

Alexander Langidrik, P2; Sultan Korean and Bobby Muller, P3; Minna Pinho P4; Howard Hills and Abacca Anjain-Maddison, P6; Tony Muller, P8; Isaac Lanwi and Charles Muller, P10; Hilda Heine, P13; Dolores deBrum-Kattil, P22; Brenson Wase, John Silk and Robert Duan, P24; Peter Chapman and Betwell Lekka, P26; Carmen Bigler, P29; and Cecile Suda, P30.



Those chairs are pretty small, even for one! After Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) wrapped up a week of executive board meetings last weekend, they capped off a busy week with a day of fun and games at the Weather Station area. In the musical chairs competition, (left to right) Helenty Tibon, Neuton Ring and Dorothy Jacklick battle for a seat.

Photo: Suzanne Murphy

Musical mayhem

Army hits NTA with fiber cable deal
 — P8 —

BOMI gets top rating from US expert
 P3

Muller asks for US help to keep mail going
 — P3 —

Time to fight for education

Cohen: 'We won't tolerate abuse of funding'

By GIFF JOHNSON

It's time for Pacific island parents to be as committed to their children's education as Asian parents are to theirs. This was one of several strong messages that US deputy assistant secretary of the Interior Department David Cohen delivered to the opening of the Pacific Educational Conference in Majuro Tuesday evening.

More than 1,000 people are attending the PEC from US-affiliated islands in the region.

"I'm afraid that people do not truly value education (in the Pacific)," Cohen said. The job of Pacific educators is to change this.

Cohen also said that the US government will

not tolerate waste and abuse of US funding for education, and he is hoping for a time when Pacific islanders — parents and communities — will get involved to insure that waste and abuse is stopped at home.

"The Pacific as a whole is far behind in education and it's not catching up," Cohen said. All islands are competing with the rest of the world for opportunities. "No island is an island today," he said, updating the famous phrase, "No man is an island."

"There is no place to hide from the pressures

of a global society," he said.

Cohen used the example of a Samoan cousin of his to underline the difference in attitudes about education in the Pacific and Asia. His cousin was attending college in the US and had an Asian roommate. When it came time for both to study for their final exams, Cohen's cousin was surprised to see his Asian friend's parents cooking and bringing dinner to him so that he wouldn't have to interrupt his studying to get his meals.

"In our culture, children serve adults," Cohen said.

Continued page 2

INDEX

P2: EDUCATION. Cohen's call for change.
 P3: EDUCATION. Kendall on challenges. A tale of tattoos. Teacher of the year.
 P4: FINANCE, MAIL. BOMI gets high marks from money expert. Muller's plea over mail deliveries.
 P5: SPORT. Flying Men win league.
 P6: POLITICS. AG sends bribe case to Ethics Board. Journal puts questions to AG.
 P7: RETAIL, NUCLEAR ISSUES. Studies undermine US official position. Big drawing Friday.
 P8: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. Abacca in New Zealand for Warrior anniversary.
 P9: COMMUNICATION. NTA upgrades the cell phone system. NTA repairs old earth station.
 P10: COURTS. The Charge Sheet. Aneo dies in cop car chase in Arkansas. Jitiam charged.
 P11: COMMUNICATION, COURTS, RMI RIDDLE. USAKA ultimatum to NTA. Lanwi files civil suit. Muller sues over LRA decision.
 P12,13: AROUND TOWN.
 P14: EDITORIAL. Rethinking education process.
 P15: LETTERS. Sakovich praises our Olympic efforts. Good on you, EPA.
 P16: LIFESTYLE. Sam tells the betel nut story.
 P17: WOMEN'S ISSUES. Women's day.
 P18: NUCLEAR ISSUES, TOURISM. Counting bodies at DOE. MIVA joins the 'papa' of PATA.
 P19: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. ROC gives \$2m to RMI. Scouting about in Oahu.
 P20,21: EDUCATION. Japan's helping hands.
 P22: DEVELOPMENT, SPORT. \$10m atolls project awaits EPA call on EIA. RMI squad on track.
 P23: ENERGY, DEVELOPMENT. Mobil raises prices, rejects APA complaint. The ice house goeth.
 P24: LETTERS, POLICE. Air Nauru knows what to do with a drunken sailor. Bar manager assaulted.
 P25: EDUCATION, HOUSING. Assumption show. Marshalls gets biggest share of USDA money.
 P26: ARE YOU AWARE?

Cohen's call for education change

From page 1

The reality is that islanders are competing with cultures that will do anything necessary to see their children graduate. They won't let money, funerals or other problems get in the way of graduation.

Cohen also told of a story of a Samoan young man who gave up his college money to help his father and didn't go to college. "I wish the father had refused it," he said. He challenged the gathered educators saying that "we have a moral duty" to promote the importance of education and "if there are cultural barriers (to education), we need to think about transforming our culture."

He cited an example of an African country where most of the aid money budgeted for education never reached the schools. After it was investigated and the results were published in the media, parents and the community demanded action and change, which improved the situation.

"Could this happen in the Pacific?" Cohen asked. "Could the outrage of parents result in positive change and more money for the schools?"

A recent US investigation of schools in Chuuk state in the Federated States of Micronesia found money going to "ghost" employees, cafeterias and chairs. And it's not only in Chuuk, he said. "The FSM national government was as outraged as we were (about the findings)," said Cohen, adding that the US will do further investigations.

"We have zero tolerance for waste, fraud and abuse of money for the education of our children," he said.

But he lamented the lack of parent and community participation. "Outrage isn't something we do well in the Pacific," he said.

"Public outrage that can travel through villages can thwart politicians who want to abuse funding," he said.

Citing a book called the "Tipping Point," Cohen outlined various ways to generate community involvement.

The message about the importance of education must be memorable and move people to action. "If people aren't getting our education message, then change it," he said.

"We'll have reached the tipping point when all parents have zero tolerance" for any waste of money for their children's education, and are as committed to education as parents in Singapore, he said.

Kendall on education challenges

Educational studies have shown that low income, single parent families, poor academic skills and low self-esteem are among a list of risk factors that often hold students back.

“Studies have shown that if even one of these is present, there can be a negative affect on education,” Education Minister Wilfred Kendall told the PEC opening Tuesday evening.

“In the Pacific, almost all of these are present.”

His point: Education is a huge challenge for Pacific island educators.

A tale of tattoos

An education is very much like a Samoan tattoo in three ways, David Cohen told the more than 1,000 delegates at the Pacific Educational Conference.

- They stay with you for the rest of your life.
- It is a painful experience.
- If you start and don't finish, it's very shameful.

He said he expressed this idea to a recent graduation at the Northern Marianas College to encourage the two-year graduates to continue on to finish their bachelor degrees, but wasn't sure if his message would register the same way it did in American Samoa.

“But they really remembered,” he said. The graduates have been going around telling students to “finish your tattoo.”

“As a matter of cultural pride, we should complete our education,” he said.



PEC participants at the conference site collect their resource materials. Right, ladies lead the Chuuk group, one of many in Tuesday's parade.



Teacher of the year

Alexander Langidrik was named 'teacher of the year' for the Marshall Islands. He was honored this week during the Pacific Educational Conference along with eight other elementary and high school teachers from US-affiliated Pacific islands. Langidrik is a 17 year teaching veteran, and works at Rairok Elementary School where he teaches multiple subjects for grades one through six.

BOMI gets high marks from US money expert

By GIFF JOHNSON

An independent anti-money laundering specialist has given the Bank of Marshall Islands high marks for its monitoring and control systems.

“Based on what I’ve seen here, everything is in place (to prevent money laundering),” said Michael McDonald, a former US federal agent who heads his own anti-money laundering consulting company based in Florida. McDonald was hired by Bank of Marshall Islands to do an independent review of the bank’s anti-money laundering and compliance program.

“I have high confidence levels in the situation here,” he said.

McDonald said that the Patriot Act, passed following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, has put huge pressures on American banks to monitor their overseas financial partners.

“This is not a Bank of Marshall Islands-specific situation,” he said. “It’s a big problem for all foreign banks, whether in Hong Kong, the Dominican Republic or the Marshall Islands.

“A lot of pressure has been put on US banks to monitor their (international) business partners. A lot of it is unfair as the regulators have taken it to extreme limits.”

The result, said McDonald, is that many US banks have decided to eliminate their “payable through” services for foreign banks because of the threat of multi-million dollar fines.

This is what happened with the Guam-based Citizens Security Bank ending the payable through services for BOMI in February.

The important thing is for BOMI to build confidence with its US banking partners that “it won’t put them on the front page of the New York Times,” McDonald said. As far as anti-money laundering requirements go, “Bank of Marshall Islands has them in place,” he said. “They have a person to monitor this in the bank, they are training staff and they have independent monitoring,” he said.

