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Nahlap Resort Wedding Chapel gets its first use



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Photos by Seiichi Naka



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Kosrae first FSM state to pass specific law on domestic violence

By **Bill Jaynes**
The Kaselehlie Press

April 28, 2014

Kosrae, FSM—On March 14, 2014, Kosrae’s Governor Lyndon H. Jackson signed a new law establishing the Kosrae State Family Protection Act. It is the first law in the FSM that specifically addresses and criminalizes domestic violence.

The bill for the act was first introduced several years ago but because of the culturally sensitive nature of its subject matter, Kosrae’s legislators debated the wording of the bill until they had something they felt they could support. Meanwhile, proponents conducted dozens of educational forums on the subject of domestic violence, many of them highly emotional.

Proponents say that for too long domestic violence has been the elephant in the room that no one wants to talk about. During the campaign for the bill, one group had t-shirts printed that essentially said that domestic violence is not a part of Micronesian culture.

In the bill’s findings the Kosrae Legislature was straightforward, saying:

(1) Domestic violence is a serious problem that poses a serious threat to the citizens and residents of Kosrae.

(2) The number of incidents and severity of domestic violence in Kosrae has (increased) in recent years.

(3) Protection of household members from domestic violence is consistent with Kosraen custom and tradition and in line with public interest.

(4) In order to protect the household members it is necessary to enact legislation that implements Kosraean customary and traditional protections against domestic violence.

The Act says that its purpose is, “To provide for the protection and safety of those persons who, by reason of their sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, or other condition are subject to physical, sexual or mental abuse occurring within, or as a consequence of their domestic interpersonal relationship with the abuser or abusers.”

The new law classifies some types of domestic violence offenses as misdemeanors and others as felony offenses. It also sets up specific guidelines for law enforcement

officers to follow when they are called upon to deal with instances of domestic violence, including specific rules to help them to determine who the victim is. It also sets up the responsibilities that a law enforcement officer has to a victim of domestic violence.

They will be required to read a statement to the victim in the language they can understand, English or Kosraen that says:

“You have the right to request a police officer’s assistance for your safety. You may also request that the police officer assist you in obtaining your essential personal effects and arranging transportation to a safe place, including but not limited to a designated meeting place for a shelter, a family member’s or a friend’s residence, or a similar place of safety. If you are in need of medical treatment, you have the right to request that the officer assist you in obtaining medical treatment.”

Court proceedings and outcomes of domestic violence trials will be tightly guarded even if a defendant is convicted. The law specifically sets up who can be in the courtroom during domestic violence trials and bars the public from the courtroom during those proceedings. Except for

purely educational publications such as in legal journals, the law also sets up penalties and fines for people or organizations that report on the proceedings or outcomes of domestic violence cases.

It’s possible that the gag provision of the law regarding domestic violence proceedings may have helped the bill to pass legislative scrutiny. It is unclear whether or not the provision is a violation of Kosrae’s Constitution which says, “Except when a tradition protected by statute provides to the contrary no law may deny or impair freedom of expression.” As there are currently no non-governmental media outlets operating in Kosrae the constitutionality of the provision is not likely to be tested soon.

Marstella Jack of the Pohnpei Women’s Council says that the Council sent a domestic violence bill to the Pohnpei State Legislature in 2008 but that has been stuck in committee since then. She hopes Kosrae’s legislation on domestic violence would spur Pohnpei’s legislators to action on the vital but sensitive issue, and said that Speaker Fernando Scaliem has expressed support for domestic violence legislation.



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Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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Urgent action needed to save Pacific islander lives

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Tuesday 29 April 2014,

Suva, Fiji –Pacific Directors of Health are meeting today to consider critical actions to respond to the non- communicable disease (NCD) crisis in the Pacific. The topic will be one of a number of issues discussed at the second Pacific Directors of Health meeting, which is being convened by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and regional partners in Nadi, Fiji from 29 to 30 April 2014.

NCDs such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer account for about 70% of all deaths in the Pacific region, yet many are preventable.

Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) have some of the highest rates of diabetes in the world, with diabetes prevalence in many PICTs more than double the world average.

‘The 10 countries in the world with the highest overweight and obesity rates are in the Pacific, as are almost all the 10 countries with the highest prevalence of diabetes in the world, and these are major drivers of NCDs. The region is struggling to cope with the burden on individuals, families, communities, health systems and Pacific economies and development more broadly,’ said Dr Paula Vivili, Deputy Director at SPC’s Public Health Division.

‘Urgent action needs to be taken now. The

good news is that there are proven, affordable and cost- effective strategies available.’ said Dr Vivili.

SPC, the World Bank, World Health Organisation and the Pacific Islands Forum have been working with the governments of Australia and New Zealand to develop a detailed NCD Roadmap Report on a multi-sectoral country and regional response to the NCD Crisis in the Pacific, for consideration at the joint Forum Economic and Pacific Health Ministers Meeting in July 2014.

‘Four key strategies include strengthening tobacco control, addressing and better regulating food and drink products linked to NCDs, improving efficiency by reallocating existing health resources to targeted primary and secondary prevention and treatment of heart disease and diabetes, and strengthening research and evidence for better planning,’ said Dr Vivili.



Volleyball game in Vanuatu

The NCD Roadmap Report identifies 32 other multi-sectoral activities that Pacific governments could choose to adopt in their response to NCDs. These involve interventions from a range of ministries including the prime ministers’ office as well as ministries of agriculture, education, health and trade.

UNICEF global release of Pacific music video against violence

UNICEF

SUVA, 23 April 2014 –Research data shows that a high proportion of adolescent boys in the Pacific are supportive of wife beating. This corresponds with UNICEF estimates that as many as 7 in 10 women and 8 in 10 children in the Pacific experience violence or abuse at some point in their life.

To raise awareness not only of the problem, but also of the solution, UNICEF has just released a musical video called ‘Reaction’. It features the talents of IAMNOBODI and JMSN and was produced by UNICEF in collaboration with Pacific youth and artists, as part of the global #ENDviolence initiative. The music that accompanies the story line underlines the message: don’t look away, don’t accept violence: react.

Watching the video visibly moved the UNICEF Pacific Representative, Ms Karen Allen, who said:

“This is so hard to watch because it is a true reflection of what we know and see take place on a daily basis in many Pacific island countries. But it is a great video with the potential to reach a lot of people and influence them in a positive direction. Violence and abuse in any form is simply unacceptable and we must all continue to work hard to translate this message into action. The song and the video motivate the watcher and listener to match violent actions with positive reactions to stop violence.”

Ms. Allen added “With this musical video we aim to support Governments of the Pacific who have committed through the Convention on the Rights of Children, through laws, policies and programmes, to end violence against women and children.” “Whether you are a regular fan of musical videos or whether you have never watched one before, this is a compelling, “must-see” video that you are sure to remember.”

The video ‘Reaction’ can be watched online here <http://uni.cf/reaction>





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U.S. Embassy is bringing Nashville to Chuuk

Embassy of the United States of America- Kolonia

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring “Sierra Hull,” a five-piece blue grass band from Nashville, Tennessee, to visit Chuuk between May 14-17. The band has performed on prestigious stages such as Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and in the White House for President Obama alongside artists such as Alison Krauss, Lyle Lovett, and James Taylor.

While in Chuuk, the band will conduct four musical workshops for youth at local schools, and also present two evening performances. A free concert open to the public will be offered on Friday, May 16 at 7 PM at Chuuk International Airport.

The May 16 free concert will provide a chance for the public to hear the band perform a number of the songs they have recorded on the Rounder record label. Many of the songs were written by Sierra Hull, while other songs are considered classics of the folk and bluegrass genres.

