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Fiddler cast raises the roof

The family dilemma of an arranged marriage is masterfully portrayed by Joanna Joseph (left) as Tzeitel, daughter Tevye (Vahid Pedro), strenuously objects to papa's plan for her. Story, photos onpage 26. Photo: Hilary Hosia.

Waylon challenges allegations

P33

The Marshall Islands JOURNAL
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Smugglers grabbed

Mudge puts his foot down

SUZANNE CHUTARO

Catholics are known to pray 'Our Father who art in Heaven.' But for Majuro Atoll Local Government (MALGov) police a phrase they say they always hear when detaining Chinese nationals for violating local laws is: "You wait for Our Father in Nitijela."

So, last Thursday after the confiscation of cargo and three purse seiner tender boats, Mayor Mudge Samuel was down at the Local Police headquarters waiting to find just who this "Father in Nitijela" is of these local "sinners."

Samuel says he is frustrated.

"Every time the local police catch these boats off-loading at sites other than Uliga port we submit our report to the Attorney General's Office," said Samuel. "But, nothing ever gets done because these offenders have 'fathers' in Nitijela."

According to Samuel his officers attempt to arrest foreign nationals violating laws but have been repeatedly thwarted by incumbent Senators who have vested interests in businesses run by Chinese nationals, he said.

But following last Thursday's arrest and confiscation, instead of calling the national police or submitting a report to the AG's office, Samuel called the Journal with this message: "Majuro Atoll Local Government will no longer allow smuggled goods into the country!"

"We've repeatedly caught these boats coming in with cigarettes, fish and other goods and we give reports

Continued page 2



MALGov Mayor Mudge Samuel.

Headless Bills scare business community

Bills 11, 12 and 15 were dead on arrival at a Nitijela public hearing last Thursday as testifier after testifier came forward blasting their introduction and questioning the mere consideration of them by the government.

Assistant Attorney General Rosalie Aten Konou set the tone for the public hearing as she described the three bills as legs arriving without a head because another bill in a package of tax reform has yet to be the subject of hearings or passage by Nitijela, and yet these three proposed laws getting a hearing Thursday depend on the "mother" bill.

"It refers to money being transferred to an authority that does not even exist," explained Konou, adding also "it gives authority to a Chief Executive Office that has

Continued page 6

Police catch two with their cargo

From page 1

to the AG but nothing ever happens," Samuel told the Journal.

This latest capture by MALGov police occurred around 9pm on Wednesday night after local residents called police to notify them of purse seiner tender boats off-loading on the lagoon in front a business across from the Capital building. MALGov Detective Sylvester Hoblong said the local police responded and caught two crewmen with their cargo. The men were arrested and the MALGov loader was used to drag ashore three tender boats on to Delap Park. These tenders were still there earlier this week.

"All fishing tender boats need to go to the dock — nowhere else!" warned Hoblong.



MALGov Police pose with the arrested men and their tenders. Photo: Suzanne Chutaro

Choueiry: 'I wasn't the Jamil link'

Lebanese advisor to Palau President comments

A Lebanese citizen who advises Palau President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. said this week that although he met with Marshall Islands leaders in Palau last September, he does not know Jamil el-Sayed and did not talk about his candidacy to represent the RMI at UNESCO.

Georges Choueiry, an advisor to Remengesau who is based in Lebanon, was in Palau for its independence celebrations last September and met with President Loeak and other RMI government leaders including Ministers Phillip Muller and Tony deBrum.

The Journal was told earlier this month by RMI officials when the controversy over el-Sayed's nomination to UNESCO became public that the Marshall Islands connection to Lebanon and el-Sayed was initiated during a visit to Palau last September.

But Choueiry told the Journal this week that his talks with RMI leaders had nothing to do with UNESCO. "I do not know Mr. Jamil el-Sayed, I have never been introduced to this gentleman and I have never discussed with the officials of the government his candidacy for the post at UNESCO," said Choueiry.

"I was in Palau during the festivities of the national day of the Republic of Palau. I was introduced to the Marshalls and Federated States of Micronesia officials. We did discuss issues of investment and opportunities in the two countries."

Choueiry said some investors are interested to initiate investments such as beach resorts in the RMI and FSM.

"I did ask the officials if they will be receptive to open representations as honorary consulates in the Republic of Lebanon," he said. He repeated that this was related to Lebanon not UNESCO.

"I stress that I do not know Mr. el-Sayed, never met him and never proposed his name for any position."

Choueiry said he is not representing the Lebanese government. "I am in a personal relationship with more than 18 countries worldwide," he said.

"I did introduce many candidates interested to represent some of the countries and I succeeded in introducing with success some candidates who are now honorary consuls.

"That is why I am trying to establish relations with some of the Pacific countries."

He said that Lebanon currently has no representation in this part of the world and his interest is "to strengthen cultural, tourism and trade activities" between Lebanon and Pacific islands.



Two missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) who recently completed their two-year service were found at the airport saying their farewell before departing on United Airlines. Elder Richard Wayas (left) and his wife Sister Toni Wayas (right) served as office missionaries here in the LDS Majuro Mission. They were leaving for the US late last month. Joining them at the airport was Sister Latu Huni who is near to completing her 18 months as a sister missionary.

Tomaki to resign Vice Speakership

Bikini Senator Tomaki Juda has indicated his desire to step down from the Vice Speaker position he has held in Nitijela for the past two years.

A resolution to this effect was introduced to Nitijela last week. It was not approved because some senators objected to the form. It is expected to be modified and resubmitted.

Juda is to remain in Nitijela as a member of parliament. He is the second Vice Speaker to step down during their term. The first was Majuro Senator Alik Alik, who stepped down in 2011.

Four eye doctors to hold clinics around Majuro

Four optometrists from the US are due to be on Majuro Monday to conduct free eye examinations, and provide frames and eyeglass prescriptions to the public.

The doctors come through The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' (LDS) Humanitarian Services, the LDS Charities and the local Lions Club efforts to provide eye exams.

In preparation for the doctors visit, eye screenings were conducted all last month at different locations under the supervision of Elder Johnson and Sister Johnson.

According to Elder Johnson, over 600 people went through screening and those who need to see the doctors received vouchers. People who do not have vouchers may still go for screening and exams.

The eye exams will be held at the following:

• Laura CMI Campus – March 10 – 2 to 6pm

• LDS Long Island Church – March 11 – 8am to noon

• Rita Salvation Army – March 11 – 2 to 6pm

• Alele Museum – March 12 – 8am to 6pm

• Ministry of Internal Affairs Training Center in Delap (next to local food market) – March 13 – 8am to 6pm

• Ajeltake LDS Church – March 14 – 8am to noon

• Ajeltake Elementary School – March 14 – 8am to noon.



Money cuts put Job Corps future in doubt

The continuation of the US Job Corps program and the eligibility of Marshall Islands candidates is dependent on the success of alumni getting jobs — whether jobs in the Marshall Islands or in the US.

Because of this requirement, Hawaii Job Corps Center Business and Community liaison Julie Dugan and Outreach Assistant Ricky Raymond are hoping Job Corps students will consider job opportunities not just in their home country but in Hawaii and the US mainland as well.

"The success and the future of Job Corps will rely on the graduates," explained Dugan.

While in Majuro last week the pair met RMI officials and the National Training Council to explain the changes to the program and basically to ask the government to thoroughly screen Job Corps candidates nominated to ensure candidates selected for the program are of a higher caliber — at least high school graduates with a good comprehension of English.

Facing budgetary constraints, the US Labor Department has put Job Corps on notice that funding of the program will depend largely on the success of the graduates landing jobs after completing their training.

"We can't take in more candidates unless current Job Corps graduates have found jobs," said Dugan.

Job Corps was hit by a 20 percent budget cut. This means a reduction of 80 student slots available for the program for the RMI.

Job Corps provide vocational training in eight different fields of study and costs per student average about $36,000 per year. These costs cover the student's tuition, housing and medical and dental insurance. Since the program's budget was cut, the Hawaii office, which handles students from the Marshall Islands and other Freely Associated States, has had to close one of its dormitories.

"The focus is now on the outcome," stresses Dugan. "As long as they do something with their training. They can find jobs at home or in the US — we need to show positive outcomes. "

Currently there are five students from Ebeye and two from Majuro that are in the Job Corps program in Hawaii.



The Wotho community recently recognized IOM, USAID, and WUTMI for their support during the drought. From left: IOM's Angela Saunders, WUTMI representatives on Wotho Atoll, and WUTMI Drought Response Coordinator Borja Stephen-Milne.

Drought-affected atolls thankful for assistance

In the past year, severe drought has affected over 6,000 people in the Marshall Islands — about 12 percent of the population. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) worked alongside government counterparts in the delivery of needed humanitarian assistance to the 15 affected atolls.

While the delivery of food and other relief items was well documented, less well known is the work of IOM's partner organization, Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI).

WUTMI staff members participated in air and sea voyages to 24 remote communities across 13 atolls and islands from July 2013 until early 2014 in order to support drought-stricken communities in their recovery.

Through this process, WUTMI has empowered women in remote locations to participate as equal partners in the emergency response and provided women with the opportunity to be involved in activities traditionally dominated by men.

Another central aim of this partnership was to ensure that distributions were conducted equitability and transparently to meet the needs of the most vulnerable within the affected populations.

IOM thanked WUTMI for its continuing support.

Paul: Tax bills will hurt the people

Passage of the proposed tax bill will see excise taxes set at prices that will further hurt the local community.

At last Thursday's public hearing, attorney David Strauss pointed out Bill 15 proposes to increase excise tax on diesel fuel and jet fuel by 250 percent and gas by 80 percent. Meanwhile the consumption tax rate is at 15 percent — despite claims by proponents of Bill 11 that the consumption tax rate was 10 percent.

Strauss said the claims of lowering income tax rates to help people in low income brackets are disingenuous because the excise taxes and the consumption tax rates increase costs all around, undermining any gains individuals thought they were getting on their pay.

"If gas price taxess go up by 80 percent what do you think the cost of taxis will be?" asked Strauss. "What do you think United (Airlines) will do when jet fuel tax goes up by 250 percent?"

Marshalls Energy Company General Manager David Paul also weighed in and asked Nitijela's Committee on Ways and Means to seriously consider the impacts of the proposed tax increases in light of the contracting local economy.

He said the government's approach to dealing with a declining artificial budget supported by foreign donors is flawed. Paul said the government needs to focus its efforts on collecting what's due and reducing its own expenditures first.

"It's not the businesses who are going to bear these costs," said Paul. "It will be the consumers — the people."

More tax stories, page 6



Farewell Jatios

Ebeye Alab and Deacon Cornelious Jatios (above with his wife) died last month. At 93, he is reported to have been the oldest person on the island when he passed away. He is pictured here with his late wife Eodrik Jatios, who died in 2009. Cornelious is survived by seven sons and eight daughters — Hertine, Ritten (Lib Mayor), Sato, Rusen, Tios, Jiro, Hackney, Ester, Artina, Henrita, Mercina, Anita, Jenita, Hermita and Jola. There are more than 100 grandchildren.



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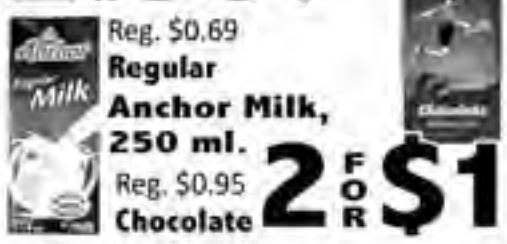
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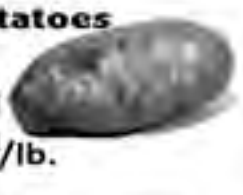
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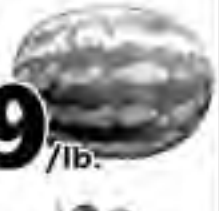
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Mayors oppose RMI tax bills

It's not just businesses that vehemently oppose the new tax bills being considered by Nitijela. Majuro Atoll Local Government Mayor Mudge Samuel through his attorney Roy Chikamoto delivered a list of reasons for opposing the passage of the bills including the eventual shutdown of local governments, their powers and their ability to conduct any type of development at the local level.

"Mayor Samuel believes the net effect of the new tax legislation is an added burden to the people of the Marshall Islands," said Chikamoto. "He is concerned that any kind of radical change at this point may result in further out-migration of citizens to the US where opportunities and benefits are greater and available."

Mayor Mudge Samuel: 'Rates will force more out-migration'

Chikamoto argued that with a smaller population there will be a snowball effect from the proposed consumption tax bills resulting in fewer people to tax, which the whole systems in based on. He also addressed the local government's concern with the language within the bills, which state the national government will "negotiate" agreements with the local governments on the rates.

"Previous agreements have not always been honored by the national government," said Chikamoto.

Marshall Islands Mayor Association President Rongelap Mayor James Matayoshi said his organization not only opposes this legislation but they are also "appalled" that negotiations between the Ministry of Finance and the two larger local governments — Majuro and Kwajalein — had begun recently and did not include other local governments.

"This is a side deal and you guys didn't want the rest (of the local governments) to know about it?" he said.

Matayoshi requested the Chairman of the committee to "kill the bills in committee."

More business bills scheduled for public hearing this week

Nitijela has scheduled a series of public hearings as the Nitijela session is winding up in the next few days.

• Thursday, 10am, Bill 61 to amend the Marshall Islands Business Corporation Act, Revised Partnership Act, Limited Partnership Act, and Limited Liability Company Act. The amendments are to require all business maintain accounting records for at least five years and will face penalties for non-compliance. Committee on Resources and Development chaired by Senator Jiba Kabua.

• Friday, 2:30pm, Bill 12 to amend Marshall Islands Import Duties Act 1989 upon enactment of Marshall Islands Consumption Tax Act 2012 and Bill 15 Excise Tax Act 2012.

• Monday, 2:30pm, Bill 13 to amend Title 48 MIRC for administration and efficient collection of taxes, and Bill 14 to amend Title 48 MIRC to establish a Marshall Islands Revenue Authority.

Both Friday and Monday hearings are before the Committee on Ways and Means chaired by Senator Tony Aiseia.

Hearing breakdown

Under consideration by the Nitijela are the following tax bills:

• Bill No. 11, Marshall Islands Consumption Tax.

• Bill No. 12, Marshall Islands Import Duties Act Amendment.

• Bill No. 15, Excise Tax, a special so-called "sin" tax on items such as alcohol or tobacco.

The bills were introduced by Finance Minister Dennis Momotaro and are with the Committee on Ways and Means chaired by Namu Senator Tony Aiseia.



AG warns against proposal passage

From page 1

not even been hired."

Konou warned, however, that the establishment of an independent government tax Revenue Authority, which she explained should have been a pre-curser for these bills and is referred to within the proposed bills, would diminish the powers of the Secretary of Finance. She emphasized that the Secretary of Finance is a position with job responsibilities established by the Constitution that cannot be overridden by legislation.

"Taxes are public funds and these bills will set aside the duties of the Secretary of Finance relegating him to a mere board member whose authority will be based on collective decisions (of the board)," she said, adding that the current bills also fail as they do not give reference to the Financial Management Act.

Business managers from the two largest supermarkets shared their concern over the passage of any of these bills, which they say will further burden a community that is already financially stressed.

"I am sad for the government and businesses but mostly I am sad for the people of the Marshall Islands because without a doubt these laws will affect them," said Payless General Manager John Mason. "These laws will not have the intended effect you claim."

Mason said these tax bills were the result of extended discussions between the private sector and government. Despite these consultations, however, he said that many of the recommendations put forth by the private sector were not included in the bills.

"What happened to the idea of the comprehensive adjustment program to reduce government expenses?" questioned Mason. "This is the same government that is almost insolvent. What happened to reforming the state owned enterprises? Your own entitlements are costing taxpayers millions."

As one of the bigger retailers on island, Mason argued about the level of corruption and lack of compliance his business witnesses on a day-to-day basis.

Mason said it is this kind of problem the government should be focusing its attention on rather than imposing more taxes on the current businesses that are in compliance.

"Business that are non-compliant should be given a period of time to get compliant otherwise they should be shut down," suggested Mason. "This is the way government ensures it receives taxes from all business."

K&K Island Pride Supermarket's General Manager Eli Maravilla spoke out against the bills stating the government needs to be centered on the needs of the population rather than focused on supporting a ballooning government.

"Government needs to be more involved in helping people," said Maravilla. "The people are really struggling. No one is going to pay these prices. If taxes increase our cost of living,

"I myself may leave the Marshall Islands. Government really needs to take care of the people of the Marshall Islands."

Adding additional comments, local attorney David Strauss said the passage of these bills will "have a devastating effect on the Marshall Islands — increasing the cost for all."

He said if the Nitijela passes these bills, then all the remaining Marshallese-owned businesses "won't be able to afford the cost of doing business."

Setting the record straight

In closing arguments in the Catalina Chee case last week, Acting Attorney General Jack Jorbon listed others that he said witness testimony showed were involved in a "fraudulent scam against the government."

The individuals, according to Jorbon, include: Candi Leon, Steve Samuel, Donny Andrike, Nella Nashion, and Cathy Saito.

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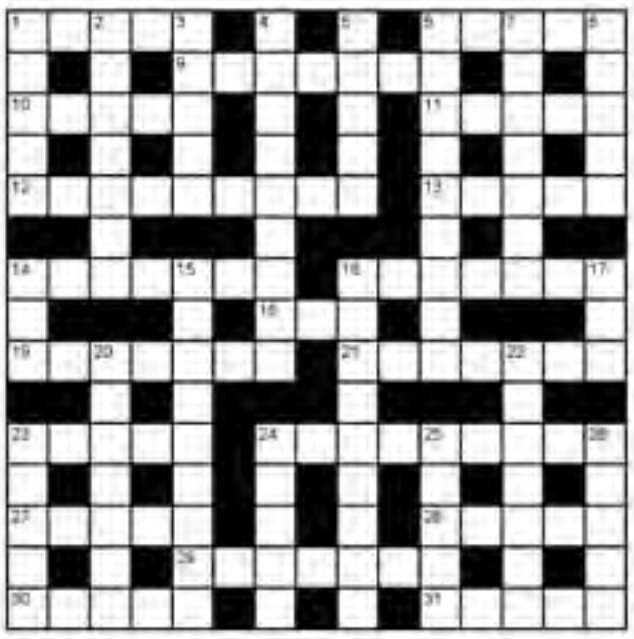
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The RMI Riddle No. 494: Sponsored by CopyMasters



ACROSS
1. Strength.
6. British novelist wrote: "There are only two ----- on this planet: the intelligent and the stupid."
9. Visualize.
10. Employing.
11. Yokwe.
12. Beach ornament.
13. Amenta's new workplace.
14. Sore.
16. Over-sized flyers.
18. Self.
19. Assumed.
21. Vacation.
23. Home.
24. Palau and RMI.
27. Siren.
28. Not now.
29. Stylish.
30. Strict bit of boat.
31. Remorseful.

DOWN
1. Punch 16 ounces?
2. HI beach.
3. Correct.
4. Made the rounds.
5. Exhausted.
6. Play practice.
7. Tertiary school.
8. Push.
14. Clothespin.
15. Bwiji and Ronnie.
16. NP person.
17. Timid.
20. Teach.
22. Castaway.
23. Piles.
24. Substantial stream.
25. Fashion accessories.
26. Sprinkle.

Answers to Riddle No. 493



Note: (abb.) = abbreviation (3,4) = indicates the number of letters in words.

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CMI instructor Cassandra Hazel, second from left, with students at a Jenrok house. Photo: Elizabeth Kate Switaj.

Students help out residents with needs

The College of the Marshall Islands' Sociology class took their motto 'Ejmour ej adwoj jimor eddo' to a whole new level when they transformed a local resident's home on Saturday as part of their Beautiful Marshall Islands Project. Their motto, translated in English means 'Health is a shared responsibility.'

CMI Sociology Instructor Cassandra M. Hazel said her students decided to be more proactive in their community following the completion of their Building a Micro-Society Project. "The Beautiful Marshall Islands Project consisted of students assisting a local resident in cleaning and painting of their home," Cassandra said. "While the assignment was originally designed for the students to become leaders in their community, it also allowed the students the opportunity to have a personal moment of introspection as to how value is truly measured. The project was a success.

"Even though it poured for most of the morning, they worked diligently, never complained and never wavered. Their resolve was absolutely fascinating to witness." Hazel said the students had a first-hand look at poverty affecting residents of Majuro's neighborhoods. "Through this experience many of the students realized that many only truly have the very basic of necessities," she said.

Je pojak ke?