Sultan Korean is BOMI’s compliance officer. McDonald said that Korean is also a member of the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists.

McDonald said that US regulators see the Marshall Islands as a remote location and therefore attractive for money laundering.

But McDonald said that in fact the very remoteness of the RMI makes money laundering difficult because “everyone knows who you are” and so unusual activities stand out more than they would in a big city.

Muller’s plea over mail deliveries

Chief Secretary Bobby Muller has asked United States Ambassador Greta Morris for help to avoid a “virtual mail stoppage” as a consequence of Asia Pacific Airline’s decision to halt mail service to the RMI.

In a letter to Morris this week, Muller said that a mail stoppage “would be potentially devastating to our people, the private sector of the nation and to timely implementation of the Compact.”

He said that APA “has provided a reasonably reliable level of mail service, especially in light of the problems experienced prior to that time where mail was backlogged for months at a time, or

lost altogether.” He reminded Ambassador Morris that the Compact obligates the US to provide “a reasonable and cost effective level of service” for mail.

He said that unreasonable mail delays “will likely result if the matter between the US Postal Service, Continental Airlines and APA is not attended to immediately.”

He said the US and Marshall Islands governments “have committed to the development of the private sector in the RMI, but this cannot occur with inadequate or unreliable postal services that are essential to commerce.”

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Back row left to right: PK Harmon, Alex Maine, Brandy Menke, Robert Watley, Paul Kattil, Matur Muller, Kenson Alik, and Jackson Henry. Front row: Junjun Carland, Albert Alik Jr., Aisha 'Meto' Menke, Neil Nash, Ted Carland (MALGov Sport). Not there on the day: Alber Alik, Hackney Wase, Henry Capelle, Daniel Andrew, Bernard Tomer, Junior Joseph, Vanele Sio, Robert Pinho (coach), Nellie Yetton (assistant coach).

Flying Men win veterans' comp

The 'Flying Man' last week flew off with the MALGov Veterans League's 2004-05 competition having managed to sweep the opposition in the recent 'best of five' division. Team Lokkelok (which means Flying Man — a character in an old Marshallese yarn) faced Island Builders in their last game of the season last Thursday night.

Word has it the game was a bit of a nail-biter as at one point the Lokkelok lads

were 12 points behind. According to team member P.K. Harmon: "The leadership of Paul (Kattil) made a big difference in helping us to win the game."

The team "went undefeated through the regular season," added Harmon. Their opponents in recent matches were Ministry of Health and Brand X.

The 'Flying Men' celebrated their illustrious victory at a barbecue at Harmon's

home in Uliga on Friday night, where they graciously posed for the Journal's camera. At the party, Kenson Alik was heard to say: "Lokkelok is looking forward to traveling to Ebeye to challenge the local veteran players during the Kwajalein Liberation Day in February."

So, Ebeye: Better start practicing sooner than later before the Flyers fly in.

AG sends bribe case to the Ethics Board

The Attorney General's office has handed off a request for a bribe inquiry to the Government Ethics Board, but says any decision this board makes about an investigation will depend on the senator requesting the probe providing "substantial evidence and information."

On May 10, opposition Senator Justin deBrum sent a letter to Attorney General Atbi Riklon, saying that "serious allegations" had emerged that "certain members of the Nitijela and Cabinet have accepted bribe money from the People's Republic of China." The RMI maintains relations with the Republic of China, not PRC.

"These allegations strike at the heart of good governance and should not be swept aside," deBrum said in his letter to the AG. For citizens to have confidence in their government, the AG office should "vigorously pursue an investigation," he said.

In a June 22 reply, deputy attorney general Posesi Bloomfield replied saying the "proper body to address the matters you raise is the Government Ethics Board."

The three members on this board are AG Riklon, Auditor General Jean M. Tonyokwe and Chief Secretary Bobby Muller.

"Their decision as to whether your letter will warrant further action will depend on you supporting your allegations by providing substantial evidence and information," Bloomfield said.

Journal's questions...

For the record, the Journal's questions submitted on June 6 to the AG follow:

1. Will there be an AG Office (or other) investigation into who a) who accepted payments and what were the amounts of the payments? and b) who refused to accept the payments and what was done with the

checks or money that they refused?

2. If there is not going to be an investigation, on what basis was that decision reached?

3. Is it illegal, according to RMI law, for an elected leader or public servant to accept payments (bribes)?

...But no answers

By GIFF JOHNSON

In the category of 'notes on the transparency in government front,' this modest story is offered.

"AG deal with Julie costs BOMI \$25,000" read the page three headline in the May 20 issue of the Journal. It was a story about a plea bargain deal given to a defendant by the AG's office that did not require repayment of all the money stolen from Bank of Marshall Islands; the story included interview comments from the AG's office, the Public Defender's office and BOMI.

The result of that story, we were told in a casual conversation a couple of weeks later by one of the attorneys in the AG's office, was that AG Atbi Riklon had directed that henceforth no AG's office officials could be interviewed by the Journal. All questions would need to be submitted by the Journal in writing for reply by the AG's office. So on

June 6, we submitted by email a list of questions concerning the allegations of payoffs to high government officials here. No answer. We sent them again on June 15; receipt was acknowledged.

One of the lawyers in the AG's office told us that on June 17 the answers to our questions were drafted and given to the AG for his review. Now a month has gone by and the answers haven't been "approved and authorized" for release to the Journal and to the public.

So maybe we'll get the answers next week or next year?

One thing's for certain: People can talk about transparency and good governance until they're blue in the face, but if they don't practice it, then improvements in government services are going to be hard to come by. And, like it or not, engaging with media and the public is part of being accountable.

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Big drawing Friday

While most stores mark their first or third or 10th anniversary in business, Robert Reimers Enterprises is this month celebrating 55 years in business. Mina Pinho was on hand for the nightly drawing earlier this week to give away a case of chicken and bag of rice to some lucky customer. This is leading up to the big drawing this Friday at 5 pm, where 10 lucky people will go away winners — including a \$1,000 gift certificate for the grand prize.

Studies undermine US official position

The US government's ability to maintain its position that there are no "changed circumstances" is rapidly unravelling, Rongelap Atoll's attorney told the Journal this week.

Attorney Howard Hills said the US National Cancer Institute's recent study predicting that half of the expected cancers are still to come, combined with the latest National Academy of Science's report that even low doses of radiation are harmful has undermined the US government's position that nothing has changed since the early 1980s when the first agreement was approved.

Hills, based in the US, was here for two days of strategy meetings with Rongelap leadership and the community last weekend.

"If the Marshall Islands knew in 1982 (when the Compact's nuclear compensation was negotiated) what we know now, it wouldn't have accepted the 177 agreement," Hills said.

But Hills said that these studies open new opportunities for cooperation among all parties in the RMI — the government, the four atolls and those atolls and islands that want to be recognized as exposed by the US.

In the past, the four atolls were seen in "competition" with the other islands, so that the success of one was considered to be to the detriment of other islands, he said.

Today there's been a huge change that "enables the RMI to take off the gloves to work as hard as it can with the four atolls (and the other islands)," he said.

"If the four atolls are successful in the Tribunal, the Congress or the US courts, it will open the doors for the other atolls," Hills said. "We're not competing interests. Our successes are tied together."

A prime reason for this is that the NCI study confirms that cancers from the nuclear tests are expected throughout the Marshall Islands.

He said the State Department has attempted to make the case to the US Congress that the issue is simple. "The State Department's position is it's simple because it's over," Hills said. But the hearing before the House of Representatives in late May made it clear that it's not over, he said.



Howard Hills

By GIFF JOHNSON

"Will the US honor the integrity of the NCI report and recognize there are changed circumstances?" Hills asked. "I hope it will."

Hills said that if the RMI plays its cards right and the US honors the NCI study conclusions, "there is the potential for a mutually satisfactory agreement."

He thinks that because of the import of the NCI report, the RMI and US could achieve a political agreement on health care issues. But he believes that the issues raised by the Tribunal's approved land awards are too big for a political settlement by the Congress, and would more logically be referred to the US courts for review and resolution.

"We'd like to see a political agreement on a legal solution," he said, adding that everyone hopes to avoid a legal showdown.

Abacca in NZ for Warrior anniversary

Rongelap Senator Abacca Anjain-Maddison joined members of the original Rainbow Warrior crew in New Zealand last weekend to mark the 20th anniversary of the French government's bombing of the Greenpeace flagship that killed one of the crew.

On July 10, 1985, two explosions on the Warrior rocked Waitemata Harbor in Auckland, killing photographer Fernando Pereira. They were planted by French government agents in an attempt to stifle Greenpeace's protests against the French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Last weekend in Matauri Bay, original skipper Pete Willcox dived down 25 meters to the wreck and placed a memorial sculpture on the bridge, as around 100 people gathered on the Rainbow Warrior II to cast flowers and greenery on the water.