Sierra Hull, the band leader, began playing the mandolin at the age of eight. Since then she has traveled and performed extensively throughout the U.S., Japan, and the United Kingdom. Sierra Hull is an MTV artist who has recorded three albums for Rounder Records.



Sierra Hull

More information about Sierra Hull can be found on her web site at <http://www.sierrahull.com/band/>

Project shows coffee plantation can work but it's not a given

By **John Ranahan**

24 March 2014

Kolonia, Pohnpei - To date, the Pohnpei Buzz Pilot project has sold 147 bags of whole coffee beans, at \$20 per bag, for a total of \$2,940.00. The business plan calls for a minimum of 100 bags sold by June, so the project has met one of its key goals. It has been difficult to keep up with the demand for locally grown coffee; however, Pohnpei Buzz expects another harvest this month, so more coffee soon will be available for sale.

While the Pohnpei Buzz business plan is, at this early stage of production, focused only on selling packaged bags of coffee, it is good to see that the coffee is starting to contribute to generating other business on island. **Laira's Coffee Shop** in the Ocean View East Hotel Complex, for example, has begun selling Pohnpei Buzz Coffee at \$3.00 a cup (\$2.00 for take-out).

A translation of a local grower's manual for the effective planting, caring for, and harvesting of coffee plants is nearly complete. Once finished, the project will work with the USDA NRCS and College of Micronesia Agriculture Extension Office to hold a farmers' meeting in early April to share information about the coffee project.

A key message at this meeting will be that interested coffee growers will not only need coffee growing skills but also business and financial literacy skills. A farming business efficiency tool developed for Pohnpei early on in the project now has sufficient data to show interested growers the costs and

benefits of a coffee business in Pohnpei.

The Pohnpei Buzz farm pilot project continues to receive expert advice for improvement. Last month, three visiting soil scientists found that the plants lacked nutrients, with more composting required once a quarter. They also explained that irrigation is not necessary given the large amount of rain (in non-drought periods).

Interestingly, they also suggested that the constant rain and, therefore, absence of sustained dry periods means that the trees can be expected to fruit all year, which will increase the amount of coffee harvested annually. They provided the further advice that the harvested beans properly dried.

Finally, a further challenge is that the Pohnpei Buzz Project is still waiting for the approval of a grant proposal submitted to help prepare a formal feasibility study has been approved. The team hopes to hear by the end of April. Among

other items, the feasibility study will focus on determining the best-performing seeds for Pohnpei's climate and soil.

Importantly also, the study will focus on the identification of any negative environmental impact of a coffee industry in Pohnpei. The project recognizes that the beautiful flavor of Pohnpei Buzz coffee owes much to Pohnpei's unique natural environment. To take care of the State's environment therefore means to take care of the coffee grown in Pohnpei State.

Ambassador Rosen and the U.S. Embassy continued their support of the Pohnpei Buzz Project by recently requesting a dozen robusta coffee seedlings to plant on the embassy grounds.



Wilber Walter and Ambassador Doria Rosen begin planting

A challenge for the group is that the toaster machine broke weeks ago and that it is difficult to get replacement elements because of our isolated location. This has resulted in lower production and sales. Wilbur has resorted to hand-roasting the beans. The project is researching the purchase of a commercial grade roaster. Another challenge has been the above-average rainfall the past several weeks. It has been extremely difficult to properly dry the harvested beans.

A third challenge is that the Pohnpei Buzz Project is still waiting to learn that a grant proposal submitted to help prepare a formal feasibility study has been approved. We hope to hear by the end of April. The feasibility study will focus on the best-performing seeds for Pohnpei's climate and soil.

Editor's Note: This article was scheduled to run in early April but we neglected to place it. The meeting in early April has already happened. Project organizers were concerned that some farmers in Pohnpei might prematurely jump into coffee plantations without knowing the some of the difficulties they might face. Our apologies.

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Tourism advisor hopes Nahlap Wedding Chapel could become Pohnpei draw

By *Bill Jaynes*
The Kaselehlie Press

April 29, 2014

Pohnpei, FSM—When the David family built their resort on Nahlap in Pohnpei they also built a small wedding chapel. Unfortunately, in all of the years that the chapel has sat on the far side of the island it has never been used for an actual wedding. Technically speaking, it still hasn't but on Sunday, April 27 a Japanese couple used the chapel for the first time to re-enact their marriage with Reverend Bender Endicar presiding.

On September 15, 2013, Ryo Oshima and Maim Matsunaga were married in Kyoto, Japan. For their honeymoon the couple came to Pohnpei from their home in Fukuoka and re-enacted their wedding at Nahlap island. Mrs. Oshima arrived on the island by beautifully decorated canoe where she met her groom waiting for her in front of the chapel.

Tourism Advisor to the FSM Department of Resources, Seiichi Naka said that when he and his wife

visited Nahlap last year they saw the little wedding chapel there and thought that it was "so cute" that it could be used for tourism promotion. He contacted one of his best friends, Ryo Oshima, sent him pictures of the little chapel on Nahlap and suggested that he and his bride come to Pohnpei for a wedding ceremony.

Naka said that he met Oshima during the Service Civil International work camp in Vanuatu in 2005 and that since then the two had been best friends. Oshima said that he thought the idea was a great one and they started taking care of details. The trip to Pohnpei was the couple's honeymoon trip.

Naka contacted the David family who set about planning for decorations, food, and logistics. By wedding day, the chapel and the grounds had been decorated in local

style and food prepared. Naka said that approximately 80 people attended the wedding, 10 of them from Japan.

Herodes David thanked Naka and the couple, "On behalf of my family & the church members, I would like to thank you for choosing Nahlap for this wedding ceremony. You have fulfilled our dream for building that Chapel on that island. As I had mentioned before, there was one wedding before this one on the island, but not using the Chapel."

"If I could, I would like to set up another wedding ceremony on this small cute chapel for the local tourism promotion," Naka wrote in an email.



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Yap business community embraces tourism development to promote economic sustainability

April 30, 2014

COLONIA, Yap – Removing impediments and developing policies to promote tourism for economic growth and ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability is the preferred way forward for the State of Yap, elaborated by the Yap State private sector community.

The 2023 Planning Committee held consultations with the private sector community, government leaders and officials, and NGO representatives in Yap to receive recommendations and input to the 2023 Planning Committees' Action Plan. The key themes of the consultation focused on identification of viable economic projects and identification of impediments needed to be removed. The delegation to Yap was led by President Mori and accompanied by Governor Elimo from Chuuk, Governor Anefal from Yap, and representatives for governors John Ehsa of Pohnpei and Lyndon Johnson of Kosrae.

Key impediments raised by the Yap private sector community were the high cost and low frequency of flights into Yap, limited quality and number of rooms available to accommodate increased visitors via chartered flights, limited tourism products and activities in Yap, and difficulty of accessing capital. The potential for cruise ships was highlighted, but insufficient infrastructure, and stringent immigration, customs and quarantine regulations have

reduced FSM's competitiveness as a destination for cruise ships.

The private sector community in Yap recommended more direct flights from Asia to Yap, financial assistance for local promotion of tourism products and activities, and the stream-lining of laws and regulations at all levels of government. The private sector called for more transparent and stable foreign investment laws and regulations. They also requested technical assistance for the development of a tourism master plan. Major improvement of the airport (both terminal and run-way) and seaport in Yap was also agreed upon as priority infrastructure development needs for tourism enhancement in the State. The private sector requested an update from the Airline Task Force on its progress including on the "Fly Micronesia" project.

