue tax on those state sales taxes was therefore illegal, as a matter of law."



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After more than a year in Committee, Pohnpei Legislature now to consider Political Future Status Commission bill without a report

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

May 23, 2022

Pohnpei—After more than a year in committee with no action, the Pohnpei

State Legislature has withdrawn from the committee a bill to establish a Pohnpei Future Political Status Commission. The bill was introduced by eight Senators on April 9, 2021. According to the Chief Clerk of the Legislature, no committee report

was ever filed on the bill. By withdrawing it from Committee, it is now assigned for consideration by the Committee of the Whole. It has not yet had any vote.

months to prepare a report on its findings to the three branches of Pohnpei's Government.

Three student history readers on three Pohnpei outer islands were completed

Takuya Nagaoka (Pasifika Renaissance)
Evenger Waltu (Pohnpei State Department of Education)

Three student booklets on the histories of three outer islands of Pohnpei State (Mwoakilloa, Nukuoro, and Kapingamarangi) were delivered to Pohnpei State Department of Education (DOE). With the financial assistance from UNESCO's Participation Programme, which was administered by the FSM Office of National Archives, Historic Preservation, and Culture (NACH), these history readers were produced in local languages in collaboration with Pasifika Renaissance and DOE. This was one of our dream projects, since students had not studied their histories at schools for a very long time due to a lack of study resources.

Based on past anthropological studies and Pasifika Renaissance's oral history documentation project, these booklets start with the ancient political systems, the pre-Christian religions, and the origins of local people based on archaeological, linguistic, and DNA data as well as legends, and discuss detailed island histories (mostly past chiefs' stories), including both legendary and historical events. The readers include many historical photographs, drawings of cultural objects and chiefly

genealogical charts.

You can download a free copy of the readers in PDF, EPUB, and Kindle formats from the following links (EPUB and Kindle formats are suitable for reading on smartphones and tablets. The free kindle reader for iOS, Android, Mac, and PC is available from <https://goo.gl/1TU9qv>).

"Mwoakilloa History Reader"
PDF: <https://bit.ly/3svcWTz>
EPUB: <https://bit.ly/3syYN7H>
Kindle: <https://bit.ly/33YQjww>

"Nukuoro History Reader"
PDF: <https://bit.ly/3FwQ8WY>
EPUB: <https://bit.ly/3EtaDT9>
Kindle: <https://bit.ly/30WCQUG>

"Kapingamarangi History Reader"
PDF: <https://bit.ly/3Fo9Fcd>
EPUB: <https://bit.ly/3HcWprn>
Kindle: <https://bit.ly/3yZZKr5>

We would like to thank DOE Director Stanly Etse, his staff, NACH former Director Dr. Rufino Mauricio and Acting Director Gus Kohler, and local school teachers and community members, who assisted us in translating and proofreading drafts. Kalahngan en kupuwromwail koaros!

If it passes in its current form with no amendments, the Commission would be established within the Office of the Lt. Governor for administrative purposes only. It would consist of seven members with three appointed by the Governor, three appointed by the Legislature, and one appointed by the Chief Justice. The Commission would be charged with reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of three future political courses of action: 1) Continued membership in the Federated States of Micronesia; 2) Departure from the FSM to become an independent State; and 3) Departure from the FSM to seek political affiliation with another independent State. Each member would be paid \$100 per month for their service on the Commission.

"Regarding the continued membership with the FSM, the Commission shall submit any reasonable recommendations that you go to improving the advantages or lessening the disadvantages of continued membership," the current language in the bill says. "As for the departure from the FSM, the commission shall submit a recommended scenario for departure. As for becoming an independent State, the Commission shall submit a recommended scenario to attain such status. Furthermore, as for becoming politically affiliated with another independent State, the Commission shall submit the names and the proposed type of affiliation with the possible candidate States."

A Senator who signed the original bill over a year ago said that the bill will be placed on the calendar in four session days.

The Commission would be given 14

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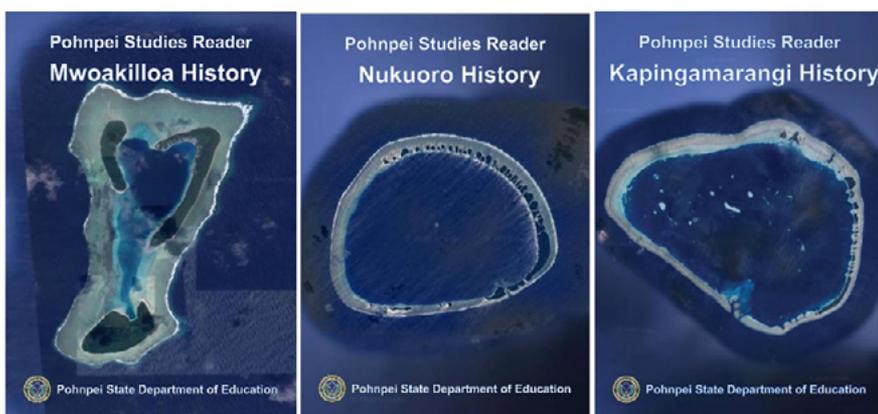
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Earth Day celebrations throughout the FSM as a prelude to Micronesia Clean Up Day

State Environmental Protection Club students on April 19, while Yap Agencies and the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (EPAs/KIRMA) in collaboration with their local partners conducted Earth Day activities during the week of April 18-22, 2022. Earth Day is celebrated worldwide on April 22. This year's theme was "INVEST IN OUR PLANET." Pohnpei State EPA conducted its Earth Day activity with Ohmine School Environmental



State EPA, Chuuk EPA, and KIRMA conducted awareness activities on April 22, 2022. The activities included a raffle for recycling activities in Yap State; island wide clean up in Chuuk State; motivational speeches, tree planting, and radio spot in Pohnpei State, and recycling activities, road side clean-up, in Kosrae and tree planting on April 25. Let's Work Together to Save our Planet!