Crew member Steve Sawyer urged world leaders to stop wasting vast amounts of money and intelligence on more sophisticated nuclear weapons and to instead engage in urgent action to promote peace, combat climate change and preserve the world's forests and oceans.

"Today we are facing a bigger nuclear threat as an ever increasing number of states continue their development of nuclear weapons.



Senator Abacca
Anjain-Maddison

No bomb will stop conflict — whether it be in the arsenals of the nuclear weapons states, on the Rainbow Warrior, on buses and tube stations in London nor on the streets of Baghdad."

Greenpeace France disarmament campaigner Xavier Renou said "France is currently using the data gathered from nuclear tests in Moruroa during the 1980's and 1990's to upgrade its nuclear weapons systems, flying in the face of its international commitments to disarm.

Hypocrisy is the real driver of nuclear proliferation."

Senator Anjain-Maddison of Rongelap Atoll — which was contaminated by the US nuclear tests at Bikini Atoll in the 1950s — read a message of solidarity from her government, both for Greenpeace and the Rainbow Warrior, and for the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 60

years later. The last voyage of the Rainbow Warrior moved her people from Rongelap.

"Our government honors the survivors and descendants of the people of these two cities and we share the sorrow and loss of the Rainbow Warrior after she transported our community to Mejjato in 1985," she said.



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Expect More
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NTA upgrades the cell phone system

Information that will put a smile on your dial

By GIFF JOHNSON

"I'm sorry, the mobile PCS customer you're dialing is unavailable or..."

That unwanted message — that irritates just about every cell phone user in Majuro who has to listen to it dozens of times each day as their calls dial out into the atmosphere with no connection — is soon to be but a piece of NTA history.

A new cell phone system, known as GSM, is being installed and is expected to be activated by the end of August, according to NTA general manager Tony Muller.

GSM is a system in use globally, and will allow cell phone users from overseas to use their phones here, just as people from the RMI will be able to use their GSM phones elsewhere.

The Rita, Ajeltake and Laura base stations have been installed and tested. In the next few weeks, NTA will be installing a tower at the airport and a mast on top of the Marshall Islands Development Bank building in Delap.

"The two additional sites will insure that users never hear the 'PCS customer' talking again," Muller said.

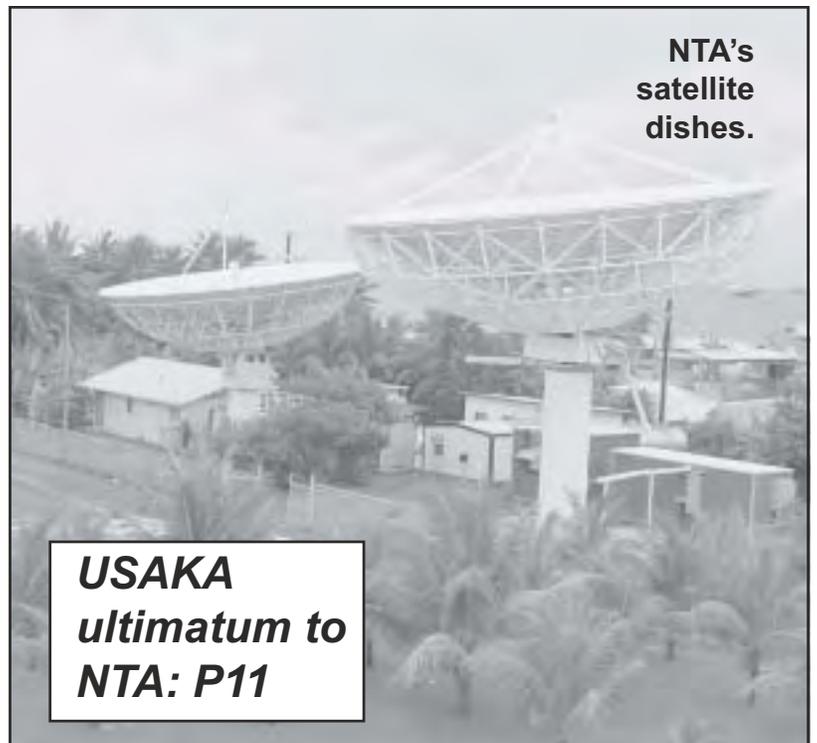
Equipment is expected to arrive in early August so that it can be installed and activated by the end of the month.

The existing cell system, known as TDMA, will be relocated to Ebeye, whose cell system is down. "We're focusing on Ebeye because its cell system is down," Muller said. "We can reuse the Majuro system and bring back service there."

In Majuro, people will need to get new, GSM-capable cell phones, Muller said. Cell phones currently in use locally will not work with the new GSM system.

The new cell system in Majuro will offer text messaging, among other features. There will be more channels "and no dropped calls," he promises.

At a later point, NTA plans to upgrade the system to allow for Internet downloading, he said.



NTA's satellite dishes.

**USAKA
ultimatum to
NTA: P11**

NTA repairs old earth station as back up

In January, the satellite that the Marshall Islands used for all of its telephone and Internet connections burned up, leaving the RMI — and many Pacific nations — without international links for about four days.

That experience has led the National Telecommunications Authority (NTA) to begin repairs to its old, decommissioned earth station in Delap in order to put it into use as a back up for its primary earth station-satellite link.

Late last month, NTA staff shifted the dish from the skyward position it has been in since it was decommissioned several years ago to face in a more southerly direction. "We're recommissioning the old earth station," NTA general manager Tony Muller.

It will be used as a back up and linked to a different satellite than the larger, newer earth station that serves as the RMI's primary link to the outside world.

Muller said that the satellite that burned up in January is an incident that will probably never happen again, but NTA isn't going to take chances of being caught without a backup. He said, however, that it will take several months to get the old earth station up and running.

The Charge Sheet

Traffic citations filed in the District Court between June 28 to July 11, 2005

Majuro District Court

National Police

Name	Sex/Age	Offense Cited	Plea
Asia Erakdik	M26	Faulty taillamp	Guilty
Sheryl Tino	F25	No DL Obst. driver	Pending
Chang Quin Shobb	M26	DUI, Negligent	Not Guilty
Hudson Shoniber	M42	Failure to yield/DUI/ Negligent driving	
Class Makroro	M46	No DL Tinted glass	Guilty Not guilty
Moses Woodling	M28	Tinted glass	Guilty
Randon Nemato	M32	No DL, DUI	Not Guilty
Tommy Ishamo	M34	DUI	Pending
Leban Junior	M26	DUI/ Ill.stop	Pending

MALGov Police

Name	Sex/Age	Offense Cited	Plea
Hersley Beasa		DUI, Negligent	Guilty
Tino Jamemo	M32	Ill. stop/park	Pending
Maubed Jai	M38	Unsafe passing	Pending
Dino Carmel	M18	Obstructing traffic	Pending
Rambo Jamomo	M22	Obstructing traffic	Pending
Jieta Jieta		Illegal stop/park	Pending
Qning Shou Chang	M26	Hour of Operation	Pending
Cotine Tarilang	M18	Open container	Pending
Jandik Phillip	M22	Open container	Pending
Kochic Anitok	M34	No DL Failure to yield	Pending
Arbian Brinjal	M30	Failure to Yield	Pending
Enion Kaller	M30	Open container	Pending
Alfred Taney	M41	Open container	Pending
Joe Kijidrik	M35	Sec. 153	Pending
Jendrik Daniel	M36	Improper Signal	Pending
Junior Helai	M25	Open Container	Pending

KEY: DL = Driver's License; CL = Chauffer's License; DUI = Driving Under the Influence (of alcohol); Susp. = Suspended.

Aneo dies in cop car chase in Arkansas

A Marshallese man died in a car crash while being chased by police in Springdale, Arkansas last week.

The incident involving 19-year-old Anseth Aneo was front page news, including a photo of his wrecked car, in Springdale's The Morning News, and was on the local TV news.

Yokwe Online and the The Morning News reported that the Aneo's death followed his assaults on several Springdale residents in the middle of the day. Police indicated that their laboratory will perform toxicology tests on Aneo's body to identify anything that could account for his "erratic and unusual" behavior.

The incident occurred on Sunday, June 26. According to eyewitness Dustin Davis, whose car was hit repeatedly by Aneo's and who was assaulted by Aneo, the incident started after he was behind Aneo's car at a traffic light.

When Aneo's car sat through two green lights without moving, Davis honked his horn for Aneo to move forward so that he could pass. When Aneo moved forward, Davis passed and then Aneo followed. Aneo then speeded up and crashed into Davis's bumper and then hit his car hard enough to spin it completely around, according to Davis' account of the incident in The Morning News.