The 2023 Planning Committee was established with the mandate to undertake an assessment of the fiscal sustainability of the nation in the post 2023 period and develop an implementable, time-specific Action Plan to prepare the nation for the challenges that exist in the post 2023 period. It needs to be costed with resourcing identified from local and external sources.

The Committee is targeting to complete its Action Plan in October of this year with widespread public engagement through consultations and awareness activities.

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Study on the crown of thorns starfish (COTS) in Pohnpei lagoon

Micronesian Marine and Environmental Club (MMEC)

The Crown-of-Thorns Starfish commonly called COTS is a large sea star with venomous pointy spines which can produce a very painful sting. These animals are distributed throughout the Indo-Pacific coastal tropical waters. They are found closely associated to coral reefs since they feed on the coral polyps. It is common to see them scattered here and there on the reef. In small numbers, they are beneficial for the reef structure since they feed upon several fast growing corals and prevent them from invading other slower growing species. In fact, they help to maintain a higher diversity on the reef. But in large numbers, they tend to aggregate. They can even be seen in clusters piled up one on top of the other. When such large numbers arise, their massive feeding potential, kills the corals, and turn an initial zone of pristine coral into a pile of rubble. This has devastating effects on the coral community.

In Pohnpei lagoon, it is known from historical data, that there was a massive outbreak of COTS in the late 1960s, early 1970. In collaboration with the University of Guam, an eradication program was undertaken on Pohnpei from 1969 to 1972. No written data of other population explosions could be found for Pohnpei in the 1980 nor the 1990s. But publications show that there were other outbreaks during these two decades in other areas of the tropical Pacific. Since around 2005 or so, there has been a number of observations in Pohnpei lagoon where high concentrations of COTS could be found. By 2008, the populations had reached outbreak levels and eradication efforts were then undertaken by various groups such as communities, fishers themselves, and the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP).

The overall population is now dropping somewhat but there still remains large numbers in some sectors of the lagoon. The Micronesian Marine and Environmental Club (MMEC), a youth organization at the College of Micronesia, National Campus, interested in environmental issues, and guided by their marine science professors, has received a small grant from the Global Greengrants Fund (GGF), to undertake a research project on estimating abundances and size structures of COTS in Pohnpei lagoon. During each field trip, students also do some culling, hoping this will help keep the populations in check. It



Crown of thorns starfish (COTS) feeding on corals.

is hoped that with the gathered information, it will become easier to forecast trends of future potential outbreaks.

The MMEC members wish to invite individuals who are aware of present aggregations of COTS in a given sector of the lagoon to share these findings with the project liaison officers so that such

areas can be monitored and populations eradicated. The contact people at the COM-FSM are Peltin Olter Pelep at 320-2480 (Ext: 225) or Mary-Allen Manuel at 320-2480 (Ext: 300). You can equally relay the information at the following email address: olterpelep@comfsm.fm. Your collaboration on this project is greatly appreciated.

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Partnership building in Sapwohn

By Rainer Jimmy
Board of Directors
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

An informal dialogue between the Hon. Jackson Smith, Chief Justice for the Sokehs Municipal Government Court system and an Advisor for the Environmental Support Organization (ESO) and IFCP Project Liaison Rainer Jimmy, took place on April 18, 2014. The purpose of this informal dialogue is to initiate formalization of a partnership between IFCP's Revival of Culturally Significant Food Crops project and the ESO. The Pacific Development Conservation Trust (PDCT) provides funding to support IFCP in Sapwohn in its effort to promote the CHEEF benefits campaign in the schools and communities throughout Pohnpei proper and the outer islands. Kousapw Sapwohn is currently implementing the project funded by the New Zealand government through PDCT. ESO Advisors and Officers are:

SAPWOHN Revival of Culturally Significant Food Crops

Chairman Mr. Ketner Kenneth
V. Chairman Mr. Markas Handy
Secretary Mrs. Flora ikosia
Treasurer Mr. Heinrick Isaac

Project Committee Environmental Support Organization

President Mr. Charles Lebehn
V. President Mr. Justin Isaac
Secretary Mr. Gordon Eekiel
Treasurer Mr. John Eekiel

Members of ESO are Pingelapese young men and women who have passion, commitment and dedication for maintaining their cultural norms, values and practices. One of their activities is maintaining cleanliness of the main road in Kousapw Sapwohn. They donate their time, weed cutters, gasoline, and vehicles for hauling the garbage to the state dumpsite. Their latest cleaning event took place before the Easter week. Husbands, wives and even their children are all engaged in cleaning the main road that connects the residents to Kolonia and other locations in Pohnpei.

Strong partnership between Sapwohn Revival of Culturally Significant Food Crops Project and ESO could lead to exploring possibilities for sharing of resources and expertise for the enhancement of culture, health, environment, economy and food security in Kousapw Sapwohn. The potential for a great partnership between ESO and the project will be very beneficial to the community because ESO members are young men and women who have the passion, character, stability and above all, commitment and dedication for promoting and advancing the cultural norms, values and practices for maintaining cleanliness in Kousapw Sapwohn.

2023 Planning Committee consults with Chuuk State Private Sector and Government Leaders

FSM PIO

April 30, 2014

Weno, Chuuk- The 2023 Planning Committee held its second round of consultations in Chuuk State on April 21 as part of the second round of consultations in all FSM States in April and May, with emphasis on growing the economy. The Committee was led by FSM President Manny Mori and accompanied by Governor Johnson Elimo from Chuuk, Governor Sebastian Anefal from Yap, and representatives for Governors John Ehsa of Pohnpei and Lyndon Jackson of Kosrae.

The meeting was well attended with participation of State Government leaders and officials, Members of FSM Congress representing Chuuk State, and members of the private sector community and the NGOs in Chuuk State.



The full-day meeting provided an opportunity for discussion and identification of priority areas and projects with strong potential for supporting economic growth objectives. It also provided for more Government-Private Sector discussions relating to impediments and challenges in growing a sustainable economy.

Several issues were highlighted during the meeting including infrastructure, transportation, human resource constraints, security, land issues, high cost of utilities, immigration policies, as well as excessive red tape in other areas of government regulation such as licensing of businesses. The private sector expressed the need for reliable

land titling and certification, calling for enabling legislation for "land court" establishment in Chuuk. In addition, the Chuuk private sector requested for the establishment of inter-state and inter-island transport network to aid commerce and improve mobility between the islands. Interest in revisiting investment opportunities in tuna cannery for employment and revenue generation also gained attention.

The Chuuk Chamber of Commerce expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage with the

Committee and indicated that supplementary recommendations will be provided pending further review by the group. The 2023 Planning Committee was established with the mandate to undertake an assessment of the



fiscal sustainability of the nation in the post 2023 period and develop an Action Plan by October to prepare the nation for the challenges that exist in the post 2023 period. The Action Plan will specify resources and a timeline guiding the course of actions.

As part of its mandate, the Committee is to undertake public awareness on its work.

Singapore signs OSA with Micronesia

AsiaOne

Monday, Apr 28, 2014

SINGAPORE - Airlines of both Singapore and the Federated States of Micronesia will be able to fly between both countries after an Open Skies Agreement (OSA) was signed on Monday.

The OSA allows airlines to fly between Singapore and any points in the Federated States of Micronesia, via and beyond to any third country, without restrictions in capacity, frequency or aircraft type.

Transport Minister Mr Lui Tuck Yew, who signed the agreement with the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure of the Federated States of Micronesia The Honourable Francis Itimai, said that the OSA reflects the warm bilateral ties between both nations.

"[The OSA] underscores both countries' commitment to establish a fully liberal air services framework that will allow our carriers to react quickly to market demand when opportunities arise," Mr Lui said.

With the Singapore - Federated States of Micronesia OSA, Singapore has established more than 120 Air Services Agreements, of which more than 50 are OSAs.

