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US ramps up action

More embassies being created around Pacific

GIFF JOHNSON

United States relations with the freely associated states are an essential part of its stepped-up focus on the Pacific islands and key to its standing with other countries in the region, according to a visiting US official.

A top-level US State Department representative who visited Majuro last month told the Journal that between the United States and its partners in the region there is "serious horsepower" for engaging with and meeting the needs of island nations.

Mark Lambert, deputy assistant secretary of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, was in Majuro to meet key players in RMI.

He said there is strong bipartisan recognition in the US Congress of the need to devote more time and resources to the island region. He acknowledged that the signing by the Solomon Islands and China of a security agreement last year was a wake up call for the United States.

"We have to be different," he said of the US approach to the islands. It starts by listening to the Pacific Islands Forum and individual countries like Marshall Islands "and then see if we can meet their needs, or get funds to meet those needs."

He pointed out that in addition to the multiple embassies the US has in the region — a number that is increasing with new ones being established in the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Kiribati — Australia has embassies in 13 nations, Japan and S. Korea also have

Continued page 2



Photo: Hilary Hosia

Australian Ambassador Brek Batley awarded the grand prize from the Australia Day bash last Thursday to Corrie Lejjena, left, and his wife Loredel Arieta. See story, photos page 6.

Battle for the airwaves

HILARY HOSIA

Nitijela spent over seven hours in a committee of the whole (COW) session Tuesday for a deep-dive into telecom reform. The session resulted in the pro-NTA and the pro-new telecom provider proponents to rehash their arguments many times over.

Here are highlights from the marathon COW, which started at 11am and

ended well after 7pm.

• **Kitlang Kabua, chair of RMI Digital Project:** The announced reform has been made after weighing concerns of stakeholders and advice from Parliament members. The new reform will not take out NTA. NTA will be restructured. No NTA staff will be left without a job once reform takes place. The Chief Secretary is ready for

placement of NTA staff who will have to move when the restructure takes place. The shareholders will have option to sell their stocks or join the newly restructure NTA.

Monopoly is not healthy for a developing nation. Only a few nations have monopoly over their telecom sector, so few you can count them with your

Continued page 2



Kwajalein Mayor Hirata Kabua with candidate James Wang.

Key players step down from the political arena

GIFF JOHNSON

Big names are sitting out the 2023 national election, while new names hope to elbow their way into Nitijela or local government office.

The big news is both Iroojlaplap Mike Kabua and Iroojlaplap Chris Loek are stepping down from Nitijela after decades in the parliament.

In addition, other long-time Nitijela members Donald Capelle of Likiep and Maynard Alfred of Ailuk are not standing for reelection. One of the five Majuro seats has opened, as one-term incumbent Sandy Alfred is not running for reelection due to health issues.

Although there was some speculation that Jabat representative Kessai Note, the only remaining Nitijela Member from the first Nitijela in 1979, would step down, he is seeking reelection for an unprecedented 12th term in office. While Note running for office isn't particularly newsworthy after 44 years in office, what is newsworthy is that for the first time in many election cycles, he is not running unopposed: Whitney Loek is challenging him for the Jabat Nitijela chair.

Unopposed this year are father and son duo, Wotho

Continued page 2

Tony Muller: ‘Where is the Digital RMI’s plan?’

From page 1
fingers. North Korea and Marshall Islands are among them.

• **Tommy Kijiner, NTA CEO:** By summer we’d know the status of the RUS grant. He complemented the news that NTA would be able to retain its indigenous monopoly. “If we retain our indigenous monopoly, this is good news.”

• **Kalani Kaneko, Majuro Nitijela Member:** Why is the World Bank looking into NTA now? Why not then when there was no funding before the fiber optic cable? We are an emerging company and we are targets of these big companies who set out to reset their past loss.

• **Tommy:** Who would chair the new telecom? From what I was told, two of the telecom operators of the new firm government thinks about bringing in will be on the board.



Photo: Hilary Hosia.

NTA CEO Tommy Kijiner, Jr. left, at the hearing.

• **Tony Muller, Majuro Nitijela Member:** Where is Digital RMI’s plan? You have the NTA plan. But where is Digital RMI’s plan? The NTA plan is clear that NTA aims to provide better service to the RMI, whereas Digital RMI plan is not available.

• **Fred Pedro, NTA board member/advisor to the President:** Star-

link’s representative approached the government to further their reach in the Pacific region. The President referred Starlink representative to NTA.

• **David Paul, Kwajalein Nitijela Member:** No other market will subsidize our market. He offered his experience working with ExxonMobil as an example to prove that other companies are not going to subsidize their business here. “If they lose money, they pull out,” David said. “Experience is the best teacher.”

• **Speaker Kenneth Kedi:** When the fiber optic cable was approved during Kessai Note’s presidency, the government knew RMI would lose money. And it would take time for NTA to make money again. Now that NTA is finally generating revenue, the government wants to replace NTA with a foreign monopoly. That is not right.



The LCM in Majuro. Above, Ebeye Public Works Director Doster Kabua. Photos: Hilary Hosia.

LCM ready to go to work Ebeye

A newly purchased Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM) vessel will soon be on its way to join the Ebeye, Kwajalein maritime fleet.

The LCM, which was purchased from the Pacific International Inc. by Kwajalein Atoll Local Government (KALGov), is undergoing additional work at the PII harbor prior to its jour-

ney to Ebeye. KALGov Mayor Hirata Kabua and a team from KALGov’s maritime and public works will embark to Ebeye upon completion of the add-on work, which includes building an additional shelter on the open vessel to for the crew for the ride home.

The LCM costs \$250,000 and is similar to LCMs used to ferry people

between the Kwajalein base and Ebeye from the 1990s to early 2000s.

The development is proof Hirata is a “hands on” guy who prefers to do the same ground work he expects from his staff.

Accompanying the mayor were the directors of public works and maritime division.

30 people vie for Majuro

From page 1

representatives President David Kabua and incumbent Mayor Kudo Kabua.

Some races are very crowded, leading with Majuro that has 30 candidates vying for five seats, with four incumbents in the mix. The cast of challengers includes former Nitijela Member David Kramer and Yolanda Lodge-Ned, who came in sixth and seventh, just 26 and 43 votes short of the fifth place spot, respectively. The field is crowded, to say the least, with a couple of dozen challengers, including Baron Bigler, Mailynn Langinlur Konelios, Phillip Muller, and Patrick Langrine.

Already drawing much comment on social media is the Majuro Nitijela candidacy of naturalized citizen James Wang. Naturalized citizen Russell Kun is also standing for a Majuro seat, though his candidacy has drawn less comment. In the 2015 national election, naturalized citizen Jack Niedenthal ran for election, establishing the legal basis for a naturalized citizen to run for elected office. His candidacy was the subject of a legal objection by the Attorney General’s office, but ultimately the RMI Supreme Court ruled that he could be on the ballot that year.

Jaluit and Likiep Nitijela races are also jammed with candidates. At Jaluit the 10 candidates are vying for two seats. Among the challenges to incumbents Casten Nemra and Jemi Nashion: Sonny Milne, Jerry Nathan, Daisy Alik-Momotaro, Joe Lomae, Allison Nashion, Jefferson Barton, Jendrik Paul and Ainrik George.

At Likiep, which is an open seat due to Capelle stepping down, six candidates are running: Christopher deBrum, Tommy Kijiner, Jr., John Bungitak, James Capelle Frederick deBrum and Wallace Peter.

Unusually, Namdrik has only two people running for Nitijela: Incumbent Wisely Zackhras and challenger Springdale resident Albios Latior.

US plans new ways to work in region

From page 1

a diplomatic presence in multiple island nations. “This is serious horsepower in the region,” he said.

For the US standing in the region, the most important point is, “we have to deliver,” Lambert said. People in the region need to see “tangible benefits of relations with the US,” he said. “It has to start here in the freely associated states.”

Important to the US establishing more embassies in them region is what he calls “old school diplomacy.” Lambert said “we need people to talk to church, business and government leaders” to understand needs in the islands so that resources can be better targeted.

Often, he said, the “best role for the US is linking smart people with other smart people.”

He pointed out that USAID, the US government’s international funding agency, focused on doing “big things.” But in the Pacific, Lambert said, “we need to think small.” He mentioned things likes libraries or a clinic in a remote island, or climate-proofing existing infrastructure. “We need to find a more nimble way” to engage in aid programs, he said, adding this is why it is good to work with friends such as Japan in delivering results in the region.

Commenting on President Joe Biden hosting of the US Pacific Islands Summit in Washington last September, Lambert said it is “our job to implement” the results of the summit.

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Yokohama	15-Jan	No Call	18-Feb	1-Mar
Majuro	22 - 23 Jan	7 - 8 Feb	No Call	8 - 9 Mar
Tarawa	24 - 26 Jan	No Call	26 - 28 Feb	No Call
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Pago	10 - 11 Feb	25 - 27 Feb	14 - 16 Mar	27 - 29 Mar

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Will bills create ‘mini-empire’?

Jack asks for review time

Marshalls Energy Company CEO Jack Chong Gum was under the impression his remarks to the Nitijela Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Relations last Wednesday would be brief.

But that wasn't the case in regards to Nitijela Bill 80, which aims to repeal the National Energy Office Act of 2018 in order to establish a National Energy Commission, and NB 84, making comprehensive provision for the governance and operation of electric power and petroleum sectors in RMI.

“I thought I was to deliver a simple statement that says MEC supports these two bills and that would be all I had to say,” Jack said to the panel, adding MEC had been involved in the initial stages of the drafting of the bills but later found what was agreed upon in earlier drafts was different from the document in front of him. Jack requested additional time before offering MEC input to the Nitijela committee that is reviewing these two significant pieces of legislation.

Island ECO owner Riyad Mucadam compared the bills' intentions to create a mini-empire. Riyad argued why is there a need to establish an energy commission when the National Energy Office was only created two years ago. “NEO still has work to do,” Riyad said. He pointed out in regard to the proposed National Energy Committee to replace the NEO nowhere in the government allows for a seven-year term, not even members of Parliament. Riyad also said should the commission materialize, then it would be independent and not subject to the jurisdiction of any minister. This contradicted the statement made earlier by Minister of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities Jiba Kabua.

Jiba claimed people with appropriate skills would be nominated as commissioners.



Basketball players tryout for the Micro Games at the Assumption court. Photos: Hilary Hosia.

Basketball tryouts in Majuro, Ebeye

Basketball tryouts for the Micro Games have been in full swing for the men's team beginning last week. The team has already made first cuts Monday this week at the Assumption multi-purpose court. Since last week,

tryouts took place all week with plans on reducing practice for three times per week starting next week. Coach Thomas Heine will be visiting Ebeye and the US to recruit additional players.

The women's team on the other hand,

began their tryouts this week at the Le-kre multi-purpose court in Small Island with Coach Mouj Lewi.

Marshall Island Basketball Federation announced accepting video submissions for stateside athletes.

Ebon gun case PNA celebration

After hearing evidence at a preliminary hearing last Thursday, Judge Witten Philippo found “good cause” to move to a case involving two firearm charges against Ranny Edward to trial.

Judge Philippo scheduled the trial for March 14.

Edward, who was the police chief on Ebon Atoll when the incident in question

occurred, is facing charges of identification card pre-requisites to purchase, possession and use of firearm and carrying a gun or dangerous device while under the influence of alcohol.

He is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Joe Lomae and defended by Chief Public Defender Russell Kun.

The long-awaited official opening of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office in Majuro will happen February 13. The PNAO headquarters building has been in use for over a year, following a “soft opening” after Pacific International Inc. completed construction of the building at the Uliga Dock.

But the official opening, with representatives of all nine islands involved in PNA had

been waiting for the border to be reopened.

The February 13 opening is expected to see President David Kabua, PNA Chairman Tuvalu Fisheries Minister Kitiona Tausi, and PNAO CEO Dr. Sangaa Clark speak.

The February 13 opening will be followed by two days of PNA officials and ministers meetings — the first in-person annual meetings of the PNA since 2019.

The line-up of mothers at the Early Childhood Development program office at the Uliga Inn.



Photo: Eve Burns.

ECD program simplifies disbursement system

EVE BURNS

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) program has taken the next steps for issuing a second disbursement of funds to eligible Marshallese mothers.

Mothers or guardians who have completed the interview process and are waiting for guidance to enroll in the Bank of Marshall Islands ECD Savings Account were

called back last week to continue on with the process. The process is simple and starts with going to Uliga Inn across the street from the courthouse where the ECD office is located. The day to show up is based on the first names of the mothers. For example, Adeline, Agnes = A; Doris, Doreen = D.

At the ECD office, mothers are given a parent-child agreement

form to sign. Once that is done, they can proceed to the “new accounts” desk at Bank of the Marshall Islands to create a bank account that is linked to the debit card they will receive.

After the new account is opened and the mothers pick up their ECD bank debit card, you back to the Inn to give your new account information where they make a copy

of it and give it back to you.

The first funds, issued last October, went out to about 160 mothers. The next group of 600 families are expected to receive their funds this week, with funds being deposited directly to their newly established accounts at Bank of Marshall Islands.

The ECD money that is given to each family is to help families

with food, clothing, cash power, and school supplies with the goal of improving the health, well-being and cognitive development of young children in each eligible family. Although you may feel the need to drink a glass of wine at Marshall Islands Club at 2am, the funding doesn't include that drink.