Davis pulled into the CITGO Flash Market at about 12:45 pm and ran into the small store for help.

He said Aneo ran in after him and punched Davis in the head. As store clerk Maggie Shadrack dialed '911' for police assistance, she said Aneo grabbed her by the throat, choking her.

Bystander Brad Wilson told The Morning News that he tried to help but was pushed away by Aneo. Another store customer, Leslie Riney, also reported being grabbed by the throat. When Aneo left the store, he rammed her truck, at which point the police arrived on the scene, the newspaper reported. Aneo refused to halt and took off in his green Hyundai Elantra. During a high-speed chase, he lost control of his car, crashing into a mailbox and a tree.

He died from the collision.

Jitiam charged

Rotis Nebid Jitiam has been charged with three counts of assault for allegedly attacking an American outside of a local bar two years ago. The police affidavit attached to the case says that the reason for the delay in filing the charges is that Jitiam "ran away" to Mili Atoll and couldn't be located.

The incident is alleged to have occurred on June 29, 2003.

The police report said that he hit Richard Liebert with a rock on the head. The police said that after Jitiam was arrested on July 4, he was advised of his rights and proceeded to admit that he had assaulted Liebert.

At an initial bail hearing July 8, Chief Justice Carl Ingram denied bail to Jitiam and ordered him held until the case is resolved. A preliminary hearing is set for July 14 to decide if there is probable cause for a trial to be held.

Lanwi files civil suit

Immigration chief Isaac Lanwi filed a civil suit against Yostaro Harris announcing that he is planning to make a deportation order against him.

The short motion filed by Lanwi said that Wilfred Kendall and other land-owners on Kalalen Island have complained that Harris is breaking into houses, stealing, setting fire to land areas and physically assaulting children.

Lanwi said that any entry permit he has is now void.

The High Court set a hearing for July 25 at which Harris has to show cause why he should not be deported.

Muller sues over LRA decision

Charles Muller has filed suit in the High Court against the Land Registration Authority claiming that it has illegally decided there is no irojiedik (chief) for Binbinkan weto (land parcel) in Uliga.

He said that the Land Registration Authority (LRA) has decided that the title ended with the death of his father, Henry Muller.

The LRA has “no legal authority” to declare that the irojiedik title expired, his suit filed by attorney David Lowe said. Muller argues that this decision is against Marshallese custom and tradition.

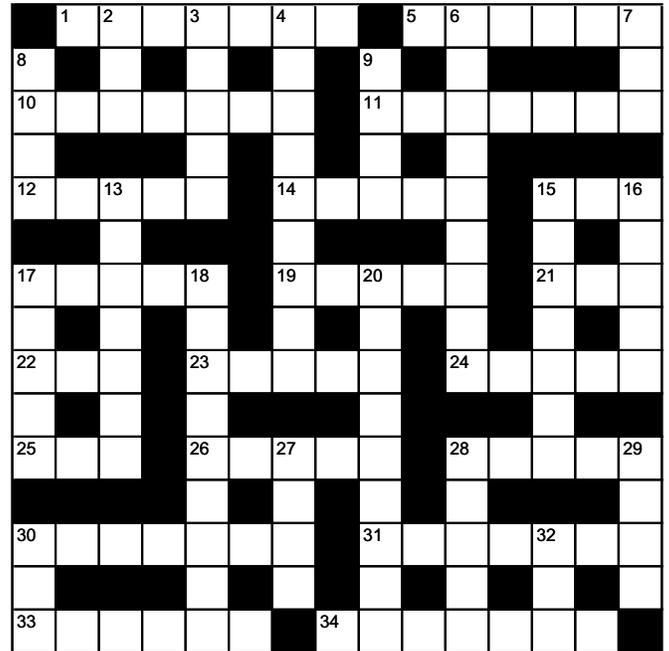
The RMI Riddle No. 43: Sponsored by CopyMasters

ACROSS

1. Making fast. (5,2)
5. Bill or Ben.
10. James or Alfred.
11. Single document on dress?
12. Strict about rents.
14. Flower.
15. Ladies' league. (abb.)
17. Takes part in MBYC race.
19. PNG waterway.
21. Brown.
22. Novelist Eric Ambler wrote: "International business may conduct its operations with scraps of paper, but the --- it uses is human blood."
23. Kingly.
24. Course.
25. One chuckle found in MISSA.
26. Noble Bigler.
28. Our chain.
30. Tarawa's nearest neighbor.
31. SP islands.
33. Odd oar carved up fish.
34. Stege and Strauss.

DOWN

2. Jabber in FSM.
3. Lonny arranged synthetic. (1,1,7)
6. MWSC's best friend.
7. Jinen.
8. Treads the boards.
9. Weighty wrestling.



13. Wake and find Peale's pal. (4,3)
15. Holly's habiliment.
16. Outrigger.
17. Syndrome or doll.
18. Water toy.
20. Pacific part.
27. USA Today or London Times.
28. Majuro mayor.
29. Lucre in Lae.
30. Assist.
32. Delap spaceship.

Answers to RMI Riddle No. 42



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

Need a pen to do the puzzle?
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USAKA ultimatum to NTA

US Army officials flew into Majuro from Kwajalein last week to deliver a brief but sharp message to the National Telecommunications Authority: It has a week to pony up \$92,000 for its share of a marine survey for an underwater fiber optic cable project that has been under discussion for several years. If it doesn't pay up, the Marshall Islands will be dropped from the project, Army officials said. New USAKA Host Nation chief Major Jeff Klein delivered the ultimatum to both Majuro business leaders and NTA officials.

NTA officials told local business leaders after the meeting with Army officials that their board supports involvement in the project

and so NTA was going to kick in its share for the survey.

Some local officials were surprised by the Army's sudden rush, given that both NTA and the Federated States of Micronesia Telecom have been attempting over the last two years to get an answer from top-level Defense Department officials as to the terms of its participation in the fiber optic cable plan.

The proposal is to have the FSM, Kwajalein and Majuro join in a major submarine cable that is linking Australia with Guam. Many believe that access to the fiber optic cable will revolutionize communications in these two central Pacific nations.

AROUND TOWN

Tougher than NBA

Well, Majuro Atoll Local Government's 'veterans league' just wrapped up with Lökkokelok beating Island Builders in the finale late last week.

But the real story about this league is that it probably takes the record for the longest running league in the world — even longer than the NBA, which finishes in June. MALGov launched the league for the old guys back in November 2004, ran up to about a week or so before Christmas and then took a break for the holidays. That break stretched to mid-January.

The league barely got going for a week and then it was time to stop again, this time for the build up to Majuro Day, in mid-February. Then, of course, the MALGov guys were wiped out from all of the activities so it took another few weeks or so to re-start things. Then after a couple more weeks of games, the league had to stop in April for the build up for Constitution Day. Of course, in between all of this there were rainouts and then the forfeits multiplied as teams lost interest or just didn't know there was a game.

We're glad they got to the championship. More like the last teams standing made it. So perseverance pays off!

Homerun

Some Majuro folks know **Burt Lum**, a Hawaii guy who's working with the Ministry of Education to set up a data base to track student progress.

Thanks to **Aenet Rowa's** Yokwe.net Web site, which linked Burt's home page, we discovered his great coverage of Majuro.

Burt's in town for the big educators' meeting, and he's been putting Majuro-related things on his Web site. Among others, he posted a photo of the WUTMI ladies doing floral arrangements at Marshall Islands Resort last Friday, and what is known in Internet parlance as a "podcast" that, if you're sufficiently 'Net savvy, you can listen to from your computer.

He showed up over in front of the Ministry of Ed for its PEC raffle drawing Saturday night, and was delighted to find a local band playing.

So he immediately turned on his MP3 player to record the event, which you can listen to.

The announcer was talking to people driving by Saturday night, telling everyone to come and buy tickets; just as the band starts



Some pretty powerful movers and shakers in the realm of education were spotted last Saturday enjoying the WUTMI field activities at the Weather Station. Pictured from left are: Marie Maddison, WUTMI adviser; Zita Pangelinan, President and CEO of Pacific Human Resources Services Inc.; Lynne Waihee, President of Read to Me International Foundation and formerly Hawaii's First Lady; Jackie Burniske, PREL Director of Special Initiatives; and Carmen Bigler, WUTMI President.

strumming up a number, you can hear in the background a big crash and the tinkle of glass hitting the pavement. Yep, Burt captured the moment — live music, a raffle and a live fender bender involving people rubber-necking at the band.

Ah, the sights and sounds of Majuro at night! Check it out at the web address <http://bytemarks.blogspot.com/>.

