



HERITAGE ADVENTURER: FIFTH CRUISE SHIP STOPPING IN CHUUK



The Heritage Adventurer made anchorage at Weno Island on April 9, marking the fifth visit by a small-size cruise ship in seven months.

As with previous visiting ship, tour partners in Chuuk had a hard time responding to various requests made on behalf of the visitors. Getting enough busses was a huge challenge. Fortunately for the typical birdwatchers preferred to walk about, looking for birds. Others wanted to visit certain sites. Still others anticipated to dive and snorkel, especially around sunset time.

The ship moored around Weno for two days, affording its guests ample time to penetrate certain areas. The lighthouse in Sapuk Village and the war tunnels in upper Nantaku were visited. Birwatchers also went up the hills below Mount Tonachaw.

On the second day, two boat teams took off in the morning. One headed southward to the island of Tonoas for the many war related attraction sites and snorkel areas. The other group headed westward to the island of Tol known to be a niche for the Chuuk Rukia as well as other declining birds. Others spent more time on Weno, checking out the roadside markets and snorkeling.

CVB has lodged a request for Chuuk State to acquired two 50-seater buses in fiscal year 2025 to alleviate transport problems normally faced whenever cruise ships arrive. We also have raised with the business community to consider investment in creative tours in addition to shipwreck diving.

CHUUK GETTING READY TO HOST THE 3RD MOCRONESIA EXPO JULY 22-26, 2024

The working group for the 3rd Micronesia Expo has held two meetings to progress planning as time ticks away.

At the second meeting, planners agreed to ask the Governor to consider requesting that the event be delayed to give Chuuk time. Consequently, a letter to this effect got sent to The Honorable Alexander R. Naruhn. In response to this request, the governor advised the working group to working within set timeline, essentially denying the request for delay.

The planner also looked at funding matters at the second meeting, noting that both the FSM National Government and the Chuuk State Government have not allocated any money to assist the host state. Planners were concern about timing.

The working group has tasked its committees to take up specific assignments, such as, the assessment of facilities for lodging venues, and the need to secure land-owners concurrence to the use of their property adjacent to the Andersen Field.



CHAIRMAN IRONS AND VICE CHAIRMAN RUDA HOLD MEETING WITH CVB



In support of current efforts, the House Committee on Resources and Development Chairman Arthur Arty Irons and Vice Chairman Timothy Ruda made time to meet with Chuuk Visitors Bureau at the Truk Stop Hotel on May 3.

Among many concerns, the honorable gentlemen assured that their committee is aware of the constraints CVB is facing in trying to help lead Chuuk's representation in upcoming events, mainly the Pacific Festival of Arts and Culture (FestPac) to be hosted in Honolulu, and the 3rd Micronesia Expo that is to take

place in Chuuk in July, a few months away. Looking ahead, the committee is inviting CVB to share information on proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget with emphasis on funds solicited for specific activities within Chuuk State.

CVB provided an update report on preparations for both the FestPac and the Expo. We spent time looking at challenges already faced by the expo working group as we tried to progress preparation amid the lack of available funds. We also looked at other activities CVB has been doing as part of tourism development.

This lady came to Chuuk on April 9 as a crew member on the Heritage Adventurer. When she got introduced to the Chuukese "lockdown" skirt, she fell in love with it. At the Blue Lagoon Resort, she jumped into her skirt after a brief swim, enjoying her drinks and the beautiful sunset.



**OUSE MOCHEN SIPWE ANINIS FENGEN
NE TUMUNU NIMOCHUN ME NINGEN
FONUACH KEI MEINISIN. EI PIINGAW
MI CHOK NAPENO. SIPWE ENIMENIM.**

SN MAYORS WANT TO HOST EXPO DELEGATIONS



The Honorable Gideon Kikku, mayor of Uman Fonueisom, and The Honorable Keim Mathias, mayor of Fefen Macheweichun have expressed interest on behalf of the respective islands and their collective region of Southern Namoneas to make a request to the Chuuk Expo planning group to consider bringing the 3rd Micronesia Expo to their region, closer to their people.

According to the draft plan, the Expo activities on the last day will take place on Fefen Island.

The plan requires approval by the Governor. Mayor Kikku attended the first FSM Expo that took place on Pohnpei July 2022.

CHUUK GOING TO THE PACIFIC FESTIVAL OF ARTS

The Division of Commerce and Industry, with support from the Chuuk Visitors Bureau, has been organizing plans for Chuuk to participate at the 44th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, which will take place on June 5 to 12 in Honolulu.