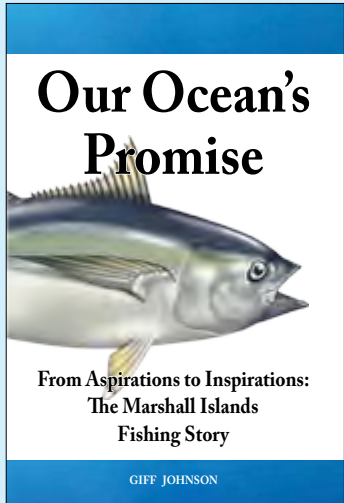
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REGIONAL REFLECTIONS

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Kiribati to return to Pacific Forum



President Taneti Maamau

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka's recent visit to Kiribati looks to have paid off. President Taneti Maamau of Kiribati has advised Rabuka (in his capacity as chair of the Pacific Islands Forum) that his country is ready to rejoin the regional organization. The regional leadership is expected to convene in a special meeting during March, to be held in Fiji. At that time, the chair will pass to Prime Minister Mark Brown of

Cook Islands. The annual Leaders' Meeting will be held in Rarotonga later in the year. A potential stumbling block to the resolution of the 'Micronesian Five' has been averted with current Secretary-General Henry Puna providing a clarification of his comments that he would like to continue in the role. Whilst in Honiara, he confirmed that he will finish up as Secretary-General next year as per the Suva Agreement.



VANUATU The iconic Chiefs' Nakamal has been destroyed by fire. Residents are in shock at the loss of a building that holds great social and cultural significance for the country. Australia will provide forensic expertise to support a police investigation into the incident.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Sir Bob Dadae has been re-elected as Governor General. There was much disappointment that Winnie Kiap did not secure this position to become the first woman to hold that office in PNG.

HAWAII The Partners of the Blue Pacific have met in Hawai'i. A joint statement reveals that the workshop was to increase the members' understanding of maritime domain awareness and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the region.

SAMOA The suspension of participation in labor mobility schemes is being maintained as domestic employers struggle to find workers to fill positions.



MARSHALL ISLANDS

The RMI is expecting a massive increase in funding from the US as part of the renegotiation of Compact arrangements. Meanwhile activists have called on the US government to apologize to the Marshallese people for nuclear testing from 1946-1958.

Pacific reaction to Ardern resignation



Prime Minister Chris Hipkins

The surprise announcement by Jacinda Ardern that she was stepping down as Prime Minister of New Zealand sent ripples across the region. Numerous leaders from national politics, regional organizations, and civil society were quick to thank her for her service to the Pacific. In addition to her advocacy on issues of climate change, she was also lauded for the example and inspiration she provided for women's leadership in the region. Prime Minister Chris

Hipkins' appointment of Carmel Sepuloni as the new Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand has been greeted with much appreciation. Sepuloni has both Tongan and Samoan heritage. She is the first Pasifika person to hold the position of Deputy PM in New Zealand. We are yet to know whether this change in leadership will have any impact on Pacific policy and engagement in Wellington. New Zealand will hold elections in October.

*Tess Newton Cain is the project lead for the Pacific Hub at the Griffith Asia Institute.

Peace Corps volunteer's time in RMI spans an incredible 54 years

EVE BURNS

Carol Curtis is one of the few Americans in the Marshall Islands who can say she first worked in the country before it became a country.

Carol first came to the Marshall Islands in 1969 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in one of the early groups of PCVs who began arriving following the US federal government becoming more engaged with the then-Trust Territory in the mid-1960s.

Carol arrived in the era of when the road to Laura wasn't paved, electricity was limited to government buildings, there were no walk-in stores only takeouts, and store offerings were generally limited to the basics: flour, rice, oil, sugar and a few canned goods.

Carol has lived for almost 33 years in the Marshall Islands. A significant portion of this time has been spent on outer islands. She told the Journal she enjoys village life and the feeling of community it generates.

She has worked with Alele Museum for many years and is nearing her retirement this month. In recent years, she's served at Alele as the curator, grants manager, photographic specialist and researcher.

At present she oversees the museum, which in addition to managing the exhibits includes giving tours to visitors and students.

She told the Journal that after she retires from the museum, she would be spending some time in the outer islands before heading back to the US.

Carol told the Journal the story of her journey to the Marshall Islands starting from when she first arrived as a teacher.

She taught English on Lae Atoll for two years, and was adopted in by a large family of 15 kids. This gave her a life-long attachment to Lae.

She explained that when the school year finished at Lae, she'd head into Majuro.

"I came back during the summer because we had to and I taught teachers because most of the teachers hadn't completed

Carol looks back on her long and notable career



Carol Curtis says her favorite Marshallese phrase is "tok jen lañ" which is used to describe someone so beautiful that they must have come down from heaven.

high school because Marshall Islands High School opened in 1965 — or else it was the first graduating class of the teachers," she said, pointing out that educational opportunities in the late 1960s were very limited in the Marshall Islands.

She finished her two-year Peace Corps term in 1971 and then traveled through Asia, taking the long way back to the US.

"I came back in 1975 to visit my family in Lae. I was going to stay for three months and I stayed for three years," she said with laughter. "That time I didn't have outside employment, I just stayed and made copra and did what everybody else did, in terms of the jobs, work that has to be done living in a village."

After this, she worked on Majuro and

wrote a book about handicrafts. It wasn't published as there was no funding to do so. But now the book has been digitized and is available for interested people.

Carol's "three months" ended in 1978, when she headed for a foray into the South Pacific. She traveled to Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea before even-

tually making it back to the US. She lived in Arizona for a few years.

The draw of the Marshall Islands was strong and Carol returned in 1984 and got a job at Alele, working there until 1994. She moved to Marshall Islands High School and taught into the 2000s.

She then left to live in Hawaii for four years with her children, eventually moving back to Utah where she was from to be with her mother who was ill.

Then she came back again in 2014 to visit her family in Lae and she was offered a job at Alele. Now in 2023, she's retiring with a plan to spend a few months in Lae before taking next steps.

Ri-Majol prefer to get Covid shots at church

People in some minority and underserved communities are more open to receiving the Covid-19 vaccine at their church than in a medical setting, according to researchers at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Office of Community Health & Research.

In a recently published study in the Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care, researchers compared vaccine acceptance among various population groups with Marshallese and Hispanic communities more willing to be vaccinated at faith-based organizations than at outpatient clinics.

A UAMS release on the study quoted the university's Dr. Pearl McElfish: "These findings suggest that collaborations between health care providers and faith-based institutions can increase vaccination among communities who may otherwise be hesitant. This information can help guide public health efforts to help those communities become better protected against



UAMS' Dr. Pearl McElfish.

various illnesses, including Covid-19 and the flu."

The study also found that participants who received their vaccines at a faith-based organization were also more likely to trust the efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccine, despite having lower health literacy levels than outpatient clinic participants.

The release stated that as of this week 12,800 Arkansas residents have, according to the World Health Organization, died from the virus.

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Strong RMI and Australian relationship celebrated

HILARY HOSIA

Corrie Lejjena became the luckiest guest to attend the Australia Day celebration at the Marshall Islands Resort last Thursday after winning the event's grand prize: round trip tickets for two from Majuro to Australia.

Corrie, like all who attended the cocktail event, received door prize tickets, where the lucky winner would be called up on stage to provide the correct answer to the riddle on their ticket.

Like major events in the Marshall Islands, the Australia Day celebration began with a prayer, followed by a rendition of the RMI National Anthem performed by Majuro Deaf Center students.

Minister of Education, Sports and Training Wilbur Heine on behalf of President David Kabua raised a toast to commemorate the special relationship between RMI and Australia. President Kabua was off island attending the inauguration of the new Kosrae government happening the same day.

"Australia and Marshall Islands are like-minded," Ambassador Brek Batley said in his remarks. Brek said the Australian Embassy has the easiest job which is to make the RMI and Australia relationship stronger.



Minister of Education, Sports and Training Wilbur Heine speaks on behalf of President at the Australia Day celebration at the Marshall Islands Resort. Below, Lewa Turaga sings the national anthem while members of the Majuro Deaf Center perform it with her.

Photos: Hilary Hosia.



MALGov, NRC are happy that vets are coming to Majuro

KAREN EARNSHAW

A veterinarian and two vet technicians will be holding limited clinics in Majuro on Friday and Saturday this week. The clinics are being held by Majuro Atoll Local Government and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, with the non-profit organization RMI Loves Animals doing the majority of the organization for the visit.

The lead of the veterinarian team is Dr. Kelly Dowdall-Garberson, who is the owner and founder of Aloha Affordable Veterinary Services in Oahu, Hawaii.

RMI Loves Animals' executive committee includes Director Lita Flood, Deputy Director Daniel Kramer, Treasurer Shirley Chen and Secretary Alexy Joseph. These animal lovers are supported by a number of like-minded people including Prue Palmer, Angeline Heine and Helen Jacot des Combes.

Prue told the Journal that the organization was formed to improve the welfare of animals in the RMI. "We'll do this by supporting RMI national and local governments and authorities to humanely manage the animal population," she said. They also want to raise people's awareness, knowledge and compassion for animals. This is in response to the alarming growth of stray dogs and packs of dogs, many of which hurt and threaten the human population.

"This visit is partly to assess the animal situation here," Prue said. "They won't be able to bring in too many medicines this time, but we hope more will be able to be done next time."

The vet team will also visit with a range of people and organizations, such as NRC Secretary Iva Reimers and College of the Marshall Islands President Dr. Irene Taafaki. "This will be a community consultation in preparation for a return visit," Prue said.

Bringing the veterinarian team was made possible through donations made via the RMI Loves Animals facebook page (<https://facebook.com/RMILoveAnimals/>). This page is also the best way to communicate with the non-profit.

United resumes third weekly Island Hopper

It has been nearly three years since Majuro has seen three weekly United Airlines Island Hopper flights.

That is scheduled to change February 10-11, when United

will resume its third weekly Island Hopper flight connecting Majuro and Kwajalein with Honolulu and Guam.

For over a year, United has been operating two Island Hop-

per flights each week on a Monday-Tuesday and Wednesday-Thursday schedule. The addition will bring a Friday-Saturday flight.

United operated three flights

weekly prior to Covid. When the RMI government shut its border on March 8, 2020, United cut-back service due to the inability to bring in passengers to the RMI.



Ri-Kaki Clanny Mook, in long sleeved jacket, and the team's coach Spencer Doulatram, far right, with the winning team and friends.

RoughRiderz win first place in Kona comp

KAREN EARNSHAW

The Marshallese women's softball team RoughRiderz from Honolulu, Hawaii, took out first place in the huge Ri-Kaki Clanny Mook Softball Tournament held in Kona, Big Island last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

The tournament was sponsored

by the pastor, who lives in Kailua Kona, as part of his 50th birthday celebrations. The tourney had 16 women's teams and 32 men's teams from around the United States. Team Akeo 1, which is made up of Marshallese also from all over the US, took out the men's division.

The competition was held at the athletics complex near the Old Airport in Kona with the competitors and their families and friends setting up tents, tables and chairs all around the softball diamonds. While watching the games, everyone enjoyed the supplied food and drinks.

Team coach and owner for the RoughRiderz women's team Spencer Doulatram, who is known for being president of Oahu's RMI808 Tennis Club, said that "first place prize for men was \$15,000 and first place for women was \$5,000. There was no second place."

Twenty beautiful young ladies take part in pageant



WILMER JOEL

The long-anticipated Miss Marshall Islands (MMI) pageant has finally arrived to the delight of thousands of Marshallese people. The second of its kind since 2019, it is the talk of the town and the trend on social media.

The 20 contestants are operating on a tight schedule for eight days with two days left before the main event—the crowning of Miss Aelon Kein this Saturday. During their first public appearance, the MMI contestants checked into their hotel rooms at Marshall Islands Resort last Friday. Then the contestants posed with the first-ever MMI Billma Peter for the cameras captured by their official photographer Chewy Lin and the pageant's media production team based in the Philippines CSI.

A day later they gathered at MIR Melele Room touching on social topics conducted by the Ministry of Health and Human Services and Women United Together Marshall Islands. Reverend Palukne Johnny blessed the contestants at a packed ceremony at the United Church of Christ in Uliga Sunday. Later in the day, they returned to MIR Melele Room participating in a sashing ceremony. Tuesday the MMI contestants got to showcase their platforms for the first time to the nation.

After they addressed their platforms at Melele Room, they engaged in a Q&A session with the judging panel consisting of Lita Flood, Randon Jack, Junior Paul, Deborah Shoniber, and Lena Tiobech. MMI 2023 Facebook page recently put up a voting for the People's Choice Award. The contestants with the most likes or reactions will be announced on the crowing night.

This Thursday, Majuro residents will get a brief glimpse of the Misses on the streets in the upcoming float parade from Rita Alwal to Delap Park. Then spectators will get a chance to see the talent of each of MMI contestants performing on stage. The event at Delap Park will also feature One Island, One Product displays by multiple islands and agencies.

Saturday is the crowing event, starting 7pm, at ICC.

RMI buckle up the show is just beginning for the next Miss Aelon Kein.

At a lunch sponsored by Lerooj Neimat Reimers and family, the Miss Marshall Islands contestants posed with pageant organizers Carlos Domnick and July Note (standing, left) and Brenda Alik (standing, right), the outgoing Miss Marshall Islands Billma Peter (seated with crown) and Neimat's family members, seated from left: Barbara Ned, Aten Reimers (with son Travis Zach "Lakamran" Fernando), and Adelma Timothy. Photo: Miss Marshall Islands Pageant 2023.

Busy schedule for Miss Marshall Islands 2023



Above, Miss Jaluit, represented by Claret Chong Gum. Above right, Miss Majuro, represented by Priscilla Zedkaia.