Majuro to fix waste problems with PacWaste Atoll Project

SPREP NEWS

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is the focus of an atoll island component of the PacWaste project. It will help address their problems of an overflowing landfill, broken hospital waste management system and encourage more waste recycling to be done on the atoll.

Funded by the European Union and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project also known as PacWaste, will work with the Marshall Islands to showcase best waste management practices on isolated atolls in the Pacific region over the next four years.

"The atoll waste management pilot is one of a number of different focus areas that the European Union has provided funding support in the Pacific region to improve the management of priority hazardous waste," said the SPREP Project Manager, Mr. Stewart Williams.

"The four year project also provides assistance in three other areas including improved management of asbestos, healthcare waste and electronic waste

across fourteen Pacific island countries and Timor Leste".

In March the PacWaste team visited the Marshall Islands as part of the preparatory work, conducting a series of meetings and site visits with government departments and other counterparts.

These include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of Environment Planning & Policy Coordination, Ministry of Health, the Majuro Atoll Waste Company, and Marshalls Energy Company and the Majuro Atoll Local Government.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands was selected to partner with the European Union and SPREP in this project due to the significant waste issues the island atoll is experiencing.

"This waste management pilot will provide an integrated and all-round approach to waste management on the atoll, which will target priority infrastructure works, waste worker training, improved waste collection systems and a waste recycling programme," said Ms Ileana Miritescu, Programme Manager at the European

Union Delegation.

"These will have a profound effect on the atoll's communities and environment."

The next steps for the PacWaste Atoll Pilot will include a detailed baseline study on

the current status of waste management in Majuro which will be used to plan the physical stages of the pilot including scoping studies and designs, equipment purchases, capacity building, training and public awareness-raising.



National Campus holds postal stamp unveiling ceremony

The College of Micronesia

Palikir, Pohnpei (April 30, 2014) - A Postal Stamp Unveiling Ceremony was held on April 30, 2014, at the National Campus' FSM-China Friendship Sports Center Practice Gym. The commemorative stamps were specially made for the college and will be released by the FSM Post Office.

Through his welcoming remarks President Joseph M. Daisy, ED. D. recognized and extended the College's thanks to Postmaster General Ginger Mida for her vision of two commemorative stamps. "Beginning today our college through these stamps will be catapulted to far off lands and people there


will come to know of our college located in the middle of the Western Pacific Ocean."

He also said that "these stamps recognize and honor COM-FSM for its twenty years of service as the only national institution of higher education in the FSM."

Post Master General Mida said that commemorative stamps are considered as collector's items and can generate income for the FSM Government. She added that the stamps will be featured at the World Philatelic Stamp show in Korea on July 11, 2014, as collectors' items.

Attending the ceremony were dignitaries, friends of the College as well as faculty, staff, and students.



	<p>Internship Opportunities: IOM office Position Title: Intern – CADRE trainer (2 positions available) Duration: 3 – 6 months Location: Majuro, RMI, Pohnpei, Yap, or Chuuk Deadline: 16 May 2014</p>	<p>Email to: HRmicronesia@iom.int or kmcdermott@iom.int</p>
<p>IOM is an inter-governmental organization supporting the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia across a variety of sectors with a particular focus on disaster risk reduction, climate change and adaptation. IOM is funded by various donors in the north Pacific, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)</p> <p>IOM works in close partnership with national and local authorities, international organizations, as well as, a large network of local non-governmental organizations in helping ensure that communities are well prepared for the next extreme natural event, particularly those that may be climate-induced.</p> <p>IOM is offering an exciting opportunity for a hard-working, energetic and motivated individual, who may be studying at the tertiary level or have recently graduated, to gain experience with this reputable international organization, which has over 460 existing offices in over 100 countries and an increasingly strong presence throughout the region.</p>	<p>Internships with IOM provide a range of experiences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating and leading a team of youth volunteers • Assisting with conducting trainings such as: CADRE education modules for 8th or 9th grade students • Taking part in humanitarian demonstrations and simulations • Supporting community exercises in Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Mapping • Helping support events related to climate change education and disaster risk reduction – such as, public fairs, free movie nights, public awareness raising activities, etc. • Liaison with local non-governmental organizations and faith-based groups • Working alongside local leaders and relevant government authorities 	<p>Mail to: International Organization for Migration PO Box K2644 Pohnpei, FM 96941</p> <p>RMI: International Organization for Migration PO Box 4222 Majuro, RMI 96960</p> <p>Yap: International Organization for Migration PO Box 9 Colonia Yap FSM, 96943</p> <p>Chuuk: International Organization for Migration PO Box 500 Weno Chuuk FSM 96942</p>
<p>Qualifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelor or Associate degree (or equivalent) in general social science, public health, science, education, communications, or related fields. 2. Strong interpersonal skills and ability to write and communicate at a professional level in English. 3. Fluency in Yapese is preferred. 4. Excellent PC skills in MS Word and MS Office; the ability to communicate electronically and use the Internet. 5. Highly motivated to learn and apply new skills in a challenging and dynamic working environment. 6. Ability to handle multiple priorities and deadlines effectively. 7. Proven leadership skills and a passion for reducing the vulnerability of the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia to natural hazards. 	<p>IOM interns have the opportunity to be involved in a large range of activities which ensures their work is always interesting, while also enabling them to acquire new knowledge and learn new skills. Interns will have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, as well as, gaining knowledge and skills in administrative procedures of a large organization, while contributing to important work as part of a harmonious multi-cultural team</p>	<p>Hand-delivery at: International Organization for Migration Suite 2G PohnUmpomp Building PohnUmpomp Place, Nett Next to US Embassy</p> <p>Hand-delivery at: International Organization for Migration 3rd floor, Mako Building Delap, Majuro (RMI) 96960</p> <p>Hand-delivery at: International Organization for Migration Upper Floor, Yap Cooperative Association Commercial Center Colonia, Yap</p> <p>Hand-delivery at: International Organization for Migration 2nd Floor Unit #3 Susumu's Enterprises Weno, Chuuk</p>
<p>Remuneration: Internships are unremunerated positions; however interns are provided a generous monthly allowance to assist in covering transport and other costs associated with their assignment.</p>	<p>To Apply: Interested persons must post, hand-deliver or email the following documents to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) no later than 16 May 2014.</p>	<p>Due to the high volume of applications received by IOM, only short-listed candidates will be contacted directly and applications may be processed on a rolling basis</p>
<p>Mandatory Application Documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One page Statement of Interest 2. Curriculum Vitae or Resume 3. Contact Information of at least 3 referees 4. Copies of academic transcript/s – Do Not Send Originals 		

President of the Republic of Fiji Ratu Epeli Nailatkau visits the FSM

FSM PIO

His Excellency Ratu Epelei Nailatkau, President of the Republic of Fiji, made his first official visit to the FSM on April 17-19, 2014 as a part of President Nailatkau's tour to the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to convey Fiji's appreciation during this transitional period in the shaping of Fiji's New Constitution and to reaffirm Fiji's pledge towards building closer ties with its Pacific neighbors. The President has already made official visits to Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste. He recently visited the Republic of Palau, Guam and the Republic of Marshall Islands.