The performance team from Pollap Island are selected to do culture dance and other performances.

A Fefen group are selected to perform the presentation of the Chuukese Ulong and other performances.

The Division of Commerce and Industry is the focal point office for this activity. Their plan is to include stick dancers from Namoluk and Ettal who reside in Honolulu to also perform.

Chuuk performers are part of a delegation inclusive of all the four states, also includes business vendors and carvers who will sale and demonstrate arts and crafts from the FSM.

Performers will depart on June 3 and return by June 13.

ANOTHER SERIES OF THE ANNUAL KEITANI GRAHAM ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP CLOSURES WITH SUCCESS

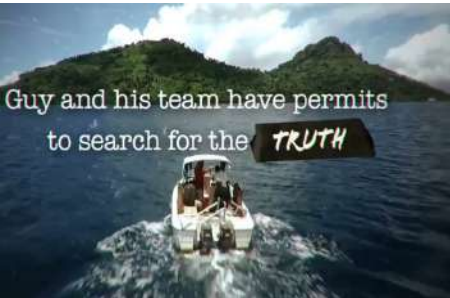
The annual Chuuk secondary schools athletics championship, which assumed the name Keitani Graham Athletics Championship, again displayed unique track-n-field festivities for the secondary schools during the last week of April. It started with the one mile relay, dominated by the Tonoas Southern Namoneas High School boys and girls, continued with long-distance (marasong race) on Wednesday, and then capped off with the rest of the field events on Thursday and Friday.

The schools included, Chuuk High School, Xavier High School, Berea Christian School, Saramen Chuuk Academy, Southern Namoneas High School Tonoas, and Southern Namoneas High School Fefen.

This year is the 12th year of the Keitani Graham Memorial Track and Field Championship. This has been the most regular, bombastic sport competition in Chuuk for many years.



EXPEDITION FIVE: IN SEARCH OF FIFTEEN VANISHED AMERICAN AVIATORS SINCE 1938



CVB got involved in mid April, assisting Mr. Guy Noffsinger, naval intelligence officer, and members of the Expedition Five, getting clearance from the Governor's Office to bring in specialist dogs for continuation of the search for the Lost Clipper.

You can check out Expedition Five Facebook Page for details.

Mr. Noffsinger has come to Chuuk four times before, all for the purpose of looking for evidence relating to 15 American aviators. According to him, their small plane (The Lost Clipper) was leaving from Guam on its way to Manila when it vanished. Much later, some evidence suggested that the plane was diverted to Chuuk, Tonoas Island by 2 Japanese hijackers.

(We are waiting to confirm results of DNA analysis from last search in April.)

CHUUK READIES FOR MICRONESIAN GAMES IN RMI

The Chuuk Recreation Board has made its final decision for Chuuk to compete in the following sports at the 10th Micronesian Games to be held in Majuro, June 15 to 24, 2024.

Athletics, or Track and Field as commonly know, has been our most popular sport for decades. Chuuk is taking a small squad of 16 athletes: eleven young men and five girls.

Basketball: both women and men basketball teams have been selected along with coaching staff.

Volleyball: Chuuk is the defending champion in the men's division. The team is being coached by so and so with so and so as the assistant coach. The ladies are trained by veteran coach Tony Bualuay.

Wrestling is a sensational individual competition. A small squad of 10 young men and one lone lady are being coached by Mr. Curtis Graham. The lead hopeful among our wrestlers is Jun who has earned medal in regional wrestling competitions.

This year's Micronesia Games competition program does not include swimming. Otherwise, we would witness Olympian swimmer Tasi Limtiaco from Polowot Island at the games.

We wish our athletes the very best. Have fun and do well at the Micro Games this June.

FAS YOUTH RALLY IN GUAM DRAW CHUUK SPEAKERS



The Foneni Anisi Serafo community group in Guam invited a cader of speakers from Chuuk to their rally on April something at the Dededo Sports Complex.

His Excellency Bishop Julio Angkel, Diocese of the Carolines, opened the meeting with a brief remarks. The Honorable Alexander R. Naruhn was also among notable speakers, as well as The Honorable Representative

Timothy Ruda, Vice Chairman of Resources and Development, House of Representatives.

Both Guam Governor The Honorable Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor The Honorable Josh Tenorio were at the rally, along with a handful of lawmakers.

Former Chuuk Governor Dr. Ansito Walte, Fr. Fran Hezel, and Marz Akapito also gave remarks.

Mr. John Howard and fellow FAS members did a fine job bringing together Chuuk youth in guam for their 2nd rally, attracting a number of community service providers from the Government of Guam.