Ronnie's renderings

The Miss Marshall Islands pageant has sparked an outpouring of creativity from local artists: great photography, fabulous artwork, unique clothing designs showcasing island fashions, and superb accessories and handicrafts. Talk about putting our best foot forward. This pageant is doing just that.

One of the outstanding developments has come from the hand and mind of artist Ronnie Reimers Jr., who has created beautiful and iconic images of Miss Marshall Islands for several different islands. We are publishing two of the images here to give readers a taste of Ronnie's handiwork that promotes these islands in a unique manner.

The Misses in jaki-ed, many with tattoos, wearing marmar, with island-related themes — Likiep fan, Jaluit ametama: Ronnie has outdone himself in the creative department. Some, maybe all of his five designs for Miss Marshall Islands candidates, are available in T-shirts from the committees supporting each island entry.



Miss Jaluit leads People's Choice

HILARY HOSIA

Miss Jaluit Claret Chong Gum dominated the People's Choice Awards since voting began Monday on the Miss Marshall Islands Facebook page with a whopping 4,800 reactions as of Wednesday. Trailing close behind Jaluit are Miss Ebon Ellen Chong Gum with 4,300 and Miss Kwajalein Dorine Korwan with 4,200.

The poll has been the trendiest pageant feature thus far this week with couple more days leading up to the crowning finale this Saturday.

Miss Likiep Carnie Reimers struck a home run with her platform about autism, which has garnered fans across the Marshal-

lese netizens, to include social media celebrity Witness Rowa, who praised Carnie for her delivery on autism. In his post, Witness shared that he is a parent of a child with autism.

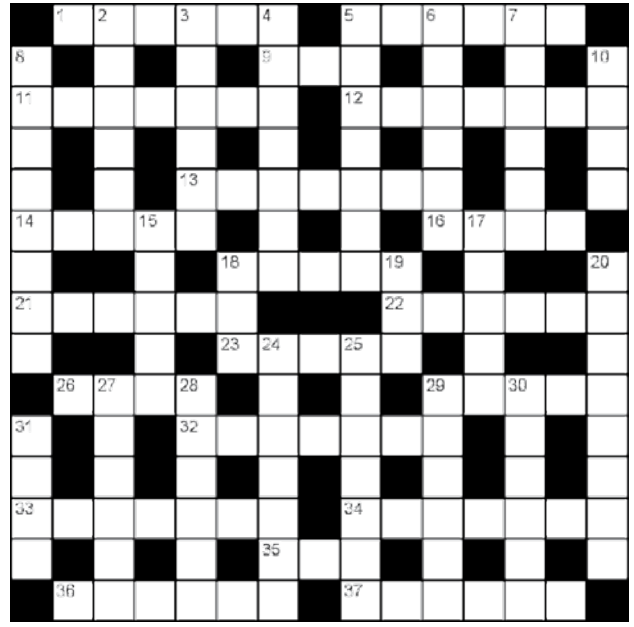
Carnie chose autism awareness in honor of her younger brother who has autism.

What struck fans most on this competition is the sisterhood vibe that resonated from the girls in their interview Monday with Power 103.5FM DJ Yastamon at Marshall Islands Resort's Lomalo Room. The Interview showed the contestants looked up to their predecessors and that they began to share a close bond with each other.

The RMI Riddle No. 957

ACROSS

- 1. High school atoll.
- 6. Devices that move liquids.
- 9. Fowl.
- 10. Rhythm or beat.
- 11. Do well ... at a Microsoft product?
- 12. Travel schedule.
- 13. CMI President.
- 14. Motors.
- 16. Saturday and Sunday.
- 18. Self.
- 19. Gets there.
- 21. Pest control gadget. (3,4)
- 23. Getting older.
- 24. Ocean hunter.
- 27. Amount owed.
- 28. Cost.
- 29. Reef dweller.
- 30. American actor and comedian Danny DeVito said: "I've been to the Leaning ----- of Pisa. It's a -----, and it's leaning. You look at it, but nothing happens, so then you look for someplace to get a sandwich."



- ment belonging to 15.
- Down.
- 5. Article.
- 6. Leader.
- 7. Bush knife.
- 8. Find the answer.
- 14. Clean team. (abb.)
- 15. Person in charge of ship's course.
- 16. Training sessions.
- 17. Submerge.
- 20. Colorful sky feature.
- 22. Lettuce.
- 23. Financial examination.
- 24. Religion.
- 25. Planning and stats of-fice. (abb.)
- 26. Relative.

Answers to Riddle No. 956



Note: (abb.) = abbreviation, (3,4) = indicates the number of letters in two words. Scan and email your puzzle to the marshallislandsjournal@gmail.com by Tuesday.

- DOWN**
- 1. Women's organization. (abb.)
 - 2. Former example of 6 Down.
 - 3. Wear away.
 - 4. Key pieces of equip-



NIHS students get a warm welcome from MIHS students. Photo: Wilmer Joel.

Students welcome new Wotje friends

MIHS's dormitory is currently occupied by students from the outer islands. One of these batches of students is from Northern Island High School (NIHS) in Wotje.

Upon arriving at the MIHS school campus last week for the very first time they went to the school office to register. According to PSS Commissioner Kanchi Hosia, the students, who are mixed freshmen and sophomores, will be in Majuro until their dorm, which is currently undergoing renovation, will be safe to live in.

He added that until the problem could be resolved they'll temporarily be registered as MIHS students.

The school's student body government (SBG), who were not informed ahead of time about their arrival, met them by accident on the same day and were surprised that a proper welcome program was not organized.

SBG President Wilmer Joel and Vice President Goodwind Silk decided to give an impromptu tour of the school campus and facilities to the nine NIHS students with approval from the school administration.

Before departing on the tour, the SBG



SBG President Wilmer Joel points out key locations on the MIHS campus as he guides newly-arrived students from Wotje. Photo: Goodwind Silk.

officers went over briefly the school's policies and motto. During the tour, the NIHS students were well received by MIHS teachers and students with smiles and handshakes. Walking around a big school campus did not faze them. Throughout the tour, they saw the school's good side and blemishes. "This campus is bigger than the one back home," said one of the NIHS students.

The MIHS dormitory, built with Japan funding over three years ago, has mostly been used for short-term visits by students from the outer islands who come to Majuro for special activities or events.

Tobolar points finger at Maloelap for metal object

Tobolar asked the Journal to add to last week's article about the 10-pound metal object that one or more copra makers put into a bag filled with copra in order to earn a few dollars more.

The atoll that this offending object came from was Maloelap, Tobolar said.

Tobolar management confirmed Ma-

loelap as the source of the foreign matter based on further investigation on the part of Tobolar staff. An object such as the 10-pound metal item could have wrecked Tobolar's grinder, causing the copra processing company thousands of dollars to fix and days or weeks of delay to process copra.

Sunday Breakfast

OPEN
9AM

The Flame Tree



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Office of the Secretary
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
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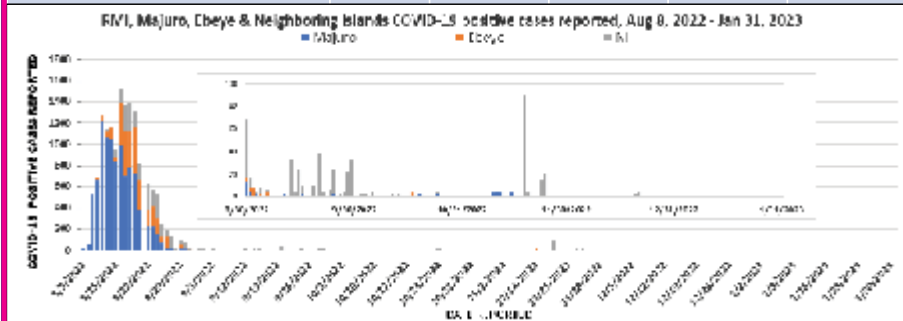
RMI COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



RMI COVID-19 Cases: 31 January 2023 (3 PM)

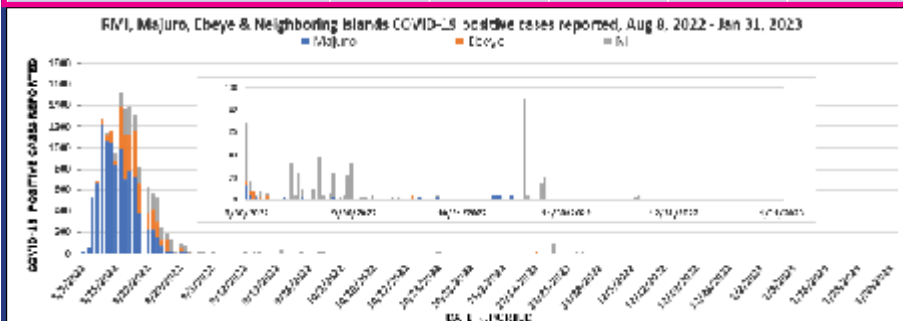
	MAJ	KWAJ	NI	USAG-KA	TOTAL
NEW CASES (LAST 7 DAYS)	0	0	0	0	0
CUMULATIVE CASES	9,887	2,814	2,511	372	15,584
CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED (LAST 7 DAYS)	0	0	0	0	0
DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL	83	38	0	0	121
TOTAL DEATHS	12	4	1	0	17
RECOVERED	9,875	2,810	2,510	372	15,567



NEIGHBORING ISLANDS (NI)	AILINGLAPLAP	AILUK	ARNO	AUR	JALUIT	WOTJE	MALOELAP	MILI	MEJIT	EBON	UTRIK
NEW CASES (LAST 7 DAYS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CUMULATIVE CASES	163	198	363	150	783	345	200	79	115	13	102
CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DEATHS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
RECOVERED	163	198	363	150	783	344	200	79	115	13	102

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FOR COVID-19 INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 625-3632

Call the National Disaster Management Office 625-6366
 Monday- Friday | 8AM-5PM

Call the COVID-19 Health 24-HR Hotline for Symptoms:
 625-3632 (Majuro) 329-9303 (Ebeye)

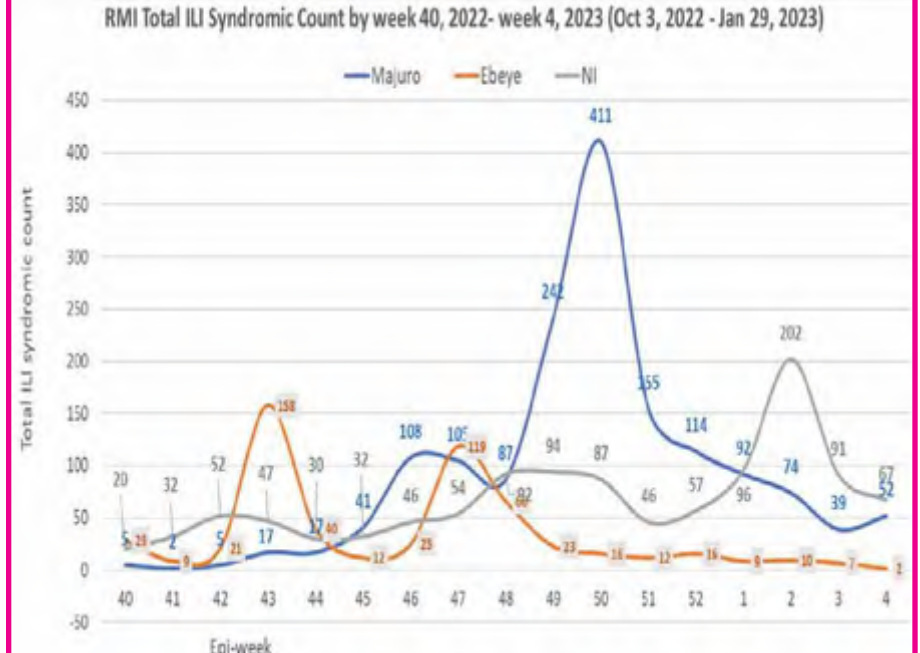


RMI COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



RMI Total Influenza-like illness update October 3, 2022 to January 29, 2023



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 625-6633 (MCH Director)

Vaccination Clinics are open Monday to Friday; 8 30 AM to 5:00 PM;
 Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wash your hands frequently and properly. 

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 Monday- Friday | 8AM-5PM

Call the COVID-19 Health 24-HR Hotline for Symptoms:
 625-3632 (Majuro) 329-8206 (Ebeye)

Neighboring Islands Influenza Like Illness Report from Jan 23-29, 2023 (Week 4)

Health Centers that exceeded 2% population threshold:

Arno: Ulien	Kili: Kili
Maloelap: Jang	Ebon: Toka
Lae: Lae	Utrik

COVID-19 and ILI Related Underlying Cause Deaths

- COVID-19 (2022) Case fatality of 0.0011 (17/15,556) or 1 per 1, 000 notified cases of COVID-19
- ILI: 3 deaths in 2022 RMI flu season (Nov-Dec 2022)

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AROUND TOWN



GR9 says thanks

A totally unexpected appreciation for the Marshall Islands Journal arrived Tuesday this week at the Delap newspaper office when a team of students from Assumption Schools descended on us to make a presentation. Under the headline "Thank you Marshall Islands Journal from Gr9. We love you" — presented with cut out letters and words from the pages of the Journal — were many handwritten and drawn notes from students. Thank you being the main theme.

One noted: "Thank you Marshall Islands Journal for your information. I wouldn't have known much if it wasn't for you. We appreciate the info!"