Pohnpei- Motivational Speeches by FSM DOE Acting Secretary Albert and Pohnpei EPA Acting Director Celestine, Tree Planting with College of Micronesia



Kosrae - Recycling activities, tree planting and road side clean-up. KIRMA Acting Director Palik joins the recycling effort



Chuuk - Public and Private Sectors clean up island) EPA Director Mori joins the clean-up as a testament to their commitment to minimize waste

Acting Governor Elnei attends Kolonia Town Charter Day event

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

May 18, 2022

Kolonia--Acting Governor, Hon. Christina Elnei attended the Kolonia Town Charter Day event on May 17, 2022. The event was held at the Spanish Wall baseball field, after a parade through Kolonia Town.

Kolonia Town Mayor, Hon. Betrigo Jacob, gave remarks and welcomed Acting Governor Elnei, Speaker of the 10th Pohnpei State Legislature, Hon. Marvin Yamaguchi, Former Governor Marcelo Peterson, members of the Kolonia Town Council, and Kolonia town residents to the 57th anniversary of the Kolonia Town Charter Day.



TUNE IN TO POHNPEI'S #1 RADIO

PARADISE RADIO

FM 89.5 V6WI

17.05.2022 09



Coast Guard, partners coordinate multiple rescues in FSM

*Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class David Graham
U.S. Coast Guard District 14
Hawaii Pacific*

05.19.2022

HONOLULU — The Coast Guard and partner agencies responded and assisted in several rescue cases within the Federated States of Micronesia over a two week period.

The rescue cases all involved overdue vessels in and around Weno, Chuuk State and Pohnpei with multiple agencies assisting in the search efforts.

“These types of situations are what we prepare for,” said Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Williams, a Joint Rescue Coordination Center command duty officer. “We consistently train in order to oversee such a large area of operation and to maintain our ability to effectively respond

to emergencies with our partner agencies.”

On May 4, Coast Guard Forces Micronesia | Sector Guam watchstanders received notification from the Department of Public Safety in Chuuk State about an overdue vessel with two people aboard en route from Weno to Paata in Chuuk Atoll.

Upon notification, Coast Guard watchstanders deployed multiple Coast Guard assets while coordinating with the Chuuk Department of Public Safety as they deployed four boats to investigate in and around the atoll. The Chuuk National Police and the Emergency Operations Center also joined in the search along with citizens in the area.

After a combined effort over the span of multiple days, the two missing mariners were found and

confirmed to be in stable condition on May 9 on Tamatam Island 120 nautical miles west of Weno, Chuuk State.

The following day, Coast Guard watchstanders received an email from the Department of Public Safety in Pohnpei indicating that four fishermen were overdue after a fishing trip aboard a 19-foot skiff.

After receiving the overdue skiff’s last known coordinates, Coast Guard watchstanders took initial action and communicated with the Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety who later discovered that the overdue vessel was found by a good samaritan nearly seven hours later with all four fishermen in stable condition.

That very same day, Coast Guard watchstanders received a phone call from a local stating that her two brothers were overdue after

they failed to return after going on a one-day fishing trip in the Chuuk Lagoon two days prior.

Coast Guard assets were deployed as Chuuk authorities actively searched inside the Chuuk Lagoon, later finding the two missing fishermen in stable condition on Etten Island two days after the initial notification.

“Robust lines of communication with our partner agencies is essential in making sure our response to cases like these are as efficient and effective as possible,” said Capt. Nick Simmons, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Forces Micronesia | Sector Guam. “Thanks to our long-standing relationships throughout the Pacific, we have the ability to maximize our collective capabilities to protect and safeguard the citizens of these islands.”

Pohnpei Catholic School speller takes top place in State Spelling Bee

Pohnpei Enginkehlap News

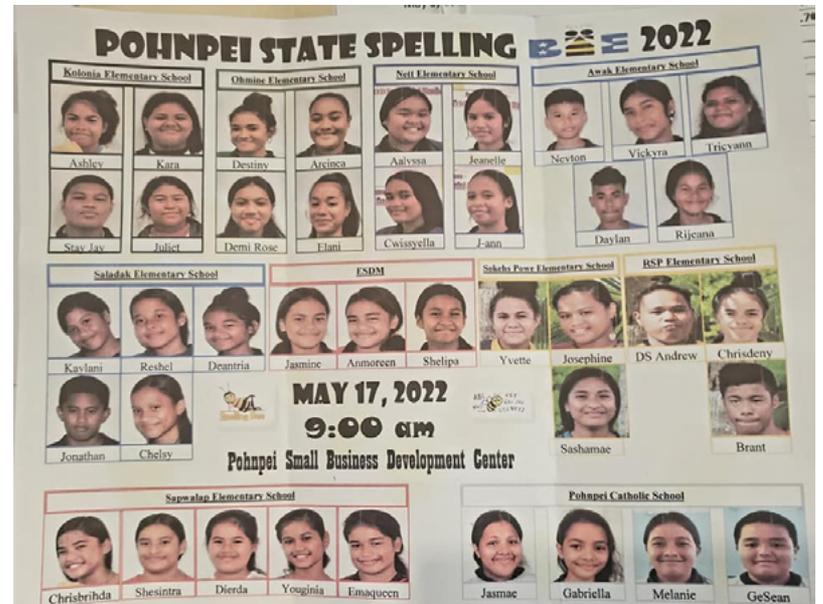
May 18, 2022

Pohnpei--Congratulations to all the participants of the Pohnpei State Spelling Bee. The State Spelling Bee was held on May 17, 2022, at the Small Business Development Center at the COM-Pohnpei campus.

Kalahngan to TSP, Rotary Club, COM-FSM, the schools that participated, parents, and students.

Congratulations to the top 5 spellers:

Jasmea Rose Ringlen - PCS - 1st Place
Destiny Juls Esiel - Ohmine - 2nd Place
Nevvon Hawley - Awak - 3rd Place
Chelsy Andon - Saladak - 4th Place
Chrisbrihda William - Sapwalap - 5th Place



Digital Response for connecting Citizens- “Supporting the Pacific Close the Digital Divides in Response to COVID-19”

Pacific Community (SPC)

The European Union (EU) and the Pacific Community (SPC) today launched a FJD 1.6 million project, Supporting the Pacific Close the Digital Divides in Response to COVID-19 (SPC DDR-COVID-19). This project forms part of a bigger programme, Digital Response Connecting Citizens (DIRECCT), which is funded by the EU in collaboration with the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and implemented by the French Development Agency (AFD) in coordination with the Belgian development agency (Enabel).