Naan Ko Re Jouj

Ilo Jenesis 5 ej menmenbwij eo an Seth, jeo nejin Adam im Iv. Elōñ menmenbwij ilo Bible, ak e oktak men in ilo juon wāween. Ke eṃōj an kwaļoḳ wōn nejin armej eo, ej kwaļoḳ oran ilō ko an, innām ej ba "im ear mej."

Etke, ālikin aolep, ej ba bwe re mej? Kōnke ej kaṃool men eo Anij ear ba kōn jeṛowiwi, armej renaaj mej.

Naan kein rej kakememej kōj bwe jej armej wōt. Je jab anij, im je ban erom anij. Jenaaj mej.

Je pojak in mej ke? Armej rej kōpojak ñe rej etal ñan town. Rej kōpojak ñan etal ñan juon ilomej. Rej kōpojak ñan iien ṃare. Jet rej kōpojak ñan iien mej kōnke rej je juon kalliṃur im kwaļoḳ kōn box eo im kōn ia eo renaaj kallib ie.

Bōtab, armej rej kōpojak ñan ālikin mej? Hibru 9:27 ej ba bwe aolep renaaj mej innām etal ñan ekajet. Rom 6:23 ej ba bwe oṇean jeṛọwiwi mej. Je ban ko jān mej ilo ānbwin, ak je maroñ poịak ñan mour ilañ. Mej eo an Jisōs ej kōḷḷā oṇean ad nana im kowānōk kōj (2 Korint 5:21) eļaññe je kōṇaan oktak jān ad nana im jej lōke tokjān jerbal ko An. "Eo ej lōke Nejin, mour indeeo An" (Jon 3:36).



English

In Genesis 5 we find the genealogy of Seth, Adam and Eve's son. There are many genealogies in the Bible, but this one is different, because after each person, it says "and he died." Why is that emphasized here? Because God had told Adam that if he sinned, he would die.

We are mortals. We are not gods and never will be.

Are we ready to die? People get ready for a trip to town or to go to a funeral. They prepare for marriage. Some even prepare for death in that they write a will and plan for their funeral service. But do we prepare for after death? Hebrews 9:27 says that all will die and after this the judgment. Romans 6:23 says the wages of sin is death. We cannot escape physical death, but we can be ready for eternal life.

The death of Jesus has paid for all our sins and can justify us (2 Cor. 5:21), but we must want to turn from our sin and must trust in the sufficiency of Christ's work. "He who believes the Son, has eternal life" Jon 3:36.

David Utter
Laura Baptist Church PO 746
Majuro, MH 96960 519

U.S. Department of Energy
OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY
P.O. Box 808
Majuro, Marshall Islands MH 96960

NOTICE

U.S. Department of Energy's Specialist Physician (Endocrinologist), Dr. Ashok Vaswani, will be visiting Majuro on the 25th to 28th March, 2014 and Ebeye/Kwajalein from 29th to 2nd of April 2014. Non-DOE Patients are invited to contact Dr. Gael Lavina at 625-7035 or Bonnita Paul at 235-1988 should they desire to have a Thyroid Exam on this matter or an Ultrasound.

Community meetings for DOE patients will be led by Mr. Bill Jackson, DOE'S Marshall Islands Program Manger at the following locations:

MAJURO
Tuesday, March 25, 2014
6:30pm • at ICC

EBEYE
Saturday, March 29, 2014
6:30 pm • at Leroij Kitlang Kabua Hospital

You are welcome to contact the International Outreach Services (IOS) Office on Majuro at 625-7322 or on Kwajalein at (805) 355-1899 should you have any questions about the medical visit and meeting. Hope to see you there.

KOJJELA

U.S. Department of Energy's Specialist Physician (Endocrinologist) eo, Dr. Ashok Vaswani, enaj lo tok Majuro ilo Maaj 25 nan Maaj 28 raan, 2014 im Ebeye/Kwajalein jen Maaj 29 nan Eprol 2 raan, 2014. Ro im rej jab ber ilo program in doctor eo an DOE ak rekonan lo doctor in Thyroid in nan kakolkol ak Ultrasound, remaron contact e Dr. Gael Lavina ilo 625-7035 ilo Majuro im Bonnita Paul ilo 235-1988.

Enaj bar wor kwelok nan community eo ri-naninmij ro an DOE im enaj komman ibben Bill Jackson, Manager eo an DOE Marshall Islands Program ilo:

MAJURO
Juje, Maaj 25 2014
6:30pm • ilo ICC

EBEYE
Jadredre, Maaj 29 2014
6:30pm • ilo Leroij Kitlang Kabua Hospital

Kom kanuij ruwainene nan contact e tok International Outreach Services (IOS) opij ko ilo Majuro 625-7322 im Kwajalein ilo (805) 355-1899, elane enaj wor ami kajitok kin lo tok in im kwelok kein. Kejetdikdik in lo kom aolep.

KWAJALEIN DIABETES COALITION

"Reaching Out to People with Diabetes"

DIAK PLAN

"Shifting Sails towards a Healthier Community"

This project is in partnership with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), and the Canvasback Mission, Inc.

The Kwajalein Diabetes Coalition Officially Launched its Community and Home Gardening Program "ATAKE IN AJMOUR"



The Kwajalein Diabetes Coalition (KDC) has officially launched its community gardening program named "Atake In Ajmour" (Garden of Life) with a well-attended ceremony on February 20, 2014 at the Leroij Kitlang Memorial Hospital grounds.



The ceremony was highlighted with a ribbon-cutting of the community garden and the distribution of free earth boxes to 30 people with diabetes who attended the home gardening training.

"The project is aptly named Atake In Ajmour because healthy diet are necessary for people with diabetes to live longer and healthy lives", says Romeo Alfred, incumbent Chairman of KDC. "We realize that diabetics in our community needed much support such as access to fresh and affordable fruits and vegetables which is a challenge for people living in Ebeye. As we continue to implement our DIAK strategic plan – we are optimistic that 3 more community gardens and at least 70 more earth box home gardening projects will be made at the end of the year. But this is a very good start", he added.

Various leaders of the community graced the occasion which includes the three ministerial assistant secretaries of Kwajalein, church leaders such as Reverend Lawson Matauto and Charles de Brum of United Church of Christ, City Mayor representative George Luther, directors of various local agencies, business owners, and traditional leaders such as Jurjun Kabua (representing the Iroij), and Doris Iorbal who cut the ceremonial ribbon. Almost 150 people attended the program.

The project would have not been possible without the support of the Canvasback Mission Inc. who assisted KDC in the procurement and shipment of the earth boxes in very affordable prices. Dr. Brenda Davis of the Canvasback Team who just led a team of professionals to conduct a diabetes reversal class in Ebeye for two weeks gave a passionate keynote speech.

"This project was really a team effort by the community. KDC would not have done this without the help of Canvasback Mission and USAKA residents including the wife of the Kwajalein commander who volunteered to set up the earth boxes and at the same time train our garden project staffs; Ebeye Hospital who allotted a gardening space for us and lending their maintenance staff to finish the last-minute constructions; KAJUR and EPA who helped install the water catchment for the garden; the business sector who provided materials at discounted prices; the education sector who provided resources to establish the other community gardens and seedling nurseries in their campuses; and of course, the Diabetes Program staff of the Ebeye Community Health Center who were with us every step of the way. We have a common mission – and that is to help people with diabetes in the community", said Scott Paul, Treasurer of KDC.



As Kwajalein Diabetes Coalition (KDC) continue to pursue its goals of improving the lives of people with diabetes through policy, system, and environmental change interventions for physical activity, good nutrition, and better health care – the coalition hopes to receive more support from the government and all sectors of the community to accomplish its mission. "We are here for the long haul. We understand that this mission cannot be accomplished overnight, and that we need every help we can get. I am greatly encouraged by Reverend Lawson's speech when he expressed that his church commits to the vision and mission of KDC. It is such a great encouragement for us. We really need the support of the churches", added by another KDC member.



Kwajalein Diabetes Coalition (KDC) is a non-profit organization of community volunteers whose motto is "Erloke Peim non ro re Naninmej in Tonal". For more inquiries: contact the Ebeye Diabetes Program at (692)-329-5030/5029.



New students and VIPs at the opening of the fourth round of the Jitok Kapeel program.

Photo: Isaac Marty.

ROC still supporting vocational training being held at Public Works

Four cheers for the Jitok Kapeel program

ISAAC MARTY

The vocational training program Jitok Kapeel kicked off its opening ceremony last month. It is now into its fourth cycle and has 30 new participants ready for automotive, electrical and plumbing sessions. The opening ceremony was held at the Ministry of Public Works where the program will be held for a six months period.

For the first time since this vocational training program started in 2010, there are trainees from Ebeye, with five of the 30 trainees from Ebeye. They are staying at CMI's Arrak Campus.

The opening was emceed by the RMI National Training Council (NTC) Director Allison Nashion, who explained that the previous three cycles were hosted by the ROC Taiwan before it was handed over to the RMI for continuation. It is now run jointly by MPW, NTC, College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), and the Ministry of Education. This is the first time for RMI to handle the program with its own local instructors. RMI Chief Secretary and NTC Chairman Casten Nemra said in his remarks, "the RMI needs this kind of training."

CMI President Carl Hacker added that the college is aiming to expand the training by supporting any training graduate who wants to pursue further education in their field.

In the three previous trainings, the primary instructors were from Taiwan's Central Training Center and were assisted by Marshallese counterparts. In the just-started program, the instructors are Marshallese. NTC paid for their expenses to travel to Taiwan's CTC to attend a three months (October to December 2012) tailor-made training to prepare them to teach Jitok Kapeel Cycle IV program. Cycle IV runs for six months.

ROC Taiwan Ambassador Winston Wen-yi Chen said the ROC government is keen to work closely with RMI in their partnership and also provide support to Jitok Kapeel. He explained that Jitok Kapeel started in 2010. After three cycles, it resulted with 150 skilled individuals. He added that it was also an opportunity for ROC to have trained and certified five local instructors who have recently completed their training in Taiwan. "The trainers and trainees will have an impact on the RMI," he said. "Let's continue to work together."

Minister in Assistance Tony deBrum, who was the acting RMI president at the time and also speaking on behalf of Public Works Minister Hiroshi Yamamura, expressed his gratitude for the ROC government for starting Jitok Kapeel and providing continuing support. He also expressed appreciation for all who were and are involved in supporting Jitok Kapeel in making it something that the RMI can benefit from. He said the RMI President along with all Cabinet members and their families wish the best for the new cycle for trainees. He said when he was a student coming out of college he experienced in his first job skills that are similar to what Jitok Kapeel is offering. "The skills I acquired have helped me in my life," said deBrum. "I want all of you (trainees) to complete this program."

Reverend George Ainrik gave blessing to the program and refreshments that were later served and added his encouragement to trainees to continue and do their best.

"It is expected that a request will go from the Jitok Kapeel IV Management Team (NTC, CMI, Public Works and MOE) requesting assistance from ROC Embassy and CTC to send experts to RMI to monitor and evaluate the progress of Jitok Kapeel IV," said Nashion.

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Remarks on the 26th Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day & 60th Anniversary of Bravo Shot March 1, 2014

Opening

On this Occasion of the Anniversary of the **NUCLEAR VICTIMS REMEMBRANCE DAY and 60th Anniversary of Bravo**, I wish to give thanks and praise to our ALMIGHTY FATHER for HIS grace and blessings onto our humble people and small island nation. At the outset, I wish to thank and acknowledge the honorable presence of: *Cabinet Members, their spouses; Speaker Donald Capelle and Mrs. Rosita Capelle; Vice Speaker of the Nitijela (vacant); Nitijela Senators, their spouses; Chief Justice Carl B. Ingram and Mrs. Ingram, members of the Judiciary, their spouses; Chairman of the Council of Iroij, Iroij Kotak Loeak, and Lejla Betty Loeak; Rev. Enja Enos and spouse; The Clergy members throughout the Republic of the Marshall Islands; Traditional Leaders throughout the Republic; Senator and Iroijlaplap Jurelang Zedkaia, Lejla, Hannah Zedkaia; Special Distinguished Guests who spoke to us this morning: Rose Goettemoeller, Acting Under Secretary, Arms Control & International Security, US Department of State; Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; Mr. Oishi Matashichi, Survivor of Lucky Dragon #5; Hon. Jack Ading, Senator of Enewetak; Hon. Minister Hiroshi Yamamura, Senator of Utirik; Hon. James Matayoshi, Mayor of Rongelap; Hon. Nishima Jamodre, Mayor of Kili/Bikini/Ejit; Hon. Mayor Mudge Samuel and Majuro Atoll Local Government; Visitors from Japan; International Media; Chief Secretary Casten Nemra, Mrs. Nemra; Chairperson, Public Service Commission, & Commissioners of PSC; Government Secretaries, Department Heads; State Owned Enterprises; Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic Corps, US Ambassador Thomas Armbruster, Japan Ambassador, Kazuhiko Anzai, ROC-Taiwan Ambassador, Winston Wen-Yi Chen; Members of the Business Community; Marshall Islands Mayors Association and Local Governments throughout the Republic; Distinguished Survivors of the Four Atoll Communities, and the people of the four atolls; NGOs, Public Service, Private Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen.*

Today is a solemn and poignant day for the Marshallese people. It is a day to look back to remember what has happened, but also a day to look forward to a time when our nation has healed, and is ready to leave past wounds behind.

As the dawn broke across the Pacific 60 years ago today, the largest nuclear test ever conducted by the United States took place at Bikini Atoll.

It is hard for any person to comprehend the sheer power and magnitude of the explosion that was unleashed on our country that day.

The "Bravo Shot" was 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The explosion was visible from up to 250 miles away, and produced a massive mushroom cloud that stretched about 60 miles across.

The explosion was so fierce that it vaporized whole islands. It left a mile-wide crater on Bikini and forced the long-term relocation of whole island communities, some of which have never returned.

Remembering our history

But today is a day not only for remembering the devastation of the Bravo Shot, but of all 67 nuclear tests conducted by the United States from 1946 to 1958. These nuclear tests wiped at least nine islands completely off the map. And many other islands remain so contaminated that it will take thousands of years for them to ever be able to sustain life again.

I was just one year old at the time of the Bravo test and have no personal memory of it. But as I grew up, I heard stories from some of the elders in Ailinglaplap about the unprecedented flash of light in the west early that morning 60 years ago.

Today, you have heard about some of the experiences of the people of the four atolls and a survivor of a Japanese fishing boat, Lucky Dragon #5.

It has been nearly 68 years since the Bikinians were removed from their atoll so that the fourth and fifth atomic bombs in the history of the planet could be detonated there in 1946. They have not been able to return except for an ill-fated attempt to resettle the atoll in the 1970s that resulted in the ingestion of radioactive Cesium-137 at levels which U.S. officials described as "incredible." The ongoing contamination of their atoll is a matter of unfinished business relating to the nuclear weapons testing program not only for the people of Bikini but also for the RMI government.

The people of Enewetak endured a 33-year exile from their atoll beginning in 1947 so that it could be used as another "ground zero" for the nuclear weapons testing program. A partial cleanup of the atoll was done and resettlement occurred in 1980 but the people do not have the full and unrestricted use of their homelands due to high levels of radioactivity on the northern islands that were not included in the cleanup. Their unfinished business is also that of the national government.

The people of Rongelap, Rongerik, and Ailinginae have had to leave their atolls three times due to the nuclear weapons testing. First, they were moved to Lae for a few months as a precaution prior to Operation Crossroads in 1946. Then they were evacuated following their exposures to heavy levels of radioactive fallout from Bravo 60 years ago. And they left their beloved atolls again in 1985 after they realized that continuing to live there subjected them to radiation exposures above accepted safe levels. The partial cleanup that has been done there over the past 15 years will not allow for the full and unrestricted use of their traditional lands and that is unfinished business both for the people of Rongelap and for my government.

The people of Utrik may have been removed from their atoll for only three months following Bravo but they were returned without any cleanup and have lived with uncertainty about the safety of their environment ever since. The Whole Body Counter for the Utrik community remains here in Majuro, not at Utrik, and the DOE's environmental monitoring program has only begun testing the level of radiation in food plants on the main island in the past two years. Their unfinished business is also that of the RMI government.

About 20 years ago, RMI officials were surprised to learn from a previously Secret document that monitoring of atolls throughout the Marshalls in 1954 had detected significant radiation levels not just following the Bravo test but also after each of the subsequent nuclear weapons detonated in the 1954 series of Operation Castle. This was dramatic new information which had not been revealed to the Marshall Islands negotiators of the Section 177 settlement agreement that was signed more than 30 years ago. Other information and understanding of the effects of the nuclear weapons testing program have made it abundantly clear that the agreement was not negotiated in good faith and that it does not provide a fair and just settlement of the damages caused.

We remain the closest of friends with the United States but there is unfinished business relating to the nuclear weapons testing that must be addressed if that legacy of distrust is to become one of mutual confidence and respect. On behalf of all of the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, my government will continue to pursue justice for those affected by the Bravo test and the other 66 atomic and nuclear weapons detonated in our atolls.

The Marshallese people know that even if you survive a nuclear test, you can never really escape its impacts.

Besides horrific hair loss, burns and internal injuries, study after study has linked the US nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands to our unusually high rates of cancer and birth defects.

One study by the Nuclear Control Institute estimates that 55% of cancers diagnosed amongst our Rongelap people stem from exposure to nuclear radiation. Another study found that a third of children exposed to the nuclear tests had developed cancer by 1974.

But we do not need studies to tell us this. Every one of us has a parent, a child, a brother or a sister that died to cancers we cannot explain. [Both of my parents are among those that died of these cancers. I clearly remember my mother saying she began to feel sick after the explosions].

We, the Marshallese people, live with the pain of this every day.

United States

Today is also an opportunity to remember why we fight so hard for a just and equitable outcome from our discussions with the close friend, United States to make sure that we are able to repair the damage that continues to haunt us today. This damage is too great for a country like ours to handle alone, and nor should we have to. This devastation came from a source that was beyond our control, in the face of our repeated protests, and without regard for what it would mean for our future.

In 2012 the United Nations' Special Rapporteur for Toxic and Hazardous Waste visited the Marshall Islands to investigate the ongoing impacts of nuclear testing.

In his report to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the Special Rapporteur concluded that the impacts of this nuclear testing continue to significantly impact Marshallese lives and our human rights, and that the US has an obligation to repair the damage it caused, including through adequate compensation.

The Special Rapportuer added, and I quote: "the nuclear testing has left a legacy of distrust in the hearts and minds of the Marshallese. The deep fissure in the relationship between the two Governments presents significant challenges. Nonetheless, the opportunity for reconciliation and progress, for the benefit of all Marshallese, is there to be taken". The report and its recommendations were endorsed by the Human Rights Council in September 2012.

The United States must finally come clean and live up to its responsibility to help the Marshall Islands live with the devastation caused by their nuclear testing.

While the Clinton and Obama Administrations have released some classified documents related to the testing over recent years, we have been saying all along that we will not be able to close this horrible chapter, until we know all that the US knows about the impacts of these terrible explosions.

Ultimately, there can be no closure without full disclosure.

The Nuclear Claims Tribunal set up to assess the damage has found that there were about $2 billion in legitimate claims from the Marshallese people. But the US has contributed only $150 million. This is a tiny and inadequate drop in an ocean of pain and suffering. This is why we have asked the US Administration and Congress to revisit the issue.

I believe that until all information is out in the open and the issue of compensation is properly addressed and resolved, US nuclear testing will remain a stain on the special US-Marshall Islands relationship, and will continue to color the way that Pacific Islanders see US engagement in the region. When they met here in Majuro last September, all Pacific Island Forum Leaders joined me in urging the United States to take action to fully address the ongoing impacts resulting from US nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, and to working with us to finally resolve all outstanding issues.

Japanese experience

Today, I want to pay special respect and send a warm welcome to our many visitors from Japan, who, like the Marshallese, know all too well the devastation caused by nuclear explosions and radiation.

Two weeks ago, I was in Japan and had the opportunity to visit Hiroshima for the first time. It is difficult to understand how the death and devastation caused there did not serve as a sufficient warning about the horrors of nuclear weapons, and cause the US to think twice before proceeding with nuclear tests in the Pacific.

Unfortunately, the Marshall Islands and Japan are not the only countries to have suffered the horrifying consequences of nuclear exposure. The people of French Polynesia, Kazakhstan, and Chernobyl, have all shared our pain.

Nuclear weapons leave permanent and irreversible damage to man and nature, and threaten life on Earth as we know it. We must rid the world of nuclear weapons, and we continue to work with our friends and partners around the world to make this happen.