His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau received a special welcome upon his arrival with a water salute by Aircraft Rescue Firefighter (ARF) and an Honor Guard by FSM National Police and Pohnpei State Police on the tarmac. Mr. President was received at plane site by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Honorable Lorin S. Robert, Deputy Secretary Samson Pretrick, Ambassador Gerson Jackson, Acting Assistant Secretary Brendy Carl and Deputy Assistant Secretary Shanty-Sigrah-Asher. He was then escorted to Vice President Alik L. Alik who then led him through the Honor Guard. President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Emanuel Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Speaker of the 18th Congress, The Honorable Dohsis Halbert, in the late afternoon of his day of arrival. The courtesy call with the President was also attended by Vice President Alik Alik and cabinet members. During the call, President Mori extended greetings and warm welcome to the President of Fiji and his delegation and expressed his appreciation that is the first Fijian Head of State visit to the FSM and that it signifies an important milestone in the bilateral relations between FSM and Fiji as it represents a significant step in our continuing efforts to further build on the existing cooperative and amicable bilateral relationship between our two countries and peoples. President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau responded by thanking FSM for the hospitality extended to him and his delegation and further thanked FSM for their continued support to Fiji and for hosting a small Fiji community here in Pohnpei. The President also confirmed that Fiji's election will be held as scheduled on September 17, 2014, the first genuinely democratic election in Fiji's history of equal votes and equal values. The call was concluded with President Mori extending an invitation to President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and his delegation to a welcoming reception that he would later host at Cliff Rainbow in honor of his visit.

The reception began at 6:30pm with a Sakau Ceremony; in attendance were President



Ratu Epeli Nailatkau, right, during courtesy call on President Mori
(photo by Bill Jaynes)

Mori and First Lady Mori, Vice President Alik Alik and Madam Alik, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Cabinet Members and other guests from FSM and Fiji. Included in the program were remarks from both Presidents. President Mori congratulated President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau on his leadership role in ensuring positive progress to Fiji's "Roadmap" for returning to parliamentary election which is scheduled for September 17, 2014. President Mori also thanked the Government of Fiji for hosting over 30 students and citizens residing in Fiji, including diplomatic representatives, families, and the mission. Finally, he conveyed that this visit attests to the strong friendship between the FSM and Fiji, and reiterated his gratitude for the contributions he has made in further strengthening it. President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau conveyed "warmest greetings from the Government and the People of Fiji and states that, "It is a great honor for me to be making this official visit to the Federated States of Micronesia. And it is an even greater pleasure to be amongst friends, with common values and a common destiny as Pacific Neighbors." He further calls on FSM's continued support and engagement as Fiji continues its leadership role at the international fronts, as the chair of the governing board of the United Nations Development Program and in a position to push our collective agenda forward. He continued by stating that, "The Pacific Small Island Developing States – which has our abiding support – are placing the issues that matter to us before the United Nations and its various agencies. It is the best chance that we have of getting our needs and concerns heard and addressed. Because only by working together closely and speaking with one voice can we hope to be heard above the competing interests of other nations". The President further states that he looks forward to launch the FIJI Volunteer Service Scheme under the FSM-Fiji MOU on development cooperation.

On Friday, April 18, President and his delegation undertook a site visit to Nan Madol with Secretary of Education, Dr. Rufino Mauricio leading the tour. On April 19, Vice President Alik Alik hosted a lunch for the President and his delegation before they departed Pohnpei.



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Financial services, namely, electronic funds transfer; clearing and reconciling financial transactions; providing a wide variety of payment and financial services, namely, credit card services, issuing credit cards and lines of credit, processing and transmission of bills and payments thereof, bill payment services with guaranteed payment delivery, and brokerage of money market funds, all conducted via a global communications network; credit card and debit card transaction processing services reimbursement of funds for disputed items in the field of electronic payment purchases; providing purchase protection services for goods and services purchased by others via a global computer network and wireless networks credit card transaction processing services credit services, namely, providing revolving credit account services; bill payment services; providing electronic mobile payment services for others; credit card and payment processing services; electronic foreign exchange payment processing; payment processing services, namely, providing virtual currency transaction processing services for others, in International Class 36; and

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Facsimile: (714) 283-1555
Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com

Library Week 2014

By: Pohnpei Public Library

This year Pohnpei Public Library celebrated its 26th Anniversary with a "Library Week," from Monday, April 21 to Friday, April 25. The theme for this year's celebration was "LIVES CHANGE AT LIBRARIES."

Two groups from Calvary Christian Academy (CCA) visited the Library to participate in the events of the week on Tuesday and Wednesday. The students had the opportunity to visit the library for a tour of the library by the staff.

On Friday evening, the library held a special celebration to commemorate the anniversary and to recognize essay and art contest winners. The MC, Ms. Dosihner Jose, began the program by acknowledging the presence of the Diplomatic Corps, Her Excellency, Doria Rosen, US Ambassador, His Excellency Mr, Zhnag, Lian Yun, Chinese Ambassador, and recognizing the Board of Directors, and everyone at the event. Pastor Rekenson Gallen presided the prayer. Friends of the Pohnpei Public Library (FPPL) Acting President Mr. Ishmael Lebehn welcomed everyone by advising people to use the library as a place to get resourceful information. The history of the library was delivered by Head Librarian, Mr. Lester Ezekias. This year, library was fortunate to have Ms. Phyllis Silbanuz, former Board of Directors, to be the Keynote Speaker of the evening. She spoke mostly about how the library had changed her life while she was in school. She also shared a poem taken from an online source, The Guarding.com. It's written by children's laureate, Julia Donaldson to address the problem of libraries being closed.

Everyone is welcome to walk through the door. It really doesn't matter if you're rich or poor. There are books in boxes and books on shelves. They're free for you to borrow, so help yourselves.

Come and meet your heroes, old and new, From William the Conqueror to Winnie the Pooh. You can look into the Mirror or read The Times, Or bring along a toddler to chant some rhymes.

The librarian's a friend who loves to lend,
So see if there's a book that she can recommend.
Read that book, and if you're bitten
You can borrow all the other ones the author's written.

Are you into battles or biography?
Are you keen on gerbils or geography?
Gardening or ghosts? Sharks or science fiction?
There's something here for everyone, whatever your addiction.

There are students revising, deep in concentration,
Over in the corner there's a table with seating,
So come along and join in the Book Club meeting.

Yes, come to the library! Browse and borrow,
And help make sure it'll still be here tomorrow.

The program ended with the presentations of awards to the students who were selected as winners for the art and essay contest.

Art winners were Violet Mataek, K5, CCA; KayKen Paulus, ECE, Senpehn; Monae Jebehn, 2nd grade, CCA; Elizabeth Sorto, 3rd grade, CCA; Jennah Helgenberger, 4th grade, Nett Elem. School; Maximus Perman, 5th grade, Nett Elem. School; Rodrigan Paul, 6th grade, Palikir Elem. School; Millanie Talley, 7th grade, Seinwar Elem. School; Ioanis Saimon, 8th grade, Salapwuk Elem. School; Ike Orlando, 10th grade, MHS; Andreas Kuo, 11th grade, MHS; and Nelsin Mack, 12th grade, MHS.

Essay winners were Nicole Adams, CCA, 3rd grade; Caralina Saimon, 4th grade, Salapwuk Elem. School; Kuuipo Stevenson, 5th grade, Nett Elem. School; Molly Wendoline, 6th grade, Nett Elem. School; Kohen Higinio Weirlangt, 7th grade, CCA; Arrio Abello, 8th grade, Ohmine Elem. School; Marissa Boylan, 9th grade, CCA; Sonsha Padock, 10th grade, CCA; Cyrena Panuelo, 11th grade, CCA; and Tyana Musrasrik, 12th grade, CCA.

Pohnpei Public Library wants to express its gratitude to the following businesses and organizations for their contributions and support that made this Library Week successful.

Sponsors include Ace Office Supplies, FSM Telecom, Blue Nile, Panuelo Enterprises, Pohnpei True Value, Palm Terrace, Happy Mart, Ace Commercial, Wallace Theatre, Do It Best Hardware, Black Sand Store, and Nett Elementary School.