The COVID-19 pandemic has witnessed the world shift to digital services to remain connected and resilient during crisis. The Pacific health sector although facing constraints with its low digital connectivity, adapted and utilised digital mechanisms to respond to COVID-19 with the assistance from partners and donors.

“Digitalization is a priority of the European Union and it has demonstrated its importance to combat COVID-19. In the European Union, it has supported the health and socio-economic response to the pandemic, and has helped manage through confinements, lockdowns, curfews, closures etc. Digitalization is also a priority of the European Union strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, but this part of the world is still lagging behind. I am happy that this project supporting the Pacific close the digital divides in response to COVID-19

will allow the region to catch up and facilitate the continuity of health services through more accessible and affordable digital services,” said the EU Ambassador for the Pacific H.E. Sujiro Seam.

The SPCDDR-COVID-19 has been developed in consultation with the beneficiaries and key partners, taking into consideration existing initiatives and identified gaps, with the intention to

The Educational Talent Search Program, a U.S. federally funded program sponsored by the College of Micronesia-FSM ended its final tutorial session for High School seniors with a Presentation of research findings on May 14, 2022 at the Small Business Building.



ETS Director Hadley welcomes participants

leave no one behind.

SPC’s Deputy Director General Dr Paula Vivili said, “We will be working with 7 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and we have identified a few ICT gaps that we will be supporting. This includes the provision of mobile phones, laptops, tablets, projector screens, internet subscriptions. This will support in country activities such as contact

a topic from a SUBJECT. The subjects included: CULTURE, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, SPORTS, RELIGION, and TECHNOLOGY. Students worked in groups to conduct research, and on May 14, 2022, they presented their findings in front of guest judges from the various sectors who were welcomed by ETS Director Rita Hadley. The guest judges included: Mr. Adelman



Participants of the Presentation Activity

tracing, webinars, and surveillance monitoring.

The SPCDDR-COVID-19 is implemented by SPC through the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) and aims to progress the digital health system transformation within the Pacific Island countries and territories for the immediate future and post-COVID-19 era.

Joseph, Mr. Sebastian Tairuwepiy, Mr. Norton Santos, Mr. Augustine Sue, Mr. Chance Kiyoshi, Mrs. Em Segal, and Mr. Brend Yamaguchi.

The students researched on the following topics: Causes and Effects of Global Warming, the three main religions of the world, importance of Pohnpeian customs, Precautions for COVID-19, Volleyball as a sport, importance of Learning Styles, and Technology in Education. The judges commended the students, but encouraged them to be more mindful of owning their research and setting a tone for their unique writing voice.

Global GreenGrants Fund awards grants to Micronesian communities

Micronesia Conservation Trust

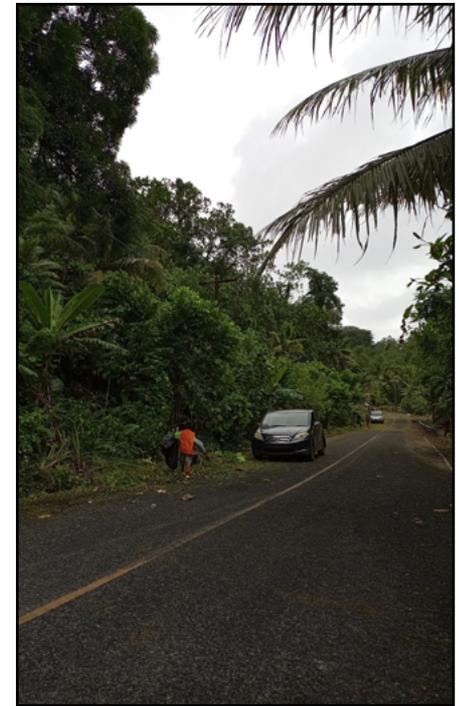
May 18, 2022

The Global GreenGrants Fund (GGF) continues to support communities across the Pacific and in the April 2022 round, they funded three more in Micronesia and over ten in other Pacific Island countries. Those who received the grants in Micronesia include the Kosrae Consumer Organization, the Kousapw Peidie Association, and Urmwaka Incorporated.

The 2022 awards support a variety of critical community needs. The Kosrae Consumer Organization's project is focused on water security for persons living with disabilities, with a special focus on students. The proposal included installation of two water tanks at their center in Tofol to support the students with living with disabilities who go to school there. The project will ensure that the two water tanks are properly placed and



fitted with appropriate access so all the students and other persons living with disabilities can utilize them. The Kousapw Peidie Association project is focused on food security and management of the community's nearshore marine resources, including the purchase of equipment and supplies to improve and expand their clam and rabbit fish farms. The Kousapw Peidie Association has been receiving technical support from the Micronesia Conservation Trust,



Conservation Society of Pohnpei, and the Marine Environment Research Institute of Pohnpei to implement their aquaculture program in support of their food security and livelihoods needs. The GGF award will provide critical implementation support. Urmwaka Incorporated's project is focused on responsible and sustainable fishing, including a component focused on boat safety supplies and equipment. The organization will work with fishermen from Mwoakilloa to promote sustainable fishing practices and safety so fishers can continue to support their families while reducing the great risks they take when out fishing in our vast ocean.

to use their grant to rehabilitate their water holding tank to increase water security for those communities. The Laudato Si' Club at Xavier High School in Chuuk State used their funds to construct a hydroponic nursery where students now grow vegetables for learning and consumption. The funds also supported the club's monthly monitoring activities, as well as the purchase of training material for local youth groups in communities around Xavier. And finally, the Enipein Ecotourists Inc. in close collaboration with the Enipein Youth Organization, used their project to engage the people of Enipein to clean up their roadsides in Kitti, Pohnpei., This prompted the Kitti Municipal Government and other partners to join in the major general cleanup effort, which included the entire municipality.