Absent minded

A good number of people showed up Wednesday morning at 10 am to attend the "Absenteeism at Ebeye Public Elementary School — A Case Study" workshop session at the Pacific Educational Conference at Marshall Islands High School. Well, unfortunately, true to the topic, the two Marshallese presenters were absent. People

ON THE MOVE IN THE MARSHALLS

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AROUND TOWN



Cool coconut boat

On Tuesday, Marshalls Billfish Club prez Melvin Aliven was flicking through some of our happy snaps from the recent big tourney when he pointed out a very special boat in the bottom fishing division: "That boat's powered by coconut fuel," he said of Team Tobolar, skippered by Witon Barry. Okay, so the team only hauled in 54 pounds of fishy flesh, but we reckon their converted Chinese diesel outboard was the smartest motor in the whole darn competition. As the Melman commented: "Wouldn't it be great if they had them in the outer islands."

waited around for a bit and then gave up. A friend of ours, who was in the group waiting for the no-show presenters, then went along to another workshop on performance-based budgeting in another classroom.

Whoops. Same situation, people waiting around. Guess people wanting to hear those two presentations just had bad luck.

Hilda honored

Dr. **Hilda Heine** was recognized at the opening of the Pacific Educational Conference for being the first Marshall Islander to achieve her Ph.D.

Dr. **Rita Inos**, who is from the Northern Marianas and chairs the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) board, called Heine to honor Tuesday night at the opening ceremony for the big educators conference.

In reference to **David Cohen's** remark (see PEC conference coverage elsewhere in this paper) about education being like a tattoo, Rita said "Marshallese should be proud; Hilda's tattoo was completed."

On the move

Tourist industry types in Majuro have long bemoaned the lack of promotional material on the Marshall Islands.

Then, a couple of years back, this prestigious publication put out a newspaper-format travel guide called *On the Move in the Marshalls* and repeated the effort the following year.

Now the publication has re-emerged as a state-of-the art interactive CD, that's on sale at the main stores around town.

And we promise you it's packed with information on just about

every aspect of RMI. Add in the world-class photos and maps of every atoll and you'd be hard pushed to find a better resource for visitors.

As they say in Hollywood: *On the Move in the Marshalls* gets a 'Three Thumbs Up'

Liquid gold

Maybe we'll be able to get city water turned on more than two days a week, now that it's been raining and our reservoir is up to 24.9 million gallons of water as of Wednesday this week. That's about two-thirds full.

Last month, the supply dropped to just a 10-day supply of the fresh stuff, leading Majuro Water and Sewer Company to tighten up water hours from three days to just Mondays and Fridays.

Wiz wow

Marshall Islands Resort head honcho **Bill Weza** generally adopts a minimalist attitude when it comes to handing out smiles. But he was really going overboard Monday morning at the hotel.

Everyone knows, of course, that one of the major attraction's of MIR is the large presence of Bill flinging criticism and caustic comment at his customers, especially those regulars who are hooked on the need to seek out the verbal abuse at least several times each week...so we immediately new that something was up when he was being so nice to all and sundry.

Turned out he had good reason: His wife, **Helina Kare**, delivered a 5 pound, 11 ounce baby boy early that morning.

They've named the guy **Robert Bejak Weza**, and we're waiting to see young Bobby hanging out over at the Enra restaurant.

Need to rethink education process

One of the most significant developments in Pacific education in the past several years is the “Rethinking Education” movement — which is involving educators in taking a hard look at assumptions that we take for granted about education.

As many older Pacific educators look back on 30 years of teaching and administering, they see that they’re still dealing with many of the same problems, with little progress evident. Why is that?

We can offer some suggestions: Educators in the US-affiliated islands have tended to simply adopt US curriculum and systems, and as a consequence there has been little sense of ownership of public education in our islands to say nothing of the problem of relevance.

We need people in public education who are willing to challenge long-held assumptions (we do it this way because we’ve always done it this way), be creative and develop innovative ways of delivering education.

Pacific islands have tremendous resources — natural environments for ‘laboratories’ and rich cultures, including traditional styles of teaching — that seem to be largely untapped in modern education. Indeed, the idea of “participation” is central to island cultures (just



consider any event or project), yet modern education seems often to be devoid of this essential ingredient.

Participation, not only by educators but by students, parents, government leaders and communities is a key missing element to making our public schools better. Except for a few notable examples, there is not a high degree of community participation in public education in many islands.

The first step is simply acknowledging that everything isn’t working. And that’s often a difficult step for people involved in the system. In the Marshall Islands it’s started to happen, and is also happening to varying degrees in other islands.

We were happy to see that at least there was one workshop session devoted to a ‘Rethinking Education’ update at this week’s big Pacific Educational Conference.

We think it’s a topic that deserves much more attention and action by people throughout the region.

The Marshall Islands Journal

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Sakovich praises our Olympic efforts

After spending two weeks on Kwajalein and Majuro recently, I felt much has been accomplished toward the Marshall Islands gaining National Olympic Committee status.

More people and programs are becoming active, and much has improved over the past several months.

I don't believe most people in the RMI realize the amount of work and personal expenses going toward reaching the goal of becoming a member of the Olympic Movement, and I would like to pay tribute to and thank the efforts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and their Sports and Recreation staff, the national sports federations, and the Marshall Islands National Olympic Committee.

I especially want to acknowledge the efforts of Kenneth Kramer and Terry Sasser for leading the MINOC this far, and Charles Abraham at Sports and Recreation.

These individuals have been tireless in trying to develop sports programs in the RMI, enabling the islands to be recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the world governing body of sport.

Once the necessary documentation for NOC status is satisfied, the RMI's name will be put forward at the next IOC meeting for acceptance, and this should be before Beijing 2008.

The Marshall Island's participation in the Mini South Pacific Games (in Palau later this month) is important, and your efforts in sending other teams off island to gain international experience will enhance your Olympic goal.

Komol tata to everyone in the RMI whom I have worked with in making this effort possible. I am already looking forward to my next visit.

Good luck with your efforts.

Bill Sakovich

(The writer is the former chairman of the Micronesian Games Council who is now living in Hawaii.)

LETTERS

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Neal Skinner

Good on you, EPA!

The decision of the RMI EPA to not zone the downtown areas of the DUD ‘

Heavy Industrial’ was a good start to future zoning. We can now look forward to the much needed zoning for playgrounds, parks, and public areas.

As our country becomes more crowded and congested these areas will add that quality of life we have all come to enjoy.

Children need these areas for recreation and sports to develop properly within their community. Thank you EPA, keep up the good work.

Neal Skinner
EZ Price Mart



Various ingredients used in chewing betel nuts.

Sam says chewing betel nuts is bad

Chewing betel nut these days may sound great or sickening depending on whether you like it or not. Well, we cannot ignore the fact that betel nut is receiving popular demand from our local and foreign folks here on Majuro as well as disgust by some because of the ugly stain it creates.

The laws of supply and demand together with high return on investment makes betel nut a top investment for some local businesses. Do we so far have any response from any NGO or government organization to deal with the rise in consumption of betel nut?

Mainlanders and islanders of South and South-east Asia, and Pacific islanders who live in the North, Northwest, and West of Marshall Islands were some of the first people to use betel nut. Betel nut became a highly priced item for our fellow Marshallese friends who went to other islands or countries where it is widely in use.

When they return to the Marshall Islands they long for the unique tastes of the betel nut.

The use of betel nut by our Marshallese returnees, foreign friends, curiosity to try it, and the style from using it has made it more and more popular these days.

Then, what are some of the ill effects of using betel nut? According to the British Journal of Cancer, and other health research:

1. Mouth cancer can develop in any part of the mouth, including the tongue, the gums, the skin lining the mouth or the lips. The commonest symptoms of mouth cancer are:

- A sore in the mouth that does not heal.
- White patches anywhere in your mouth.
- Red patches anywhere in your mouth.
- A lump on the lip, tongue or in the mouth or throat.

2. Some people may experience increased body secretions, including increased production of saliva, tears, sweat, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and stomach cramps.

3. It may lead to urinary incontinence, fever and flushing.

4. Chest pain, heart attacks, irregular heart rhythms, rapid heart-

LETTERS

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beat and altered blood pressure have occurred after chewing betel nuts.

5. An increased risk of liver cancer, cervical cancer, and cancer in the stomach, prostate, lungs and sweat glands.

6. May have a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

7. May cause Oral Submucous Fibrosis (OSF), a chronic debilitating disease and a well-recognized potentially malignant condition of the oral cavity.

8. Some betel nuts may be contaminated with harmful substances, including aflatoxin or lead.

9. Betel nut is not recommended during pregnancy and breastfeeding because of the risk of birth defects or spontaneous abortion.

Our youth are the most vulnerable to the use and addiction of betel nut due to peer pressure, perception, and lack of health awareness. It takes all the stakeholders of the community to educate, reduce, and prevent the use of betel nut.