Closing

We did not invite, nor did we expect, the pain and suffering our nation has suffered.

The United States conducted these nuclear tests not only as an inhumane act, but with reckless disregard of their sacred duty to ensure the protection of our human rights under the UN Trusteeship Agreement.

But the true measure of the Marshallese people is how we have responded to this unspeakable horror.

It is a testament to our spirit, to our resilience, and to our sense of community that we are still here, some 60 years later, forging a better future for all Marshallese.

Today is a day for not only remembering the horrors of our history, but celebrating our spirit of resilience, and looking forward with hope and determination.

We must never forget the pain but we must also never lose sight of our journey ahead. We are willing to work with the United States and the United Nations, to put this chapter behind us.

Kommol tata.

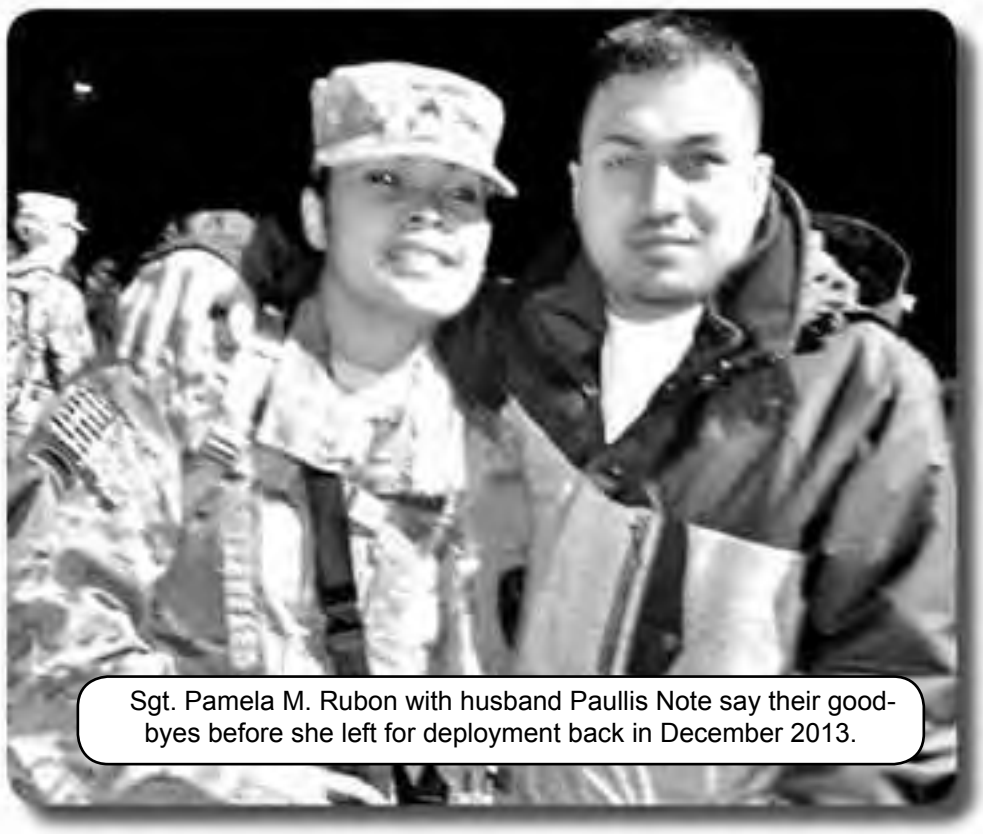
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AROUND TOWN

Sgt. Pam Rubon marks 9 years

US Army Sergeant **Pamela M. Rubon** was born and raised in Majuro, Marshall Islands. She enlisted in the United States Army on February 17, 2005.

This year marks nine years in the Army. She is an Adjutant General Soldier serving as a Human Resources Sergeant. Her unit, HHC 508th Military Police Battalion (I/R), are currently deployed to Bagram Airfield, Camp Sabalu-Harrison, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She and her husband are both from the Marshall Islands.



Sgt. Pamela M. Rubon with husband Paullis Note say their goodbyes before she left for deployment back in December 2013.

The person of 2013



The Kaselehlie Press of Pohnpei reported recently that deceased **Darlene Keju** was named by Islands Business as Person of the Year.

According to Island Business, the choice of Darlene was a result of "her combination of fearless advocacy with island-style innovation that isn't 'merely relevant' in 2013.

Darlene is the subject of the publication by her author husband **Giff Johnson i**n the book "Don't Ever Whisper."

She was also identified with the creation of the Youth to Youth in Health program in the RMI as well as other advocacy undertakings.

Tekeraoi Mary, Falani and the Hicking family



Photo: Isaac Marty

Mary Bireba Hicking and **Falani Boreham** tied the knot of a lifetime, last Saturday. The wedding was held at the Catholic church in Uliga with Fr. **Ray Sabio** presiding. Later in the day, families and friends gathered at the Marshall Islands Resort's Melele Room to enjoy the evening with the newly weds for food and entertainment.

It was a lot of fun, especially with new things unexpectedly added into the evening's agenda. It included having the bride do her favorite island dance. And then getting people to lie on the ground for the groom to walk on as he got out of the vehicle to walk into their house in Rairok.

The couple flew out Monday for Tuvalu to visit Falani's family and will continue on to New Zealand.

Falani recently received his engineering certification from Fiji. Mary was a long time x-ray technician at Majuro hospital and recently resigned.

AROUND TOWN





Smile

Keeping with the theme of lovely couples this week. Here's a shout-out to **Liza** and **Nang Jack**, both are serving in the public sector at the Ministry of Health and the Marshall Islands Police Department, respectively. Photo: **Isaac Marty**

Politically incorrect?

Local guy teaches political science/government class. RMI Cabinet official tells his boss, the teacher is "political." Duh. That's the idea.

Communion union

The RMI's Catholic community conducted two significant religious ceremonies this past Sunday.

One was the celebration of First Holy Communion for 43 new communicants. The service was conducted by Fr. **Ray Sabio** at Assumption Church and is the culmination of months of preparation by the children under the guidance of Sister **Kantarawa Yee-On**, **Josephine Samuel** and **Kinty Mera**. Sunday's celebration comes on the eve of the Catholic season of lent, which begins this week with Ash Wednesday.

Also celebrated were a number of baptisms at the Church of St. Francis Xavier, located in Laura, also presided over by Fr. Ray.

Photo: Suzanne Chutaro.

And the Riddle award goes to...

The work of three new RMI Riddlers appeared on the Head Riddler's desk this week: **Sofie Van Gunsteren, Alexis Bilyard**, and **Helber Nemna**. All had perfect puzzles (see page 8), as did **Becky Lathrop, Mickey John, Kubaack Mayn**, and **Dante Dela Vega.** Another entrant will have to remain anonymous as a man, woman, or child handed his or her penciled-in crossword to **Utkiyo Kabua** and then scurried away before his or her identity could be discovered.

All the above entrants, bar one, will have their names in the hat for the March free pizza from The Flame Tree.

In the February contest for Stardom for Wisdom, the following names went into the hat: Team **Neri Wase** and **Sharla deBrum, Helber Nemna, Becky Lathrop, Kubaak Mayn**, **Herman Lee-Enos** and **Dyna Reimers**. (Note that if a person has a perfect puzzle more than once in the month, their name goes in that number of times.)

Photojournalist **Hilary Hosia** picked the winning name out of the hat and, ta-da, February's winner is Herman Lee-Enos, who can pick up his pizza gift certificate from Micronitor.

Join the competition! Get your puzzle to the Journal by 5pm Tuesday. Good luck!

Canada Fund For Local Initiatives (CFLI)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

The CFLI is a long-standing contribution program delivered through the Embassy of Canada in the Marshall Islands. The CFLI allows the Government of Canada to support small-scale local projects. Successful proposals typically receive support between CAD $5,000 to $30,000 (maximum $50,000). Projects must be completed within a single Canadian Fiscal Year (April-March). The CFLI is seeking project proposals that meet our priorities:

- **To enhance local and national governance, including supporting democratic transition and expanded democratic participation by women;**
- **To promote the entrenchment of rule of law, including economic governance;**
- **To prevent sexual violence and early forced marriage; and**
- **To support human rights and fundamental freedoms, including religious freedoms, LGBT rights, and opportunities for children and youth.**

To apply for funding, or to obtain additional information, please contact the CFLI Coordinator by mail or email:

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Commonwealth Avenue
Canberra, Australia, 2600

email: cnbracanadafund@international.gc.ca
Or visit our website for more information:
www.canadainternational.gc.ca/australia-australie

Canada

OPINION PAGE

Send letters to PO Box 14, Majuro, MH 96960 or email journal@ntamar.net

Good job Namdrik

A recent edition of the Journal featured articles on the latest audit for Namdrik Atoll Local Government.

We'd like to make a point in favor of Namdrik. Even though the audit listed a series of accountability problems needing correction, the fact is simply by getting a multiple-year audit completed, Namdrik is ahead of most local governments in the RMI — including some of our biggest ones.

It is rare to see local governments audited at all. Auditor General Junior Patrick said recently that local governments are challenged to maintain and prepare their accounting records so that they can be audited. There is also an issue about lack of staff at the Auditor's office, but if a local government can't keep financial books, it doesn't matter if the Auditor General has an army of auditors. No books means no audits.

The Journal would like to recognize Namdrik for getting its financial act together sufficiently to allow an audit. It demonstrates there is a commitment to a higher level of accountability in Namdrik leadership.

In this day and age where we see local governments not being audited and officials engaged in cash transactions that do not follow normal government accounting requirements, Namdrik stands out for getting its audits done.

Need to fight for the future

The most important observation to come out of this year's 60th anniversary of the Bravo test came from two women from affected atolls.

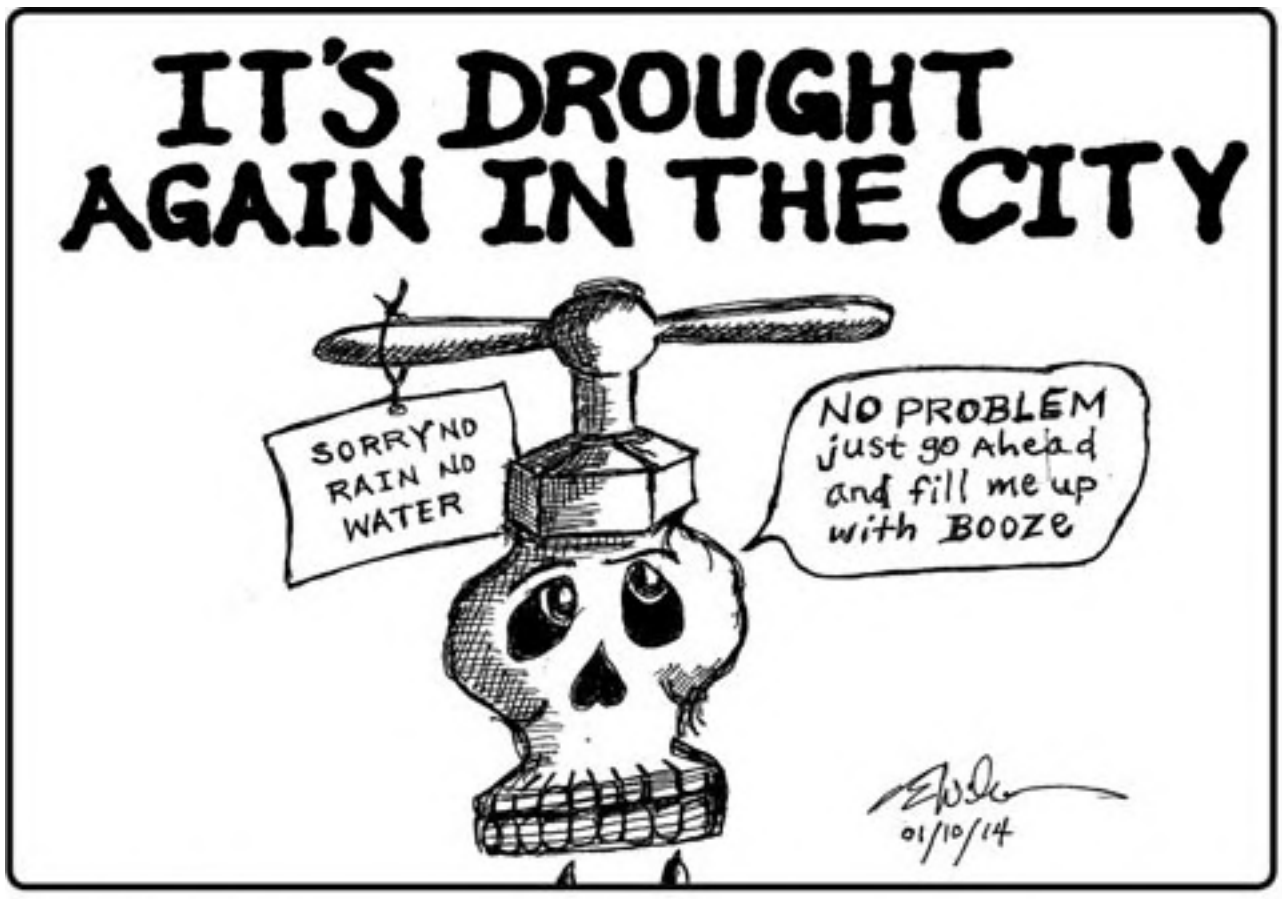
KBE Councilwoman Lani Kramer said: "I want justice now for the people (of my grandmother's generation). We need to go to the US Congress. But no one, not my local government or the national government, is engaged with the US Congress on this issue right now."

Rongelap's Irene Abon commented: "Those of the first generation that were affected are few now and their issues are being ignored by our leaders."

What these observations reflect is the need for leadership to engage with the US government on the outstanding issues, problems that were clearly identified in the 2012 UN Special Rapporteur's report and recommendations.

Until Marshall Islands leaders decide they want to pursue compensation, nuclear clean up, medical care and other nuclear test concerns in an organized manner by engaging Washington in a systematic campaign seeking redress, all the speeches, the anger, the uncertain future for people from radioactive islands will remain just that — talk, concern, and worry with no result.

There are possibilities for action, but it starts with the Marshall Islands developing a strategy and plan of action for engaging the United States and others to address the ongoing legacy of the 67 US nuclear tests.





Horgan Korok

Use history as our guide

As leaders we are fortunate to have the mechanism of social networking to be at a moment's notice either by voice or electronic media. It is in this framework that I want to comment to encourage us all to use "social media" to our best advantage. As leaders who have the welfare of all citizens of RMI in mind we must present the best of us all. We need to reflect our heartfelt concern for the issues of our own i.e., health, education, business development, and so on in the best professional and concise language as possible.

I learned that any enterprise, whether commercial, governmental or charitable, must use language that is objective and stays on subject. As we go forward in our planning and after the recent March 3 "King Tide" episode, we are challenged to be objective, focused on our goals and on principles — not our personalities.

When we need a "sounding board" for our frustrations and emotions we must understand that our policy planning is not the forum. The history of RMI is sufficient to serve as a guide for us to make good and better decisions.

We must keep policies that are beneficial. We need to "do our best" assuring results and success in a crisis. What many citizens are mainly concerned about is for their families and its communities — not one's own personality and troubles.

Horgan Korok, Oregon

'RMI practices discrimination'

In June last year, my home was one of a number that was heavily damaged by waves during the June flooding incidents that occurred around Majuro Atoll. I requested help from the RMI government but was turned away because we are not 100 percent Marshallese. Again, this year March 2014, another severe flooding incident that occurred around DUD areas caused much damage to homes, etc. Now, this time, the RMI government gave help, including food to those people whose homes were damaged because they are 100 percent Marshallese. It is very clear that RMI government practices discrimination. Some people in government think they own it.

Tony Reiher

The Marshall Islands Journal

Phone: (692) 625-8143/6 • Fax: (692) 625-3136 • email: journal@ntamar.net • www.marshallislandsjournal.com

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Kelly chills out on Ailinglaplap

KAREN EARNSHAW

For 11-time world surfing champion Kelly Slater the remote Ailinglaplap Atoll was the perfect place to fine-tune his preparation for this year's pro-surf world tour.

The surf's good and, perhaps more importantly, there's no one to bother him, he told the Marshall Islands Journal.

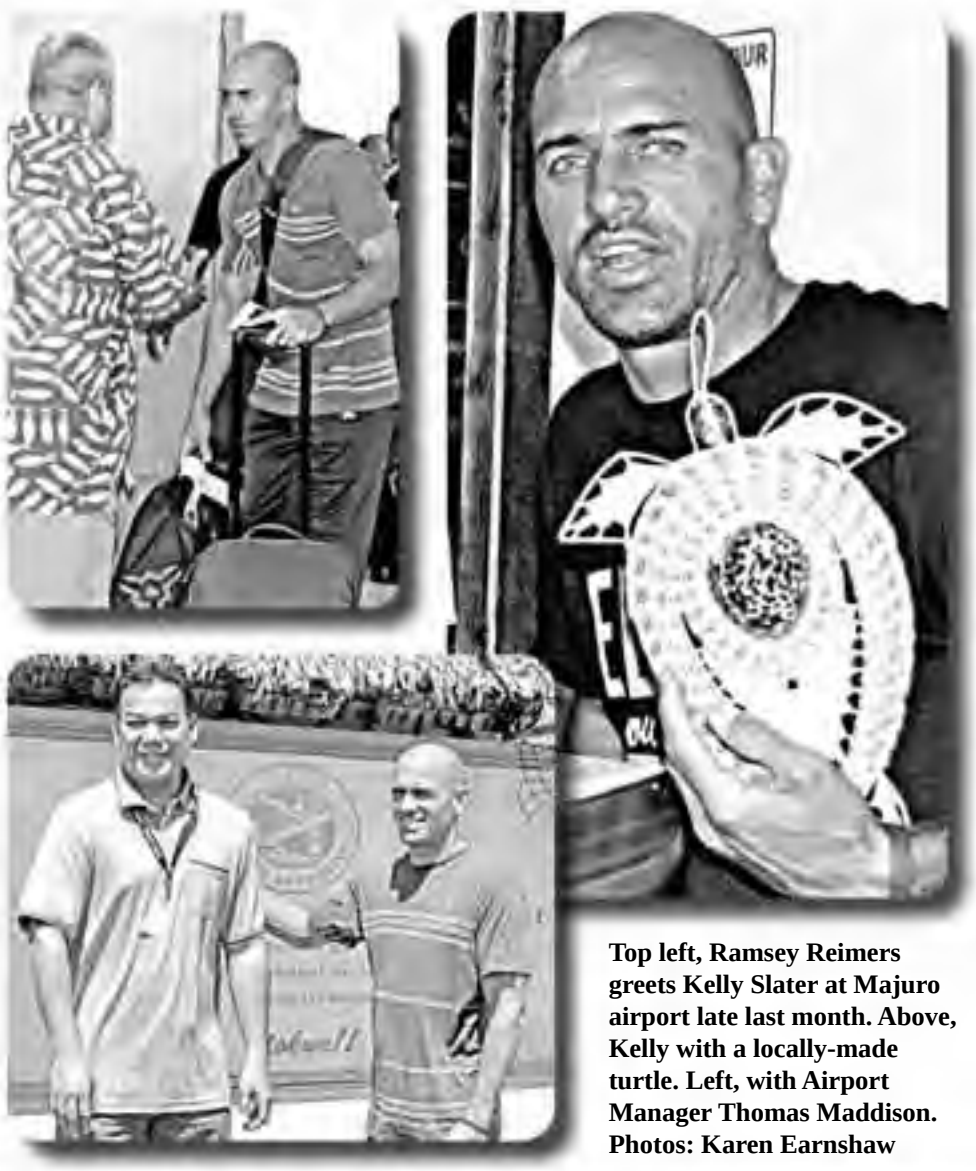
For a week late last month, the legendary athlete spent idle days in the Marshall Islands with a couple of good buddies and dabbled with the surf, getting himself ready mentally for the first event on the Association of Surfing Professionals 2014 calendar, the Quiksilver Pro on the Gold Coast, which began last Saturday and ends next Monday.

Ailinglaplap is one of the world's few hot surf spots where you're not competing with dozens of surfers for each wave, said Slater, 42. "The place is pretty unusual. There's a great surfing spot in Western Sumatra that used to be empty. Now it's totally crowded. Often there are 16 boats there, each with about 10 surfers on board.

"In Ailinglaplap, I have all the waves to myself. If you like out-of-the-way places, it's definitely paradise."