In October 2021, GGF also gave five grants to organizations in Micronesia. The Senipehn Youth Organization used their grant to promote clean living and clean environment. They were able to remove an illegal dumpsite from the Senipehn Village and transfer the trash to the Pohnpei State designated landfill in Dekehtik. The Kipar, Poail, Pwoaipwoai, Pwok, Rohnkitti Community Organization (K3PR), also in Pohnpei, was able

For those interested in GGF grants, please contact William Kostka at director@ourmicronesia.org or call him at 691-320-5670/8903.






FSS TOSIWO NAKAYAMA

SATURDAY 04 JUNE 2022 – 1000

FSM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DIVISION OF BORDER CONTROL AND MARITIME

SURVEILLANCE DEKEHTIK

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FSS TOSIWO NAKAYAMA

AND THE FINAL FAREWELL FOR THE PACIFIC PATROL BOAT

FSS PALIKIR

ON COMPLETION OF THE FORMALITIES THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO TOUR THE NEW GUARDIAN CLASS PATROL BOAT

Gender Equality a driving force for FSM's Scholastic Games

April 18, 2022

Pohnpei, FSM – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Federated States of Micronesia's Department of Health and Social Affairs supported the FSM State Scholastic Gender Equality Games for youth in an effort to foster national pride and gender equality.

Supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund through UNDP's Strengthening the FSM's Gender Machinery Process, the Pohnpei State's March Madness Basketball Tournament 2022 involved six women's team and nine men's team.

During the award ceremony, UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative and Country Manager in the Federated States of Micronesia Kevin Petrini highlighted that Gender Equality is a key factor for sustainable growth, social development and environmental sustainability.

"By providing the same opportunities to women and men and ensuring that No One is Left Behind in our activities, a sustainable and inclusive path of development can be achieved," he said.

Mr. Petrini reiterated that "though the establishment of values such as non-

discrimination and teamwork, sport can be used as a tool to achieve gender-equality. It can also be used to increase opportunities for women and girls to develop new skills, gain support from others and be empowered to enjoy freedom of expression and movement."

Augustine Sue from the FSM Social Affairs, who represented the Secretary of the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs thanked the organizers for providing a platform for young girls to participate in youth sporting activities. He said, "the event signifies the national and

state governments, international and regional partners commitment to ensuring gender equality and inclusiveness."

One of the female participants who was also awarded the Most Valuable Player in the female division of the games, Sylvileen Tom of PIC High School, in thanking her other opponents said, "Gender equality is when people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. Equality for all women, men, Trans and gender diverse people, and families. It impacts people of all ages and backgrounds.



JT "Oppa" Mingil from the Pohnpei Seventh-Day Adventist School was awarded the Most Valuable Player in the male division. He said "maybe one day as time goes by, we can become great leaders, standing up and fighting for Gender Equality. Basketball is not just an ordinary game; it helps us build relationships with one another. The March Madness Tournament is not only about playing together on the court but the connection that it makes between the players and our community."

The Scholastic Gender Equity Game was held between 1 March - 18 April 2022

and is coordinated by the FSM Sports Coordinator. Following this, other games will also be hosted in Chuuk, Kosare and Yap.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is a dedicated facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation established in 2017. It is supported and led by the Government of the Republic of India, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system.

BRMC Scholars take home Doctorate Degrees

Micronesia Conservation Trust

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and partners of the Micronesia Challenge (MC) are proud to congratulate Dr. Nicole Yamase and Dr. Harmony Viann Yomai on completing their PhD degrees as recipients of the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge (BRMC) Scholarship. They were the first PhD candidate scholars awarded the BRMC Scholarship. The BRMC scholarship program was inspired by one of Micronesia's conservation pioneers, William (Bill) Charles Raynor (Feb. 22nd, 1957-Sept. 1st, 2015) to support young Micronesians in obtaining post-secondary degrees in environment, conservation, and related fields and to return home and support conservation efforts in the region. The scholarship fund aims to contribute to the development of effective conservation of Micronesia's biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods across the region. To this date, the BRMC scholarship has supported 19 students from Micronesia.

In November of 2021, Ms. Harmony Yomai who is from both Yap and Chuuk, in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) graduated with her PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee. Her research was centered around the evolution of reproductive traits of plants. Due to travel restrictions in the FSM, Ms. Yomai is still in the US Mainland but hoping to return home to support conservation and environmental work in her country.

Ms. Nicole Yamase, who is from Hawaii, Chuuk, and Pohnpei in the FSM, was one of the first four students to be awarded the BRMC Scholarship in 2017 when it was first launched. On May 13th, Ms. Yamase graduated with her PhD in Marine Biology at the University of Hawaii- Manoa. Her research was focused on understanding the ecophysiology of native macroalgae. Dr. Yamase was selected by MCT and Waitt Institute to join the Challenger Deep expedition in March 2021 with Victor

Vescovo. She made history being the first female and the first Micronesian to dive the Challenger Deep, the deepest place on earth, located in the Mariana Trench which is part of the FSM Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ)/territorial waters.

Through the scholarship, both Dr. Yomai and Dr. Yamase, conducted their internship work with their host

organization, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), with mentorship support from the Executive Director, Eugene Joseph.

To learn more about the scholarship you can visit MCT's website, <http://www.ourmicronesia.org/brmcs.html> or contact the MCT's Capacity Building Program Manager, Bertha M. Reyuw, at capacity@ourmicronesia.org.



Executive Branch submits its continued intent to open the FSM's borders in August

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On May 16th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), received a request from Pohnpei State Government to postpone the May 25th repatriation flight to May 28th. The reason for the request was to allow for additional preparation time for the flight. On May 17th, 2022, the President granted the request.

Additionally, following the opening of the 4th Regular Session of the 22nd FSM Congress and subsequent Committee to Wait on the President, His Excellency David W. Panuelo instructed the FSM COVID-19 Task Force to review Congressional Bill 22-148, also known as the Healthy Border Protection Act. The FSM COVID-19 Task Force has completed their review of the Act.