The good news is that the habit and addiction of chewing betel nut can be cured with appropriate support and will of the user.

I hope that health issues and challenges faced by our school-aged children of Pacific region will be some of the topics discussed during Pacific Educational Conference.

Let's pass on the health awareness regarding betel nut and not the habit of chewing it. Good health to you all!

Samuel Thang Ngala
Majuro SDA School System



The women play musical mayhem. Note lady in hat sitting in legs, rather than seat.

After a week of serious discussions on issues of teen pregnancy, STDs, HIV/AIDS, environment and tourism development, Women United Together In the Marshall Islands (WUTMI) members closed off with a day of fun in the sun. Attendees of this summer's WUTMI Executive Board Meeting spent a day relaxing and having a good time at the Weather Station in Delap playing games of musical chairs, juggling and showing off their skills in a basket weaving competition.



Carmenita Balos, winner of the basket-weaving award.

Weaving a wonderful day



No knees, but plenty of fun in the noni juggling race. Photographs by Suzanne Murphy.



Counting bodies at DOE

Dickner Moore, a 20-year-old fellow from the northern atoll of Utrik, makes use of the whole body counter at the Utrik/Department of Energy facility in Majuro, while technician Lolita Chee (below) records the information for Moore on her computer that is linked to the whole body counter. This equipment checks radiation in people's bodies and is used to monitor any changes. Any Majuro resident interested to get checked can get the free service by going to the office, which is located next to the JOCV office in Delap. It takes about 15 minutes to do the count.



MIVA joins the 'papa' of PATA

The Marshall Islands Visitors Authority (MIVA) is proud to announce that the Marshall Islands has officially become a member of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

MIVA has been a member of the PATA Micronesia Chapter for a number of years and through the organization's chapter integration plan that went into effect this year. The Marshall Islands is the last core member of PATA Micronesia to join "big" PATA. According to MIVA, by being a member of PATA, which is the leading authority on travel and tourism to and within Pacific and Asia, it will have access to a variety of resources such as global marketing, travel trade events, destination marketing, international visibility, statistics and forecasting, education and training and heritage conservation.

"I can't tell you how delighted all of us are to have the Marshall Islands in the PATA family," says Peter Semone, vice president of development for PATA. Not only will MIVA have access to the myriad benefits available through the organization, but also will be able to attend two of PATA's most prestigious events such as the PATA annual conference in April and the PATA Travel Mart, usually in September or October.

"I am very pleased that the Marshall Islands is finally able to join 'big' PATA this year and we certainly look forward to utilizing their information and services, which will enable us to better promote tourism in the region and especially the RMI," says Dolores deBrum-Kattil, MIVA's general manager.

ROC hands over \$2m to RMI government

Taiwan Embassy Charge Robert Duan presented a check for slightly over \$2 million to RMI's acting Foreign Minister John Silk and Finance Minister Brenson Wase last week Tuesday at the capital building.

The funds include \$2 million for support of the government's general fund budget, and \$88,632.66 for projects.

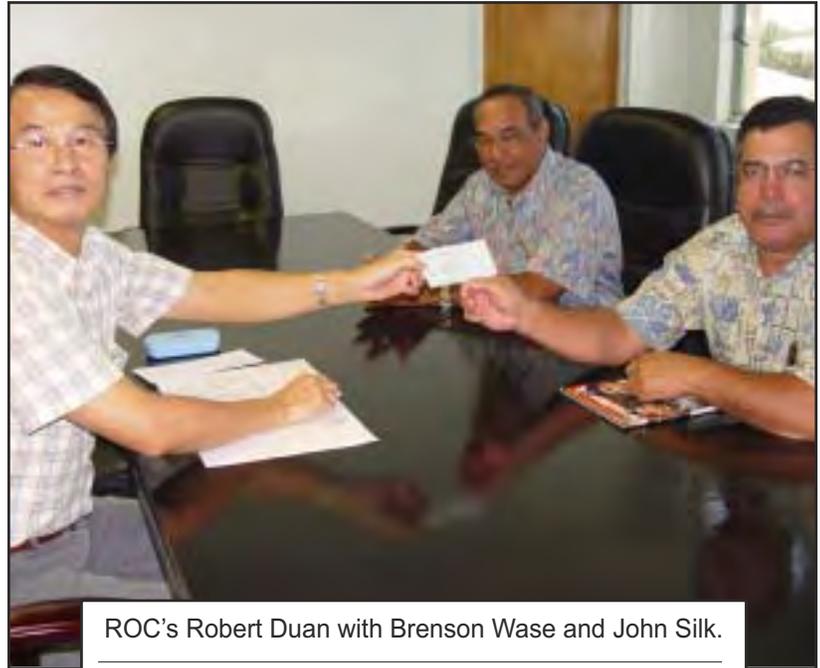
Duan said he hoped that this funding will help economic and social development in the RMI.

Silk thanked the Taiwanese for their support, saying that the relationship was based on mutual responsibility and trust. He noted that relations between the two countries is "warm."

"Money is important, but the relationship is not just based on money," Silk said. "It is based on democracy, freedom and mutual respect."

The projects funded with the Taiwan grant include:

- PSC vehicle, \$657.
- Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination, \$3,529.12.
- Laura High School repairs, \$6,155.80.
- Majuro fire station, \$8,003.46.
- Laura fire house building, \$25,229.20.
- Fire trucks and equipment, \$17,481.12.
- Majuro hospital and outer island dispensaries, \$7,420.50.
- Ebeye morgue building, \$20,156.46.



ROC's Robert Duan with Brenson Wase and John Silk.

'Money is important, but the relationship is not just based on money. It is based on democracy, freedom and mutual respect.' — John Silk

Scouting out and about in Oahu



Rongelap Mayor James Matayoshi (back, right) and Senator Abacca Anjain-Maddison (right) with the scout troop.

Marshall Islands boy scouts from Rongelap/Mejatto Elementary School participated in a Boy Scout Jamboree last week on the North Shore of Oahu in Hawaii.

The jamboree was hosted by the Boy Scouts of America coordinator for the Marshall Islands, Robert Nakagawa.

Last year, the Journal featured a story about Riten Anjain, a scout from Mejatto who saved the life of a one-year-old baby boy after these scouts were trained for through a basic first aid program.

In addition to Anjain, the scouts are Johnny Anjain, Anthony Thomas, Steven Henry, Dino Langbata, Eddie Anwell, Georgetown Kalles, Maitha Kabua and Patrick Kolle.

The team would like to thank the Mejatto community, the Rongelap Atoll Local Government and Senator Abacca Anjain-Maddison for their support for the trip.

This month, Majuro says sayonara to a group of JOCVs and will soon say yokwe to a new incoming group, who will pick up their colleagues' challenge of teaching our young. Today editor Giff Johnson interviews three of the outgoing Japanese.

Japan's helping hands

Rong Rong's white sand beach is like those resort hotels you see in travel posters.

For math and science teacher Emiko Torikai the jump from going from one of the world's largest cities — Tokyo — to one of the smallest islands was a shock, but one that was buffered by the beautiful environment. She recently completed two years teaching at Marshalls Christian High School at the western tip of Majuro Atoll.

"Rong Rong is a very good place," she said. White sand beaches, calm lagoon, good swimming, plenty of fish and huge coral. "I enjoyed it."

Although she had attended high school and college in Tokyo, a city of more than 10 million people, she said in Rong Rong's school community of about 300 people "there was no privacy." It took her a little while to get used to being a 'TV set'. "There were always students at my house," she said. "It was good because we really got to know each other well."

Possibly her biggest adjustment was to understanding the mix of academics, church and various activities on Rong Rong, not necessarily in that order of priority. "At first I didn't understand," she said. "Now I appreciate the importance of working together in committees and for church activities."

Young people need to study the Bible to live in Marshall Islands, just as they need to study academic subjects, she observed.

"Both are important and I was happy to help with the math and science teaching," she said. The challenge, she said, is to find a balance between the demands of classes and those of church programs.

She also said that she really liked being at Rong Rong where "you don't have to hurry up."

Outside of class time, she took advantage of the lagoon to go snorkeling and fishing. "It was just 30 seconds from my house to the beach," she said with a laugh.

Torikai, who returned to Japan last month, said that she was interested to get a job with a car or computer manufacturer or in fisheries, which was her major in college.

Thinking back on her time at Rong Rong, Torikai thanked people on the island for teaching her. "I got more from them than I gave them," she said.

Emiko loved her time on Rong Rong



Japan's helping hands

Koji can't stay away from RMI

How do you know that Math teacher Koji Kida likes being in the Marshall Islands? That's easy: He keeps extending his time at Assumption High School.

He's been a familiar face to AHS students for three years, and even though he's leaving the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer program and Majuro in July, he's returning in August to teach the fall semester.