The Quiksilver Pro contest is key to Kelly, who ended up second on the Association of Surfing Professionals ladder behind Australia's Mick Fanning last year. "The older I get, the tougher it is to have the motivation to keep going, but I'm definitely a stronger surfer now because of my years of experience."

Early reports from the Quiksilver contest are that Kelly won his first heat Sunday.



Top left, Ramsey Reimers greets Kelly Slater at Majuro airport late last month. Above, Kelly with a locally-made turtle. Left, with Airport Manager Thomas Maddison. Photos: Karen Earnshaw

Security key to protecting top surfer

According to Stab magazine, Kelly Slater has so many fans screaming at him, shouting that they love him, they want to marry him and that they want to bear his children, that it must be all a bit whatever these days. He gets running security every time he heads for the water, but sometimes things get a little extra out of control.

On the way to his first round heat Sunday he was grabbed by a lady, but was extricated from her grasp by security. Then when coming in from the heat he was suddenly and quite roughly grabbed by what looked like the same person. It appeared to be pretty nasty. Turns out, however, that the poor lady has schizophrenia and according to Kelly it was actually kinda sad. "I felt bad for her afterwards," said Kelly. "I really don't think she had any kind of clear picture of what's going on. It was weird in the moment. But she clearly has a problem."

RMIPA Provides an Educational Experience

Majuro students recently had an opportunity to dive a little deeper into some of the issues that affect their community.

Last week, a class of seniors from Majuro Cooperative School visited the RMI Ports Authority (RMIPA) headquarters in Delap and talked with RMIPA Director Jack Chong-Gum about all things ports – from operations and safety to parks and recreation.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the students with a clearer picture of what the ports authority does, not only in terms of maintaining safe and efficient commercial and transportation services at the airport and seaports, but also with regards to its community outreach, job creation and environmental protection efforts.

"It is really our pleasure to be able to meet with the students," Chong-Gum said. "Our community is closely connected and today's students are tomorrow's leaders. It's a great opportunity for them to learn about some of the work going on in their backyards and also a great audience for us – to show them that we can make a positive impact."

In addition to providing an overview of how operations work at the airport and seaports, Chong-Gum gave a tour of RMIPA's recently launched website and also briefed the class on some of the major ongoing projects, including the expansion of the Runway Safety Area (RSA) at AKIA along with the associated Coral Remediation Program and the community park project being undertaken in partnership with Kora in Okrane (KIO) Club.

The park project, which will include picnic areas, a children's playground and a paved exercise track, broke ground in November and will provide a new ideal place for family gatherings. The Coral Remediation Program, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), involves growing new coral in the lagoon that will be relocated or replanted at the RSA site area to replace any that may have been impacted from dredging activities. It is the first project of its kind in the Marshall Islands.

Student Beauty Tombler said that what she learned during the visit gave her a new outlook on the work the ports authority performs. "It was great to learn that what RMIPA is doing at the airport is for a good cause – safety," she said. "To be honest, I always thought of the construction at the airport as nothing more than destruction of our coral reefs and killing of our natural wildlife, but I am glad to now have a bigger perspective of the outcome of the project."

The field trip to RMIPA is just one of several that Co-op instructor David Applebaum has been arranging for his students. "I think the students really got a lot out of it – I certainly did," Applebaum said. "The visits are short, but at least we get a taste of what goes on at each place."

"Visit rmipa.com <http://rmipa.com> for more development news and up-to-date information on airline and shipping schedules."



Sitting from left to right are Ryan Muller, Jolynn Gideon, Damien Lemari, and Joseph Katjang. Standing are Jack Chong-Gum (RMIPA Director) and Mr. David Applebaum (their teacher). Missing from the photo is Beauty Tombler.

Students comments....

"I learned a lot of things during the visit. I like the idea of the project of extending the runway just in case something goes wrong. I was surprised to hear that Majuro has the longest runway. I learned from a visit at Trust Company that the Marshall Islands is in the top 3 countries to register boats and now we have one of the longest runways in Micronesia. For a small country I think this is great." **— Damien Lemari**

"And it is great to know that the company is also reaching out to the people and setting up picnic areas and playgrounds to replace those of which have been covered. Although we miss our picnic areas, the visit gave us an understanding that not only are you thinking about the safety of the people, but you are also thinking of the happiness and joy as well." **— Beauty Tombler**

"We learned a lot. I learned many things about the airport project that Ports Authority is doing. This project will create many new jobs. This will help people who are unemployed to get a job, which people need to support themselves." **— Joseph Katjang**

"I am happy that there is a new park you guys are making for the community. I did not know how strong and dangerous a plane's engine is until you showed me how strong it is with the video on your website." **— Jaji Muller**

High tides surge into Majuro

GIFF JOHNSON

A high tide energized by storm surges flooded many parts of Majuro Monday morning and evening.

By Tuesday morning, 940 Majuro residents were sleeping in schools or churches after their homes suffered damage from Monday's high tides. Chief Secretary Casten Nemra said Rita Elementary School was handling the largest number, with 516 people in RES classrooms. Delap Elementary was providing shelter to 182 people, Assumption Schools was helping 112, CMI put up 80, and Rita Christian Church was assisting 50, he said.

Some outer islands also experienced flooding, with reports coming in from Arno and Mili as of Tuesday. "Assessment teams are now being prepared for deployment (to these outer islands)," Nemra said. Government assessment teams were out Monday checking damage following the early morning flooding.

A weather system east of Japan was generating swells that hit the Marshall Islands at 10pm Sunday, said Reginald White, the officer in charge of Majuro's weather station. "It caused 10 to 12 foot surf," White said Monday of the storm surges. The swells from the storm off Japan were continuing through the day Monday.

There were no reports of injuries, but many homes sustained some damage, while roads were littered with garbage, rocks and sand tossed up by the surging tide. Government emergency crews responded quickly to clear the roads and help with removing debris from the roads and people's yards. The Oceanside road in Rita was cordoned off by police Monday morning to allow cleanup crews to clear the area. Alson Kelen, who lives on Ejit Island, said he was awoken at 4am Monday by "people screaming outside my house. They were freaking out because this is the highest king tide we've ever experienced. Over 30 people were evacuated to the church."

All local schools and the College of the Marshall Islands cancelled classes Monday and Tuesday, as people sought shelter in classrooms. "The length of the sheltering will be further determined (keeping in mind) schools in session," said Nemra.

The high tide and storm surges continued Monday late afternoon, but in a diminished capacity, with only some flooding.

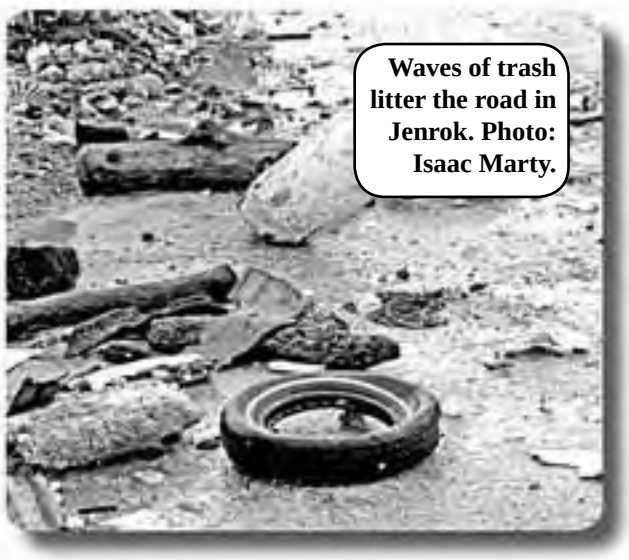
"The swells were still big enough to cause wave overtopping at several locations," said CMI instructor Karl Fellenious Monday evening. Fellenious tracked the high tide situation from early Monday morning, photographing and documenting damage. "I saw several (areas of flooding) in Rita on the ocean side. Despite the continued inundation, the damage occurred (Monday) morning, not this afternoon or evening."

White said weather officials became aware of the storm surge impact on Marshall Islands Sunday evening, and Monday morning observations by weather officials showed a 12-second gap between incoming waves. "The longer the period is between waves it allows for strengthening their power and piling on top of each other," he said. "It's this longer period we fear. Even if the waves are 15 feet high, but if there is only five seconds between them, we don't worry."

The 10-to-12 foot surf causing a normal high tide to inundate the islands "has been generated by a distant storm that sent out a long line of waves," White said.



Waves surge onto Ejit Island early Monday morning. Photo: Alson Kelen.



Waves of trash litter the road in Jenrok. Photo: Isaac Marty.

Waves surprise people sleeping

Battering waves along the ocean side shoreline of Jenrok Monday morning took out sand and rock seawalls and left trash covering the back road area. Trash was everywhere.

Water and trash even washed into people's homes. It was without warning that the high tide rolled in. Local residents said it was around 3am when waves started coming inland. Waves passed through houses and washed across the island to the lagoon side main road. Homes nearest to the ocean side received some damages.

At 6am, a car was driving through Demon Town back road when all of a sudden three-foot waves rushed ashore forcing the vehicle to stop. The car was surrounded by salt water up to the mid-point of the doors, preventing it from moving for a while.

Trash and rocks blocked the back road until the waves died down. Jenrok residents got into a major morning clean up Monday.

MALGov had a bulldozer clearing the back road. Local police were out patrolling for security



Destroyed Small Island home. Photo: Hilary Hosia.

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Above, a Rita house collapsed after being hit by incoming high tide Monday. Right, flooded Small Island road, stores and homes. Photos: Hilary Hosia and Brett Schellhase.

Evacuees seek shelter at schools

HILARY HOSIA

The March 3 Majuro high tide incident was the bluest of Mondays. The massive waves came in like a charging tyrannosaurus, knocking down houses too weak to stand the surge and leaving behind a footprint of debris.

A family living in a small Uliga home sitting 10 feet away from the ocean awoke in shock when water mixed with rocks hit their home. "We were able to evacuate the house before it came crashing down," the father said. "I was partly awake at 4am. Had the wave come in earlier we'd be in trouble," he said.

Happening the same time one mile north in Rita, Hetine Heine experienced the same fate. "There were three surges," Hetine said of the waves. "The first one woke us up and brought heaves of debris, injuring my grandmother. We rushed my grandmother to the hospital — only to return to a torn-down home."

Meanwhile, in Small Island, 64-year-old Josephine Samuel woke up panicking to screaming noises. "People were screaming everywhere," she said. "It turns out the screaming people were police officers warning villagers to get to the church to be taken to the shelters. My house wasn't directly hit by the waves, but I could see the water advancing."

Josephine said she couldn't wait for the transfer vehicles. She, like many in her town, took her family to nearby Assumption School. "We have sought sanctuary at Assumption before. When we came, the doors were already opened." She said Assumption school Principal Biram Stege and staff provided cooking utensils and ready drinking water.

Approximately 112 evacuees sought shelter at Assumption school building. They stayed overnight Monday and by Tuesday afternoon they began returning home.

A concerned citizen, Tone Herkinos, was upset Monday because no food had been delivered to the school. She tried notifying Internal Affairs officials. "This is absurd, the government is passing out food at Delap and Rita Elementary School, but not here."



MALGov crews create wave barriers along the Rita coastline. Photo: Karl Fellenious.

Flood advisory ends mid-week

As the government called off the high surf/flood advisory at mid-week, many of the over 900 people who had gone to schools and churches to seek shelter began returning home.

According to Chief Secretary Casten Nemra, approximately 200 were still in school and church shelters as of Wednesday.

Tuesday afternoon, the Cabinet was briefed by the National Disaster Committee. It responded by declaring a state of emergency from the recent inundation to safeguard lives, property and well being of the affected people, according to Nemra.

"The National Disaster Committee shall continue to provide response activities including shelter, food, water and other essentials, plus conduct comprehensive assessment of the damage with relevant international aid agencies and partners," Nemra said.

A government assessment went to Arno Tuesday to evaluate damage, while another team was gearing to leave to Mili. Kili is the only other outer island to report damage from Monday's high tide, Nemra said.





The Red Cross and government officials quickly organized food and water for evacuees in local shelters. Photos: Hilary Hosia.

Volunteers respond quickly

Local residents interested to help people displaced by Monday's flooding with food, water or other donations are asked to contact the Ministry of Finance's Procurement and Supply office or the Emergency Operations Center, which are overseeing help to the approximately 900 people in churches and schools.

"Over 70 homes are reportedly in different level of damages," said Chief Secretary Casten Nemra. "Food, water and hygiene supplies continue to be provided at the designated shelters," he said Tuesday.

The National Disaster Committee briefed Cabinet Tuesday on developments and recommendations for action.

Nemra said the government's Emergency Operations Center can be contacted at 625-0004.

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MARSHALL ISLANDS — Majuro*	(22 Feb)	(1 Apr)	(1 May)	(01 Jun)	(7 Jul)	(5 Aug)	(11 Sep)
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Montship Inc
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Majuro	5 Mar	2 Apr	1 May	1 Jun

Marshall Islands
Central Pacific Maritime Agency
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Marshall Islands
T: +692 625 4744
F: +692 625 3505
cenpac@ntamc.com

Kiribati
Shipping Agencies of Kiribati
Red Cross Main Building
Temanoku Street, Tarawa,
Republic of Kiribati
T: +686 26 472
F: +686 26 430
sask@tskl.net.ki

EATING OUT IN MAJURO

Sandy's secret in Small Island



Majuro's newest and obviously most interesting eatery award has to be delivered to Sandy's, a facility two of our staff deigned to visit this week as we feature our topic of eating out.

The location is at the former site of Air Marshall Islands office near Lanai.

"Sandy's," we wondered curiously as we taxied or drove by the newly opened facility, "is it a club? A gym? A dress shop? A bakery?"

All wondering came to an abrupt halt by the simple tactic of pulling up in front, exiting our vehicle, and swinging the door: Sandy's, surprisingly, is a combination restaurant, cafeteria, and gift shop, a gift shop sure to attract visitors both local and from overseas.

An array of tables greets you in the large main room located immediately at the entrance. It gives one the feeling of openness and clarity.

Proceeding through the seating area for the restaurant, the customers follows a room divider, separating the eating section from the "line" section: One grabs a plate and proceeds to point and shoot as an attendant behind the food counter leads the hungry patron by the various options, options teaming with attractive freshness and accompanied with individual prices for each portion.

For example, delicious fried rice, $1, pork adobo, $1.50, curry chicken $1.50, etc., prices that taste good to your wallet.

Once satisfied you have enough food to please your stomach, you proceed to the cashier's stand, a smart adaptation which gives the diner a way of expediting a sometime short lunch break: You don't have to wait to find a server when you are done with your meal. You can speed things up.

Another unique feature of Sandy's is availability of a washbasin with a sign asking patrons to put used dishes in the basin. This saves wear and tear on servers and gives the customer a feeling of righteousness in having adopted at least some responsibility for cleaning up.

With attractive prices, a very substantial variety of food items available, and an easy pull-up parking option, Sandy's (the restaurant) is obviously a welcome addition to Majuro's eating out inventory. Grab a friend and go experience — you'll be happy you did!



Top: Visiting Japanese tourist Kai Sato and Motoi Aizawa enjoy a selection of sushi at Sandy's. Below: Sandy's dining area. Photos: Hilary Hosia.









Rongelap Mayor James signs the agreement as Internal Affairs' Ruthlynn Lakior looks on.

CLGF assists mayors group

Deal to include regional sharing

An agreement signed earlier this month between the Commonwealth Local Government (CLGF) and the Marshall Islands Mayors Association (MIMA) sets forth what local governments in Marshall Islands will receive in 2014 from the agency. MIMA President James Matayoshi of Rongelap signed the agreement with CLGF regional Director Karibaiti Taoaba. According to Shailendra Prasad, Project Manager for the RMI, CLGF will assist MIMA to pay for the operation of its secretariat, which includes staff salaries and office expenses while MIMA builds and strengthens it financial ability to fully support itself after the end of the program.

CLGF, which is based in Suva, Fiji, will also assist with the development of nine local government strategy plans and local economic development plans. MIMA has tentatively identified the nine local governments that will benefit from the initial grant assistance. "The process is to start with what we have now and eventually provide a management plan for all the islands in order for them to establish the proper management and economic plans to bring economic development and opportunities to the islands," said Matayoshi.

This initiative has resulted from a request from MIMA to take advantage of the National Strategy Plan for the Marshall Islands that is under draft and awaiting the endorsement of RMI Cabinet. The island strategy plans will enable local government agencies in the Marshall Islands to implement their parts of of the national plan to build the island economy.

"It is up to the local governments and the mayors of the atolls to fully absorb and utilize the opportunities available from the grants," said Matayoshi. "The Secretariat of MIMA will ensure that the mayors are fully equipped to handle this important role." CLGF will also assist in developing a strategy that will map out the future direction of the Mayors Association so that it will become a strong development partner for improving island life. The assistance will also support the 2014 annual general meeting and a financial sustainability study to support MIMA. There's also support to grow the Pacific Islands Local Government Association Network (PILGAN), a regional body of local government associations in the Pacific which was set up last year at a meeting in Auckland, New Zealand.

Mayor Matayoshi was unanimously selected to chair the new body, whose role is to consolidate development aid for the group and seek grants to develop good governance within the local government set up. Current members are Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands.

There will be regional meetings that MIMA will be invited to attend including a technical advisory panel of CLGF which is held annually and the biennial Pacific Local Government Forum, which will be held in May this year in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. These are important meetings which showcase sharing opportunities among members on success stories that could be emulated in other countries.

"MIMA is delighted with this assistance that will ensure a managerial platform for the local governments to do their part in terms of nation building," Matayoshi said. MIMA's Executive Committee is meeting this week to finalize the selection of the first nine islands to receive planning assistance under the grant. Matayoshi confirmed MIMA's plan to seek support for all islands in the RMI to eventually have an island strategy plan to accommodate the national development plan.

RMI JUDICIARY
Office of the Clerk of the Courts

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Elane kwo bod ak guilty kin charge eo ak charge ko nae yuk einwot aer walok ilo citation eo am, kwo jab aikuj in jede ilo court imaan juon judge non ronjake case eo am ak komaron etal wot im kolla fine ilo Obiij eo an Clerk ilo District Court mokta jen raan eo tulal ilo citation ej kwalok bwe kwon jede ilo court. Elane kwonaj kommane wawein in, innem (1) Fine eo am enaj driklok (juon discount) nan juon drettan eo juon judge enaj karoke; (2) Koban aikuj in jede ilo courtroom eo imaan juon judge nan ronjake case eo am.





Nuclear test survivors (left) were recognized during Nuclear Remembrance Day ceremonies last Saturday, while a US delegation led by Rose Gottemoeller, Acting Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, visited the Bikini community on Ejit Island.

Photos: Isaac Marty and Hilary Hosia.

RMI wants US to resolve



Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak called on the United States Saturday to resolve the "unfinished business" of its nuclear testing legacy in this western Pacific nation.

"We remain the closest of friends with the United States, but there is unfinished business relating to the nuclear weapons testing that must be addressed," he told a ceremony in Majuro marking the 60th anniversary of the 15-megaton Bravo hydrogen bomb test at Bikini atoll, which contaminated many islands with radioactive fallout in 1954.

Loeak said that the unfinished business not only affects four atolls that the US government acknowledges as exposed, but also many islands throughout the country.

A nuclear compensation agreement was negotiated in 1983 as part of the Compact of Free Association through which the US government provided the Marshall Islands with $150 million to settle all nuclear test claims.

But it wasn't until over 10 years after this agreement was approved that the Clinton Administration released formerly secret documents about the nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands that confirmed dozens of islands — not only the four atolls — were exposed to fallout not only from Bravo but other hydrogen bomb tests in the country.

Loeak called this "dramatic new information that had not been revealed to Marshall Islands negotiators.

It is "abundantly clear that the agreement was not negotiated in good faith and does not provide a fair and just settlement of the damages caused," Loeak said. US Ambassador Thomas Armbruster, who delivered prepared remarks in both English and Marshallese languages, said "words are insufficient to express the sadness" of the 60th anniversary of the Bravo test.

Because of the nuclear weapons tests, "today we live in a safer world," Armbruster said. The US government is continuing to work with the Marshall Islands to provide health care and environmental monitoring of several affected islands, he said.

Bikini Islander Hinton Johnson criticized the level of compensation the displaced Bikinians receive from funds provided by the US government.

"Today, each person receives $46 per month or a little over one dollar per day," he said during the ceremony. A Nuclear Claims Tribunal had awarded the Bikinians over $560 million in compensation and nuclear test clean up funding, but had no money to pay this award, he said. "We ask the US and Marshall Islands governments to provide the money for the Tribunal's award for the time we've been homeless and unable to return to our homeland," Johnson said.