The primary idea behind the Healthy Border Protection Act is requiring by law that all persons entering the FSM be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (as opposed to the contemporary format of a frequently extended Declaration of Public Health Emergency, which carries an expiration date). The vaccine mandate would apply to all persons traveling to the FSM for any period of time beyond an

airport layover, as well as include medical exemptions for specific categories of persons. Furthermore, the Healthy Border Protection Act would provide regulatory powers to the Department of Justice and the Department of Health & Social Affairs, inclusive of extensive reporting requirements on the efficacy of any such regulations. It is the understanding of the Executive Branch that the intent of the proposed legislation is to effectively replace the Declaration of Public Health Emergency so that, when the Nation's borders open fully, and the FSM undergoes its first wave of COVID-19, there remains a legal basis for mandating vaccinations, and that the Departments of Justice and Health & Social Affairs have the necessary powers to appropriately respond.

In a letter written to the Honorable Wesley W. Simina, Speaker of the 22nd Congress, President Panuelo described that the Executive Branch does not believe that the best time to pass this proposed legislation into law is during the 4th Regular Session of Congress, on the premise that the Nation is not yet 100% prepared for the first wave of COVID-19.

The President, guided by the COVID-19 Task Force, recommended to the Speaker that Congress extend the Declaration of

Public Health Emergency to conclude at the end of July 31st, 2022, with the Nation's border opening on August 1st, 2022. Additionally, the President recommended amending relevant language on "rare exceptions" to the travel ban to include every person (not just essential workers), in part so that visiting medical teams can be permitted to enter the country to provide much needed COVID-19 related services.

Further, the President recommended reducing the number of quarantine days in Guam from five (5) days to three (3) days, effective in June 2022, and to eliminate Guam-based quarantine completely in July 2022.

A significant rationale for delaying the opening of the Nation's borders until August 1st, 2022 is on the premise that the FSM's vaccination coverage is insufficient to prevent widespread human suffering, and the overwhelming of limited medical staff and equipment across the Nation. Choosing to open the Nation's borders on August 1st, 2022 is equivalent to purposefully choosing to introduce COVID-19 into the FSM shortly thereafter; thus, it is essential that the decision be made so the Nation transitions from COVID-19 free to COVID-19 protected.

As of May 16th, 2022, the Nation's vaccine coverage for all persons aged five (5) and up is at 69%. Approximately half of persons 45 and up have received a booster dose, and approximately 20% of persons 18 years and up have received a booster dose. The booster dose is essential towards protecting persons from the Omicron variant of COVID-19, which is debatably the most contagious virus ever recorded (Measles being the other contender).

Not explicitly stated in the President's letter is that most personal protective equipment (PPE) that citizens have immediate access to are cloth masks, which do not offer substantial protection against the Omicron variant of COVID-19. It is also the case that most citizens do not have at-home antigen testing kits nor experience using them.

It is the hope of the President and the FSM COVID-19 Task Force that the 22nd FSM Congress will consider extending the Declaration of Public Health Emergency to July 31st, and then consider passing the Healthy Border Protection Act in a Special Session of Congress in July 2022, so as to allow the FSM more time to vaccinate its citizens and prepare for the opening of the Nation's borders.

FSM well-placed to contribute to Stockholm+50

United Nations Development Programme

(12 May 2022)

Majuro, FSM - Fifty years ago, in 1972, a new era of environmental multilateralism was born - the world recognized for the first time in history that the environment, poverty and sustainable development were interconnected. Today, the need for accelerating action for environment, poverty alleviation and human rights is more urgent than ever. For Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the importance of a healthy environment to sustain current and future development opportunities and human well-being needs urgent action.

Pacific Island countries are gearing up for their national and state stakeholder consultations this month (May), through the department or ministries of Environment and the support of the UN Development Program (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP). In the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), a national and state stakeholder consultation was held on Wednesday 11 May 2022. As a recognized Small Island Developing State, the FSM also lies within the Polynesia-Micronesia biodiversity hotspot, a country on the front lines of climate change.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary for the Department of Environment & Emergency Management for the FSM Government, Mr. Andrew Yatilman said, "Stockholm+50 provides a time to reflect on our environmental commitments and push towards a more sustainable future. This can only be achieved through a healthy planet. Here in the FSM, we are committed to protecting our environment not only for today, but for future generations." He thanked the Government of Sweden and the UNDP for their support in making this national consultation possible.

The First Secretary for the Embassy of Sweden, Mr. Johan Hultquist said, "The Stockholm +50 is a UN conference - is designed to give all countries, big and small, a place to make their voices heard. Your discussions today are an important part of feeding into the main conference and in setting the agenda for this decade of action, so that we can address the challenges we all face as inhabitants of this planet together."

The workshop is a key opportunity to continue and expand upon broad-ranging and necessary discussions within the

context of the FSM, guided by the themes of the leadership dialogues, under the focus of a healthy planet for prosperity for all.

While delivering his address, the UN Resident Coordinator for the North Pacific, Mr. Jaap van Hierden reminded participants of the importance of a healthy environment to sustain current and future development opportunities and the urgent need to ensure the interconnection is mainstreamed in policies and actions.

"Globally, we stand at the crossroads aiming to re-invigorate collective action. As we begin the journey of recovery - and we prepare for the Federated States of Micronesia's inputs into the Stockholm+50 international meeting - we must transition to new ways of thinking and acting especially as we learn from, and recover from, the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

"This workshop is a key opportunity to begin this process of reflection and consider new ways to accelerate implementation."

The workshop was an occasion to give voice to as many stakeholders as possible

and ensure a bottom-up mapping of actions needed to safeguard the human environment. Representatives from the Government of FSM including national, state and municipal government, education, non-government organizations, community-based organizations and communities with the FSM and participants in all four states and other partners were part of the discussions.

"The consultation provided an opportunity to share ideas and actions on how to renew commitments and bring them into action," said Mr. Kevin Petrini, the Deputy Resident Representative for the UNDP North Pacific Office. "Stockholm+50 is about reflecting, connecting and accelerating urgent action."

Stockholm+50 will honour a half-century of dedication and determination by Member States to work together to end poverty and conflict, build just and inclusive societies and ensure the lasting protection of the planet.

This is one of the five similar meetings in the Pacific - including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu.