"I love Assumption High School and the students," he said enthusiastically. "They have great academic and other skills, like singing and ukulele playing. I couldn't leave after two years."

During his first year at AHS, he came to the conclusion that math was the most difficult subject for the students, and he thinks this is because of the curriculum used in both the elementary and high schools. Kida felt the curriculum in use at Assumption wasn't appropriate for the students, so asked and got the green light from principal Sandy Dismas to develop a new one for grades 9 through 12.

He noted that such skills as fractions and percentages were very poor among incoming freshmen, so he developed a curriculum for 9th grade that focuses on very basic skills, with each successive grade level repeating some of the skills learned the previous year at the start of the new year.

"With the old curriculum, we never finish the book in one year, so there was no link from year-to-year," he said. Apparently, it is



having some impact. Last year, only about four seniors passed the College of the Marshall Islands math placement test. This year, only about five *didn't* pass.

Kida will continue working through December, after which a new Japan volunteer is expected to replace him.

Kida said his plan is to head to Kiribati after finishing up at AHS. "I'm very interested in Kiribati culture, but I've never been there," he said. "I made friends with Kiribati youth here and have danced Kiribati dances with them."

He said he's now checking into teaching possibilities with our southern neighbors.



Sanae Ichijo

'Go forth and multiply'

Math teacher Sanae Ichijo found that paying attention to the basics in her teaching produced results during her two years at Ajeltake Elementary School.

She was quick to pick up on the problems, such as the long math textbooks that teachers could not complete in one year's time, and the lack of materials for math teaching.

But she said the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provided math teaching materials that helped in her second year. She also was surprised to find that students in grades three-to-five didn't

know their multiplication table, one of the most basic math requirements. "I noticed this right away," she said. "So I pushed the students to memorize it." In her second year, she saw that her students solved that problem and had their multiplication table memorized.

She noted that in Japan by second grade, students have memorized the multiplication table.

She said his two years in the Marshall Islands was his first time to travel outside of Japan, and she enjoyed her experience at Ajeltake.

\$10m atolls' project awaits EPA call on EIA

The Asian Development Bank-supported outer island infrastructure project is nearing the stage of announcing a bid for construction companies.

"We finished the five-week site investigation to all outer islands and have completed the detailed design work," said Peter Chapman, who is working with project manager Betwell Lekka at the Ministry of Transportation to coordinate the approximately \$10 million project.

In discussions with the RMI Environmental Protection Authority, it was decided that several of the beach channels and dock structures on outer islands needed an environmental impact assessment (EIA) conducted before EPA can issue required permits. That EIA is now nearing completion and will be submitted to the RMI EPA for review and public comment — following the same process as the proposed floating dry-dock — in mid-July, according to Chapman.

Ailinglaplap, Maloelap, Arno, Ujae, Lae and Jaluit are the focus of the EIA, which is being conducted by Andrew Ballard, a colleague of Chapman's from Australia, and the College of the Marshall Islands marine science program's Dr. Dean Jacobsen.

Chapman indicated that they had already involved the EPA in reviewing some issues for the project, so have been able to take advance action to resolve potential environmental problems on various outer islands.

Everything is ready for bidding to construction companies, pending the outcome of the EIA process, Chapman said.

"We're still on target to award the contract by the end of 2005," he said. The bid will go out both locally and internationally.

A total of 18 atolls will be receiving infrastructure upgrades from the project. One construction company will be awarded the contract to do the entire project, which is expected to take 18-24 months to complete, Chapman said.

RMI squad on track

The track and field team which will represent the country in the South Pacific Mini Games in Palau later this month has been confirmed by the Marshall Islands Athletics Federation (MIAF).

The seven-member squad will compete in the women's and men's sprint events — from 100 meters up to 400 meters, the jumps, and the two sprint relays.

The team includes young, talented athletes who are undergoing a development program for future international competitions. Making up the men's team is Peter "Roman Cress" Rear, 23; Domeio Kabua, 18; Fred "Nene" Adde, 24; and Rolanto Ceaser, 17. The women's team includes Takilang Kabua, 16; Magadlene "Ann" Chong Gum, 16; and Danica Kabua, the youngest in the team at 15.

"We are sending these young athletes to compete at a high standard competition — like the Mini Games — to compete against the top runners from Fiji, New Caledonia, PNG, and other Pacific nations to get a firsthand experience of competing internationally," said Melvin Majmeto who is the President of the Marshall Islands Athletics Federation. "Our main goal is the Micronesian Games in 2006. Track and field athletics features lots and lots of events and thus produces lots of medals.

"At the moment, we are putting lots of efforts and development work to bring these youngsters to a very competitive level in order to compete and earn medals in their athletic careers."

The team will be headed by coach Daniel Andrew who is currently assisting the athletes with their final preparation toward the



Ann Chong Gum and Danica Kabua, who are on the team.



7 athletes run for the Marshalls

Mini-Games. At the moment, the athletes are at their peak are now working on their speed training for the next three weeks before heading off to Palau, Majmeto said.

The team is also seeking support from individuals, businesses and agencies toward its goal of bringing medals home.



Mobil Oil Micronesia raised gasoline and diesel prices to its dealers in the Marshall Islands last week Wednesday.

The price to dealers increased five cents per gallon for gasoline and three cents per gallon for diesel effective June 29, Mobil said.

This resulted in increases at the pump at the four downtown dealers. Ritwut Corner rose to \$3.28 per gallon; SEPS increased to \$3.30; RRE increased to \$3.32; and Ace's One Stop rose to \$3.33.

The increase is a result of higher product costs for gasoline in the region, the Guam-based company said.

"In addition to worldwide supply and demand, the rise in global and regional product costs continue to impact the cost of gasoline locally," said Bernadette Valencia, Retail Manager, Mobil Oil Micronesia, Inc.

"Mobil will continue to monitor product cost and pass on any savings it can to the consumers."

Valencia added that "we continue to encourage our customers to maintain their vehicles in good running condition to receive the most fuel-efficient results."

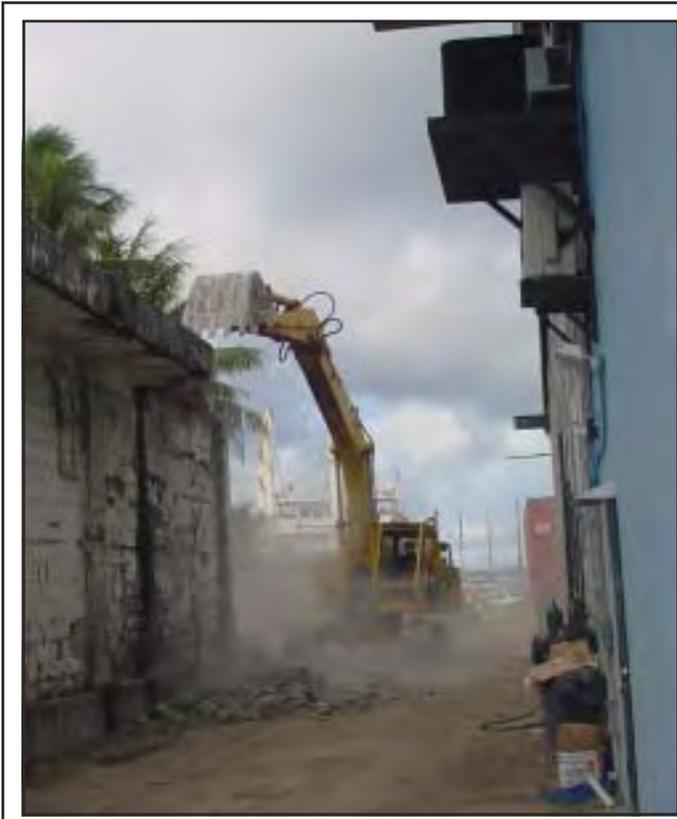
Fuel company rejects APA's complaint

Responding to Asia Pacific Airlines criticism of that its fuel pumping operation at Majuro international airport is slow, Mobil's public relations manager said that they have never received complaints from any other airlines about it.

"Our existing system in Majuro is designed to deliver fuel at the current flow rate," said PR manager Cecile Suda. "We have never received any other airlines' complaints about our fueling flow rate.

Over the years we have always managed to complete our fuelings before other ground services."

Speaking specifically about APA, Suda said "the only two delays encountered by APA were two incidents last year in connection with the equipment on our fueling cart. Our refueling staff at the depot have not received any complaints from APA on slow flows this year."



The ice house goeth

This was almost a national historic site, except it was more of an eyesore. Earlier this week, EZ Price Mart began demolishing the old Trust Territory-era refrigeration ('reefer') plant in Uliga. Jim Rosenberry (right) holds up a piece of the light insulation built into the plant. It is soon to be replaced by a warehouse.