We appreciate our appreciative Assumption newspaper readers and thank first grade teacher **Vaseva Nailaba** for bringing the team by on behalf of ninth grade teacher **Voice Dako**.

Tastiest tonōt

One of the best food deals on Majuro has got to be at the **Bing's Store** in Delap. If you like Marshall-style donuts ("tonōt") — these are the smallish round ones, no holes — then you cannot beat the taste coupled with the price: 10 cents a piece.

Wow, the Bing's tonōt are delicious, and 10 cents each is like 1990s price. Rather amazing and something to be appreciated.



Feature writer in town

Look who we bumped into at the Marshall Islands Resort enjoying the local newspaper: Japanese journalist and photographer **Mitsumasa Saito**. Saito is a senior feature writer for the To-O Nippo press, a daily newspaper distributed in the Aomori Prefecture.

Saito said he enjoyed his brief visit in Majuro researching on Japanese diplomacy in the Pacific Islands. Saito finds the Marshall Islands relationship with Japanese interesting and he is already planning a longer trip in the near future. **Photo: Hilary Hosia.**



New water feature

This diving board located at one of the swimming pools by the airport was a collaboration between **Robert and Margina Cress** (parents of former RMI medal-winning sprinter **Roman Cress**) and Pacific International Inc. The Cresses purchased the board and PII shipped and installed it for the community. Pictured is **Miyoko Kramer** and son **Manu** who helped organize for the community.

Officer finds kid in locked car

We noticed a spooky social media post by our proactive local security firm, APSS. "Spooky" because it reported on the fact that a security officer discovered a toddler had been left in a locked vehicle outside the hospital, all windows closed and engine off.

The APSS post commented: "Today our hospital security sprung into action when a toddler was discovered alone in a locked vehicle with all windows closed and vehicle turned off."

APSS Management is extremely grateful for the vigilance and swift action of our hospital security



team. The on-duty team banded together, half split up to locate the parent(s) while half remained with the child and kept her calm and attempted to gain access into the vehicle."

Why did the APSS security force jump to when they saw the toddler inside a locked vehicle? For the simple fact that the interior heat of a parked vehicle with its windows closed can rise 15 degrees every nine minutes.

In the US, an average of 38 children under the age of 15 die each year from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle, reports injuryfacts.nsc.org.

Fortunately, the APSS security team's action prevented a tragedy. Message: Don't leave kids in parked vehicles with the windows up.

AROUND TOWN



Here's a piece of trivia for you

"Trivia Night is something fun and different especially for young people to learn new facts and have fun with friends — but it's also a fun activity for offices to do sort of team building outside of work," said Lazy Jays owner **Jasmine Henry**.

"It's just the beginning, we plan to keep RMI Scholarship as the fund for Lazy Jays charity component. We believe it is important as a business to give back to the community and we want to do that by continuing to fundraise and donate to RMI Scholarship," said Jasmine.

Trivia night was held at College of the Marshall Islands.

Jasmine expressed her gratitude to Do It Best, Ace Hardware, K&K and Lazy Jays' family for sponsoring the prizes, CMI for letting them use the space and the MISGLB staff who joined the trivia night to support since the funds will be donated to them.

Jasmine told the Journal that the next trivia game will be held on February 24, and those who would like to participate can sign up at Lazy Jays Café or message

Jasmine. The idea for this trivia night specifically came to Jasmine when she was on a work trip in Fiji.

She told the Journal she loved the whole event and had so much fun her office signed them up for a table at a trivia night that the Graduate Women in Fiji host to sponsor girls studying STEM and she was like "we need this in Majol."

"I love trivia and grew up playing trivia in all types of forms so it's something I've wanted to do for a long time," she said.



Left, filmmaker Landon Cook picking up some footage around Majuro for a future film on climate change in RMI. Below left, pictured with filmmaker Landon Cook, left, are Marson Rosario, Logan Lelet and Roger Muller.



Landon looks at life in RMI

A filmmaker has been in town for a few days shooting video around the island with and had the help of a team of former Red Cross staff and volunteers.

"We hosted a filmmaker around Majuro treating him and the UNICEF representative with plenty of Marshallese welcoming spirit," said **Roger Muller** of **Landon Cook**, who has produced a series videos on life in Pohnpei. "He's here doing a short film on climate change," added Muller.

Muller was the longtime Communications Officer at Marshall Islands Red Cross Society, **Logan Lelet** is the College of the Marshall Islands SBG Vice President and a former Red Cross member, and **Marson Rosario** is a former member of the FSM Red Cross.

"We hosted them because they didn't have any contacts on island for filming of local areas and directions," said Muller. "So they asked me to help them before arriving in Majuro." And help them Muller's team did.

Stardom for Wisdom time

This week's correct RMI Riddles were submitted by **24sevenBEDKAT**, **AC Gangs**, **Dante Dela Vega**, **Kristin Smith** and

Tess Cristobal. Their names went into a bag with the other January Riddlers names, shaken up, and drawn for the Flame Tree chicken

cordon bleu for two. The winner for January is **AC Gangs**. Stop by Micronitor to pick up your gift certificate for the tasty meals.

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OPINION PAGE

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All citizens can run for office

We note some Marshallese have gotten riled up by the fact that naturalized RMI citizen James Wang is running for Nitijela. There have been a number of posts critical of his candidacy on the Marshallese political discussion page Kewan Jela in recent weeks as news of the candidate list began circulating.

At least some of the comments are racist attacks on Chinese, along with things like what's his jowi and so on. The fact of the matter is that as a legal matter, naturalized citizens can run for elected office. This was determined once and for all by the RMI Supreme Court in a decision in 2015.

In regards to Chinese who live in RMI, naturalized or otherwise, Marshallese shouldn't be directing criticism at them over citizenship and their rights as citizens. How will Marshallese feel if Americans complain about them living in the US? Any such criticism of Marshallese in the US is usually racially motivated, just as most Marshal

Continued page 13



Why splinter a good thing?

It would be helpful to view Health Secretary Jack Niedenthal's tenure through the lens of previous experience with RMI Secretaries. By this, we mean, let's look back to the tenure of May Bing, who served as Secretary of Finance from 2015 to 2021.

In our view, Bing brought and Niedenthal brings two significant attributes to their jobs as secretaries. The first is they both came into the jobs with no conflicts of interest, no family businesses and no special interest considerations. They were hired because they were qualified to do the job in their respective ministries and, in part, due to the lack of a personal agenda, they gained respect of people in their ministries. They didn't come in to use their positions for personal benefit but to manage these government departments effectively.

Secondly, they both evidence very strong team skills, which means their leadership teams and staff down the chain of command are both involved in decisions and making them happen. The team nature of both of these Secretaries was (Bing) and is (Niedenthal) obvious. We need look no further than the petition signed last week in support of Niedenthal by hundreds of Health staff, which pointed out that, "many if not all of his decisions regarding the direction and actions of the Ministry have been made with team-based decision making with the help of his technical and clinical staff." Bing was the same. And both Secretaries gave/give their staff cover and support to get



Jack Niedenthal and May Bing

their jobs done effectively.

Bottom line, staff like and want to work with them because they benefit from the avoidance of corrupt and personal interest practices from their Secretary, and they were/are involved in decision-making and implementation.

Bing came in at a time when the Ministry of Finance was in disarray — the Journal in 2015 headlined it a "troubled ministry" — accountability was a problem, and audits had not been completed on time for several years. Bing straightened those things out, ramping up accountability in the ministry and getting audits back on track. This allowed her and the team to focus effort away from "fighting fires" to addressing long-term financial management reform.

In the Health world, the RMI has been faced with mul-

iple challenges that led to presidential declarations of national health emergencies and an unprecedented 38 months straight of health emergency being in place. US Centers for Disease Control said after the Covid outbreak last August that the RMI had "exceeded most expectations to deliver testing and treatment for large numbers of people, and to provide care for those with Covid." A CDC official who joined the Health team in Majuro mid-way through the Covid outbreak described the Ministry of Health and Human Services as "an amazing delivery of services that we haven't seen elsewhere." Dr. Sheldon Riklon, who also assisted RMI Health authorities during the

Covid outbreak, noted that "the Ministry of Health leadership prepared RMI for this (Covid outbreak)." But while the Covid response was a defining moment, it isn't the only indication of how leadership at the ministry and the hundreds of frontline Health staff banded together to do things well in recent years.

When Bing chose at the end of 2020 to step down from Finance in early 2021, the Kabua administration and the nation lost a stellar Secretary. It should also be said that she came into a Ministry of Finance in disarray in 2015 not long after previous Secretary Alfred Alfred, Jr. had stepped down to run for Nitijela. Political observers can come to their own conclusions about whether the appointment of Alfred by President Kabua as Finance Minister and Bing's resignation in less than a year are connected.

But what was significant was when Bing left so too did her two assistant secretaries and other long-term consultants, all of them key members of Finance's management team. Why would they all leave? Let's try a basketball analogy. After playing under Coach Phil Jackson for six NBA championships why did Michael Jordan say he wouldn't play for Chicago under a different coach? The message is obvious. Jordan, like Bing's management team, recognized the synergy of the team and its ability to deliver results. Without that person directing traffic, they didn't want to be there, treading water or worse.

We've had one experience of losing a top-flight Secretary during the Kabua administration, and two years later, the Ministry of Finance is still trying to recover. Now we have an opportunity to possibly see a similar scenario play out at the Ministry of Health and Human Services — or not.

Only time will tell. What we can say with some confidence is, if the right people are engaged and allowed to do their jobs, the public benefits.

The Marshall Islands Journal

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OPINION PAGE

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Power 103.5FM DJ Yastamon interviews the Miss Marshall Islands ladies at the Marshall Islands Resort.

Three cheers for level of interest, big effort, and enthusiasm

I just want to give a shout out to everyone involved in the ongoing Miss Marshall Islands pageant. Honestly, pageants are not my thing and it's not something I follow closely. That said, I am clearly in a very small minority as regards this pageant.

The level of interest in the pageant, based on comments and number of people following on various Facebook sites, is incredible.

What I think is most significant about the pageant is not the pageant itself but all the effort and enthusiasm that's gone into it, the fact it's clearly a Marshallese-led and Marshallese-driven event (if

Well done pageant people

there are non-Marshallese involved, they are not evident), and the absolutely stellar quality of everything observable on the web that's associated with the pageant.

Truly, the logo, the stunning photographs and beautiful layouts, the regular updates that keep that interest high, the announcement of upcoming live events that can be watched on the internet and then the events actually taking place as scheduled, the beautiful outfits

that all the young ladies are wearing, the emphasis on local products and issues...everything is just so terrific and so well thought out.

The Miss Marshall Islands pageant is a great advertisement for the inherent abilities that are there in the Marshall Islands for organizing events and for supporting and executing same. The internet posts are also a great advertisement for the ability of your photographers and your Facebook

managers and the pageant planners and executors and everybody else that's involved in this.

When I was in the RMI, I was told that there was little time for support of anything outside of family obligations and church driven events. A lot of outside driven organizations have come and gone in the RMI and with the exception of the Red Cross, none of them have seem to take hold. But this event, this Marshallese-

driven pageant, has clearly enthralled your nation. The Miss Marshall Islands pageant has set a high bar. Kudos and blessings to all. If this level of enthusiasm or anything close to it can be generated for support of the upcoming Micronesian Games, there is no doubt they will be the most successful games ever.

—Michael Pettitt

(This is excerpted from a post on the Kewan Jela page).

Corruption problems are not a new phenomenon

A Journal reader rang up the other day requesting that we go back to the September 18, 2009 edition of the newspaper to check corruption-related news. "Please put this in the newspaper so people will see that this isn't a new problem," was the request. This request, of course, is in the context of Cary Yan, who has pleaded guilty to bribing Marshallese leaders and will be sentenced later this month in New York.

In response to the call, we excavated into our archive and pulled up the edition from 2009. Sure enough, our reader had good recall. In this edition was a story about former Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian receiving a life sentence in prison in Taiwan after being found guilty of many charges of corruption while in office. Chen visited the RMI on multiple occasions, including for the opening in 2007 of the ICC, built with Taiwan funds, to host a Taiwan-Pacific leaders summit that year.

Chen's sentence related to millions of dollars in government funds embezzled while he was in office.

In the same issue, Jiba Kabua, who

was then RMI ambassador to Japan and is now a Cabinet minister, weighed in with a commentary headlined: "RMI's part in Shui-bian's shame." Kabua's point was that Chen was giving money to people in the RMI and other Taiwan allied countries in the Pacific prior to his term ending in 2008. He said that Chen used a bank in Palau to look "clean and official."

"In Majuro, they actually had a Special Committee that picked up pre-anticipated payment checks at the Ministry of Finance windows to take care of officials business, such as paying for functions with 'Marshallese money' for the visit of Taiwan President Chen," Kabua wrote. "This was the 'clean' money. The 'dirty' money was something else, also raised by Taiwanese and given to political parties who like Chen's stacks of cash flown to Majuro, Palau and some other places."

Kabua's comments were made in the context of the ongoing political tug-of-war at the time between the Aelon Kein Ad Party and the United Democratic Party. AKA defeated the UDP in the

2007 national election after an eight-year period with UDP's Kessai Note as president.

Kabua continued: "In Majuro, the political party that took their shares launched a preemptive story about China buying UDP members to change relations back to China. The mention of this in the Nitijela was all calculated as part of the UDP's political campaign leading up to the election week in November 2003 and again in 2007. Did the Journal know about it? Why not? US agents knew it was all a lie."