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Email: info@hilbornehawkin.com



Job VACANCY Peace Corps FSM/Palau

Open to: General Public FSM States and Republic of Palau

Position Title: Peace Corps Response Coordinator (PCRC)

Salary Range: \$10,736.00 to \$13,754.00 and will be based on past salary history, experience, and education.

Opening Date: 4-Apr-2014 Closing Date: 16-May-2014

(Job Description detail is available for pick up at Peace Corps Main Office.)

Please submit resume w/cover letter to : applicants@fm.peacecorps.gov

Required Qualifications:

Please contact Pohnpei Office for more detail: (691) 320-2531/2844/2270

Crossword

ACROSS

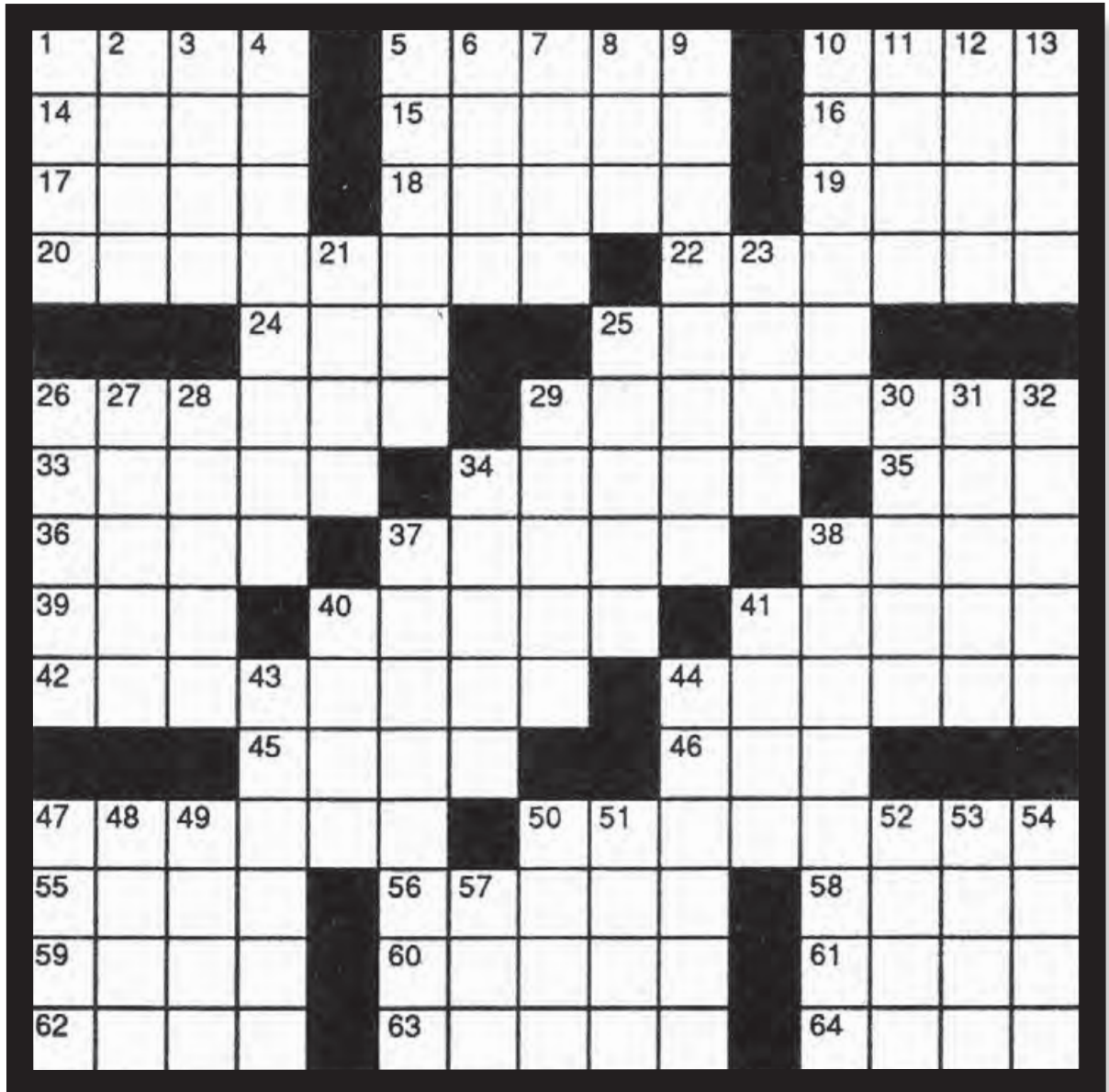
- 1. Dull
- 5. Board game
- 10. Breton or Highland Scot
- 14. Underdone
- 15. Wading bird
- 16. Notion
- 17. Grows old
- 18. Rub out
- 19. Tidy
- 20. Exposes to atmosphere
- 22. Revises
- 24. Rowing device
- 25. Remove from liquid's top
- 26. Makes a monarch
- 29. Moved up and down
- 33. Pits
- 34. Equals
- 35. ___ carte (2 wds.)
- 36. Among
- 37. Assigns position to
- 38. Mix with spoon
- 39. Increase motor speed (colloq.)
- 40. ___ for oneself; manages alone
- 41. Stockholm native
- 42. Small spaces for climbing
- 44. Steeples
- 45. Operatic solo
- 46. Fedora or derby
- 47. Moving masses
- 50. Burned surface
- 55. Back
- 56. Loathed
- 58. Healthy
- 59. Sea eagle
- 60. Oxlike antelope
- 61. Wicked
- 62. College head
- 63. Short simple song
- 64. Close completely

DOWN

- 8. Distress signal
- 9. Tennis shoes
- 10. The movies (British)
- 11. Paradise
- 12. Heavy metal
- 13. Makes lace
- 21. ___ Christian Andersen
- 23. Fail to hit
- 25. Looks for
- 26. Map
- 27. "___ and Juliet"
- 28. ___ drab; camouflage color
- 29. Causes to go
- 30. Essential drink
- 31. Leave out
- 32. Challenges
- 34. Chinese bearlike animal
- 37. Enjoyed
- 38. Sticks for whipping
- 40. Shape
- 41. Box in exhibition
- 43. Become firm
- 44. Poorly done
- 47. Storage building
- 48. Telegram
- 49. "___ Karenina"
- 50. Law (abbr.)
- 51. Penny
- 52. Possess
- 53. Writer-director Kazan
- 54. Small valley
- 57. Actress MacGraw

DOWN

- 1. A tie
- 2. Furious anger
- 3. Tract
- 4. Gave as gift
- 5. Shouts hurrah
- 6. Mr. (Ger.)
- 7. Historical



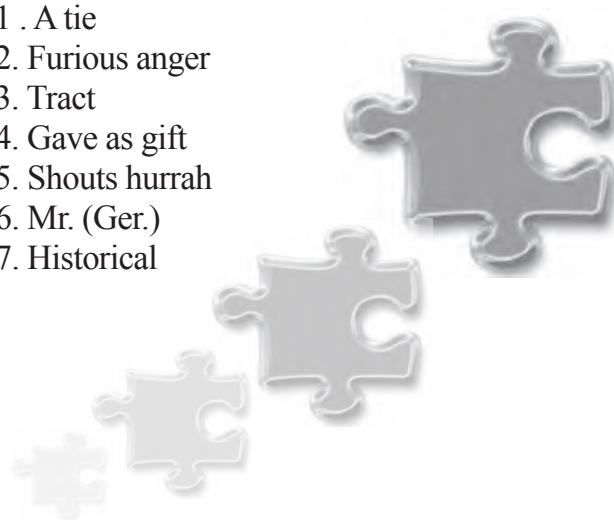
K Press Puzzle Pleasure - K Press Puzzle Pleasure

Pantomime

Actions speak louder than words with pantomime, the art of acting with gestures. Popular since the 18th century, the art lives on, with France's Marcel Marceau as one of today's most famous pantomimists.



- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| ACTION | MAKEUP |
| ARMS | MASK |
| AUDIENCE | MOVEMENT |
| CLOWN | MUSIC |
| CONVEY | PANTALOON |
| COSTUME | PERFORM |
| DANCE | PLAY |
| DRAMA | PROP |
| EMOTION | ROLE |
| ENJOY | SHOW |
| ENTERTAINING | SKILL |
| EXPRESSION | SPEECHLESS |
| FUNNY | STAGE |
| GESTURE | STORY |
| GRIN | THEATER |
| HANDS | THOUGHTS |
| IMITATE | TRAGEDY |
| LAUGH | WATCH |



Chuuk's L5 Hotel—not the “Emerald City” but great for business travelers

By Bill Jaynes
The Kaselehlie Press

April 25, 2014

Weno, Chuuk, FSM—When Kembo Mida, President and CEO of Khei Mida, Inc., offered me an all expenses trip to Weno to have a firsthand look at their L5 Hotel and to write a review of my impressions, I can't say that I jumped at the opportunity. It took a bit of coaxing. Once I was assured that I would be free to write honestly about whatever I found, and that the owners did not expect an advance copy of the review we set it up and off I went.

The hotel's website which includes online book capability (L5hotel.fm) says that it “caters to business and government travelers who expect quality amenities and services.” Indeed, all of the comments I heard about the hotel before I visited were from exactly those types of visitors. Most of the comments were positive in the extreme—almost gushing in their enthusiasm. Several people said that the L5 Hotel will be their “go to” choice for future accommodation in Weno.

I had only ever heard a few negative comments about any aspect of the new hotel.

L5 stands for Level 5. It is in the former RS Plaza which during all of my previous visits to Weno was an abandoned and graffiti covered hulk. At five stories, it is the tallest building in the FSM. Khei Mida, Incorporated bought the building for \$300,000 and has done \$400,000 worth of renovation.

The first floor contains the attractive lobby area, the hotel offices, and a space currently being used for storage. The second floor has office space for lease at extremely competitive rates for the Weno area. It also has a good sized conference room. The third floor has hotel rooms and a living room area. The fourth floor has nice two bedroom apartments with kitchenettes as well as two large hotel rooms they call suites. The fifth floor is still being renovated. Mida says that L5 hopes to house a culinary institute there.

Right now L5 is offering a special “get acquainted rate”. For a limited time, rooms will be going for \$65 a night. Their brand new rental SUV's (in my opinion, an absolute requirement on Chuuk's still unfinished and DEEPLY scarred roads) will also be \$65 per day during the period of the special rate.

The L5 Hotel is NOT, as I had been led to believe by some previous customers, as grand as the “Emerald City” presided over by the great and powerful Oz, but that's okay. I generally don't wear ruby slippers anyway. However, the L5 Hotel IS very nice. There is some room for improvement but the hotel is certainly ready for business and guests will be treated well and will be quite comfortable indeed.

The driveway is a gated portico. Guests need not get wet even during the harshest weather. Valet service is available at no additional charge. The building is secure and staff



**Kembo Mida,
President and
CEO of Khei
Mida, Inc.**

members are courteous, attentive and from what I observed, happy to be there. The rooms are comfortable and quiet.

Entry to the rooms is by combination code lock entry. The number keys are small enough that I had to put my glasses on to see them, and I kept forgetting my four digit combination and had to constantly pull out the post it note they gave me when I checked in. I carried it with me everywhere.

The bed was very comfortable. The room had a large flat screen television with Telecom's MyTV service, though there are no premium channels. The refrigerator in my room was quite spacious which in my experience is unusual for hotel rooms and greatly appreciated.

I didn't notice until the morning after I arrived when I closed the door to take a shower that there were clothes hanging on the hook on the back of the bathroom door. Apparently housekeeping hadn't noticed either and they were embarrassed. The previous occupant of the room had been President Mori, and the clothes apparently belonged to him.

The hotel owners did not scrimp on artwork for the hotel. They contracted the prolific Pacific Islands photographer, Floyd Takeuchi to take photos of the Weno area. His photos are elegantly displayed on large canvas prints throughout the hotel, including each of the hotel rooms. As a photographer, I was really quite jealous of that. His work is beautiful and adds a nice ambience to the hotel.

The balconies in the 12 hotel rooms are spacious and those on the airport side have beautiful views. Because of the limited number of flights into Chuuk's airport I did not find it problematic to be directly across the street from the runway. The runway is bound on one side by wetlands that attract graceful herons and cranes that are beautiful to watch as they land and hunt. On the other side of the runway is the magnificent lagoon and the high balconies of L5 provide views of



Tol and other lagoon islands.

On the fourth floor the hotel has a small gym with four strength and aerobic training machines. The third floor has a small “living room” for guests to entertain visitors. Each floor has a sitting area with coffee table in the “lobby” area where the elevator opens. The elevator is another really nice amenity of the hotel. As far as I know, there are only three elevators in the FSM and one of those doesn't work. It was nice to be able to take the elevator to my fourth floor room knowing that qualified engineers from Guam service it on a quarterly basis.

For me, the nicest amenity of all at the hotel was a top of the line massage chair from Japan (Inada) which gives automated full body massages. I was skeptical about it and didn't try it until my last day at the hotel. I could easily have spent the rest of the trip right there in that chair. Mida says that he thinks they will be charging \$5 for fifteen minutes in the chair, a bargain at twice that amount.

As I wrote early on in this review, the hotel is ready for business with some room for some improvements.

The biggest negative comment I'd heard about the hotel both before I visited and while I was in Chuuk is that it has no restaurant. The Lei Side restaurant is only a half block away which is convenient. The High Tide restaurant is a bit further. Both have good food, but until L5 has a restaurant where

people like to gather it will never be a completely self contained experience. For those of us who go to Weno for networking opportunities, the lack of a restaurant inside the hotel is currently a drawback.

“The goal of Khei Mida Inc. for the fifth floor is to open a culinary art/hospitality school. I think we need such a program in Chuuk to help the kids who may eventually move to Guam, Hawaii, or the mainland to be ahead of the game so that instead of looking for jobs at fast food restaurants could (instead) work as a chef in a hotel or in the hospitality division,” Mida wrote in an email.

A fifth floor restaurant will provide excellent views for patrons. As someone pointed out in Chuuk while I was there, it could also mean a security exposure for the occupants of the floors below it that the hotel management will need to consider.

Mida freely admits that the officers of Khei Mida, Inc. which include his wife Cherrise, and his inlaws, Vincent Irons and Vicky Setik Irons, have no experience in hotel management. They are pleased that they have received many positive comments from their customers. Best of all, many of their guests are return customers.

They are also listening to all suggestions for improvement and that may make all the difference.

Re-routing my island roots

Maxine "Teddy" Tehsi

"Teddy" is an 18 year old student from Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), currently studying abroad at Walla Walla University in Washington. She is one of the first graduates from Pohnpei's Migrant Resource Centre, which offers free pre-departure cultural orientation training to outbound migrants. The centre, run jointly by IOM, FSM and the Pohnpei State Government, opened last year and is the first of its kind in the Pacific.

I was excited yet terrified to be leaving everything I knew and loved behind, but I had to if I wanted to complete my life goals. A wise uncle of mine had told me when I was younger, "When you graduate high school, go to America and study hard so you can come back and make Micronesia a better place." And that is what I intend to do.