'We remain the closest of friends with the United States, but there is unfinished business relating to the nuclear weapons testing that must be addressed.'
– Christopher Loeak



Visiting Ailuk for Bravo research



Like many younger people from Japan, the Marshall Islands and other areas affected by nuclear exposures, Motoi Aizawa (pictured right) knew nothing about her hometown's connection to the Bravo hydrogen bomb test in the Marshall Islands.

Aizawa, who is in Majuro this week to join in Bravo 60th anniversary commemoration ceremonies and activities, is from the Shizuoka area of Japan, where the Lucky Dragon fishing vessel was home-ported.

The Lucky Dragon had the misfortune to be near Bikini Atoll on March 1, 1954. The fishing boat was engulfed in fallout, and its crew and fish catch were severely exposed to radiation. When the vessel returned to Japan, it touched off an international incident between the US and Japan, caused a panic over contamination of tuna caught in the Pacific, and led to the US providing a compensation payment to the Japan government.

But Aizawa, despite growing up in the area where this boat was home-ported, knew nothing of this story — other than having heard the name "Lucky Dragon."

It wasn't until last year when she watched a film about the Bikini bomb tests that she became aware of the story. "I was surprised to learn the fishermen were exposed to radiation," she said in Majuro this week. Because she was aware of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster, her new awareness of the Bikini tests prompted her to start learning about similarities between Bikini and Fukushima. "I wanted to learn more," she said. "It's why I came to Majuro."

She is planning to spend a week on Ailuk Atoll to learn about their experience with the Bravo test as well as the way of life on the outer island. "I plan to talk to people who know about Ailuk before and after the nuclear tests."







Japanese film crews and other media representatives were in town to cover the 60th anniversary of Bravo, while many local people, including a Rongelap delegation (far right), joined the event.

its 'unfinished business'

RMI damage motivated Oishi to speak

GIFF JOHNSON

Many of the Japanese fishermen on the Lucky Dragon vessel exposed to high-level fallout from the Bravo test in 1954 were pressured not to speak publicly about their experience. And today, only a handful of the 23 are still alive.

Matashichi Oishi, 80, said he is the only fisherman who has taken a public stand about nuclear testing and shared his experience from the Bravo event. It was a visit to the Marshall Islands more than 10 years ago that motivated him to speak publicly.

"When I learned of the damage to the Marshallese people, it made me more determined to speak out about my experience," Oishi said in Majuro last week. He was here to attend the 60th anniversary of the Bravo test. "Before, I didn't know Marshallese were so affected by Bravo."

All the fishermen who lived in the port city of Yaizu "were strongly pressured by locals and elected leaders not to speak out," Oishi said. In addition, Japanese discriminated against radiation victims, making it difficult to get a job, he said. Most people don't understand much about radiation effects, he said. "You can't see it, smell it," he said. "It's not part of daily life. But from my own experience of being exposed to a nuclear test, I know what would happen if a single bomb was used. My mission is to make known to the public the dangers of nuclear weapons."



Lucky Dragon fisherman Matashichi Oishi, above and right, with translator Yayoi Tsuchida, spoke at the ceremony at the capital building.



Oishi said he is lucky, having survived cancer. "I'm grateful for my life," he said. "Most crew died in their 40s or 50s without expressing their anger. So I have to express it on their behalf." Only seven crew members are still alive, he said.

An experience that is similar to one experienced by Marshallese, Oishi talked about being "tormented by fear of death all the time" as a result of his exposure to Bravo fallout.

This fear didn't start immediately on his return to port in 1954, but grew over time as he watched his colleagues get sick and die, he said.

Oishi spoke at Assumption High School, exchanged with Rongelap and other Marshallese bomb survivors, and said he hoped to visit Rongelap this week. He returns to Japan this weekend.

Message from His Holiness, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad the Imam and Head of the Worldwide

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

LOVE FOR ALL - HATRED FOR NONE

"First of all, a fundamental and basic teaching of Islam is that a true Muslim is a person from whose tongue and hand all other peaceful people are safe. This is the definition of a Muslim given by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (on whom be peace). After hearing this basic and beautiful principle, can any allegation or complaint be levelled against Islam? Certainly not."

Excerpt from WORLD CRISIS AND THE PATHWAY TO PEACE - GET YOUR COPY TODAY! - 456-5960

Jenrok oceanside road sand barrier before and after scene





The Jenrok ocean side shoreline at Demon Town is in need of help. A defensive mode was in motion. On February 14, the Journal found that sand and coral rocks were pushed onto the shoreline from the beach as a barrier against the regular flow of high tides that inundate the road. High tides in mid-February nibbled at the pile. But Monday's wave surge washed away the sand, leaving rubble and debris in its wake. There were eight coconut trees standing after high tides last month. After Monday's wave assault, there are only seven. This may be the last line of defense before the waves can go 'all offense' on the back road. Is there another defensive measure that can be put into place?

Photos: Isaac Marty

Key climate meeting in RMI

RMI will host an important meeting from April 1 to 4 with climate change ambassadors and lead negotiators from 40 nations who are trying to remove roadblocks standing in the way of a new treaty to be adopted late next year in Paris. Majuro will play host to as many as 60 delegates attending the Cartagena Dialogue for Progressive Action, a group representing all of the world's regions.

"The Marshall Islands is proud to welcome representatives from around the world, and as host nation we will encourage negotiators to tackle the tough issues," said President Christopher Loeak.

"Our Marshallese hospitality and beautiful setting will go a long way in helping ambassadors see 'eye to eye' – and our vulnerability to rising seas will remind everyone of the need for strong action."

Delegates will be housed at the Marshall Islands Resort. A formal opening is anticipated at the ICC, and delegations will have an opportunity to visit sites in Majuro and meet with local people involved in climate activity, in addition to focusing on dialogue in the meeting.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination are working together with other key offices, including United Airlines, to ensure the meeting is a success.

Donor commitments to assist with the meeting's hosting and travel costs have already come forward from Germany, Norway, New Zealand and England. RMI is also providing funding support and government officials said they anticipate all costs will be covered and vendors will be paid before the meeting commences.

The US State Department has also offered assistance in addressing transit visa applications. The Cartagena Dialogue was initiated in early 2010 to reach across traditional political divisions, and forge agreement on "common ground" solutions while also leading with strong domestic efforts on renewable energy and emissions cuts. The network has since played an important role in helping to push forward some major climate decisions.

Members of the Cartagena Dialogue come from all corners of the world – Europe, the Americas, Africa, the Pacific, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Asia. Over 25 invited nations have already responded, including Samoa, Indonesia, Mexico, Chile, Ghana, Sweden, Norway, the UK, the European Union, the Gambia, New Zealand, Panama, Maldives, Lebanon, Gambia, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Rwanda, France, Germany, the Dominican Republic, among others.

In collaboration with meeting organizers, RMI has also issued special regional invitations to Kiribati, FSM, Nauru and Palau, as well as South Korea. RMI is also seeking group approval to issue a special regional invitation to the United States — whose Secretary of State John Kerry recently declared climate change to be "perhaps the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction."

'The Marshall Islands is proud to welcome representatives from around the world, and as host nation we will encourage negotiators to tackle the tough issues.' – Christopher Loeak

Australian Government

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Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2015 for full time undergraduate and post-graduate study in Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa. Awards cover tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Have completed an Associate Degree or equivalent, or due to complete by **June 2014** with minimum GPA of 2.8, ***OR***
- Be over 25 years old with High School GPA 2.8 or above and have a minimum of 5 years work experience related to the field of study.

Students just finishing High School are **NOT** eligible.

Applications are available at the Australian Embassy website:
www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

All completed applications should be submitted online unless there are extenuating circumstances that prevent the applicant from doing so or if applying to Fiji School of Nursing or Fiji School of Technology. Applications are due by the 30th of April 2014.

If you have any questions please contact
Joyce Gehr at joyce.gehr@dfat.gov.au or +691 320.5448 ext. 110

Drought relief in action

With dry conditions again hitting northern islands, the Marshall Islands launched relief efforts late last month.

"In close collaboration with USAID, IOM, International Federation of the Red Cross, AusAID, European Union, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and local governments, water assistance has been provided to a number of northern atolls and islands in response to recent water needs," said Chief Secretary Casten Nemra.

Bottles of water and reverse osmosis units have been deployed to Ujae, Lae, Wotho, Lib, Ailuk, Mejit, Likiep, Wotje and Maloelap.

As part of recovery effort activities from 2013 drought, water catchments were also installed in Namu, Lib, Aur, Maloelap, Wotje, Likiep, Mejit, Ailuk and the islets of Mejatto, Ebadon, Santo and Ebeye of Kwajalein Atoll, Nemra said. "There remain significant gaps to meet minimum international water standards of one person to have access to one gallon per day," he said. To respond to this problem, "the RMI government continues to work closely with donor partners on this humanitarian initiative," he said.



It's all smoke and mirrors in Ng's class

"The most effective way to teach my students is by doing demonstrations and hands on experiments," Majuro Middle School science teacher **Dennis Ng** said of his seventh grade class.

The Dartmouth volunteer had students follow as he read instructions of a mirror experiment. He then had the students engage in demonstrations in front of their peers. The experiment: Two students sat on different chairs facing each other. Using a small mirror, the students placed the mirror directly in front of one eye while looking at their partner. Then the students described what they saw to the class.

Photo: Hilary Hosia

LooKing BacK at the BoMb TeSts



The Baker test.

*Ejit Elementary School student **Babyann Lewis** read the following essay last week at a Nuclear Survivors Remembrance Day ceremony hosted by the Bikini community last week at Delap Park. The essay was written by 7th and 8th grade students at the school who include, in addition to Babyann, **Erica Capelle**, **Stephen Joel, Anna Jokon, Jenetty Rujke, Bitianto Wottokna, Billma Melson, Salome Fakatou**, and **Judah Bejiko**.*



Front from left: Judah Bejiko, Joselynn Kilma, Billma Melson, and Anna Jokon. Back: Babyann Lewis, Erica Capelle, Stephen Joel, and Bitianto Wottokna. Missing: Jenetty Rujke, Salome Fakatou.

About 68 years ago, the Bikini people left Bikini and searched for another island because the US military wanted to test bombs there. Bikinians were forced to leave. Many people thought that only one bomb was tested, but between 1946 and 1958, 23 nuclear bombs were tested there. The bomb that affected the most people was called Bravo. Bravo, the strongest and most powerful bomb detonated in Bikini, reached Rongelap, Rongerik, Utrik, and Ailinginae atolls. The ashes burned the skin of the people living on these atolls. The bombs destroyed our coral reef, animals, soil, and plants. It poisoned our island, our home.

Whenever we sit with our grandparents and they tell us stories about Bikini, we feel sad and embarrassed because we are not in the right place, and we are using somebody else's island. We are using Ejit and Kili as our home, but they are not our real homes. We have never seen or known Bikini, we have only seen pictures and movies. Our mothers, fathers, grandmothers, and grandfathers miss Bikini, and we miss it with them. We are not the generation of those who were moved a long time ago, but it is our responsibility to go back home and keep our Bikinian culture.

We are happy and proud to be Bikinian because to be Bikinian means to stay alive. We are the generation who has to keep fighting for Bikinians.

We cannot forget our people who have passed away. We will remember until we die. We will teach our children like our parents taught us. We have to remember so we can stand and fight for Bikinian people. When the Compact ends, we Bikinians will say to the American people that they cannot end the Compact for the people of Bikini as long as we are not on our own land. Not all Americans know what the US did. They forget. They forget about the Bikinian people, but Bikinians were promised that they would return home. We cannot forget that the United States made a promise to us. We will be strong and fight until we go back home.



Marshall Islands High School was busy with activities during education week last month. Morning assemblies during the five days had different subjects involving students in presenting projects or competing in contests such as debates. The final day on Friday concluded with more activities by the school of 999 students.
Photo: Isaac Marty

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

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'The answer to our economic growth'

CURTIS S. CHIN



Curtis S. Chin served as US Ambassador to the Asian Development Bank under Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush (2007-2010). He is a managing director with advisory firm RiverPeak Group, LLC.

The Marshall Islands, Burma and Somalia are worlds apart — or are they? When it comes to doing business, there are few places worse, it seems, than the likes of Burma and Somalia. That's according to the World Bank, which has Burma, also known as Myanmar, ranked as worst in Asia and the Pacific — at 182nd of 189 rated economies — on the ease of doing business.

The RMI though should not take heart in the retort, "Well, at least we're better than Burma or Somalia." Nor should the government see investment from a relatively more risk-tolerant and resource-hungry China, or continued assistance from the United States as a long-term solution to the challenge of creating jobs and growing the economy.

Rounding out the "Top Five" for worst in the Asia-Pacific region in The World Bank 2014 Doing Business report — the latest annual assessment of the ease of doing business in economies around the world — are Timor-Leste (179), Afghanistan (164), Laos (159) and the Federated States of Micronesia (156). The Marshall Islands is ranked 114.

Clearly, investing in Somalia is not for the faint hearted. Somalia is quite literally off the charts, as the World Bank report once again skips Somalia completely.

Lawlessness and lack of reliable data are no doubt two of the factors why Somalia continues to be absent in the rankings. Yet, just as in the Top five ranked economies for ease of doing business — Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, the United States and Denmark — there are lessons to be taken even from Somalia on how best to grow economies and address persistent poverty, whether in Africa or in Asia.

More than ever, given dwindling government budgets and reduced foreign assistance dollars, the private sector — whether brave entrepreneurs, small- and medium-sized enterprises or well-established and deep-pocketed corporations — can play a critical role in fighting poverty and growing economies, including in the Marshall Islands.

With well-thought-through partnerships, such efforts can be done in a way that is good for business and more sustainable than aid and assistance packages subject to donor fatigue, legislative gridlock or budget cuts.

Just ask Alisha Ryu and David Snelson, the two American business pioneers first spotlighted by me in Fortune magazine. The two entrepreneurs are behind a Mogadishu guesthouse and security firm, which employs nearly 40 Somali men and women, and by a conservative estimate, indirectly supports another 400 extended family members.

Ryu, a former combat journalist, and Snelson, a retired US Army warrant officer, have been living and running their business in Mogadishu full time since 2011. Last year, the US news program 60 Minutes described their role in digging up and returning to the United States the remains of a helicopter shot down and made famous in the book and blockbuster Hollywood film "Blackhawk Down." Both recount the US military raid to capture a Somali warlord. A deadly battle ensued, killing hundreds of Somalis and 19 Americans 20 years ago in Mogadishu this past October.

That battle was just one of many tragedies in this restless nation on the Horn of Africa. Since then, Somalia has been by ravaged by clan warfare, and feared worldwide as a breeding ground for pirates and al-Shabaab militants.

Ryu told me, "It was, and still is, our hope that by showing it is possible to do business in Somalia in a smart, knowledgeable way, others will follow our example." Indeed, whether in Asia, Africa or the United States, it will be small businesses and entrepreneurs — regardless of nationality — who will drive long-term change and job creation.

"Business investments that can make money and simultaneously empower communities at the grassroots level is key to economic growth and the reduction of poverty-related violence in Somalia and everywhere else in the world," Snelson says.

For nearly four years, I served as US Ambassador to and board member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), a role that took me to the RMI and other Pacific island nations. The ADB is an international financial institution focused on poverty reduction and infrastructure investments — and there too, Ryu and Snelson's message would have great relevance.

While development banks and aid agencies can provide incremental good, it is good governance and a strong rule of law that are critical to businesses and essential to job creation and long-term growth. Indeed, Singapore and Hong Kong are Asia-Pacific examples of how economic freedom and business growth can go hand in hand.

The private sector must be a critical partner if we are to create jobs and sustainably lift people out of poverty.

Yet, too often, inept bureaucracy, poor or poorly enforced regulation, interventions by government and endemic corruption get in the way. These challenges of the "little bric" may well be a longer-term constraint to growth and one of the biggest impediments to building better lives for people everywhere, including in the world's most fragile and conflict-affected states.

Few may have the nerve, or the heart, to do what Ryu and Snelson are trying to do in Somalia — building a business that can turn a profit while promoting economic growth.

But by creating jobs for three dozen Somalis who would otherwise be prey for pirates and religious extremists, perhaps they offer a bit of hope and an example that a small business can have an impact, regardless of how long or how fleeting, even in the most troubled places and most difficult places to do business in the world.

Few are likely to follow in Ryu and Snelson's footsteps to Somalia to start a business. But government policy makers everywhere, including in the Marshall Islands, should well consider what it takes to move up the ranks for ease of doing business, and what that might mean for further job creation, economic growth and equality of opportunity everywhere.

Health Is A Shared Responsibility

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
Ministry of Health

Ejmour Ej Adwõj Jimor Eddo

Phone: 625-5660/1 Fax: 625-3432
P.O. Box 16, Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960
Email: rmimohe@ntamar.net OR
jusmohe@ntamar.net

KEJBAROK EJMOUR EO AM

Ekkar nan WHO World Health Organization im ro uaan NCD (Non communicable Disease) Alliance ro mottan rej ba, mona mona in keejmour, kelaplok am komakitkit enbwinium, im jab kobatat emaron in bobrae: 80% in naninmij in Menono problem, 80% in Type 2 Tonal im 40% naninmij in Kenjer.

WAAN JONAK:

- **Exercise (enod ak ekkat ilo jikin kallip eo am im komakitkit enbwinium ilo juon raan emaron 30 minute in etetal)**



- **En lap am mona leen wojke ko im vegetable ko emaron 4 kottan juon raan**



- **Jidrik wot am mona kaniek ilo jibbon, raelep, im jota**
- **En lap am idraak aiboj**

Kwobojak ke nan kadiklok jonan eddo eo am? Ne aet, kwon kejerbal tool eo emmantata! Nan ro me rej konan kadilok jonan eddo eo aer, tool eo ejimwe im jejjet tata nan jiban eok, **KOLEMENLOKJEN** eo am (lifestyle). Ta ko kwoj lomanki rej erom men ko kwoj kommani. Am kenono nan eok make emaron in komman oktak. Emoj baj ukot mok!

- **Ne kwo baj ba naij mona mona in keejmour rainin!**
- **Naij ton kadiklok jonan eddo eo ao!**
- **Elukin bidodo imaron kommane!**





Nan bok melele ko rellaplok jouj im kir tok office eo an Health Promotion & Disease Prevention ilo phone 625-3355, ext. 2407/2417

Cast and crew put on a superlative performance

Art imitates life in Fiddler on the Roof

JACK NIEDENTHAL

The erosion of tradition. The breakup of families. The destruction of an ancient, long-standing community. Passionate politics. Music that captures the soul. The struggle to make ends meet. Love in its rawest, emotional form.

Just another day in the Marshall Islands? No, this is the 1905 village of Anatevka in Tsarist Russia and the story that grips us is the latest play directed by Andrew Garrod of Youth Bridge Global, "Fiddler on the Roof." With over 40 actors mostly from local Majuro high schools, the stage production opened Tuesday night to a packed house that came away delighted and astounded by yet another gem of a show.

Of all the plays put on by Professor Garrod over the years, nothing has come as close to the Marshallese spirit as the story within "Fiddler on the Roof." The parallels between the modern day Marshall Islands and this tiny Russian village are at times oh-so-obvious and at times subtle. The story centers on Tevye (John Riklon T/TH/S, Vahid Pedro W/F), the father of five daughters, and his attempts to maintain his family and Jewish religious traditions while outside influences encroach upon their lives. He must cope both with the strong-willed actions of his three older daughters — each one's choice of husband moves further away from the customs of his faith — and with the edict of the Tsar that evicts the Jews from their village.

John Riklon plays Tevye the milkman — a hugely demanding role — flawlessly. In his presentation of the old Jewish patriarch who believes that tradition is the cornerstone of his society, he carries us magically through the entire story. The remarkably talented Jennifer Andrike, whose rangy singing voice and exuberant acting skills as Tevye's grouchy, sharp-tongued wife Golde, combine with co-star Riklon's talents to make for as good of a male/female performance as we've seen in any of these productions over the years.

The three eldest daughters, played by Selina Leem, Yolanie Jurelang and Deborah Lajar were all well cast and performed masterfully.

Yolanie's brilliant, heartfelt rendition of "Far From the Home I Love" was the most touching of the scenes as I could see the tears well in her eyes as she sang a good-bye to her beloved father before she embarked on her journey to Siberia to be with her imprisoned husband, Perchik (Bryant Zebety).