Chuuk State in collaboration with CCPI and FSM SDG WG with support from UNICEF conduct Community Consultations on Early Childhood Development



April 29, 2022

Chuuk, Weno - The critical need for a physical space where parents and children can access ECD information and services was one of the issues identified during the recently concluded Community consultations in Chuuk. Ms. Nite Kristoph, one of the participants at the consultations, provided an example of what the solution might look like and what parents and communities can do. During the workshop, she highlighted the need for families (parent and children) to access some kind of facility where information is shared, "a family center," she called it where the family come to and get access to information while they await the mother, father or children who might be having an appointment at the Chuuk State Hospital. Ms. Nite Kristoph volunteered to donate a piece of land, adjacent to the Chuuk State Hospital, where this 'family center' could be built. "I know land is priceless, but I want to do this in memory of my beloved mother whose values centered around families and the good upbringing of our children," Ms. Kristoph expressed her wish with tears dripping down her cheeks.

Information and awareness on early childhood development amongst parents and families emerged as an overarching theme during consultations particularly Information on existing programs, services, and other needs in early education and health including family planning.

Chuuk State Government in collaboration with the Caroline College and Pastoral Institute in collaboration,

the FSM National Government, with support from UNICEF, conducted early childhood development community workshops to raise awareness and solicit essential efforts from the community to inform and support the development of ECD policies and services. The workshop that took place on April 29, 2022, at the Chuuk State Governor's Auditorium was attended by one hundred thirty-six (136) community members including community leaders, church leaders, college students, and key individuals in the municipal and state governments. The FSM government, with the support of UNICEF, is developing a multisectoral ECD Policy and action plan that aims to strengthen strategic ECD governance, Action Plan for policy implementation and a well-coordinated service delivery for children and families. ECD is a comprehensive approach to policies and programs for children from 0 to 8 years of age, including education and support for their parents and caregivers.

The ECD Community Consultation Workshop started with welcoming remarks by Mr. Mahoney Mori in his capacity as the Public Relation Officer for the Chuuk State Governor's Office, special remarks by Fr. Rosendo Rudolf, the President of the Caroline College and Pastoral Institute, and a keynote address by Lieutenant Governor, Honorable Mekioshy William.

In his keynote address, Lieutenant Mekioshy William expressed his and Governor Alexander R. Narruhn heartfelt appreciation to the community members and the leaders of Chuuk State

for coming together to discuss important issues regarding mothers, families, and most especially the young children of Chuuk. Lt. William reminded all about the significance of the age group, (0-8), especially in defining and charting the future of Chuuk. He added, "The earlier we invest in our children, the better chances we can have in terms of ensuring their success, their health, their education, their behavior, and overall, their upbringing." Lieutenant Mekioshy William urged the participants to not only reflect and discuss issues at hand but to also broaden discussions to other essential programs and services that will ensure development of a holistic Chuukese or FSM child. He extended Governor Narruhn and his full support to ECD.

Honorable Winsney Nakayama, Vice President of the Chuuk State Senate also emphasized the importance of the discussions that took place at the ECD Community Consultation Workshop and hoped that the key points could be included in the renegotiation of the FSM Compact. "These are important needs, issues, policies, and services that should be considered and included in the COMPACT renegotiation package to ensure funding sustainability. I think the timing is right if the FSM hopes to take these into consideration," said Hon. Nakayama. He also shared some policies that were adopted at the Chuuk State Legislature for Chuukese mothers and individuals including children with special needs.



Hon. Winsney Nakayama, Vice Pres of Chuuk State Senate speaking during the ECD Consultative Workshop

Blue Climate Initiative Summit opening statement by Henry Puna, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and Pacific Ocean Commissioner

Delivered on 15 May 2022

[\(Watch on YouTube\)](#)

- Your majesty Prince Albert II of Monaco and your representative here, His Excellency, Edouard Fritch, President of French Polynesia
- The Honourable Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands
- * Honourable Ministers of the French Polynesian Cabinet
- * Traditional and Spiritual Leaders
- Distinguished friends from around the Pacific
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

May I say Ia Orana, Kia Orana, and from Micronesia in the West to French Polynesia in the East, from Palau in the North, to Aotearoa in the South, warm Pacific greetings to you all.

I am extremely pleased to be able to join you all at this Summit because it is, for me, an opportunity to explore and discuss innovative solutions, to accelerate ocean-related solutions to climate change.

Together, we share a passion, a dedication and commitment, to the conservation and sustainable development of our Oceans. You see, for us in the Pacific, as was made clear earlier on, the Ocean is more than just a resource – it is everything to us, our highway to the world and a connector with each another, it is our livelihood, it is our identity, it is our past, and is our future.

For that reason, Pacific Leaders have committed to responsibly and effectively manage 100% of the Pacific Ocean, within and beyond national jurisdiction. And as the Pacific Islands Forum, our ocean forms the basis of our Blue Pacific identity and narrative, which frames our own collective advocacy and engagements, in the midst of an increasingly geopolitically contested environment, both in the region and globally.

But at the heart of our shared commitment, to determine our own collective development trajectory, is the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, our guiding North Star for the next 30 to 50 years. At its core, the strategy is framed around valuing, protecting, and managing the ocean, to help us meet our sustainable development needs and goals, in the face of ever-growing challenges.

Excellencies, friends, I set this context to emphasise the inextricable link that

we have to the ocean, in all facets of our society. Indeed, we are the custodians of the Blue Pacific Continent – spanning over 48 million square kilometres and making up 20% of this planet's surface.

Our stewardship responsibility is one that we do not take lightly. It is also a responsibility that we acknowledge requires strong partnerships, in order for us to fully deliver.

May I at this point in time acknowledge my colleague from the Pacific Community, Dr Stuart Minchin, Director General of the Pacific Community. And also at this point in time, I would like to acknowledge my good friend Nainoa Thompson and all those vaka Ocean-going warriors that have made it here to join us in this very important summit.

[The Ocean Agenda in 2022]

You see globally, 2022 presents a year of opportunities for the ocean agenda.

I can tell you we are well on our way to developing a treaty on plastics; we will adopt an important treaty on biodiversity in international waters, later this year; we will adopt a new framework for biodiversity and we will advance the ocean-climate nexus dialogue. We will finally eradicate subsidies, that contribute to IUU fishing in our waters.