Air Nauru knows what to do with the drunken sailor

I refer to your story on Page 25 of the Marshall Islands Journal of July 8, "Sailors spoil flights for Kiribati travelers."

I can assure your readers that Air Nauru does not allow passengers to drink their own duty free alcohol in flight. Our cabin crew will confiscate any alcohol from passengers who are caught drinking, and their drinks are not returned to them until they disembark from the aircraft.

We therefore reject the report in your story that such practice is "becoming a habit." In fact it is not uncommon for some passengers to be relieved of their duty free alcohol by the crew when they board the aircraft.

One such passenger was so thrilled about having his own whiskey handed back to him at the end of the flight that he wanted to shake hands with all the crew to thank them for his gift!

It is also Air Nauru's policy not to allow people who are obviously intoxicated to board the aircraft, and passengers in flight who show signs of being affected by alcohol are refused further alcoholic

LETTERS

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drinks. Air Nauru cabin crew are always very conscious about passenger safety and comfort and will act quickly, responsibly and effectively to ensure that any adverse behavior of passengers does not present a safety or security risk and does not upset other passengers.

Unlike the words of the old sea shanty, "What shall we do with the drunken sailor?", we think that it would be a little extreme to "throw him in the longboat until he's sober" from 30,000 feet!

John F. Goulding

General Manager-Commercial, Air Nauru

Delap restaurant manager assaulted by customer

A complaint was filed early Saturday with the national police by the manager of a local bar and restaurant who claims he was assaulted by a patron who didn't want to leave at closing time.

Flame Tree manager Al Wong reported that he was slugged at least twice in the face by William Lait at about 2 am Saturday. Lait, who had been drinking with friends, is a Majuro Atoll Local Government councilman from Ajeltake.

Lait claims that he was telling the bartender she had to close because it was 2 am. He said that when she told him that she was closed and only selling to employees, he threw an empty beer can at her. "I said you have to close."

Both Wong and employees at the local bar claim that the place was closed and virtually everyone had left. Wong said that since being cited by local government police last month for staying open after 2 am one night, the bar has been making its "last call" shortly before 2 am and closing promptly on weekends.

Bartender Peleiupu Filimone said that she was counting cash as part of her closing routine when Lait asked for another drink.

She said she told him she was closed and claims he told her that he was a national police officer. "I just ignored him and went back to counting," she said, adding that this is when she was hit in the back with a can that was still partly full.

"I was leaving to go home when I heard a commotion," said Wong. "I went over to see what was happening and to say we were closed.

The next thing I knew, he started hitting me in the face." Lait claims he doesn't recall hitting Wong.

Lait said that Wong approached and "was mad that I was talking to the lady. He was shouting at me, saying bad words." Wong said he merely approached Lait to tell him the bar was closed and find out what was happening. A few minutes later, Lait was picked up by police responding to a call from the bar.

Wong claims that a few minutes later, Lait threatened him in front of many police officers at the national police station where Wong went to report the incident. Wong subsequently filed a complaint with the national police.

Both of Wong's eyes showed heavy bruising and puffiness the week following the assault.

Majuro man drowns

The body of Louiston Zackious was found earlier this week by children in the Laura area, while the boat he was driving was found in different location in that area of Majuro.

Police had launched an unsuccessful search for him last week when he failed to return home after a Sunday afternoon picnic on Eneko Island on July 3. After returning to Shoreline around 7 pm that evening, he reportedly set out again for Eneko in the small outboard boat he was driving and was not seen alive again.



Assumption students on stage.

Students on show

Soon-to-be 9th graders at Assumption Schools put on a set of four skits about Marshallese legends last Friday at the church.

The program was the wrap up for the school's summer program that also involves a group of Maryknoll High School students and teachers from Hawaii in working with the incoming freshmen.

As part of their English classes, the more than 30 freshmen put on skits on Lijakwe (the most beautiful woman in the Marshall Islands who hailed from Ebon), the lost boy of Ailinglaplap, Rongelap and Rongerik and their canoe, and Likitanur (the story of how the first sail came to Marshallese outrigger canoes).

The stories were performed in English.

In addition to parents and friends, the more than 160 students in Assumption's Higher Achievement Program (HAP) watched the show.

Marshalls gets biggest share of USDA money

By GIFF JOHNSON

For the past two years, the Marshall Islands has received the largest amount of funding issued out by the USDA Rural Development program in the western Pacific through its community facilities grants.

In 2004, Rural Development funded 14 grant requests from RMI local and national government agencies and non governmental organizations for \$753,664 — which accounted for 49 percent of the more than \$1.5 million Rural Development gave out to the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

In 2003, Marshall Islands local governments and national government agencies were awarded nine grants worth \$413,467 — or fully 51 percent of all the grants made in these US-affiliated islands.

Grants have supported everything from purchase of vehicles such as ambulances and police trucks to support of construction projects for local schools. USDA western Pacific area director Lorraine Shin said that the Marshall Islands has been very aggressive in seeking funding through the community facilities program.

She noted that RMI agencies currently have nine grant applications pending that are seeking \$600,000 through the community facilities grant program.

These requests have been forwarded to USDA's US national office for review and selection, she said. Shin said that this will be "another good year" for funding for this grant program that provides a 75 percent of the funding through a matching grant.

US likes partnerships

USDA is shifting its funding and focus to programs that encourage partnerships, said Guam USDA Rural Development official Joseph Diego.

He explained that the Marshall Islands has been able to bring in more USDA funding through partnerships between USDA and the Marshall Islands Development Bank and more recently the Rongelap Atoll Local Government.

The rural home loan partnership program provides an 80-20 match with MIDB and RALGov, he said.

The involvement of these two organizations has meant "they are able to bring in more money because of the partnership," Diego said.

Rural housing programs director Jack Mahan indicated that USDA is talking with the Bikini and Enewetak leadership about possible housing loan programs, following on its successfully launched housing loan program at Rongelap.

A number of opportunities haven't yet been exercised by the Marshall Islands to gain funding through USDA, Mahan said.

Western Pacific area director Lorraine Shin pointed out that the Marshall Islands and other islands in this region have a big advantage in that they meet all the eligibility requirements so they get highest priority when funding is available. The criteria includes low income and high unemployment.

ARE YOU AWARE?

THAT Online subscriber Ruby wants you all to ponder the fact that the reverse of ‘stressed’ is ‘desserts’?

THAT according to research mob Rowenta in the US, 49 percent of Americans iron their jeans, while five percent iron their socks?

THAT Reader’s Digest reports that scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital have developed a pill that, in theory, prevents sunburn and that it’s made from the extract of a Central American fern, which has been used for years to treat various skin conditions?

THAT a mate of ours is in need of a job because he was working at a spice factory but was laid off “because it was just seasonal”?

THAT on July 17 the place to be is Disneyland in Anaheim, California, as the theme park is celebrating its 50th birthday?

THAT free range eggs cost more than ordinary eggs because of the cell phone principal that means the company will get you with roaming charges?

THAT Youth to Youth in Health’s new community center is nearly completed under the fine construction management of WAM’s John Kawakami and his team of trainees?

THAT the good news is that in 1990 the city of Los Angeles had 150 days with an ‘illegal’ level of smog, while in 2004 this shrank to just 27 days?

THAT the ROC Emb-assy’s Eugene Shu is sadly soon to leave town and his next post will be Sydney, Australia, where (as luck would have it) there’s an abundance of great oriental eateries, including The Emperor’s Garden in Chinatown?

THAT MEC announced this week that it expects to have to begin rationing power in Majuro and Wotje as its diesel supply is dwindling (see P24)?

THAT the average energy bill in the US is \$1,771?

THAT the IRS recently received a letter from a guy saying: “I’ve been unable to sleep knowing I cheated on my taxes, so I’ve enclosed a check for \$200 and, if I still can’t sleep, I’ll send the rest”?

THAT a mate of ours Down Under has been dating a guy on house arrest, ’cos she’s fed up of being ditched by her latest beau?

THAT the new China Restaurant in downtown Mico has a super new way of ordering your meal: Build your meal from colorful pictures on the menu grouped ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ and ‘D’ (with even better prices: \$5 for two ‘Ds’ up to \$25 for one of each of the first four letters of the alphabet)?

THAT the Washington Post recently asked readers to use two nations to make a new word (and give the definition) and the results included Oman and Bolivia: Oblivia (the land that time — and everyone else — forgot); and Fiji and Haiti: Fijiti (which has the world’s highest consumption of caffeine)?

THAT reader Charles Kick wrote this week: “It seems that all the jokes about people reportedly dying during sexual intercourse are men ... Do the records include any women dying during the act?” to which our response can only be: “No, as ‘the act’ is not something women feel the need to brag about”?