Kabua's commentary concluded that the solution to these corruption problems was to restore traditional leadership for the Marshall Islands. "It is a time to revive the iroij system and adopt a new ethical attitude preparatory to finishing up the unfinished business of education, development, and improvement on the relationship with United States and Japan, the two most important countries that have not been used to our advantage."

—From the Journal archives, September 18, 2009.

Are passports still on sale?

From page 12

lese criticism of Chinese is based on similar racist attitudes.

The truth of the matter is Chinese who purchased passports 30 or more years ago did so through a Marshall Islands government-approved and advertised citizenship sales program. This was a major initiative of first President Amata Kabua and his government in the late 1980s after the Compact came into effect with the US in 1986. As far as we are aware, the only person in government at the time who objected to passport sales was then Cabinet Minister Charles Takao Domnick.

Chinese (and other nationalities) saw an opportunity to offer in the Marshall Islands and obtained citizenship through various iterations of the RMI government-sanctioned passport sales program. If we don't like the situation we find ourselves in today, the fact of the matter is we have no one to blame other than ourselves. For perspective on the passport sales and citizen issue, neither Palau nor the FSM adopted passport sales programs. Their leaders decided that citizenship was and is too valuable for it to be sold on the international market.

The main question we have in regards to passport sales is simply this: While the RMI government in 1996 claimed that it halted passport sales at that time, are passports still being sold and have they been being sold continuously since the 1990s?

Likiep community thanks Japan

Ambassador Kazunari Tanaka attended the handover ceremony on Likiep last month for two new vessels as part of the Japan-funded “Project for the improvement of Sea Transportation in Likiep Atoll.”

The grant amounting up to \$80,500 for the procurement of two boats was funded through Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The handover ceremony was attended by Internal Affairs Minister Ota Kisino, Likiep Mayor Nicholas deBrum, Likiep Advisor Christopher deBrum, local government staff, people of Likiep Atoll as well as officials of the Embassy of Japan.

Ambassador Tanaka expressed appreciation for the efforts of all those involved in and dedicated to this project, pointing out that “sea transportation is a lifeline in the Marshall Islands and so is for the people in Likiep Atoll.

With the provision of these boats, people in Likiep are able



Ambassador Kazunari Tanaka and Likiep Mayor Nicholas deBrum shake hands as PSS’s Sally Ann deBrum, Miss Likiep Carnie Reimers, Council of Irooj member Lena deBrum, and Internal Affairs Minister Ota Kisino witness the handover event. Right, the two new Likiep boats funded by Japan.



to secure means of transportation connecting many islands in Likiep Atoll.”

The ambassador said “The Government of Japan has been a close partner over many years with the Government and people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and continues to work to-

gether for the well-being of the people of the Marshall Islands.”

“I would like to thank the people and Government of Japan for the much needed assistance for the Grassroots Human Security Project for Likiep Atoll,” said Mayor deBrum.

He said the two boats will

greatly assist Likiep copra makers in transporting copra, and the whole community for movement around the atoll.

“All the support and assistance from the people and Government of Japan will continue to benefit and upgrade the living standards of our communities,” he said.

The Government of Japan launched Grassroots Grant Program for the Marshall Islands in 1996. The purpose of the projects is to respond to various development needs and directly benefit people at a grassroots level. With the Likiep project, the Embassy has granted 158 GGPs in the RMI.

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Class 36: Accident insurance underwriting; Credit and cash card services; Providing financial information; Financing services; Issuance of credit cards; Appraisal of used automobiles; Insurance services relating to land vehicles; Providing of comprehensive warranty services for land vehicles, structural parts and fittings therefor ; Extended warranty insurance services; Loans [financing]; Automobile lease financing; Lease purchase financing of vehicles; e-wallet payment services ; Providing insurance information.

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JAMES & WELLS

Private Bag 3140 Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

Email: attorney@jamesandwells.com

www.jamesandwells.com

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Outside the Lelu Congregational Church at the inaugural service January 24 for the new Kosrae governor are, from left, First Lady Ginger Kabua, President David Kabua, FSM Vice President Aren Palik and his wife, Adelita Abraham Palik.

President Kabua attends FSM Governor inauguration

President David Kabua spent several days in Kosrae last week for the inauguration of new Governor Tulensa Palik.

The ceremony happened last Thursday. Joining him in the delegation was First Lady Ginger Kabua, Foreign Minister Kitlang Kabua, and a security officer.

Numerous FSM government officials were on hand for the inauguration, including FSM Vice President Aren Palik.



President David Kabua congratulates new Kosrae Governor Tulensa Palik after last Thursday’s inauguration ceremony.

Minister Kitlang sees benefits in Compact MOU

Although Foreign Minister Kitlang Kabua said she could not share the newly signed Compact MOU at the moment because it has yet to get to the US Congress, she offered comments about it to the Journal.

The Foreign Minister's key points:

- The amount of funding provided in the MOU signed between the US and RMI on January 11, 2023 excluding Kwajalein payments is nearly four times what the US State Department insisted on as late as a year ago – and almost double what Envoy Joseph Yun offered.

- Unlike Compacts one and two, there are no step downs or decrements in assistance over the next 20 years,

- The MOU also provides that for discussions with the US through a joint review regarding continued assistance after 20 years for the next Compact term to maintain financial stability in the future to prevent eroding assistance — if we need it — and discussions every 20 years. So, the RMI benefits as long as the US benefits strategically from the RMI.

- There is additional funding and improvements to Sector Grant Assistance including payments of appropriations not made from FY2005 through FY2022 for the Supplemental Education Grant, which was discretionary funding.

- There is new money for health (universal and nuclear), climate change and environment, to address matters relating to access to nuclear testing and waste disposal documents, and very substantial additional funding that we can use at our discretion to address priority needs of the RMI, including nuclear and climate, and additional monies to pay for the Kwajalein Master Plan, all this money is in addition to amounts already in the current TF for the People of the RMI.

- Discussions will now take place on existing programs under the FPSA including the return of FDIC coverage to RMI registered banks such as BOMI. Additional



Foreign Minister Kitlang Kabua

“The sole purpose of concluding the MOU was to have funding provided to the RMI under Compact 3 put into the US Administration’s FY 24 budget.”

discussions will also look at the providing other U.S. domestic programs and services, and immigration matters such as citizenship.

- The sole purpose of concluding the MOU was to have funding provided to the RMI under Compact 3 put into the US Administration’s FY 24 budget. It was not to resolve other issues. Otherwise, the best we could hope for is reduced annual budgetary assistance in FY24.

- The money will be on a mandatory appropriations basis, that is guaranteed.

- Matters relating to inflation, the Trust Fund for the People of the RMI that will be repurposed to address the priority needs of the RMI with an amended Financial Procedures Agreement, JEMFAC, TFC to allow the RMI to determine use of funding are among the matters still to be negotiated.

Draft 2021 census report finally issued

Seventeen months after the start of the 2021 RMI national census the RMI government and the SPC jointly issued the first volume of the Census Report last week.

The 85-page publication-ready report is still watermarked with the word “DRAFT” on every page. But it represents the first detailed presentation of the data collected dur-

ing the 2021 national census.

It confirms that the population declined by over 10,000 from 2011 to 2021. The population went from 53,158 in 2011 to 42,418 in 2021. This is a net loss of -2.2 percent.

The report shows that 78 percent of the population lives in Majuro and Ebeye.

An interesting feature of the data is the breakdown

of the population by “ethnicity.” This shows the number of people in various ethnic groups:

- FSM, 135
- Kiribati, 327
- Tuvalu, 82
- Taiwan, 24
- China, 110
- Japan, 33
- Philippines, 441
- US, 294
- Fiji, 197
- Solomon Islands, 44.

New faces on the MBC board

The Marshalls Billfish Club elected a new slate of officers for the year at its annual general meeting last month.

Heading up the club in the president's position is Charles Abraham, Jr. Vice President is Baby Heine. Other officers include Treasurer Joe Silk, Secretary Warwick Harris, Tournament Director Marmar Lejj-

ena, and members at large Robert Pinho and Orlando ‘Toto’ Paul.

MBC runs about a dozen fishing tournaments annually, including the annual two-day fishing tournament in July during the national Fisherman's Day holiday weekend and the All-Micronesia Fishing Tournament, also a two-day competition.

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Class 35: Retail or wholesale services for land vehicles, structural parts and fittings therefor; Dealerships in the field of land vehicles; Sales promotion for others; Advertising and publicity services for land vehicles; Import-export agency services; Providing information about land vehicles, namely, consumer product information and price comparison information; Providing commercial information and advice for consumers in the choice of products and services; Administration of consumer loyalty programs; Showroom services; Organization of exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; Organization of trade fairs; Vehicle fleet (business management of a -) [for others]; Providing on-line showrooms for land vehicles for commercial purposes.

Class 36: Accident insurance underwriting; Credit and cash card services; Providing financial information; Financing services; Issuance of credit cards; Appraisal of used automobiles; Insurance services relating to land vehicles; Providing of comprehensive warranty services for land vehicles, structural parts and fittings therefor; Extended warranty insurance services; Loans [financing]; Automobile lease financing; Lease purchase financing of vehicles; e-wallet payment services; Providing insurance information.

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JAMES & WELLS

Private Bag 3140 Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

Email: attorney@jamesandwells.com

www.jamesandwells.com

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Ri eñod rej jeblak nan waan eñod ko

Ilo ad lõmñak kòn tōprak in jermal, baj lale mōk ta in ej waļok. Ilo kwelok eo Tijemba an doulul eo ñaetan Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, doulul in eaar kōmālim an observer ro maroñ roļ im jermal ilo waan eñwōd ko jino jān kar Jānwōde 1 raan eo. Mālim in ej itok ilikin jilu iio ko maantak jān an kar mō ko ikijjien Covid kōbōjrak an observer ro uwe ioon waan eñwōd ko.

Jermal in observer rein an waan eñwōd ko relukkuun aorōk ñan ra ko rej bōk eddoin kōjparok ak māñiji jeraamman ko jān lojet ilo aer etale ta ko waan eñwōd kein jān ilikin rej ekōjeki ilo maļo ko ad.

Ak itok Jānwōde 16 raan eo, im Marshall Island Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) emōj an dedeļok im lōloodjake bwe en uwe ruwatimjuon iaan observer an ilo waan eñwōd ko im director eo, Glen Joseph ej ba ke ej katmāne ke ejjab to bwe aolepān 13 iaan observer ro an Majel renaaj roļ im bar jermal ioon waan eñwōd ko.

Mokta jān an kar waļok Covid, doulul eo ñaetan Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) ad aikuj bwe 100 bōjjāan in waan eñwōd ko rej eñwōd ilo lojet ko an PNA ej aikuj wōr an observer ej uwe ipeir bwe

Covid ekakure MIMRA

ren etale jermal in eñwōd ko aer. Bōtaab Covid ekōmmane bwe aolep men en bōjrak ilo kar Maaj 2020 eo jān wōt mō ko raar kōmmani ñan kōbōjrak an armej ito-itak ilo laļ ko kajjojo ilo wōd in Pacific in. Kiiō ke emōj an kiki mō ko an Covid, observer rein emōj aer roļ im jermal im jide ke ejjab rumwijlok.

Woran observer ro an MIMRA emōj an diklok ilo iio ko jilu maantak. Kar 50 observer mokta ak kiiō epād wōt 22. “Mālim eo (jān WCPFC) eaar ba Jānwōde 1 raan observer ro remaroñ roļ im jermal, kōm eaar mōkaj im kōjeplaak er,” Joseph eaar ba. “Ilo tōre in, ruwatimjuon iaar repād ilo wa ko meto,” eaar ba wiik eo lok.

Bwe MIMRA en bar kōmour im kālōñlok an observer,” Joseph ej ba ke MIMRA enaaj bar kōbellok ippān College eo an Majel (CMI) im bar jinoe būrookraam in kaminene ko. Ilo iio ko maantak, elōñ alen an MIMRA im CMI jermal ippān

doon ñan aer kōmman ekatak ak kaminene ikijjien jermal in eñwōd. Jān kaminene ko ñan ro me rej kab jino itok limo ilo jermal in observer ñan kine katak ko ñan ro me rej aikuj kōkeememej im bar katak ko jet rej aikuj ekkar ñan roulul in eñwōd ko an wod in Pacific in.

“Ejjeļok in ad aikuj ro rej uwe ilo waan eñwōd ko, jej bar aikuj ro rej pād wōt im etale maķūtkūt in wa kañe iaar, ko rej ekto-ektak ek ko ilo iaar in āniin ak ilo wab ko.” Joseph eaar ba. Joseph ej ba ke ekar nu iio ilo Pohnpei im eaar ioone ruo iaan observer ro jān Majel ilo waan eñwōd ko ijen. “Rej ba ke relukkuun emōñōñō ke rebar roļ jermal ioon waan eñwōd kañ,” ej ba.

Ke Covid ekar kamō an observers ro maroñ uwe ilo waan eñwōd ko, bwe ren maroñ kōllā wōt, MIMRA ekar kajjoñ kōjermal jet iaar bwe ren kōmmane jermal ko bakki im raar kōmman aer būrookraam in kaminene, observer ro raar bar maroñ lo jipañ jān jān eo Kien eo an Amedka eaar ajej ñan ri-jermal me eaar ejjeļok aer jermal jān wōt covid. “Je jide kiiō kōn woran observer rein raar pād wōt,” Joseph ej ba. “Rein me repād wōt, ej ro me jermal in epād ilo bōtōktōk eo aer.”



Fisheries observers check out FADs on board a purse seiner.

