

Maritime courses on Saipan

Pacific Daily News

Saipan-based Western Pacific Maritime Academy offered its first U.S. Coast Guard-approved course in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on Sept. 17, according to a news release from the school.

The vessel security course, Vessel Personnel with Designated Security Duties, was administered to 12 candidates holding a Merchant Marine Credential or men and women who wish to become professional mariners.

The school is a nonprofit corporation with maritime offices and classrooms located at Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

It will be offering a full curriculum of Coast Guard-approved maritime courses and services, including free seminars to the public on how to obtain a Merchant Marine Credential.

The workforce development program steers candidates into high-paying jobs in the maritime sector.



COURTESY OF WESTERN PACIFIC MARITIME ACADEMY
Western Pacific Maritime Academy offered its first U.S. Coast Guard-approved course Sept. 17, 2022, on Saipan.

Entry-level credentialed professional mariners may work as deck seamen, engineers or members of the catering department.

An entry-level seaman in the U.S. Merchant Marine can earn upwards of \$5,000 per month through one of a number of maritime unions or Military Sealift Command, according to the news release.

Public School System Commissioner Alfred Ada has approved a four-year high school vocational maritime track at Kagman High School and has signaled his intent to expand the program CNMI-wide in the near future, according to the release.

The Public School System Maritime Vocational Track will graduate students ready to enter the maritime workforce as fully credentialed unlicensed mariners or work in the lagoon supporting tourism and trade.

College-bound courses are also available for students to further their education in one of several maritime academies. Maritime colleges graduate deck and Engineering merchant officers who may also serve on active duty or reserve in the Navy or Coast Guard.

For further information on the school, contact Selina Taitano at staitano@wpma.net or Capt. Michael Bacher 670-789-1636, mbacher@wpma.net.



COURTESY ATKINS KROLL

Avis Rent A Car was voted Guam's Leading Car Rental Company 2022 at the World Travel Awards Asia and Oceania Gala Ceremony Sept. 7, 2022, in Vietnam.

Guam's Avis honored by travel awards

Pacific Daily News

Avis Rent A Car was voted Guam's Leading Car Rental Company 2022 at the World Travel Awards Asia & Oceania Gala Ceremony Sept. 7 in Vietnam, according to a news release from Atkins Kroll.

Established in 1993, the World Travel Awards recognizes and celebrates exemplary businesses in the travel and tourism industry. The voters include travel professionals, media and high-end consumers around the globe.

Avis, acquired by Atkins Kroll in April of this year, has multiple locations in Guam and throughout Micronesia.

Avis' win is a testament to its slogan, "We Try Harder," according to Atkins Kroll.

The rental car company has won the award for six consecutive years since 2017.

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, was established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, Avis, Budget and Payless Rental Brands, ACE Rent a Car and AC Delco brands.

In December 2021, Atkins Kroll acquired Morrico Equipment, one of Guam's largest heavy equipment dealerships representing Freightliner, Mercedes Benz, Hyundai Construction Equipment, Kohler Power Systems, Rosenbauer Fire Trucks and Thomas Built School Buses.

Fed: Inflation fight may cause recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve delivered its bluntest reckoning Wednesday of what it will take to finally tame painfully high inflation: Slower growth, higher unemployment and potentially a recession.

Speaking at a news conference, Chair Jerome Powell acknowledged what many economists have been saying for months: That the Fed's goal of engineering a "soft landing" — in which it would manage to slow growth enough to curb inflation but not so much as to cause a recession — looks increasingly unlikely.

"The chances of a soft landing," Powell said, "are likely to diminish" as the Fed steadily raises borrowing costs to slow the worst streak of inflation in four decades. "No one knows whether this process will lead to a recession or, if



JACQUELYN MARTIN/STF
Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell speaks at a news conference Sept. 21, 2022, at the Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington.

so, how significant that recession would be."

Before the Fed's policymakers would consider halting their rate hikes, he said, they would have to see continued slow growth, a "modest" increase in unemployment and "clear evidence" that inflation is moving back down to

their 2% target.

"We have got to get inflation behind us," Powell said. "I wish there were a painless way to do that. There isn't."

Powell's remarks followed another substantial three-quarters of a point rate hike — its third straight — by the Fed's policymaking committee. Its latest action brought the Fed's key short-term rate, which affects many consumer and business loans, to 3% to 3.25%. That's its highest level since early 2008.

Falling gas prices have slightly lowered headline inflation, which was a still-painful 8.3% in August compared with a year earlier. Those declining prices at the gas pump might have contributed to a recent rise in President Joe Biden's public approval ratings.