Ladies and gentlemen, this gathering is an opportunity, to contribute to the international momentum on ocean-specific initiatives, right across the world. It is only right, that I acknowledge the visionary leadership of President Fritch, in partnering and hosting this prestigious event, right here in the very heart of our Pacific.

I call on you all who are here today, and will join us over the next few days, to join us, and to work with us, to realise the full potential of our Ocean – the time for talking and commitments is now past, we need to see action now, and the only way to take effective action, is together.

So how do we do that?

Most critically, we need a robust Ocean Governance framework in place, that provides guiding parameters but does not restrict the ability or flexibility of Island States, to realise their development aspirations. These need to be in place, both within and beyond national jurisdictions.

Indeed, the very nature of our ocean implies, that any action in our own waters

can, and will have, transboundary impacts on other countries, and to our global commons. The Pacific, for instance, is currently dealing with the proposed release of potentially hazardous nuclear wastewater, into the Pacific Ocean.

Interestingly, in a time when we require people to vaccinate to protect themselves and others, why are we unable to require one State, to exercise precaution and due regard, to the rights of other States?

Caring for the ocean you see, and its resources, is not just our moral duty. It is our obligation under international law. Let me touch briefly on a key piece of work, that is being spearheaded by the Pacific, globally.

In August 2021, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders adopted the Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones, in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level rise. It is an initiative that is founded on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and will contribute to addressing one of the most critical consequences of sea level rise: our loss of sovereignty, livelihoods, and identity.

It is an example of how we can use policy mechanisms, such as international law, to play a critical role in securing our future. However, critical to ensuring success in all these legal and policy frameworks and entities, is to ensure we have a solid enabling environment. This is where we will look, and continue to look, to solid and mutually beneficial partnerships, that support our priorities for our future.

[Partnerships we seek]

Last month in Palau, over 16.35 billion USD was committed at the Our Ocean Conference.

However, this is but a drop in the commitment we need, to progress work and actions on Oceans more generally. Some estimates have indicated a funding gap of around \$150.00 billion dollars per year, to implement Sustainable Development Goal 14, that focuses on Oceans.

For us here in the Pacific, the Pacific Ocean Initiatives Registry, has tracked 74 projects in the region, representing USD864 million, with each project averaging about 11 million US dollars. But the needs are still high.

In the face of the challenges before us, we continue to work together to search for collective solutions, that respond to our

unique vulnerabilities. One such initiative is the Pacific Resilience Facility – the first Pacific designed, led and owned initiative, that will provide communities with direct access to financing, that will ensure that existing and/or new community-level projects, consider and prepare for the increasing risks of climate-induced, and other natural hazard risk disasters. We know the challenges facing the development financing landscape, at this point in time. Therefore, we will look to innovative private donors and philanthropists to also join us, and make a commitment to this initiative. I urge all of you in this room today, to have a conversation with me on this if you are interested, to find out more about it – and see where we can go. Prime Minister Brown here is also an avid political champion, of this initiative.

But more generally, as we engage in our discussions this week, there will undoubtedly be many innovative ideas to explore, and test with each other. I just urge that you keep in mind, that whatever partnership we build, or whatever solution we implement, they must respond to the needs and priorities of the recipients. Far too often now, we see well-intentioned projects that go to waste, just because they do not take the time, to hear and understand our regional context and listen to our national aspirations.

In conclusion, on Thursday afternoon, I had the high honour of spending a few hours with school children in Puna'auia. They belong to a network of schools, with responsibility for educational marine managed areas. My time spent with them reaffirmed one key learning, that I have held fast since I started working more concertedly in ocean-related issues, more than a decade ago: The fruits of our work today, and efforts on sustainable ocean governance and conservation, may not be realised in their lifetime – but it will be enjoyed by our future generations – our grandchildren, and their children after them. And so for their sake, we must carry on and never give up!

Friends, our efforts today is our gift to the future. We can only be truly effective if we all work together.

Meitaki Maata, Vinaka Vakalevu, and I wish you all the very best for the week ahead.

Thank you–

USVPA hosts a Family Day for all veterans, veterans with disabilities, and their families

11 May 2022

In the observance of the FSM Constitution Day, Tuesday, May 10, 2022, USVPA hosted a Family Day for all veterans and veterans with disabilities and their families at the Disability Center Building, Nett Municipality, Pohnpei State.

In the opening of the event, The USVPA President, Mr. Herman Semes, Jr., extended warm greetings to all veterans and their families including special guest from the US Embassy in Pohnpei. He thanked each and every one of veterans, their families, and special guests for joining USVPA to celebrate the Family Day, which falls on the FSM Constitution Day. The President also welcomed all organizations that support persons with disabilities who participated especially Pohnpei Consumer Organization.

May 10 marks our 1st Family Day and USVPA is very proud to be able to host all veterans in the Disability Center Building, which houses the Office of USVPA. The President stressed that he invited all veterans and their families so that they not only know the Office of USVPA but also to utilize the Office to find officers and Board of Advisors of USVPA when they need help and assistance.



In today's gathering, the President explained that this Family Day is focused on all veterans living in Pohnpei who have served both countries, Federated States of Micronesia, and the United States, with honor in the US Armed Forces.

"Today, it is all about you and your families. As an organization, we need you as much as you need us and that is why we are grateful to have you join us today at our Office. During the next few months, we challenge all veterans and their families to start utilizing the Office of USVPA, get to know their officers and Board of Advisors, and most importantly, get to know all veterans and their families living in Pohnpei," said the President.

The President expressed that he is hopeful that our Family Day gathering will increase our strength, which can be found in the call of unity and strength in the FSM Constitution. "To make one nation of many islands, we respect the diversity of our cultures. Our differences enrich us. The seas bring us together, they do not separate us. Our islands sustain us, our island nation enlarges us and makes us stronger," said the President. There is a word in Pohnpei that this quote describes, "Enginkehlap."

The opening prayer was given by Senator Perez. Charge D'Affairs Dille, USVPA's special guest, was given the opportunity to introduce himself to everyone and he also expressed his appreciation to participate in this important event hosted by USVPA. He expressed the opportunity to work USVPA on veterans' issues of importance to all who have served.

