



FROM CAPITOL HILL ACROSS THE AGENCIES

“TO ADVANCE OUR PEOPLE’S QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH STABLE, COMPASSIONATE GOVERNANCE”



JOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY WINS FRANCIS KEPPEL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DATA REPORTING, CONTINUING STREAK SINCE 2019

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library proudly announces that Library Director Erlinda C. Naputi and Systems Librarian Omar T. Manacop have received the Francis Keppel Award of Excellence for State Data Reporting from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This national honor recognizes the library's outstanding commitment to accurate data collection and reporting, reflecting its impact on the CNMI community. Awarded annually, the Francis Keppel Award highlights libraries that excel in data analysis and reporting, with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library earning this year's distinction for its exemplary efforts. Since 2019, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has been a consecutive recipient of the Francis Keppel Award.

CMA LAUNCHES FIRST PROVIDER WORKSHOP AND DIRECTORY TO ENHANCE MEDICAID SERVICES

The Commonwealth Medicaid Agency (CMA) successfully hosted its first-ever Provider Workshop on Friday, January 31, 2025, bringing together local providers and CMA representatives to enhance collaboration and improve healthcare services for Medicaid beneficiaries. Building on this initiative, a second session is scheduled for Friday, February 7, 2025. In another milestone achievement, CMA has completed its first-ever Provider Directory, a comprehensive listing of all CMA-approved providers serving Medicaid beneficiaries across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as well as providers in Guam and the U.S. Mainland. This directory serves as a vital resource, ensuring beneficiaries have access to accurate and up-to-date provider information.



RESTORING GUMA HIGAI: A COMMUNITY EFFORT TO PRESERVE CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Guma Higai at Katan Hudai (Civic Center) is being restored through a partnership between the Indigenous Affairs Office, Western Pacific Maritime Academy, Captain Michael Bacher, and Community Solutions LLC, led by Former Rep. Sheila Babauta. This initiative preserves cultural heritage while revitalizing the space for community engagement, honoring Chamorro and Carolinian traditions, and ensuring its legacy for future generations.



DFEMS HONORS DAVE WICKSTROM FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEDERAL GRANT TRAINING

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) proudly presented a Plaque of Appreciation to Dave Wickstrom, an instructor from Management Concepts, for his expertise, has equipped participants with the essential knowledge to enhance grant application success and compliance. Mr. Wickstrom conducted in-depth training sessions on Writing Successfully for Federal Grants and Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Grants.



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CNMI STRENGTHENS GRANT MANAGEMENT WITH INAUGURAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse, in collaboration with Management Concepts, successfully conducted a Grant Certification Program to enhance federal grant management in the CNMI. With 40 participants from 15 government agencies, the program’s first phase ran from January 22 to February 6, 2025, with the second phase set for April 2025. Governor Arnold I. Palacios praised the initiative for maximizing federal funding and ensuring accountability, while Management Concepts reaffirmed its commitment to equipping CNMI agencies with essential grant management skills. Due to overwhelming demand, many applicants were waitlisted, highlighting the program’s necessity. This initiative strengthens grant compliance, financial management, and program evaluation, ensuring the effective use of federal resources for the Northern Mariana Islands.

COTA RECEIVES STAR AGENCY AWARD FROM SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) has been honored with the prestigious Star Agency Award, presented by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. This is the first year that this category has been awarded. This recognition underscores COTA’s commitment to excellence, innovation, and service to the community.

The award highlights COTA’s ongoing efforts to enhance public transportation services and improve accessibility for residents and visitors alike. Through innovative system upgrades and a commitment to safety and operational efficiency, Transit CNMI continues to play a vital role in the island’s economic development, contributing to the overall quality of life in the CNMI.



BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES: WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY EMPOWERS ROTA AND TINIAN COMMUNITIES

The Department of Labor, through the Workforce Investment Agency, has empowered our neighboring island communities by providing valuable career development resources and workforce programs. On January 10, 2025, the WIA team hosted a successful Community Outreach Event in Rota, connecting residents—especially youth—with employment pathways, education, and skill-building opportunities. Continuing these efforts, they engaged with Tinian Jr. Sr. High School students on January 27, demonstrating how the WIOA program can help them explore careers, develop skills, and prepare for future success. Through these initiatives, the Department of Labor remains committed to fostering a stronger, more skilled workforce across the islands.