Bonbon ekawlok ke ewor 42,418 armej

Ālikin joñoul jimjuon allōñ jān ke ekar jino bōnbōn eo ñan bwine oran armej ro Majel, eo me rej ba 2021 RMI National Census, emōj an Kien eo an Majel, koba ippān SPC jimor, kiiō kadiwōjtok rūbboot jab in.

Rūbboot in, eo im ewōr tarrin 85 peij in, ej pād wōt ilo nemāmein “draft” ak melele in ke ejjañin mōj im rej jerbale wōt. Bōtaab ej kwaļok juon pi ja in ta ko rej waļok ilo kar iien bōnbōn eo ilo 2021.

Ej kaalikkar ke kōtaan 2011 im 2021, emōj an diklok oran armej ro Majel kōn juon joñan eo elaplok jān 10,000. Oran armej ro Majel eaar diklok jān 53,158 ilo kar 2011 eo ñan 42,418 ilo 2021. Ej juon diklok kōn tarrin -2.2 bōjjāan.

Rūbboot eo ej kwaļok e 78 bōjjāan in armij ro Majel rej jokwe ilo Mājro im Epjā.

Men eo ekapeel kōn wāween aer kar kōmmane bōnbōn eo ej wāween aer kar tipdiki oran armej ro kajjojo im kwaļok er “ri-ia ak armej in laļ ta.” Men in ej kwaļok oran armij ro jān laļ ko kajjojo rej jokwe Majel:

- FSM, 135
- Kiribati, 327
- Tuvalu, 82
- Taiwan, 24
- China, 110
- Japan, 33
- Philippines, 441
- US, 294
- Fiji, 197
- Solomon Islands, 44.



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Ministry of Finance,
Banking and Postal Service

Grant Writer (2 Posts)

Majuro, Marshall Islands – U.S Department of the Interior-Technical Assistance Program Grant

The Division of International Development Assistance (DIDA) under Ministry of Finance, seeks to recruit two (2) **Grant Writers** for the Grant Writing and Management Project. The **Grant Writers** will be responsible to assist in preparation and submission of Grants; prepare and implement Capacity Building Training Plans for the local staffs. And also provide trainings/workshops in the areas of Grant Writing and Grant Management. The Grant Writers will work closely with the DIDA Grant Writer and the Aid Coordinators.

The **Grant Writers** will physically locate at the DIDA Office. He/She will report directly to the Assistant Secretary of DIDA, Ministry of Finance.

Closing Date for applications is 3:00pm, February 10th, 2023.

For further information, please call our office at (692) 625-5968 for the full Terms of Reference.

To apply for this role, please send your CV and a cover letter addressing the selection criteria:

To:
Daphne G Wase
Grant Writer
Division of International Development Assistance
wasedaphne@gmail.com
Phone: 692 625-5968

Cc:
Malie Tarbillin
Assistant Secretary,
Division of International Development Assistance
mtarbillin@gmail.com
Phone: 692 625-5968

RiMajol rekilep lak

Majel ej nōmba emān ilo laļ in ñan “oran armej ro rōkileptata ilo laļ in,” ekkar ñan juon rūbboot eaar waļok ilo wiik eo kiin ilo nuujpeba eo ñaetan Daily Mail.

Rūbboot in ej laajrake 10 iaan laļ ko me ekileptata armej ro aer im āt in aolepān laļ kein rej pād ilo wōd in Pacific in, ekkar ñan rūbboot eo eaar kōmman jān Our World in Data.

Nauru ebōk tūb kōn tarrin 88.5 bōjjāan iaan armej ro rej kile ke elap aer kilep.

Palau ej nōmba ruo im Cook Island enōmba jilu, innem RMI epād kein ka-emān kōn 83.5 bōjjāan iaan armej ro an rōkilep.

Bōtaab, laļ ko me aemō, ak ejjab kilep armej ro aer, rej Vietnam, tokālik India in-nem Bangladesh.

Elaplok micro loon ko an BOMI ilo 2022

Oran micro loan ko Bank eo an Majel emōj aer laļok kōn ruo alen ilo 2022 ñe jenaaj keidi ippān iio ko lok, ekkar ñan ri-boot kāl eo bank eo emōj an kadiwōjlok.

Tarrin aolep loan ko 35 raar tōprak ilo 2022, ej \$154,590. Keidi ippān loan ko 18 im raar tōprak ilo 2021, aer tōprak wōt \$120.950

Jen jinoin an jān in micro loan in Jān Kien eo an Taiwan jermal ilo 2006 eo, BOMI emōj an ajeje tarrin 1,205 micro loan ko. Taiwan eaar kajutake būrookraam in micro loan eo kōn \$800,000 ñan an kajjojo armij apply.

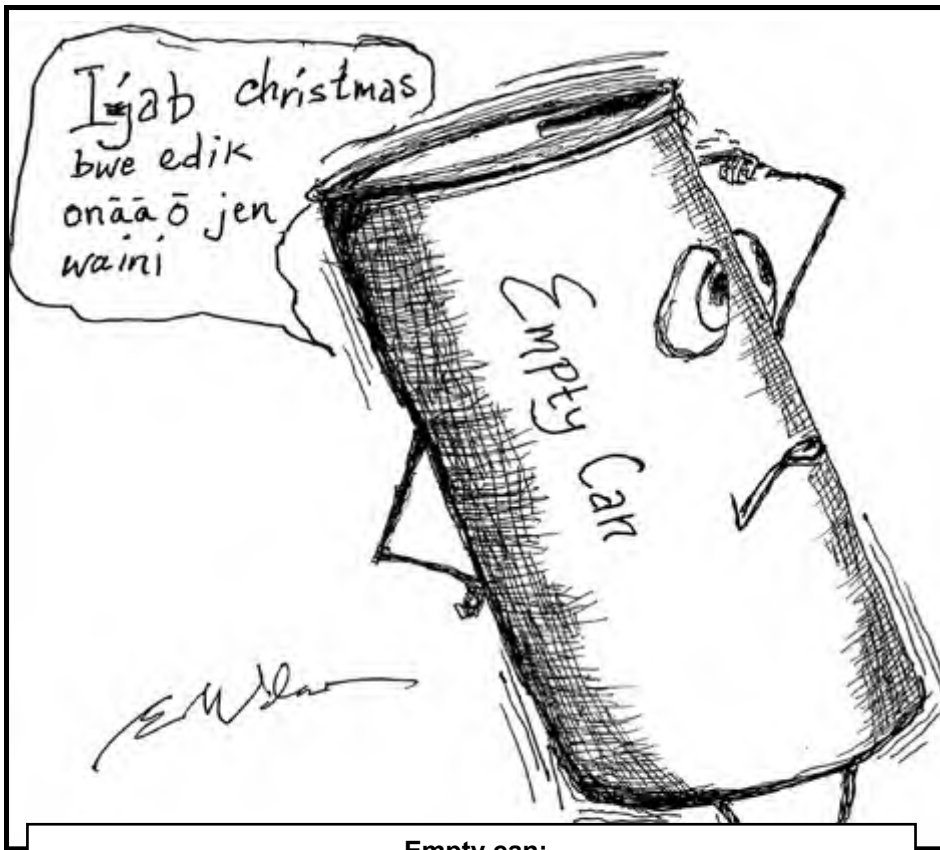
Tokālik Taiwan eaar bar letok \$100,000 bwe en jermal ñan an doulul ko apply ñan kōmmane project ak jermal ko aer. Ilo iio ko

17 jen an kar jino būrookraam in kōn joñan jān eo edik jen juon milien, būrookraam in emōj aje tarrin \$5.4 milien ñan pejne ko kajjojo.

Riboot eo ej kwaļok ke ewōr tarrin 62 loan ko rej jermal ilo tōrein im ejjeļok aer likjab. Bank eo ej bōrāinwōt ba ke jen 2006 eo, 96 bōjjāan in muri ko ippān customer ro an micro loan emōj aer kōllāiki im clear.

Eñin ej tipdik in loan ko 62 im rej jermal ilo tōrein:

- Trade, 38
- Eñwōd / Tāap mennin mour, 6
- Atake / kōmman mōñā, 5
- Amimōño, 5
- Wa ak transportation, 5
- Ko jet, 3.



Empty can:



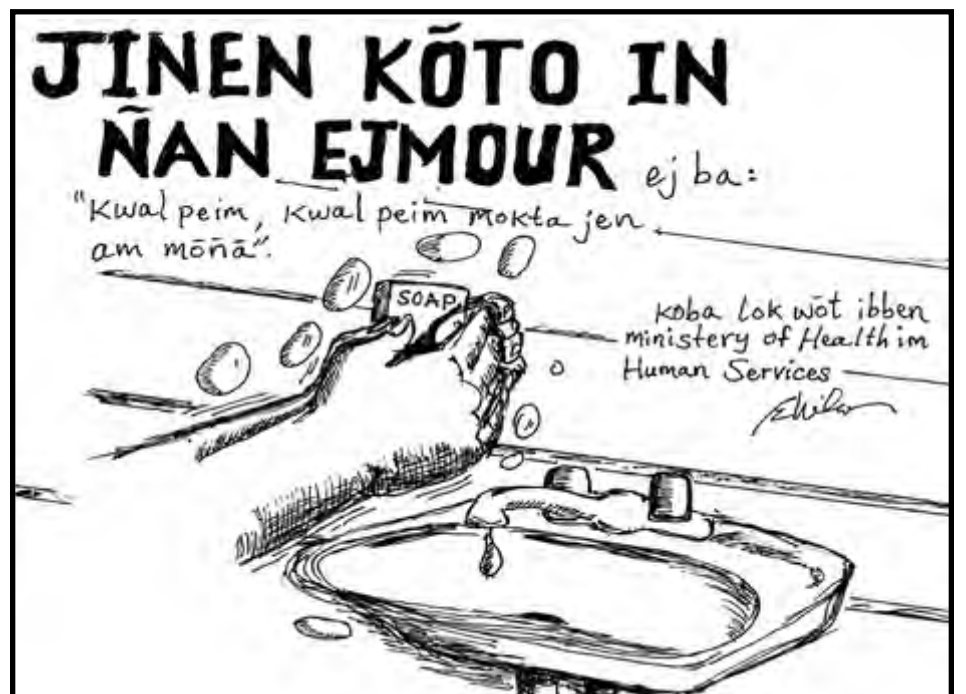
COST OF LIFE/WHO CAN PREVENT THIS?

RMI land negotiate: It's yours from the ocean side to the lagoon side.



THIEVES IN THE NIGHT

RIKOOT IN BOŃ
Robber 1: Robber 2:



ENVIRONMENTAL MOTHER TO HEALTH ALONG WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN HEALTH SAYS:

Wash your hands, wash your hands before you eat!



Local person: The government needs to find a better way, better than to climb a coconut tree. Our small islands will be cover by tide waves.



KIDS FIRST

Teacher: 2+10=12! **Student:** I'm afraid of this place ... I am fired!

SOLICITATION OF INTENT

The Ministry of Health & Human Services in the Republic of the Marshall Islands is soliciting Letters of Intent (LOI) for:

- **Audit Services for the Audit of MOHHS Third Party Administrator in the Philippines**

Letters of Intent (LOI) will be accepted by email or delivery to MOHHS Majuro Procurement and Supply Office 8:00 on February 3, 2023, and closing at 5:00 PM on February 17, 2023, MHT. Any letters of intent received after the time and date mentioned shall not be accepted under any circumstances.

Letter of Intent must be addressed to:

Director, Procurement & Supply Division, MOHHS
 PO Box 16, Majuro MH 96960
 Republic of the Marshall Islands
 OR e-mail to:
isidore.robert@gmail.com

For questions related to this advertisement, please contact email addresses mentioned, on or before February 10, 2023, 5pm MHT. Late questions will not be entertained.



What we were saying way back when

Classy RRE center opens

Journal 2/7/1986
P1 'Navigator' sailing to Majuro
 The Honolulu Theater for Youth play, "Song for the Navigator," has been captivating sold-out audiences since it began performing in Hawaii last month. Later this month, Majuro residents will have the opportunity to view the play during the theater company's tour of Micronesia. Thanks to the efforts of the Alele Museum, the cast of seven will perform for high schools and the public on February 27 and 28. Alele board members who agreed to sponsor the tour of "The Navigator" include Nidel Lorak, Carmen Bigler, Alfred Capelle, Marie Maddison and Jerry Knight.

Girls basketball is picking up steam at Assumption High School with an enthusiastic group of players taking to the court. They include: Corrina, Amy, Angela D., Laura, Wonda, Angela L., Rosania, Chuan, JaneRose, Gardina, Jeannette and Yumiko.

P8 Classy RRE center opens
 The long-anticipated grand opening of the new Robert Reimers Commercial Center building on the lagoon side downtown was held February 3, an event that heralds and anticipates the heady pace of development which has characterized the Marshall Islands in recent years. Construction was supervised by Kirt Pinho built by 100 percent local residents. The result is a fully-functioning shopping mall, including a first-class hotel all under one roof.

Journal 2/6/1998
P1 Hello! Hello! New tax, new tax
 A dual level of tax legislation, dubbed VAT/excise tax, is scheduled to be introduced to Nitijela this session, with the hope of installing the new, higher tax system as early as October. As much as Minister of Finance Rubin Zackhras wants a switch to the value added tax (VAT), the country's mayors don't want it, said Rongelap Mayor James Matayoshi. The Mayors Conference held recently found a resounding unity in their opposition to the drastic overhaul fo the country's tax system, which is inevitable with the VAT. According to Matayoshi, the hangover would entail the hiring of foreign consultants and accountants by business and government to make the changeover to a system which appears better suited to the more industrialized and complex economies as found in England and Australia.