More than 50 veterans and their families including special guests were able to attend the Family Day. USVPA also extended their best wishes of Happy Mother's Day to all veteran mothers and provided a special gift for all mothers attended. All children attended the event were given gifts to books, coloring books, and other items.

USVPA also would like to take the opportunity to thank Senator Peter M. Christian for his continued support and assistance to the USVPA. We also would like to thank Mr. Marko Kamber, CEO/President of CFC, Charge D' Affairs Dille, MSGT Jennifer L. Linder from the US Air Force, for supporting USVPA's Family Day. Finally,

USVPA would like to thank USVPA Officers, all veterans and their families, and others who volunteered their time to make this event possible. USVPA also recognized the support and assistance of PCO and other organizations dealing with Persons with Disabilities who have helped with the event preparation. Thank you all! Kalahngan.



Church donates generous cash donation to special needs in Kosrae Special needs children benefit from playground project donation

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

19 May 2022

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is donating funds to the Kosrae Special Parents Network (KSPN). KSPN works with twenty-six special needs children ranging from three to eighteen years old and has informed us they would like to purchase safe and fun outdoor recreational equipment for them. This playground project will not only benefit these children and their families for the current year, but well into the future for more children and families.

The Church's humanitarian department in Guam is providing a cash donation to KSPN so they can purchase any needed equipment for their playground. The Church is grateful for this opportunity to provide these funds to support those with special needs.

William H. K. Davis of the Guam humanitarian department has partnered with KSPN in the past to donate toys and games to be played indoors. With this donation they are expanding to outdoor recreational activities, something these special needs children desperately need to aid in their development. By expanding to outdoor activity, the children can develop dexterity, social skills, problem solving, and a variety of other skills, which will assist them to reach their maximum potential, while at the same time, making life more enjoyable.

A donation ceremony was held May 12th via ZOOM, between heads of state as well as others in Kosrae. KSPN Directors, local Church members and the Church's

humanitarian department in Guam. The Lt. Governor as well as others expressed their deep appreciation for the Church's donation. KSPN Secretary Treasurer Berla Nena was recognized for time and efforts she put forth in communicating with the Guam humanitarian department to successfully receive this funding. "Without your love we will not be able to receive this funding." ~ KSPN Pres. Isao Mike

KSPN Pres. Isao Mike expressed his thanks, "Your generous donation will really affect a lot of lives here in Kosrae, especially the kids with disabilities. Thank you is the only word I can say for now. Kulo ma lulap." ~ KSPN Pres. Isao Mike

Lt. Gov. Arthy Nena stated, "I join the parents in thanking the church and its members for the gracious contribution to our people." ~ Lt. Gov. Arthy Nena

Those in attendance at the Governors Complex on the island of Kosrae sang a special song in their native language to further express their appreciation which can be viewed on the YouTube video below.

The Church knows the worth of souls, and values physical and mental growth. Tithes and offerings bless both the donor and receiver as members donate globally, enriching lives and lifting spirits. Hearts are touched by this opportunity KSPN is offering the recipients of this organization.

YouTube video link: <https://youtu.be/6Cx0sI-Wenw>



New scholarship honors late FSM Supreme Court Justice Martin G. Yinug

Habele

Habele, a US nonprofit established by former US Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Micronesia, has established a new tuition scholarship honoring the late FSM Supreme Court Justice Martin G. Yinug of Yap.

Since 2016, Habele's K12 tuition scholarships have helped students across the FSM attend independent elementary and high schools by offsetting a large portion of the out-of-pocket fees and tuition needed to enroll. Several of the Habele scholarships are named to honor the legacy of specific individuals who either embodied the US-FSM partnership, and or played a significant and positive role in the development of the Federated States.

The newly announced Martin Yinug Memorial Scholarship aims to celebrate and perpetuate the legacy of the late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Honorable Martin G. Yinug.

Chief Justice Yinug was born on October 18, 1949 in Guror Village, Gilman Municipality on the Island of Yap. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at the San Francisco State University in 1972 and his Juris Doctor in 1980 from the Catholic University of America Law School.

His four decades of public service included working as an Administrative Assistant for the Yap Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia, as an interpreter to the State's delegation to the Micronesian Constitutional Convention, leading the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation in Yap, as legal counsel for the Yap State Legislature, and serving as an Associate Justice on the Yap State Supreme Court.

In 1992 Martin Yinug was appointed and confirmed to lead the FSM Supreme Court as it's Chief Justice, a role which he held until his death on August 31, 2014. In September of 2013, Chief Justice Yinug had been elected by the members of the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC) to



serve as the President of this regional judicial organization.

Justice Yinug was widely praised for his selfless commitment to the public good. FSM Vice President Alik L. Alik described him as "a humble man of high principles, of few but eloquent words, and of impeccable integrity and high morality." Vice Speaker of the Micronesian Congress, Paliknoa K. Welly, pointed to Yinug as "an excellent role model—a high achiever with a colorful career history and education who showed many that 'it can be done.'" Beaulen Carl-Worswick, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia, observed that Martin Yinug was "a dedicated public servant and leader who championed the Rule of Law."

The Martin Yinug Memorial Scholarship was made possible through the support of Roger Gale, an American with a long personal commitment to the People of Micronesia, and a former professor of Yinug's.

Yapese students attending or enrolling at an independent high school on Yap are encouraged to apply for the Yinug Memorial Scholarship. The scholarships award provides approximately seventy-five percent of the student's tuition each school year.

Any Micronesian student looking for financial assistance to attend a private elementary or high school within the FSM is encouraged to visit habele.org/ scholarships to learn more about the nonprofit's scholarship offerings.



KEEP FSM CLEAN

Introducing the "DO'S AND DON'TS"



DO REDUCE

- Buy only what you NEED.



DO REUSE

- Use what you have used AGAIN in another way.



DO RECYCLE

- Take your cans to the recycling center. Ask the recycler which item they can recycle.



DO NOT LITTER. Stop throwing trash anywhere at any given time.



DO NOT BURN PLASTICS or mixed waste in open fires.



DO NOT DUMP TRASH into water and water ways.



DO NOT MIX hazardous and non-hazardous materials.



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