You couldn't help but to think that almost everyone in the audience at one time or another has probably had to face the same agonizing situation of loved ones departing the islands to start a new life somewhere far away.









Great performances were turned in by, clockwise from top left: Jennifer Andrike, Vahid Pedro and Kathy Armbruster; Deborah Lajar; Erick Abo and Joanna Joseph; and Nelle Edcar Tulensa. The play continues nightly at ICC through Saturday. The show starts at 8pm.

Photos: Hilary Hosia.

'As I watched the village of Anatevka get uprooted by the Tsarists at the end of the play, I couldn't help but think of the waves that engulfed parts of our island at the beginning of this week.'

Catalina Kijiner, who played Yente the matchmaker, was hysterically funny each and every time she was on the stage poking around with her cane. Motel Kamzoil the tailor, played by Eric Abo, and the Rabbi, played by Baron Noah, also gave us incredibly entertaining and memorable performances that brought numerous bouts of laughter from the audience.

The costumes and stage sets were magnificent and seem to get more authentic with each play. The dancing was enchantingly choreographed, a particular favorite of mine being The Bottle Dance.

As I watched the village of Anatevka get uprooted by the Tsarists at the end of the play, I couldn't help but think of the waves that engulfed parts of our island at the beginning of this week.

It is an eerie-yet-timely parallel: might we all one day be packing our pots and pans and heading for America and points beyond as the sea levels overtake us wiping out our traditions, splitting up our families and presenting us with drastic, uncertain futures? Indeed, the sad faces of the villagers as they left their homes on the stage in a sense hardly felt like acting to me at all. Mazel tov.

Land Grant focused on 2023

The College of Micronesia's Board of Regents, with three members representing RMI, FSM and Palau, held its annual meeting in Majuro at CMI Campus earlier this month.

The Board reelected Education Minister Dr. Hilda Heine as chairperson, FSM Regent Lyndon Cornelius as vice chair and Palau's Regent Masa-Aki Emesiochl as Secretary/Treasurer.

The board approved $85,000 from COM Endowment Fund to support COM-FSM's accreditation-related activities; and offered the same funding support through the governing boards of College of the Marshall Islands and the Palau Community College.

It also approved a plan to compensate Land Grant scientists for publications on research findings for their USDA-approved projects; and for publication of booklets, brochures, and related materials for extension programs.

The board also authorized the COM Executive Director to develop an incentive plan for scientists/researchers who voluntarily agree to extend their research work to other sites in Micronesia depending the needs under the "multi-state/multi-site strategy." Through this program, the results of the sea cucumber research work in the Pohnpei Land Grant hatchery would be shared with the Marshall Islands, Palau, Chuuk and Yap. Training on half-pearls' production, which pearl expert Masahiro Ito got started in Pohnpei, will be extended to CMI at Arrak.



Left, CMI's Carl Hacker.

The successful spawning of mangrove crabs at PCC in Palau will be shared immediately with Yap, Pohnpei and other locations. Agriculture work, through tissue culture, that has been carried out in Kosrae will be applied for Pohnpei pepper multiplication to assist in the expansion of the pepper farm. Agriculture work on other crops, including taro, sweet potato and even pineapple, could also be demonstrated in Majuro and other locations.

The "multi-state approach" for research will be tried for three years and will be evaluated to see if it results in increased production of agriculture and aquaculture products, said Dr. Singeru Singeo, COM Land Grant's Executive Director. He said the board is taking action to assist in the development of exportable products in the next couple of years in anticipation of 2023, the last year of US Compact funding. Selection of products that need research support will be based on recommendations by appropriate government authorities in the various countries, he added.

Attending the meeting were: CMI Regent Marie Maddison, representing Minister Heine, COM-FSM Regent Cornelius, and COM Regent Emesiochl, representing Palau. Also attending the meeting was CMI President Carl Hacker, COM-FSM President Dr. Joseph Daisy, COM Land Grant Executive Director Dr. Singeru Singeo, and Micronesia Land-Grant Associate Directors: CMI's Biuma Samson, PCC's Thomas Taro, COM-FSM's Jim Currie and COM Fiscal Officer Ricardo Vera Cruz.

The next meeting will be in Palau the first week of June.



College of Micronesia Board of Regents with representative members from the RMI, FSM and Palau at their annual meeting in Majuro.

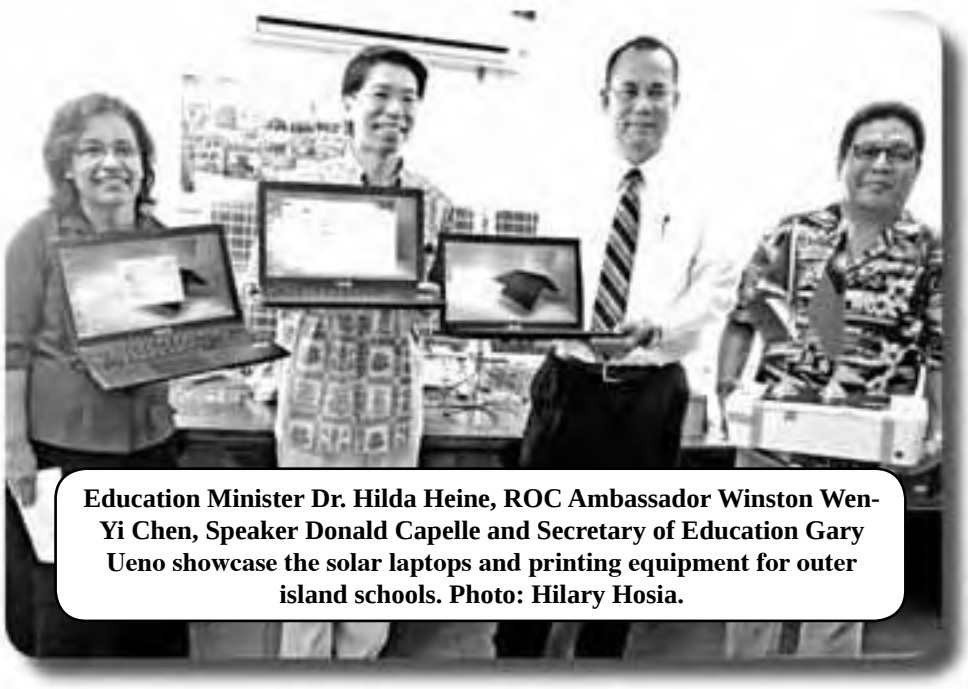
NZ office opens in HI

New Zealand plans to open a Consulate General in Honolulu to strengthen ties with northern Pacific nations. New Zealand's new Consul General in Honolulu will be cross-accredited to Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

"With the Pacific Islands Forum in the Marshall Islands last year and Palau this year, the region's attention is focused on the northern Pacific and the unique issues these island nations face," New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully told Radio New Zealand International.

"We want to advance our relationship with the people and governments of the northern Pacific and opening a Consulate General in Honolulu is a practical way of demonstrating New Zealand's commitment to these countries."

Currently, New Zealand's High Commission in Kiribati provides representation to the RMI, FSM and Palau.



Education Minister Dr. Hilda Heine, ROC Ambassador Winston Wen-Yi Chen, Speaker Donald Capelle and Secretary of Education Gary Ueno showcase the solar laptops and printing equipment for outer island schools. Photo: Hilary Hosia.

ROC gifts solar laptops to outer island schools

Republic of China (Taiwan) Ambassador Winston Wen-Yi Chen handed over $300,000 worth of Solar Laptop Learning Systems to Minister of Education Dr. Hilda Heine last Wednesday.

This project, including 93 solar-powered laptops, 31 printers, and teaching materials, aims to improve educational facilities for the students in outer islands, where lack of electricity and access to technology. In addition to the above-mentioned equipment, Taiwan also provided a $20,000 check to assist the Ministry of Education to distribute and install the equipment in outer islands.

Ambassador Chen pointed out that ROC government cares about the well-being of the people in the outer islands and this project can significantly improve the computer literacy of the students in the outer islands.

Nitijela Speaker Donald Capelle, Education Secretary Gary Ueno, school principals and students also attended the ceremony.

SOLICITATION OF INTEREST AND QUALIFICATION TO BID

The RMI High Court through the PMU, Ministry of Public Works is soliciting interested Contractors to submit letter of interest to bid for the replacement **RMI Courthouse Main Roof**.

Bid Documents for the above-mentioned project is available for review at the Ministry of Public Works Office, Majuro Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Letter of Interest will be accepted at the PMU Office from February 21 - 28, 2014 closing @ 5:00PM. All prospective Bidders are required to submit letter of interest addressed to:

Secretary of Public Works
PO Box 1727, Majuro MH 96960
Republic of the Marshall Islands
OR e-mail to: rvsunga@yahoo.com

Interested Contractors who are qualified for the above project will be notified by the PMU in writing and shall be provided with the bid documents. Schedule of the pre-bid meeting will be advised in writing by the Project Management Unit.

Nuclear waste storage

Journal 3/8/1968

P2 Lunch act includes TT

Representative Patsy Mink successfully amended the National School Lunch Act to include the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. "During my recent field trip to the TT, I was greatly impressed with need for the school lunch program as an incentive to children to attend school," Mike said.

P2 Youth Corps funded

The Marshall Islands Youth Corps has finally received government funding…$75,000 has been allocated to the Trust Territory. Total enrollment is to be 175 volunteers, with 25 for Ebeye and 25 for Majuro (the rest for Palau, N. Marianas, Yap, Ponape and Truk. The enrollees are to participate in a work experience so that they acquire skills necessary for permanent employment.

Journal 3/11/1977

P2 Must Ebeye be handled unconstitutionally?

According to District Emergency Order No. 76-1, which was created by the District Administrator on April 13, 1976, and Nitijela Resolution No. 59, which states that Ebeye, because of its over-crowdedness and the lack of fresh water for drinking and washing and salt water for toilets, etc., is a hazardous area for the health and well being of the population and as a consequence a person going to Ebeye has to get permission from the DistAd or DistAd Rep. Kwaj. Because the Emergency District Order includes everyone, it doesn't matter whether you are from Kwajalein or not, you have to get permission from the DistAd/DistAd Rep. Kwajalein. Because every individual has the right to express his feelings because Kwajalein is my home island given to me by my ancestors, I would like, at this time, to share my opinion regarding this law that limits the people of Kwajalein from visiting their relatives on their own home island. To refuse permission to these people wishing to visit their home island is unethical for the simple fact that an individual is free to go wherever he wishes, especially if it's his own island. —Yoda Nysta





The front covers of each newspaper featured in this week's column.



What we were saying way back when

Journal 3/7/1977

P4 Waste feasibility proposals on table

The Marshall Islands government is considering two proposals for conducting feasibility studies into nuclear waste storage here, the Foreign Minister said this week. Two US-based companies have submitted proposals to conduct studies. The Cabinet has asked for more information to clarify a proposal provided by B&W, which Minister Phillip Muller described as a large waste management company. Raytheon, which is the main contractor at Kwajalein, also submitted a proposal. The first proposal identifies Wotho Atoll as a candidate for a feasibility study. A group visit to Wotho last month to review feasibility study options. No atoll had been selected or confirmed, Muller said. The State Department has expressed concern about the nuclear waste proposals, Muller said, adding that the Marshalls will keep both the US government and its friends in the region informed if concrete steps are taken on the feasibility study. The proposal under consideration by the Marshalls would involve nuclear waste from Taiwan, while Alex Copson's company is targeting Russian and American nuclear waste.

P11 Whistleblowers

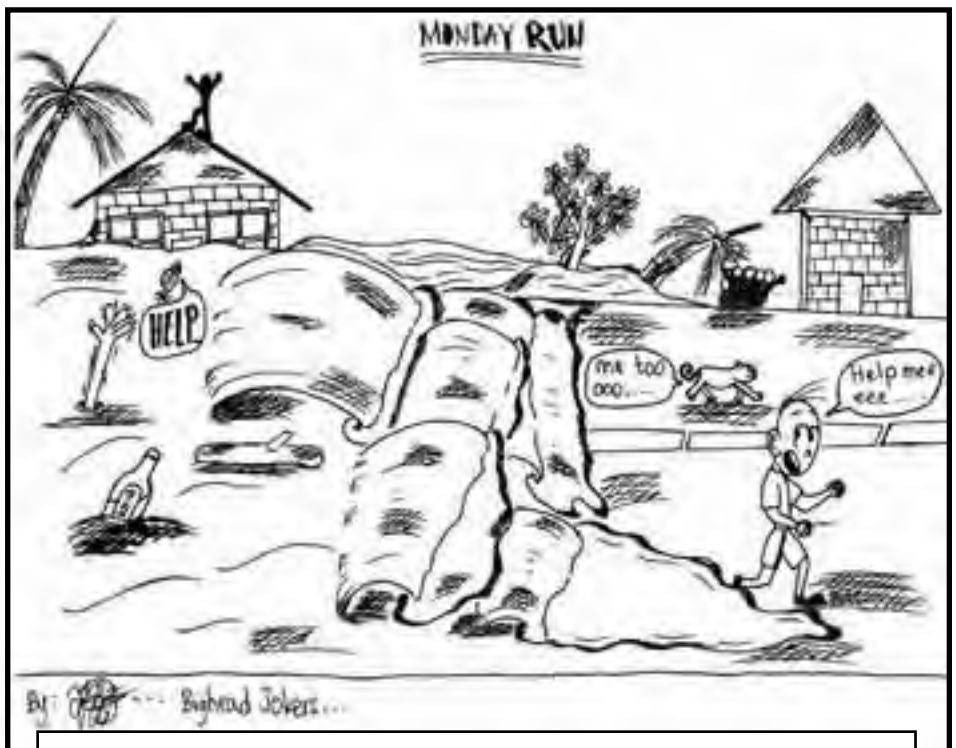
These six guys holding certificates were among a grouip that recently completed a basketball referees' training program and are now certified. They include: Ted Carlan, Alex Maine, Mike Kilo, Winjan Ritok, Ronnie Lakabung, James Kiluwe, Daniel Andrew and Charles Abraham.

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Man: Warrar! You're so beautiful! ***Mermaid:*** You monkey! Aren't you afraid of those waves?



ETTOR IN MONDRE

Person in the water: Jippan! ***Person running:*** Jippañ ieooooo...***Cat:*** Bar ña!



TA EO AR WALOK JEN WOT 'HIGH TIDE' KO

Student: Dad, one of my classmates said there's no school today because it's a holiday. ***Father:*** Holiday rot? ***Student:*** Ran an ro rar jorrean jen no ko.



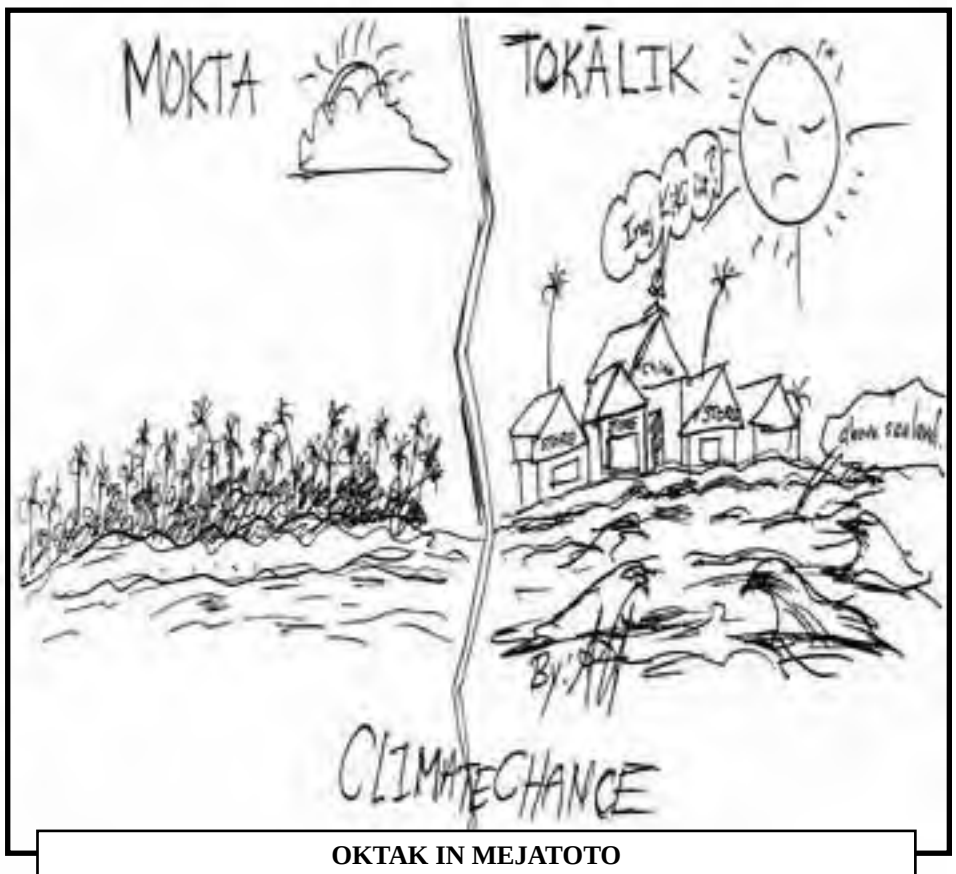
THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE AND YOUR FAMILIES' HEALTH

Woman: Jera, I am pregnant. You want us to live together but we didn't finish school and we're not married yet. ***Man:*** Ah, I can't wait! I'm flipping this coin so if it's heads, we will have a girl. If it's tails, we will have a boy.



EDIK KEA KAKE BELAAK KO BELAAKID

Worker: Imok kin cup e! ***Dog:*** Woof, woof, woof! ***Student:*** Imok kin katak kein! ***Janitor:*** Imok kin kwobij kane ami!



OKTAK IN MEJATOTO

AFTER. Person on the roof: Where will I live? ***Fish:*** Juon jikin eutiej lok jen ioon dren.

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The book you don't want to miss. The story of Wotje's Darlene Keju, health pioneer and founder of Youth to Youth in Health, and champion for Marshall Islands nuclear test survivors.
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THE BRAVO FILES

'Kim ej bed wot ilo am kwole lok ilo aelon eo.'

Jeadrik ej etal wot im bukwot jimwe eo

Evelyn: 'Rejab jab taktoik er, ak reaini wot melele ko ikijjen jorrean in bomb eo'



'Konan eo am kio ej, bwe kimin kotobrak konan ko an ro jinem im jemem, ro emoj aer jako, bwe kimin bar kejeblaak lok er nan kabijuknen eo aer Rongelap, im kalbwin er ilo aenomman.' – Evelyn Ralpho-Jeadrik

SUZANNE CHUTARO

Evelyn Ralpho-Jeadrik, jilnuul jilu an year, ear lotak ion Arno Atoll, im ear drik im ritto lok ion Ebeye. Ilo tore eo wa eo waan Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior ear kemakit armij in Rongelap ilo 1985 eo, Ralpho-Jeadrik ear bed ion Rongelap. Ear lalem an year ilo tore eo.

Jiron in ejjab kemejmej elap jen tore ne, botaap ej kemejmej ke ej drik im ritto lok, rej komman kojak kake kinke ej juon ri Rongelap.

"Rekein ba nan kim et kein 'ri-bomb' ak 'ri-paijin' ak jet rekijon ba 'bokalok'," Ralpho-Jeadrik ear ba. "Elane elon nejim menin mour rot en ewor jorrean ie, rekein bar ba kinke 'ri-bomb'."

Kalmenlokijen in ej bed wot nan rainin, im kio rej ba nan jukjuk in bed en an Rongelap ke jidrik in mottan aelon en emman nan jokwe ie, elap tobrak raar komman nan kaleke jukjuk in bed eo – emoj ekkal imon jokwe, ekoba project in wonmanlok ko jet, ekoba bwe US Department of Interior ej bareinwot kibel armij ro bwe ren bar jeblaak, rej jet iaan men rej bok jikier.

"Iban emakit nan ijen," Ralpho-Jeadrik ear jiron tok Journal eo ke rej bwebwenato ippen. "Ijjab jela elane emman, im ijjab konan komman bwe aijri ro neju ren jorrean. Ijjab tomak ke emman nan jokwe.

"Eokwe, kajjitok ippam: konaaj ke konan etal in jokwe ilo juon jikin eo ebaijin?" Ralpho-Jeadrik ej ba bwe elon armij ej loe aer naninmij lok wot, itok wot jen aer jokwe ion Rongelap, innem uwaak eo an ejjelok kajjitok ke "jab!"