P17 Marshallese deacons ordained in Majuro
 Hundreds of friends, relatives and well-wishers came to the ordination of three Marshallese deacons at the Catholic Church last Sunday — the first such event ever for the Catholic Church in the Marshall Islands. Alfred Capelle, Thomas Makiphie and Antonio Mamis were ordained by Bishop Martin Neylon, SJ. Fr. Tom Marciniak said the ordination is the culmination of more than three years of study and religious work by the three deacons. Fr. Leonard Hacker, SJ, and Fr. James Gould, SJ, were also in Majuro for the ceremony.

Journal 2/6/2009
P12 Around Town
 One of the senior staff editors of the Journal (there are quite a few of them, we run into them at various eateries Around Town) stopped in to preview some of this column's weekly material. "Just what do you mean in this reference to 'colorless people of Illinois' in the article about paying to use toilets," said Staff Sgt. Belok, editor of our military column. "Simple," explained the gal who penned the item, "if some people are referred to as people of color, it's only logical that there must be other people who are colorless. We do it for balance. The majority of the people vying for politics in Illinois are colorless, and we wanted to point that out."

P23 One-on-one anyone?

Food & Fun!

MINORS UNDER 21 NOT ALLOWED AFTER 10PM

THE FLAME TREE

Amata Kabua Boulevard, Delap

DOORS ARE OPEN 5PM WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY

ICE COLD BUD & BUD LIGHT MUST BE 21+ TO DRINK

STUFFED CRUST PIZ-

CHILLY DOGS

BAR GAMES

Darts

Billiards

Join us every Thursday to practice for the next women's tournament @ The Flame Tree

GROW YOUR CUSTOMER BASE

Advertise in the monthly BUSINESS DIRECTORY

by calling 625-8143/8146



What aRe the kiDs up tO tHis Week?



In an era where social media and technology are a constant diversion among the younger generation, there are still some around town that can have fun without phones or the internet.

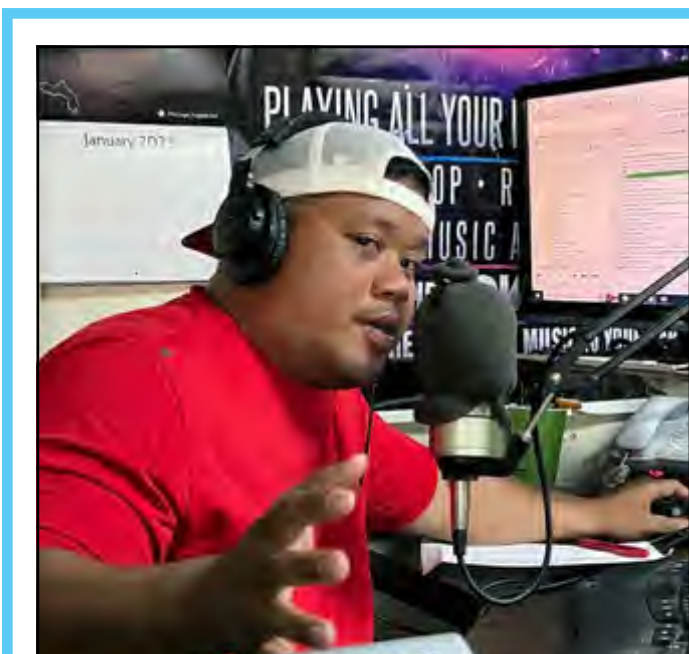
Last week a group of MIHS students in the woodworking class did an arm wrestling contest (pictured above left) as a way to kill time.

This photographer was offered an opportunity to prove himself, but unfortunately in just one second, he lost. Outside of the arm wrestling contest, auto mechanic student Ryback (at right) got creative and enhanced his MIHS uniform by making his scarf into a necktie wanting to appear as a gentleman.

There are two things that kids in Rita love to do, volleyball and posing for photos (at left). They wouldn't let our photographer go without a picture and twisted his arm to ensure it happened.

And if you love reading books then you would relate to these Seminary students Elina Bill and Maryann Jacklick (pictured above right) at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Rita who put their phones away and went into perusal mode.

Photos: Wilmer Joel.



The PopUlar Power PriMe Time

Power 103.5FM DJ Yastamon gets in his "zone" while on air, combining interviews and commentary about various activities in the community with a great array of music. His Power Prime Time interview program at 5pm is one of the most-listened to radio shows on island. The calls and texts he receives during this interview gives an indication of listener interest. Photo: Giff Johnson.

9				7				3
	7		6		2		4	
	4	2	1		3	5	7	
2			4	6	7			1
	5	7				6	8	
1			2	5	8			7
	2	1	8		6	3	9	
	9		7		5		6	
6				2				4

SUDOKU



LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

3	9	4	5	8	7	2	6	1
6	5	7	3	1	2	9	8	4
2	1	8	4	6	9	7	5	3
4	6	5	1	9	3	8	7	2
1	2	3	7	5	8	6	4	9
7	8	9	6	2	4	1	3	5
5	3	6	9	7	1	4	2	8
8	4	1	2	3	6	5	9	7
9	7	2	8	4	5	3	1	6

WORLD SNAPSHOT

United States and world news at a glance.
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US plan to end Covid emergency

The Biden administration plans to let the coronavirus public health emergency expire in May, the White House said Monday, a sign that federal officials believe the pandemic has moved into a new,

less dire phase. The White House wants to keep the emergency in place for several more months so hospitals, health providers and health officials can prepare for a host of changes that will come

when it ends, officials said. An average of more than 500 Americans are still dying daily from Covid, but at the three-year mark, the virus is no longer upending everyday life to the extent it once did.



Grenades sent to politicians

A new Republican congressman from Florida handed out an unusual welcome gift to colleagues in the House of Representatives: inert grenades with a letter inviting them to “come together.” The congressman, Cory Mills, 42, who is a US Army veteran, said in the letter that the deactivated explosives, stamped with

a Republican elephant, were 40-mm grenades manufactured in Florida and developed during the Vietnam War. “Let’s come together and get to work on behalf of our constituents,” he said. A reporter for The Daily Mail posted a picture of a grenade and Mills’ letter on Twitter, where the gift drew mixed reviews from fellow House freshmen.



Suicide bomb kills 59 worshippers

A powerful suicide bombing Monday ripped through a mosque frequented by police officers in a highly secured part of the city of Peshawar, Pakistan, killing at least 59 people and wounding nearly 160 in the worst attack in Pakistan in months, police and hospital officials said. The attack broke a period of relative calm in Peshawar, the capital of the restive Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in northwestern Pakistan. The northwest has been the site of several attacks on police and military targets in recent months, especially in areas that straddle the border with Afghanistan, and the Pakistani Taliban have claimed responsibility for them.

Zelenskyy needs weapons

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, days after winning promises of battle tanks, is exhorting his Western backers to send more heavy weapons to Ukraine — and fast, to help stave off a new Russian offensive. Having persuaded the United States and Germany to send dozens of their best tanks, Ukrainian officials have also started

to press Western officials on advanced weapons like long-range missiles and fighter jets. “Russia hopes to drag out the war, to exhaust our forces,” Zelenskyy said in his nightly address Sunday. “So we have to make time our weapon. We must speed up the events, speed up the supply and opening of new necessary weaponry options for Ukraine.”



Joe pushes \$1 trillion infrastructure law

US President Joe Biden still remembers walking along the tracks of the Civil War-era rail tunnel in Baltimore that connects Philadelphia to Washington as a senator and questioning the state of this piece of American infra-

structure. “You wonder how the hell it’s still standing,” Biden recalled thinking. Biden returned to the tunnel on Monday not just to inspect the aging structure — but with plans to revive it. He said his administration is committing

more than \$4 billion from his \$1 trillion infrastructure plan to repair an underground pathway first developed under President Ulysses Grant. On Monday, Biden emphasized the impact of his infrastructure law on daily lives.

Climate startups

As tech companies slash perks and cut jobs, the downturn has spurred a wake-up call among many workers, causing them to question whether their company’s role in society — selling ads or selling stuff, often — was making the world a better place. The result? More are now flocking to climate startups, just as investors pour money into the field. Last year, climate startups in the United States raised nearly \$20 billion, topping 2021’s high of \$18 billion and nearly tripling 2020’s \$7 billion, according to Crunchbase, a data provider. At least 83 climate-focused companies worldwide are worth more than \$1 billion, according to HolonIQ, a research firm.



SOLICITATION OF INTEREST & REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

The Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority with address located in Ebeye, Kwajalein Atoll seeks solicitation of interests for the following equipment;

Supply & Delivery of One (1) Unit Brand New Year 2022 Pickup Truck

Letter of Interest will be accepted starting January 27, 2023 ending February 7, 2023 @5PM. Any letter of Interests received after the time and date mentioned shall not be accepted under any circumstances. All prospective Vendors are requested to submit letter of interest addressed to:

Anjojo Kabua

Executive Director, Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority
Republic of the Marshall Islands

e-mail to: limikekabua@gmail.com or agsantiago0222@yahoo.com.ph

Vendors who are qualified to bid will be notified by KADA and shall be provided with the RFQ Documents for this Project.



SOLICITATION OF INTEREST & QUALIFICATION TO BID

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) thru the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure Utilities (MWIU) with address located in Delap, Majuro Atoll seeks solicitation of interest and Request for Bid (RFB) from Qualified Contractors for the following projects:

- Construction: New Rita Health Clinic
- Repairs: Majuro Old Hospital Nurse Office & Pediatric Ward Repair
- Renovation: MOHHS New Nurses Conference Room & Covid Storage

Letters of Interest will be accepted starting from February 2-10, 2023. Any letter of Interests received after the time and date mentioned shall not be accepted under any circumstances. All prospective Vendors/Contractors are requested to submit letter of interest addressed to:

Mr. Jefferson Barton


Secretary of Works, Infrastructure & Utilities
Republic of the Marshall Islands

e-mail to: secwiubarton.rmi@gmail.com, vinnymyazoe@gmail.com

Contractors who are qualified to bid will be notified by MWIU and shall be provided with the Complete RFB Documents for this Project.



For the safety of our community,
PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



College of the Marshall Islands
Accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges
 P.O. Box 1258 Tel: (692) 625-3291/3843
 Majuro Fax: (692) 625-7203
 Marshall Islands, MH 96960 Email: alaaw@cmi.edu

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMI invites applications for the following openings:

Job Title: Writing Center Paraprofessional
 Full-Time: \$7.45/hr to \$8.72/hr
 Closing date: February 24, 2023

General Description
 Under the direct supervision of the Associate Dean of Learning Support, the jobholder will oversee the day-to-day management of the Writing Center and provide writing and learning support to students.

The jobholder will be responsible for preparing and maintaining the labs by working in collaboration with the IT Department to ensure all labs are in good working condition. This includes such tasks as monitoring the use of supplies for printing purposes, maintaining a virus-free environment, keep the labs clean and ensuring there is no abuse of the facilities.

The jobholder is assisted by a group of students workers and is responsible for orientating them at the start of the semester and providing daily supervision. With the assistance of student workers, the jobholder will support academic success by working with students individually or in groups to improve academic knowledge and writing skills. The jobholder is also responsible for training new tutors, conducting workshops and recordkeeping.

Minimum Qualification

- AA/AS Degree from an accredited college
- Two years of experience working in a learning center

Job Title: Financial Aid Assistant
 Full-Time: \$5.53/hr to \$6.47/hr
 Closing date: February 10, 2023

General Description
 The Financial Aid Assistant is responsible of providing services with Financial Aid application or related inquiries and all related clerical functions of the office.

Minimum Qualification

- Associate's degree from an accredited institution of higher learning
- Clerical and/or administration training with at least 3 years of relevant experience
- Knowledge of and ability to follow financial aid policy and procedures
- Knowledge of current financial aid principle and techniques
- Skills to maintain and reconciling financial aid records
- Ability to communicate effectively, verbally and in writing, and relate to others in a professional, helpful manner

Benefits: Initial contract of three years; CMI Employee Benefits except for housing allowance.

NOTE: RMI Income Tax. Republic of the Marshall Islands Personal Income and Social Security taxes are applicable to all persons employed in the Marshall Islands. (Details available upon request.)

Making an Application: Applicants must apply online at <https://jobs-cmi.peopleadmin.com> or CMI jobs website www.cmi.edu
 Full Job Descriptions available online.

Jouj im etal nan website eo an CMI ilo www.cmi.edu nan am lale komele ko an jermal in. Ak kur tok opij eo an HR ilo 625-3291/3843 ne elap am kajitok.

The College of the Marshall Islands is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. The College of the Marshall Islands requires pre-employment reference and background screening.



MARSHALLS ENERGY COMPANY Inc.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Gasoline Dealership for Wotje

The Marshalls Energy Company Inc (MEC) invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably qualified businesses to enter a Request for Tender (RFT) process for the dealership of gasoline using MEC's facility Wotje in the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI).

Suitable Franchiser Service providers
 An appropriate EOI submission will, as a minimum, include the full name of the company (including relevant contact person), an appropriate level of background on the company, its business profile and relevant experience in franchising or retailing, land ownership and Leases and a statement explaining why the company is interested to tender for this opportunity. In addition, suitable dealers should provide in their submission:

- Qualifications and experience in the franchising and more so in petroleum sector;
- Options for competitive and secure retailing in the areas it is planning to;
- How they could support MEC's ongoing activities including innovative solutions/opportunities that would improve/enhance the value of a supply contract with MEC e.g., providing and selling a much affordable gasoline to outer islands;
- How it will work with MEC to provide security of supply and maintain facility technical standards, Health Safety requirements.