A month before, I had attended pre-departure training at the Migrant Resource Centre. They taught us how to fill out travel forms, the importance of keeping all documentation on us at all times, and to never surrender your passport. We were also told to have the address of the person we would be staying with and their phone number. All of these instructions came in handy during the trip.

After saying our final good-byes, we passed through screening and boarded the plane without much fuss. Twenty-four hours later (including getting lost in Seattle airport for a while) we finally made it to Walla Walla, Washington. As soon as we stepped outside the cabin door, Lae Annie and I were struck by the cold weather. It was freezing!

If I could go back in time, I would have made sure to bring gloves and a thicker coat with me. I was naïve to think that a

thin sweatshirt would keep me warm. We are islanders: just because the Americans were walking around in shorts and t-shirts does not mean we could. Because we did not cover up properly, my friend and I developed eczema on our hands.

Our friends met us at Walla Walla airport and took us to see our new college. When we got into the car, our driver shot me a strange look. "Teddy, I can't drive until you have your seatbelt on," the driver said after a moment of silence, giving me a pointed look in the rearview mirror. "Seatbelt? Oh... Oh!" I exclaimed. Embarrassed, I quickly buckled the strap over my chest.

Even though we had gone over the road safety rules during the pre-departure programme, I had completely forgotten that it is the law to wear a seatbelt in the States. Just today, my friend scolded me for not putting on my seatbelt when we drove to a nearby city. It is easy to forget because I had gone nearly 19 years without having to wear one.

No words can describe the amount of culture shock you will experience when you first travel to the United States from Micronesia. Nothing could fully prepare you for it. Adjusting was a bit difficult at first. I craved rice like crazy and had to have my parents send me a care package. Dealing with homesickness was hard, but a Skype session with people back in Pohnpei always made me feel better.

I almost got run over by speeding cars a couple of times because I forgot to look at the crosswalk lights.

Also, I had to learn the hard way that some of the toilets in America have motion detectors. During my fourth week of college, I used a public restroom. All of a

Empowering Migrants for United Communities

The International Organization for Migration

In early 2013 a new Center opened on the island Pohnpei and has been providing training to Micronesians planning on travelling and living in the United States of America, aptly referred to as the Migrant Resource Center (MRC). The training covers the entire migration journey from boarding a plane at Pohnpei International Airport, to arriving in the U.S. and finding housing, a job and connecting with your community network.

To date, the MRC has trained over 250 members of the community, including students, women's groups, people living with disabilities, traditional leaders, among others. The Center has expanded its services to awareness raising on human trafficking, assistance to stranded migrants while also promoting the benefits of remaining connected to the islands and planning to return with the knowledge and skills acquired abroad.

The MRC – the first of its kind in the

Pacific – will now continue to provide the full range of services with the support of the Government of the FSM. Notably, the FSM National Government, with support from Chuuk State, has agreed to open a second MRC in Weno, Chuuk and the generous Congressional appropriation will support this endeavor. IOM will continue to provide these important services on behalf of the Government of the FSM, ensuring that linkages are made with the FSM embassies and consulates as well as U.S. based organization providing support services to Micronesians living abroad.

The mission of the MRCs is to empower migrants so that they can provide a meaningful contribution to their host communities while living abroad and also to their countries of origin when they return home. In this way, migration will benefit sending and receiving nations and unite communities.

If you are interested in joining the next seminar on Living in the U.S. or would like to find out more about the MRC and its services please contact (691) 320 8898 or email mrcmicronesia@iom.int



sudden, the toilet flushed when I stood up. I screamed. The paper towel dispenser was motion activated too, but I did not know this so I kept banging on it because I was clueless about how to work it. Luckily, another kind student, who I could tell felt sorry for me, was in the restroom and taught me how to dispense the towels.

It was all very embarrassing, but it was a great learning experience. Whether it be learning how to use the automated restrooms or what cottage cheese is, it all makes the experience of studying abroad memorable.

I honestly do not think I would have acclimated and adjusted as quickly as I did if I did not attend the pre-departure programme and put myself out there to make new friends. And I'd like to think the people I have befriended in the U.S. have learned from me as well. As one of my fellow Micronesian friends who is studying in New York told me, "Most people in America haven't heard of the FSM, so you basically become a walking geography lesson when you meet new people." And that rings true. Be willing to share with others about your island roots.

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Four Xavier High School students named Gates Millennium Scholars

Four graduating seniors at Xavier High School in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia were named Gates Millennium Scholars by the Gates Millennium Scholars Program. The four members of Xavier's Class of 2014 are among 1,000 young scholars worldwide who have received the coveted award, which provides a full-cost scholarship for their entire undergraduate program at a college or university of their choice. The scholarship also can be extended for graduate studies.

that distinguishes you as a Leader for America's Future™.

Ms. Limol will attend Fordham University, where she will major in civil engineering. Mr. Wichep will study pre-med at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Yobech will attend the University of New Haven, where he will major in forensics science, and Mr. Yamase will also attend the University of New Haven, where he will pursue a degree in engineering.

This year's Gates Millennium Scholars at Xavier High School are K-Andrea Limol of Weno, Chuuk, Joey Wichep of Pohnpei/Chuuk, Rumong Yobech of Palau, and Brenden Yamase, of Pohnpei/Chuuk. The announcement from the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program read, in part:

"We are extremely proud of K-Andrea, Joey, Rumong, and Brenden. They have worked hard for this honor. Their Gates Millennium Scholarships will allow them to continue to excel in scholarship, leadership and service," said the Rev. R. Richard McAuliff, SJ, director of Xavier High School.

Congratulations! We are very pleased to inform you of your selection as one of the 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholars for the GMS Class of 2014. We commend you on your strong leadership, community service and academic achievements that contributed to your selection as a Gates Millennium Scholar. Your accomplishment is especially notable in context of the more than 52,000 students who applied, making this year one of the most competitive candidate groups in the program's history. We are very excited for you to join the community of Gates Scholars and we are very pleased to confer this distinct honor

Ms. Limol and Mr. Wichep, Mr. Yobech, and Mr. Yamase are the latest Xavier High School students to be named Gates Millennium Scholars. Nine other Xavier seniors since 2000 have received the honor. They are Ryan Edgar, Witmark Tokeak, Sheryl Yumiko Lomongo, Jonathan Thinsew, Kayviann Hallers, Michael Kigimnang, Eleanor Titiml, Pearl Asugar, and Yota Pacifico Oue.

Ms. Limol is the daughter of Sophiano Limol and Elfried Suda. Mr. is the son of the late Joseph Wichep and Jacinta Wichep. And Linda Pedro. Mr. Yamase is the son of Dennis Yamase, a former FSM Supreme Court Justice, and JudyAbello.

This year's class of Gates Millennium Scholars includes 1,000 students from 47 states in the United States of America; the District of Columbia; the Federated States of Micronesia; the Republic of Palau; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Puerto Rico; and, the U.S. Virgin Islands, according to the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The program announced that this year's scholarship recipients would attend 348 colleges and universities. Current Gates Scholars attend a total of 723 colleges and universities in the United States.

The Catholic Church's Society of Jesus founded Xavier High School on Weno, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, in 1952. It is a college preparatory boarding school for young men and women from across the Western Pacific in grades 9 through 12. Among its many distinguished graduates are presidents of the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, physicians, diplomats, lawyers, members of national Congresses and community and church leaders.

Xavier High School is accredited by the Western Association of School and Colleges.



Photo by Xavier High School

Rumong Yobech, K-Andrea Limol, Joey Wichep, and Brenden Yamase

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