"Ijjab tomak ta eo kien eo an US ej ba," jiron in ear ba. "Inaaj mijak wot nan indreo. US emoj an kar ba nan jino ke emman im raar bar jeblaak lok im loe ke ej baijin wot."

Ralpho-Jeadrik ej nejin Lijohn Eknilang, eo im ear juon iaan armij ro 82 ion Rongelap kab Ailinginae, ien eo Bravo test eo ilo 1954 ion Bikini ear kwotlok baijin ko rekkajur ioer. Eknilang ej kab mij raan ko lok, im ear juon eo ekajur ilo jukjuk in bed eo an Rongelap, eo im ear lap an kenono im komman kelewetak kin kar Bravo test eo, ibelakin lalin.

Ralpho-Jeadrik ear drik im ritto lok im loe an jinen kab ritto ro jet ilo jukjuk in bed eo bok elon kain uno ko aolep raan, nan jiban er kin naninmij in thyroid ko aer.

"Idraki uno kein aolep raan ej men eo rej kommane aolep jibbon in," Ralpho-Jeadrik ear ba.

"Kio kimij jela kin Project 4.1. Raar takto nan aer aini melele ko kin jorrean jen bomb ko, raar jab taktoik er. Kio rekonan bwe kimin bar jeblaak nan Rongelap bar juon alen im mour ijen. Ta rej iten bar korool kim bwe ren bar iten ek katak kin kim ke, im aini wot melele ko jen kim?"

Ekkar nan Ralpho-Jeadrik, einwot juon aijri, ej kemejmej aer kijon aini melele ko, jen ippen aolep aijri in Rongelap, bwe ren kiki juon bon ion waan takto ko an US, im raar bed iumin wonake eo an Brookhaven National Laboratory eo.

"Rej ba kimin konak shirt mouj, innem ba kimin jijjot ion jet machine, ilo an juon armij lale tulik in computer eo," Ralpho-Jeadrik ej emejmej tok.

Ilo tireep ko, ej kemejmej aer kijon lelok ice cream, kab chocolate im rej kijon bar aluj pija.

"Ear lukkun emman, im kimar lemnak kim lukkun aurok," jiron in ear ba. "Ak kio, ijela, im einwot ne na juon bwebwe – ejjelok ao jela kin ta eo raar kommane."

Men eo elap an Ralpho-Jeadrik burumoj kake ikijjen jorrean ko jen nuclear nae jukjuk in bed eo, ej kin an kar jab maron tobrak konan eo an jinen. "Jino ekonan bwe en kar jeblaak nan Rongelap," ear ba. "Ak ear jiron kim bwe ejjab konan bwe kimin rool nane kinke ejjab konan bwe kimin jorrean. Kinke ear jela kadede ke ear jorrean, im ear juon ritto im ear jab mijak in bar jeblaak lok. Kora in ear konan wot mij ion aelon eo an, bwe en babu im kakije ijen."

Lijohn ear mij ilo 2012, im raar kalbwini ion Majuro.

"Konan eo am kio ej, bwe kimin kotobrak konan ko an ro jinem im jemem, ro emoj aer jako, bwe kimin bar kejeblaak lok er nan kabijuknen eo aer Rongelap, im kalbwin er ilo aenomman.

"Ijjab konan bar juon kain ak bwe en itok jimwe eo ao," jiron in ear ba. "Jino ejako kio. Aolep tore in mour eo an ear entan. Nan na, ilo ao kalimjeke, kinke e ear juon iaan armij ro ilo jinoin im raar baijin jen melkwarar eo, im remaron in kar komman nane einwot juon queen, im en kar bed imaan tata in jerbal ko an kien eo an US.

"Ikonan kate io bukwot jimwe eo, kin ta eo ear jelet ebeben eo an jino, ekoba nan ebeben ko tokelik. Ij lemnak bwe imaron jab tobar jemlok in jerbal in, im ij kejetdrikdrik nan ebeben ko ilju im jeklej renaaj wonmanlok wot im kabukwote jimwe in. (US) ear bok mour ko am, innem rej aikuij in lale kim nan indreo."

Loeak: 'Ejjanin moj jerbal eo'

President eo an Marshall Islands Christopher J. Loeak, ear kur nan United States ilo Saturday eo bwe en na mejlan "jerbal eo ejjanin dredrelok" ikijien kokemmalmel ko raar kommani ilo lal in im ej bed turilik in Pacific in.

"Koj jej watoke wot bwe United States ej juon jerad im mottad eo elap an ebaake koj, botaap ej wor wot jerbal en rejjanin dredrelok ikijien brokraam in kokemmalmel eo rej aikuij in kommani," lein ear ba ilo ien brokraam eo ion Majuro, nan emloke 60 year elkin an edreboklok Bravo hydrogen bomb eo ion Bikini Atoll, eo im ear maron jelet im kobaijini elon ene kin melkwarar ilo 1954 eo.

Loeak ear ba bwe jerbal kein rejjanin dredrelok rejjab jelet wot aelon ko emen im US ej kile ke rebaijin, botaap aolep ene ko jet ibelakin aelon kein rebareinwot jorrean.

Kon eo kin kolla wonen jorrean jen nuclear raar kenono kake ilo 1983 eo, einwot mottan Compact of Free Association eo, eo im Kien eo an US ear maron in letok nan Marshall Islands, kin $150 million wot, nan kejemlok aolep abnono kin nuclear.

Botaap ej kab alikkar 10 year ko tokelik, elkin kon in, ke Clinton Administration eo ear kadriwoje tok pepa ko raar ittino, kin nuclear testing program eo ilo aelon kein, eo im ear kabine bwe elon ene – im ejjab ene ko emen wot – raar bareinwot baijin jab wot jen Bravo, ak hydrogen bomb ko jet im raar bar kakomalmeli ilo aelon kein.

Loeak ear ba bwe "melele kein rekaitoktok limo im raar kaal, raar jab kwaloki nan ri kwelok ro jen Marshall Islands.

Kin menin "ekanuij in lukkun alikkar ke kon eo raar jab kommani ilo buru emool, ekoba bwe ejjab letok juon jonak eo ejimwe im jejjet nan wonen jorrean ko raar kommani," Loeak ear ba.

US Ambassador Thomas Armbruster, eo im ear tilmake en naan eo an ilo kajin Majol kab Belle jimor, ear ba bwe "ejjelok naan nan kwalok ilo tore in ak burumoj wot" ilo ien kememe 60 year ko elkin Bravo test eo. Jen wot kokemmalmele nuclear ko, "rainin jej mour ilo lalin ilo an laplok jokane im aenomman," Armbruster ear ba.

Kien eo an US ej wonmanlok wot im jerbal ippen Marshall Islands, nan letok brokraam in takto, kab etale belaakin jet iaan ene ko raar jorrean, lein ear ba.

Ri Bikini eo Hinton Johnson, ear kenanaik jonan kolla ko jen kien eo an US im rej lelok nan ri Bikini ro im rej jojolar. "Rainin, kajojo armij ej kolla $46 juon allon, ak jenba juon tala jima juon raan," lein ear ba ilo ejja ien brokraam eo wot. Nuclear Claims Tribunal eo ear lelok nan ri Bikini ro elle lok jen $560 million aurok in wonen jorrean, ekoba nan karreoiki, botaap ejjelok jaan nan kollaiki menin, lein ear ba.

"Kimij kajjitok ippen kien ko an US kab Marshall Islands, bwe ren letok money ko nan kollaik wonen in jen Tribunal, nan na wonen jonan tore kein kimij mour in jojolar im jab maron in jeblaak lok nan lemoran eo am," Johnson ear ba.



Motoi Aizawa

Aizawa ekonan katak kin nuclear testing

Ejja einwot bar jodrikdrik in jikin ko jet ilo Japan, Aelon Kein ak ijoko jet ibelakin lalin im raar jorrean jen baijin in nuclear, Motoi Aizawa, ear ejjelok an melele kin ta unin an wor jidrik in mottan ekejiil ippen Bravo hydrogen bomb test eo ilo Marshall Islands, nan e. Aizawa, eo ear bed Majuro ilo wiik in nan bok kunan ilo Bravo 60th anniversary eo, ej jebar jen Shizuoka ilo Japan, ijo im waan eonod eo naetan Lucky Dragon ear itok jene.

Lucky Dragon eo ear ion jerata ke ear bed iturin Bikini Atoll ilo March 1, 1954 eo. Waan eonod in ear libobo kin melkwarar, im ri eonod ro ie, kab eek ko ie raar lukkun baijin. Ke wa eo ej jeblaak nan Japan, ear jujen komman menin eblonlon ikotaan US kab Japan, im ekar komman menin an wor iuwata elane ebaijin tuna ko rej eonodi ilo Pacific in, innem ear jujen komman bwe US en lelok wonen jorrean nan kien eo an Japan bareinwot.

Ijoke Aizawa, mekarta ear drik im ritto lok ilo jikin eo wa in ear itok jene, ekar ejjelok an jela kin bwebwenato jab in – ijelokin an ron kin et eo "Lucky Dragon." Ej kab ron kake ilo year eo lok, ke ear aluje juon pija kin Bikini bomb test ko, innem ej kab maron jela kin bwebwenato eo. "Ikar lukkun bulon ke ij jela ke ri eonod ro rekar jorrean jen baijin," jiron in ear ba ke ej bed ion Majuro ilo wiik in. Kinke ejela kin jorrean eo ewalok kio jen Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant eo, innem jela in an ekaal kin Bikini ej kab jino komman menin an jino ekkatok kin ta ko rej einjuon nan dron ikotaan Bikini kab Fukushima.

"Ikonan ekatok bwe en laplok ao jela," ear ba. "Enin ej unin ao kar itok nan Majuro." Jiron in ej lemnak in jolok juon wiik ion Ailuk Atoll, nan an maron ek katak kin bwebwenato ko aer kin Bravo test eo, ekoba nan ekatok kin kilen mour ilo aelon ko likin bareinwot. "Ij lemnak in kenono ippen armij ro kin Ailuk, mokta jen im kab elkin tore in nuclear test ko."



President Christopher Loeak

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REGIONAL GOVERNANCE ADVISER

About the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
The Pacific Islands Forum was founded in August 1971 and comprises 16 independent and self-governing states in the Pacific. Its Leaders meet annually to develop collective responses to regional issues.

The Forum's administrative arm is the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, based in Suva, Fiji. It acts as the Secretariat for Forum-related events, implements decisions by the Leaders, facilitates the delivery of development assistance to member states, and undertakes the political and legal mandates of Forum meetings.

The Forum Secretariat is also mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Pacific Plan for strengthening regional cooperation and integration.

The Forum Secretariat is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

About this Opportunity
Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Secretariat is re-advertising the position of Regional Governance Adviser under the Secretariat's Political Governance and Security Programme. Reporting to the Director of the Programme, the successful candidate will be responsible for ensuring that the good governance agenda of the Forum is carried forward through collaboration with other colleagues at the Forum Secretariat and its development partners. Securing and building partnerships and new alliances is central to the success of delivering on the governance initiatives.

Responsibilities will include (but not limited to):

- Supporting Oversight and Integrity Institutions;
- Enhancing Good Governance Mechanisms;
- Supporting Participatory Democracy, Consultative Decision-making and Electoral Processes; and
- Partnerships for Good Governance Initiatives

Applicants should have a post-graduate degree in the social sciences in one or more of the following fields: politics, economics, sociology, administration etc and with extensive relevant work experience with policy advice and coordination preferably in the regional context. Applicants with sound knowledge of and experience with Pacific institutions, processes and issues (development, economic, social and political) would have an advantage.

About the Benefits
The appointment will carry a **competitive remuneration and benefits package including medical and life insurance**. The salary will be in the range of SDR34,026 to SDR51,040 per annum. At the 1 February 2014 exchange rate this salary range was equivalent to FJD99,259 to FJD148,891. For non-Fijian nationals, **this salary may be tax-free**. Any travel required will be at economy class. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through our website: **www.forumsec.org** where an information package containing the job description and remuneration details is also available.

To be eligible for this position, the applicant must be a national of a Forum member country.*
Deadline for applications is 28 March, 2014 at 5pm, Fiji time.

** Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.*

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP No # OAG-RFP-2014

CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINER

The Republic of the Marshall Islands' Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) is soliciting written proposals from any interested individual that has the knowledge, skill, and experience in the conduct of fraud investigations.

Interested parties may acquire a copy of the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) by submitting written requests to the following contact, or via email to patrjun@ntamar.net or emirose_anitok@yahoo.com with the subject heading, "Certified Fraud Examiner".

Office of the Auditor-General
Post Office Box 245
Majuro, MH 96960

The deadline for Receipt of Request for copy of the complete RFP is Friday, March 14th, 2014 at 5:00PM (Majuro Time).

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing straightforward, concise descriptions of the Proposer's ability to fulfill the requirements of the proposal. In order to ensure a uniform review process and to obtain the maximum degree of comparability, it is required that proposals be organized and submitted in the manner prescribed in the RFP.

To be considered, all proposals must be written and submitted to OAG **by 5:00 PM (Majuro Time), Friday, March 28th, 2014, to OAG. Proposals may be submitted via regular mail, e-mail, or hand-delivered to OAG** at the address indicated in the RFP. Proposals submitted after the **5:00 PM (Majuro Time), Friday, March 28th, 2014 deadline will not be considered.**

Bruce Kanki dies in Arkansas accident

A vehicle accident in Rogers, Arkansas left one man dead and the driver facing criminal charges.

The accident on the icy, snow-covered I-540 happened Sunday.

Police said Daniel Naisher, 24, was driving. Arkansas State Police said he was on a curve when he lost control on the highway. Only his vehicle was involved in the crash.

Naisher and a passenger were taken to the hospital. A third man, Bruce Kanki, was ejected from the car and died at the scene.

Naisher now faces charges of Careless and Prohibited Driving and No Insurance. The deceased man is a Marshallese citizen residing in Springdale, home to thousands of Marshallese.



Bruce Kanki died in a car accident on the I540.

Waytten Watak found dead on road

A Marshallese man was found dead on the mainroad near Majuro's bridge early last Friday morning.

The man, Waytten Watak, 27, was taken to Majuro Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. He suffered a head injury of unknown origin that was apparently the cause of death.

His last known location was at a local nightclub late on Thursday before he was found on the roadside. Police said Tuesday they are waiting for the report from a doctor at the hospital who conducted tests to determine cause of death.

Watak is a nephew of both President Loeak and the First Lady.

Third no quorum this session

After last Wednesday's momentous session of Nitijela, which had been postponed from the previous week awaiting the return of President Loeak and Foreign Minister Muller, the Nitijela was unable to form a quorum Thursday. This followed extended debate over Muller's nomination and later withdrawal of the nomination of a controversial Lebanese official to be the RMI's envoy to UNESCO. Only 15 members were there for roll call on Thursday and Speaker Donald Capelle called off the meeting. This is the third time this session that the Nitijela has been unable to muster a quorum at the 10am start time.

On Monday, V7AB announced the Speaker's plan for the next meeting of Nitijela for this Friday, March 7 at 10am.



Majuro's British citizens enjoyed a soiree with the British Ambassador Roderick Drummond. Photo: Karen Earnshaw

British VIP in town

President Christopher Loeak accepted the diplomatic credentials of the British Ambassador to the RMI Roderick Ian Drummond in a ceremony last week. Joining President Loeak during the presentation of credentials were Cabinet members Tony deBrum and Phillip Muller, and Chief Secretary Casten Nemra amongst others.

President Loeak conveyed warm greetings to Ambassador Drummond and thanked him for his visit. President Loeak also expressed his gratitude to the UK government for its high-level delegation, led by Minister Hugo Swire, to the 44th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting, hosted in Majuro last September, and the UK's support for the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership. President Loeak said he looked forward to welcome UK's participation as a member of the Cartagena Dialogue for Progressive Action, which RMI is hosting in April 2014. Drummond expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the President for the warm welcome. Drummond is also the UK's High Commissioner to Fiji, and is based in Suva. In addition to serving as the non-resident Ambassador to RMI, he is also accredited to the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Tuvalu and Kiribati.

RMI established diplomatic relations with the UK in February 1992.



The backstops here

Majuro Day baseball visiting team Jaluit was invited to the MALGov Mayor's office last week to receive a backstop to be added to the ball field for Jaluit High School. "The donation is in honor of the Majuro and Jaluit sisterhood — 'Majuit'," Mayor Mudge Samuel said. "We are honored to receive it," Jaluit coach Widmark Timothy said.

Photo: Hilary Hosia

Waylon Muller: 'Why I'm being unfairly targeted by Finance



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Waylon Muller has been Chief of Procurement and Supply for the RMI government for five years.

This is in response to your January 10 and 17, 2014 editions, where the Secretary of Finance and the Acting Attorney General comment on the revamping of the procurement process and the bribery scandal.

I have been accused and put on forced annual leave, pending an investigation. I have yet to be officially charged with any form of misconduct or wrongdoing to date and have exhausted all my annual leave hours. The dire financial predicament I am left with, along with the humiliation endured, is an absolute injustice to my family and myself. The Acting AG stated in the same Journal edition of January 17 "he hoped the investigation work would be completed shortly so that the company could resume business." A week prior to this, January 10 edition, he stated "he hoped to have the first prosecution filed in the High Court by the end of this week or next week." It's now March 2014. A foreign company can go back to business as usual, yet Marshallese citizens under the same scrutiny continue to wait. The outlying intent of 44 MIRC (Procurement Code), is two-fold: 1) compliance, and 2) the bidding process, should threshold exceed $25,000.

The Procurement and Supply Office's mandate, stipulated under 44 MIRC (Procurement Code) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) Internal Control Policy (Financial Management Act): PRs exceeding the threshold of $25,000 must go through the bidding process and review by the Bid Committee, consisting of a representative of the requesting Ministry, Chief Secretary, Secretary of Finance, Attorney General, Chief of Procurement, Secretary of Public Works and PMU representative.

The Procurement and Supply Office (PSO) has already gone through revamping work and I believe now it has an effective and efficient monitoring system in place. All incoming/outgoing purchase requisitions, purchase orders, and receiving goods for payment are both logged and monitored manually and electronically for easy access of ministries, including soft copies emailed to the Budget Office.

The payment process in Procurement & Supply is so solid. It takes multiple signatures before final payment submitted to MOF Accounts Payable. The receiving Ministry signs on the Original Vendor copy of Purchase Order after the supply warehouse stamp, the warehouse foreman supervisor (Mr. Rosen Joribwij) concurred also signed, and if it is a capital assets items (Mr. Robi Beaut) will also stamp it with the assets monitoring stamp with RMI Government property numbers, and then it is transferred for final data transmittal payment request double check by Mr. Kurn Aloka, who also makes sure all signatories are there, and then final step, another double check by Mr. Masaki before he stamps the invoices with Chief of Procurement and Supply request payment stamp and brings forward for me to endorse my signature. After Procurement and Supply Office the payment is submitted to MOF Accounts Payable for a double check on all signatories. "Check and Balance."

One of the active Internal Control Procedures for Receiving Payment from the RMI Government: the original invoice must be certified by the Ministry of Finance's Procurement & Supply Officer (or designate) indicating that the materials, supplies or services are received in good order and good condition. Such certification by the Procurement and Supply Officers, however, shall not in any way prejudice claims by the RMI Government for defects.

I can't just sit and let this happen. Therefore, I wish to make these assertions why the MOF Secretary wants me and other staff out of Supply because some of the things we know.

• The Secretary of Finance authorized a payment of $10,000 for a used Detroit Diesel engine (PR#MOIA2012 062) plus another payment of $14,000 for the same dilapidated engine (PR#MOIA AD5261 2103) totaling $24,000, interestingly $1,000 below the threshold requiring bids. The procurement requirement was bypassed, given documentation was not processed according to promulgated regulations.

• Documentation for this transaction did not follow proper procedure given processed through which documents and property was not deliver to Procurement and Supply Office for proper procedures for payment, where the requesting Ministry must both sign the manual log sheet and supply warehouse stamp along with the warehouse supervisor foreman for clearance and submit request to the Chief of Procurement and Supply Office for final payment stamp. Another purchase requisition of $18,000 to a different engine owner (PR#MOIA 2014AD 264) received at Supply office and was returned because it was not in compliance with the procurement threshold.

The Secretary of Finance endorsed this payment without the concurrence of the Chief of Procurement & Supply. Furthermore, the procurement process was again ignored as the warehouse foreman was bypassed and the receiving Ministry did not sign off.

• The Secretary of Finance authorized payment for a dilapidated 40-foot boat costing taxpayers $35,000 (PR#MOIA RD) in June 2013 signing on behalf of the ROC funding control budget certifying official, as well as signing on behalf of the Chief of Procurement and Supply.

• Another purchase requisition was endorsed by the Secretary of Finance in the amount of $24,695.59 (PR#MOIA-2013 RD5216) that was out on November 2013 to repair the same boat, which is over the RMI purchase requirement policy that any purchase related to over $25,000 must go through a bidding process. Between these two months also two purchase requisitions were submitted to Procurement and Supply Office on October 2013 worth of $21,000 (PR#MOIA-2013-RD263) and $18,000 (PR#MOIA 2013 AD264) for same boat repairs but PRs were returned because by now, Procurement and Supply Office had clear understanding that this purchase under such PRs was a clear violation of Procurement Requirement policy. These purchase PRs were manipulated to maintain the PR & PO process under $25,000 and almost monthly or every other month PRs were submitted for same property at MJCC.

What is the relationship between the Secretary of finance and MJCC?

Another Internal Control Policy has been set for repairing of Government Owned Equipment and or vehicles/boats. Prior to taking repair jobs, it is a requirement to fill out an inspection form with the Ministry of Public Works and Procurement and Supply Office for inspection details prior to render to local vendors.

• The Secretary of Finance again signed himself a Ministry of Health COMPACT FUNDS Purchase Requisition bypassing the Certifying Officer for Compact Funds and also the Chief of Procurement on the purchase requisition and requested a 50 percent payment for an incomplete skeleton boat Ejmour 1, which is a violation to the RMI Compact Fiscal Procedures Agreement (See MOH PR/PO#P51032 $16,900).

Again, the internal control payment procedure signified that prior to making payment, materials and supplies or services are received in good order and condition — "ready for service, not broken in to parts and pieces."

These payments were endorsed without Chief of Procurement and other authorized signatures. The Ministry of Finance internal control mechanism is being manipulated for buying fully paid scraps/junks that is not in working order for the people of the Marshall Islands. This is solid fraud evidence and a violation of the MOF Internal Control Policy's (FMA) and procurement procedures.

Finally I would like to let the peoples, Government in RMI and its leaders of ruling party or opposition see what is right and what is wrong here.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge every Procurement and Supply Office staff for performing their duties to the best of their abilities, again, in the interest of the Republic.

Waylon Muller

TIDE CHART

Date	Time	Ft.		Time	Ft.
6 Thursday	12:47 AM	-0.2	11 Tuesday	2:30 AM	2.3
	7:02	4.3		7:58	1.4
	1:13 PM	0.2		2:36 PM	3.1
	7:12	3.7		9:18	0.9
7 Friday	1:14 AM	0.3	12 Wednesday	3:20 AM	2.8
	7:36	3.9		9:03	1.0
	1:50 PM	0.7		3:22 PM	3.6
	7:42	3.1		9:48	0.5
8 Saturday	1:43 AM	0.7	13 Thursday	3:51 AM	3.2
	8:15	3.4		9:41	0.6
	2:38 PM	1.2		3:56 PM	4.0
	8:19	2.6		10:14	0.2
9 Sunday	3:19 AM	1.4	14 Friday	4:17 AM	3.7
	10:18	3.0		10:13	0.2
	5:27 PM	1.5		4:25 PM	4.3
	11:00	2.2		10:39	-0.2
10 Monday	4:54 AM	1.5			
	12:52 PM	2.8			
	8:27	1.3			

No ko rellap ilo Jenrok

Ibweeb in no ko tulik in Jenrok jibbon nin Monday eo, raar rube seawall ko komman jen bok im dreka, im jujen wot kemnoknok aolepen iaal en ilik. Ear menoknok aolep jikin.

Dren im kobiij raar tore imon armij ro. Ejjelok en naan ke ear ibweeb ene tak boka eo. Armij ro rej ba bwe ear walok menin ilo 3 awa jimmarok, ilo ien eo ear ibweeb enetak no. no ko raar rube imoko im tore ion ene emora, im bejlok ituiaar in iaal leplep eo. Imoko rebake tata tulik raar jorrean.

Ilo 6 awa jibbon, juon wa ear ettor ilo Demon Town iaal eo itulik, lak ilbok euwe juon no jilu ne utiej im bunit wa eo, komman an kun. Wa eo ear bed ibulen dren lonlok nan kejem ko, innem wawein in ear komman bwe en kun im jab ettor iumin jidrik ien.

Kobiij kab dreka raar ajeded ilo iaal eo ilik, mae ien edrik lok an uwe dren. Armij in Jenrok raar jinoe juon ien karreo laplap ilo Monday eo. MALGov bulldozer eo ear jino karreoiki iaal eo itulik. Local police ro raar jino itotak im kejebarok armij jen jorrean.



Dean Jacobson films the rushing high tide Monday morning in Majuro.

Letter to the Editor

Open letter to the US Ambassador to the RMI:

Does the USA still recognize Minister Phillip Muller as Foreign Minister?

Richard B. Liebert, American

ATTENTION!
Carlson Elcar please stop by Micronitor and see Rose Murphy concerning item #11353.

ATTENTION!
Claudia Velma Heine please stop by Micronitor and see Rose Murphy concerning item #972.

ATTENTION!
Joseph Tibon please stop by Micronitor and see Rose Murphy concerning item #130.

ATTENTION!
Ailinglaplap Local Government please stop by Micronitor and see Rose Murphy concerning item #1178.

NOTICE TO ALL MEC Electricity Consumers

The electrical utility bills for **FEBRUARY 2014** have now been processed and are ready for collection to all consumers who have not provided the Marshalls Energy Company with a Post Office box number. Consumers should collect their bills between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

All consumers are reminded that, as stated on their bill, services will be disconnected if the consumer is 30 days in arrears. Should a consumer have any questions regarding their account they should contact the billing staff at the Small Island office between the above mentioned hours or call 625-3827/3828.

Ñan Ro Otemjej Im Rej KEJERBAL JAROM

BILL IN JAROM KO AN **BEBODRE 2014** EMOJ AIR DREDRELOK, nan ro im ejelok air Post Office box joij im itok nan Office eo an M.E.C. nan buki bill kein ba kaki ikotaan awa in jerbal ko 8:00 jibon im 4:00 awa jota, Mandre nan Blaidre. Kakemijmij aolep customer ro bwe ilo bill in jarom ko emoj kalikare bwe bill ko aikuij in kolla iumin wot 30 ran. Im ne ewor kajitok naj bill ko bar einwot aikuij in kebaak Office eo ilo ejja awa ko wot ba kake ilo ak call e telephone nomba 625-3827/3828.

NOTICE TO MEC SUBSCRIBERS

Title 31 Marshall Islands Revised Code, Chapter 1, Section 60, makes it a crime for anyone to hook up to any electrical line or receive electricity by any means other than through a MEC authorized hook up or to injure, alter, or tamper with any electrical meter. If convicted of any of those offences a person may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 6 months and/or fined up to $100.00.

Effective April 1, 1985, MEC will refer all instances involving tampering or altering meters and theft of electricity to the REPMAR Attorney Generals Office and the REPMAR Police Department for prosecution. In addition MEC will disconnect the power where MEC determines a meter has been altered or tampered with or where there is an unauthorized hook up.

If any person has any information relating to theft of electricity or meter tampering or has any questions about this announcement please contact MEC at 625-3827/3828. Thank you.

KŌJELA ÑAN RO REJ BŌK AIR JAROM JEN MEC

Ermoñ an aolep ko Title 31, Marshall Islands Revised Code, Jilpas 1, Section 60, bwe ej jolo meren kajo ñan jaimwoñ ro remaj make kōttoñ ak jarom ilo jabrewōt bwe in jarom ro ao bōk ao jarom ko jabrewōt ioñeen ao jab jen MEC. Jaimwoñ ko ma jōtwe an kōmmani ioñeen kein rōjelet kajeen in ma bed ilo kattōg ao jab le jen 6 aōlōñ ennōn ma bwinōn $100.00 dala.

Jaad ilo kar EpdE 1985 ko, MEC ennaj jaakebōk aolep ro remaj bōk jen ao kōmmani ioñeen kein kajeen jarom kabon ro jet ak aōlōñ ennōn ko im kaad jarom ñan otto, ao an Attorney General ao an REPMAR im Department ko an REPMAR Police ñan ak kōmmani jerbal in kajo ko ain. Bamwoñōl MEC ainaj kimi jarom jeroptoo im MEC ej ki ke jarom ko ie kar kōmaatmōōd an ak nōkak jarom ro.

Jabrewōt ao ewōñ an rōnnōl kin aolepen in ilojan kool jarom ak ewōñ ain kajitōk kin kōjeōl ie ao you ne kenaaje MEC ko 625-3827/3828. Kom Kimmol.

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(2 available positions)

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2. At least 5 years experience in accounting
3. Hard working, responsible and good teamwork

Processing Engineers/Specialists

(5 available positions)

Qualifications:
1. College graduate
2. At least 3 years experience in processing
3. Hard working and responsible

Fleet Coordinator and Warehouse (2 available positions)

Qualifications:
1. 4 years bachelors degree/college graduate
2. At least 3 years experience in fleet operation
3. Fluent in speaking English / Chinese
4. Hard working, responsible and good teamwork

Engineer (2 available positions)

Qualifications:
1. Technician & Mechanical & Refrigeration Engineering
2. Hard working, responsible and good teamwork
3. At least 5 years experience in related engineering field
4. Fluent in speaking English

For more information please contact MIFV office at 625-3190 or email jliang@ltfv.com

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Majuro Cooperative School

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TWO PRINCIPALS

Elementary & Middle/High School

REQUIREMENTS: include a minimum of four years teaching experience. A Masters degree in education is preferred. Interested applicants are directed to provide a resume and letter of interest to Co-op.

Choueiry ej ba ear jab rejane el-Sayed

Juon armij in Lebanon im ej ri kabiloklok nan Palau President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. ear ba ilo wiik in bwe mene ear maron ione ritel ro an Marshall Islands ilo Palau September eo lok, e ejjab jela kin Jamil el-Sayed, im e ear jab kenono kake jibarbar eo an bwe en jede ilo etan RMI nan UNESCO.

Georges Choueiry, juon advisor nan Rememgesau im ej bed ilo Lebanon, ear bed ilo Palau ilo raan in independence eo aer ilo September eo lok, im ear kwelok ippen President Christopher Loeak kab ri tel ro jet an RMI ekoba Minister Phillip Muller kab Tony deBrum.

Rutiej ro an RMI raar jiron Journal eo ilo jino in allon in, ilo tore eo ej walok jorrean in ikijien ijjiton eo an el-Sayed nan UNESCO ear walok ilo public, im bwe connection ko ilo Marshall Islands nan Lebanon im kab el-Sayed, raar jinoe ilo tore eo raar etal nan Palau September eo lok.

Botaap Choueiry ear jiron tok Journal eo ilo wiik in, bwe kenono ko an ippen ri tel ro an RMI ejjelok jabdrewot kin UNESCO. "Ijjab jela kajjen Mr. Jamil el-Sayed, im rejjanin kar kwalok tok kajjen lein, im ijjanin kenono ippen jabdrewot rutiej, ikijien an jibadrek nan jerbal eo ilo UNESCO," Choueiry ear ba.

"Iaar bed ilo Palau ilo ien kememe national day eo an Republic of Palau. Raar kwalok tok kajjen rutiej ro jen Marshall Islands kab Federated States of Micronesia. Kimar kenono kin jet wawein investments kab iaal ko rebellok nan lal kein ruo."

Choueiry ear ba bwe jet investor rej itok limo in komman investment einwot resort ilo RMI kab FSM. "Iaar kajjitok ippen rutiej ro bwe ren komman aer honorary consulate ilo Republic of Lebanon," lein ear ba. Ear eliji bwe men kein rej uwaan lok Lebanon im jab UNESCO.

"Ij kwalok bwe ijjab jela kobajen Mr. el-Sayed, ijjanin ione im ijjanin kwalok etan bwe ren kelete nan jabdrewot men.

Choueiry ear ba bwe ejjab jede ilo etan kien eo an Lebanon. "Ewor ao makmake bujen jemjera ippen elon lok jen 18 lal ko ibelakin lalin," lein ear ba. "Ikar kwalok kajjen elon ri jibadrek ro jet im raar itok limo in jede ilo etan elon bar lal, im ear tobrak wawein in nan jet iaan ri jibadrek ro, ro im kio rej jerbal einwot honorary consul ro. Enin ej unin ao kajjeon ejaak bujen jemjera ippen jet iaan lal ko ilo Pacific in."

Lein ear ba bwe Lebanon kio ejjelok an ri kwelok ilo mottan kein ilo lalin, im itok limo ko an ej nan "kokajur lok manit, tourism, kab jerbal in bejnej" ikotaan Lebanon kab Pacific islands kein.

VACANCIES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & MANAGERS (3)

OCI marshall islands

futurestep A Korn/Ferry Company

Applications are invited from suitably qualified professionals to take up following senior executive positions in newly established Office of Commerce & Investment of Marshall Islands.

Office of Commerce & Investment (OCI)

OCI was recently established by government of Marshall Islands to catalyze economic and social development and to improve economic and social conditions of its people.

While the Corporation has a broad charter and wide powers, it will focus its activities initially on significantly increasing investments, especially in export industries in order to accelerate growth and job creation.

It will concentrate on promoting opportunities in key industries and encourage the expansion of existing enterprises, and the establishment of new investments.

Applicants should possess knowledge and experience in investment promotion, trade development and investment financing and should be well versed with development challenges of small island economies.

Aware that OCI has an exacting mission, the Board is looking for very experienced and qualified and highly motivated professionals to lead the Corporation.

These positions are ideal for professionals looking for a big challenge and want to make a difference in the lives of people challenged by smallness and remoteness. Excellent remuneration packages are offered to attract the best talents.

1. Chief Executive Officer

CEO is responsible to Board for providing strategic leadership for the Corporation. S/He is required to develop and establish innovative and long-range goals, strategies, plans, and policies that will significantly increase domestic investment, boost economic growth and improve economic and social conditions.

CEO is required to provide strategic leadership and coordination to encourage relevant government agencies, state-owned-enterprises, private sector, development partners and other stakeholders to work together to achieve OCI's mission.

Responsibilities include:

- Plan, develop, organize, implement, direct and evaluate OCI's operational function and performance.
- Provide strategic input and leadership on decision-making issues affecting the Corporation including prioritization of its functions and prudent use of its powers.
- Provide advice to Board on policies and programs to increase investments, grow exports, enlarge investment funding, expand private sector and improve investment climate.
- Provide effective representation of OCI at national and international meetings, whenever necessary.
- Foster effective working relationship with board members, Minister responsible for OCI, Cabinet members, departmental heads, private sector leaders and other stakeholders and representatives of relevant regional and international bodies.

Applicants should have Masters Degree in economics/development studies or a related discipline. Preference will be given to applicants with Masters Degree in Business Administration or higher qualification.

Applicants should have at least 15 years experience in relevant senior management positions in economics or investment & export promotion or business or finance or related field.

2. Manager Business Development

Manager Business Development is responsible to CEO for providing strategic leadership for the Business Development Department, responsible for promoting and facilitating investment and export development.

S/He will work with CEO and other executives to develop and implement innovative strategies, plans, and policies to attract and facilitate establishment of new, and expand existing, investments, and grow exports.

Responsibilities will include:

- Identify and promote the expansion of existing investments or enterprises.
- Identify and promote the establishment of new investments or enterprises.
- Identify foreign direct investment opportunities and take measures to attract them.
- Facilitate establishment of new, and expansion of existing investments or enterprises.
- Identify, develop, promote and facilitate the establishment of new, and the expansion of existing, export industries.
- Work with private & public sectors to identify impediments for investments and to develop strategies and measures to overcome them.

Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree in economics/development studies or a related discipline. Preference will be given to applicants with Master's Degree in these fields.

In addition they should have at least 10 years experience in a relevant management position in economic or investment & export promotion or a related field.

3. Manager Investment Finance

Manager Investment Finance is responsible to CEO for providing strategic leadership to Investment Funding Department, responsible for securing investment & project funding and administering financial assistance provided by OCI.

S/He will work with the CEO and other executives to develop and implement innovative strategies, plans, and policies to attract funding for investments in business enterprises, infrastructure, and other development projects.

Responsibilities will include:

- Identify funding opportunities externally and internally for the establishment and expansion of investment enterprises, development of infrastructure and for implementation of social programs.
- Secure funding, internally and externally, for establishment of investment enterprises, development of infrastructure and for implementation of social programs.
- Arrange with relevant agencies, funding from Government for investment in enterprises.
- Identify & secure operational funding to supplement funding OCI provided by Government.

Applicants should have Bachelors Degree in economics/development studies or finance or banking or a related discipline. Preference will be given to applicants with Masters Degree in these fields.

In addition they should have at least 10 years experience in a relevant management position in finance, project evaluation or investment & export promotion or a related field.

4. Manager Policy Development

Manager Policy Development is responsible to CEO for providing strategic leadership to Policy Development Department, responsible for policy development and the search for new and innovative approaches for increasing investments & expanding exports.

S/He will work with CEO and other executives to develop and implement innovative strategies, plans, and policies to improve domestic investment climate and make it attractive to local and foreign investors.

Responsibilities will include:

- Conduct research and reviews to determine new policies and measures to be adopted to encourage investment and export development.
- Conduct research and reviews to determine policies and measures to encourage development of private sector and improvement in investment climate.
- Make recommendations to Government on policies and measures to be adopted to improve investment climate and encourage expansion of private sector.
- Conduct analysis for the formulation of strategic plan for OCI.

Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree in economics/development studies or a related discipline. Preference will be given to applicants with Masters Degree in these fields.

In addition they should also have at least 10 years experience in a relevant management position in investment & export promotion or a related field and have strong experience in policy research & formulation.

Remuneration

Attractive remunerations will be offered to successful applicants, including competitive base salaries and benefits such medical and life insurance, housing and home leave. Interested applicants are encouraged to email to vitu70@gmail.com for information package containing the job description and remuneration details. Applications should be sent to the appropriate person below.

Application

Detailed applications showing applicants meet requirements of positions are to be addressed to Chairman, Office of Commerce & Investment and sent to:

For CEO applications: Futurestep (New Zealand) Limited Level 15 34 Shortland Street PO Box 106316, Downtown Auckland 1010 New Zealand and marked **"OCI CEO Vacancy."** Applications can also be emailed to: Sandra.Gilliam@FutureStep.com

For Manager applications: Ministry of Resource & Development, Box 1727 Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960 and marked **"OCI Vacancy."** Applications can also be emailed to: rebeccalorennij@gmail.com

All applications close on March 15, 2014

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ARE YOU AWARE?



THAT Hisae Adachi represented Japan on Utrik Atoll Wednesday?

THAT pending tax legislation is scheduled to be considered in a series of hearings to be conducted by Nitijela committee from Thursday to Monday?

THAT black-pitch paving has been installed at the roadside of the MALGov boat launch in Delap?

THAT there is no telephone connection to the United Airlines office at Ala Moana in Honolulu because it has been designated a "walk-in" office?

THAT current airline fees for something as minor as changing a booking costs more than a round trip ticket to Honolulu in the early 1970s?

THAT the mayor of Toronto, Canada, was caught attending regular church services this week in preparation for Lent and he explained he only went to church because he was drunk?

THAT Majuro's population is eagerly awaiting completion (and paving!) of the road realignment project at the west end of Majuro's airport?

THAT the park set up at Laura Beach is really nice for children who can run around to their heart's delight without driving adults crazy?

THAT rising sea beds, accompanied with the disturbing flapping of fish fins, is being touted as the reason for this week's wave overwash?

THAT a large number of Russian tourists have been reported in the Crimea of the Ukraine?

THAT US President Barack Obama has offered to send a contingent of Disneyland theme-park specialists to the Ukraine to install a red line beyond which Russian tourists are restricted?

THAT a record number of shark attacks off Perth, Australia has resulted in over nine deaths in recent years?

THAT all public schools are supposed to be back in session as of Thursday following Monday's high tides?

THAT the production Fiddler on the Roof is on every night at the International Conference Center until Saturday?

THAT on being informed that during "Lent" one is usually expected to give up something, one local bar patron announced he was giving up caviar?

THAT former WorldTeach teacher Peter Rudiak-Gould, who taught on Ujae Atoll, has just published a new book entitled Climate Change and Tradition in a Small Islands State: The Rising Tide?

G&L ENTERPRISES
(DBA: MIDTOWN & DIVISION 7 TWELVE)
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