Timeframe
 Expressions of interest should be received **no later than Tuesday, 28 February, 2023** An EOI should be emailed to Jack S. Chong-Gum, CEO MEC (jack.chonggum@mecrmi.net) copy Shem Livai, Chief Commercial Officer MEC (shem.livai@mecrmi.net).



MARSHALLS ENERGY COMPANY Inc.
 P.O. Box 1439•Majuro, MH 96960
 Phone: (692) 625-3827/3828/3829
 Email: meccorp@mecrmi.net Website: www.mecrmi.net

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: **Petroleum Coordinator Administration & Inventory Accounting**

Reporting to: Petroleum Operations Manager

PURPOSE:
 To effectively manage inventory ensuring daily reconciliation of all bulk and packed drummed stocks. To carry out all imports products and other related items. To ensure that the terminal is in compliance with Fuel Tank Farm business controls procedures as well as ensuring reports are completed on time.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:
 College Degree in Science or Economics or minimum 5 years Petroleum downstream/Terminal operations and administration work experience and ability to reconcile stocks.

APPLICATIONS:
 Send a complete resume by mail, fax, or email to:
 HR Manager
 MARSHALLS ENERGY COMPANY Inc.
 P.O. Box 1439
 Majuro, Marshall Islands MH 96960
 Fax: (692) 625-5886
 E-mail: jkilma@mecrmi.net
 Website: www.mecrmi.net

DEADLINE: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

DRUNK DRIVERS ARE A HAZARD . . . PLEASE DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!

TIDE CHART

2023

Date	Time	FT
2 Thu	2:56 AM	2.37
	8:26	0.87
	2:58 PM	3.58
	9:36	0.33
3 Fri	3:30 AM	2.70
	9:07	0.53
	3:33 PM	3.90
	10:02	0.02
4 Sat	3:58 AM	3.01
	9:40	0.22
	4:03 PM	4.18
	10:28	-0.23
5 Sun	4:25 AM	3.29
	10:10	-0.04
	4:31 PM	4.41
	10:53	-0.39
6 Mon	4:50 AM	3.53
	10:39	-0.22
	4:58 PM	4.57
	11:18	-0.48
7 Tue	5:16 AM	3.70
	11:06	-0.30
	5:24 PM	4.63
	11:42	-0.49
8 Wed	5:41 AM	3.81
	11:34	-0.29
	5:49 PM	4.58
9 Thu	12:06 AM	-0.44
	6:07	3.86
	12:01 PM	-0.20
	06:14	4.43
10 Fri	12:31 AM	-0.32
	6:34	3.84
	12:30 PM	-0.02
	6:40	4.18

3 bonus inches of rain in January

One thing we know for sure: the dry season has not yet started for Majuro. And if our readers think this story will jinx the weather, bringing the drought into gear, all we can do is plead guilty due to the information we have gleaned from the National Weather Service in Majuro. Through this past weekend, the Majuro weather office had recorded 11.91 inches of rain for January. This is over three inches more than the long-term average for January, which is 8.24 inches. This is good news for Majuro residents and the airport reservoir, which remained in the 25-27 million gallon level throughout January.

RMI Builders & Enterprises needs a

- Foreman • Mason • Carpenter
- Mechanic • Civil Engineer

Contact 455-5321 & 625-6278.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
THE FLAME TREE

MANAGER & CASHIER

Application forms are available during working hours 8am-5pm at the Micronitor Office in Delap, behind Flame Tree. Police clearance required.

NOTICE TO ALL MEC Electricity Consumers

The electrical utility bills for **JANUARY 2023** have now been processed and are ready for collection to all consumers who have not provided a Post Office box number. Consumers should collect their bills between the hours of 8am to 4pm, 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.

In addition to the legal penalties for meter tampering, MEC will charge the customer for repair and other miscellaneous costs. Tampering fee \$1,000; Illegal electricity consumption - to be assessed by MEC; Replacement \$350; Socket \$300; additional work/legal costs/publication of offender's name - cost plus 15%.

Nan Ro Otemej Im Rej KEJERBAL JAROM

BILL IN JAROM KO AN **JANODRE 2023** EMOJ AER DREDRELOK, nan ro im ejelok aer Post Office box joi im itok nan Office eo an M.E.C. nan buki bill kein ba kaki ikotaan awa in jermal ko 8 jibon im 4 awa jota, Mandre nan Bolaidre. Kakememej aolep customer ro bwe ilo bill in jarom ko emoj kalikare bwe bill ko aikuij in kolla iumin wot 30 raan. Im ne ewor kajitok kake bill ko bar einwot aikuij in kebaak Office eo ilo eija awa ko wot ba kaki ak call e telephone nombra 625-3827/3828.

Kakobaba kon kaje ko nan armej eo ej inokke ak jibwe kobban meter eo, MEC enaj kaje kon wonen jerbale meter eo im ko jet. Wonen inokke ej \$1,000; koot jarom - naj etale ippen MEC; Kokaal \$350; Socket \$300; jermal ko jet - koba 15%.

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 offenses 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, 1989, MEC will refer all instances involving tampering or altering meters and theft of a 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.

KÓJELA NĀN RO REJ BÓK AIR JAROM JEN MEC

Einwöt an walok ilo Title 31, Marshall Islands Revised Code, Jöpta 1, Section 60, bwe ej juön menin kaje nan jabrewöt ro renaj make köllaak air jarom ilo jabrewöt line in jarom ko ak bok air jarom ilo jabrewöt wäwen im jab jen mälim in köllaak ak wäwen kömadmöd ko jet jen MEC. Jabrewöt eo naj jibwe an kömmani wäwen kein röjelet kakien in naj bed ilo kalbuj an jab je jen 6 allöñ im/ak naj bakkiñ \$100.00 dala.

Jejet ilo kar Epröl, 1989 eo, MEC enaj jakelok aolep ro renaj bok jen air kömmani wäwen kein ikijen jarom ibben ro jet ak uköt mila ko im koot jarom nan obj eo an Attorney General eo an REPMAR im Department eo an REPMAR Police nan air kömmani jermal in kaje ko air. Bareinwöt MEC enaj tümi jarom jen ijoko im MEC ej lo ke jarom ko ie kar kömadmöd an dri köllak jarom ro.

Jabrewöt eo ewör an melele kin wäwen in ikijen koot jarom ak ewör an kajitök kin köjela in en joiu in kebaak MEC ilo 625-3827/3828. Kom Emmol.

LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

Notice of Registration Application

(Land Recording and Registration Act 2003) Application No: **5935/5936**
This notice is issued under Part V of the Land Recording and Registration Act 2003 and gives notice that an application to register land owner interests on: **Jabonbar & Komlal Wetos, Rairok, Majuro Atoll**. The land subject to this certificate is defined on Survey Map: **MI-012/21 & MI-012/21** which is filed in the Office of the Division of Lands and Survey, Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The total land area of this portion of land is: **7.2894 & 3.0702 Acres**
The party making this application is:

Haem Mea: Alap
Clary Makraro: Senior Dri-Jerbal

The full application is available for inspection at the Office of the Land Registration Authority, MIDB Building, Floor 4, Room 406/407, Majuro during normal office hours. Inquiries should be sent to: P.O. Box 3215, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, 96960. Phone (692) 625-7171.

If any person wants to object to this application on the grounds that he/she is the rightful holder of any interest described in the application, that person should file an objection with the Land Registration Authority no later than **4:30pm Thursday 27 April, 2023**.

Section 427(2) of the Land Recording and Registration Act 2003 specifies that the following information must be filed with an objection: Name and address of each objector, statement of objection and reasons, copies of any documents supporting the objection and notarially attested signatures of each objector, certifying that all statements made in the objection are true.

This notice is given by the Land Registration Authority on **Friday 27 January, 2023**.

Kajin Majol eber ilo Office en an LRA MIDB Building, Delap Room 406/407.

LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

Deed of Trust/Mortgage
Registration No. **5931**

KEJJELA NĀN JABREWÖT

Kejjela nan jabrewöt armij eo ewor an maron ilo jikin in im **Elizabeth Jemwai** rej Lease i ilo **Enedrol Weto, Rairok Island, Majuro Atoll**, bwe in ej Lease ej kajitok iben Land Registration eo bwe en register e Lease in ej Jortoklik kake. Jabrewöt emaron etale pepa in Lease im Jortoklik kein ilo office eo an Land Registration ilo floor 4, room No. 407 ilo MIDB Building eo ilo Delap, Majuro Atoll, Tel./Fax (692) 625-7171 ilo ran im awa in jermal ko.

Jabrewöt armij eo ejjab erre ilo lease im Jortoklik kein, emaron kadrelon an abonono ilo jeje, ilo office eo an Land Registration ilo Majuro mokta jen **9th February 2023**. Jabrewöt eo ejjab erra ilo Lease im Jortoklik kein ej aikuj in komane juon an kemelele eo ej kalikar kin maron eo ej kabwijere, im jabrewöt eo enaj likjab jen an kadrelon an jumae ilo jeje iloan tore eo emwij karoke, inem enaj ejelok an maron tokelik nan an koman an abonono nae maron ko an ro rej Lease ilo jikin in ekkar nan kwon ko ilo Lease im Jortoklik in, ijelokin wot ro rej kabijer maron ko bwe remaron koman aer abonono jabrewöt ien elane enaj wor.

Deed of Trust/Mortgage
Registration No. **5931**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all person interested in the Leasehold of **Elizabeth Jemwai** on **Enedrol Weto, Rairok Island, Majuro Atoll**, that the Lessees/Mortgagors Trustees herein are applying to the Land Registration for registration of his deed of trust/ mortgage. Copies of the deed of trust or mortgage can be examined at the office of Land Registration, MIDB Building room No. 407 and 408, Delap, Majuro Atoll, Tel./Fax (692) 625-7171 during working hours of any working day.

Any person having any objections to the trust, mortgage or lease may file an objection before **9th Bebdre 2023** with the Land Registration in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, written objection shall contain a statement of the right, title or interest claimed and how much right, title, or interest is affected and nature of the statement. Any person who fails to submit a written objection in a timely manner as aforesaid shall be forever barred from claiming any rights against the interest of the mortgagees or lessees or trustees under mortgage, or the lease, or trust provided, however, the lessors may at all times prosecute any claims which they may have under Lease.

BE SAFE, KEEP UPDATED ON YOUR COVID / FLU SHOTS.

J&H Construction
JOB OPENINGS

- Civil Engineer • 2 Finishing Carpenter
- Mechanic • HVAC Technician

Please submit resume to:
freddienlaarni@gmail.com

MAJURO COOPERATIVE SCHOOL
Phone: 625-3144
Email: office@majurocooperativeschool.org
Website: <https://majurocoopschool.com/>

Hiring For 2022-2023 School Year
Bus Driver; Security Guard

Bus Driver and Security Guard pay starts at minimum wage.
Applications available at Coop.

Do it Best
QUALITY PAINTS

JOB OPENING
Majuro Do it Best Hardware
Purchasing Agent

Location: Majuro, Marshall Islands

Job Description: Obtain requirements by verifying, preparing, and forwarding purchase orders; verifies receipts of items; authorizes payment.

Education/Experience:

- Minimum of 5 years experience or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Contact: doitbestlarry@gmail.com

PACIFIC BASIN PAYLESS LLC.
P.O. Box 1014 • Uliga, Marshall Islands 96960
Phone: (692) 625-5777

TRIPLE J JOB OPPORTUNITY
Computer System Analyst

Must be able to analyze business data processing problems to implement and improve computer systems. Analyze user requirements, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems and review computer system capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations. Must be able to facilitate product ordering with department managers. Have knowledge with inventory system control. Knowledge of electronic equipment, local and wide area networking, computer hardware and software (SQL, Dot Net). Knowledge of WEB and Mobile Apps is a plus.

Must have at least a degree in computer science or equivalent plus 5 years of directly related work experience. The job site will be in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Please send resume to the following address
PACIFIC BASIN PAYLESS, LLC.
P.O. Box 1014 • Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960
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Triple J is an equal opportunity employer

MIHI and MISCo update

The per-share dividend payments last month by Marshall Islands Holdings Inc. and Marshall Islands Service Company were \$8 and 70 cents, respectively.

The Journal story last week on their annual shareholders meetings reported the dividend amounts as \$7 and \$1, respectively.



MP David Paul

Nitijela supports power cable

HILARY HOSIA

Kwajalein Parliament Member David Paul struck a home run last Thursday when he received full support by members of the Nitijela Standing Committee for Resources and Development following his presentation on Nitijela Resolution 83 regarding the planned power cable from Roi Namur to Ennibur Island.

By home run we mean this: R&D Chair Stephen Philip ordered the hearing to go off air to collect information on the proposed resolution and Paul delivered an explanation in layman terms and convinced the entire sitting members to support the resolution, which basically is asking for Cabinet to step up and help the people of Ennibur Island. The resolution is for Cabinet to endorse use of RMI environmental rules for installation of the cable as opposed to US standards.

The resolution was sponsored by Paul and Minister in Assistant to the President Christopher Loek.

Micronesia ECOP Facilitator for OurFish OurFuture Project

University of Rhode Island/Coastal Resources Center

Location: FSM or RMI

Job Type: Full-time

Description

OurFish Our Future Project ECOP Facilitator - Micronesia

Overview

The five-year OurFish OurFuture Project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management Community of Practice (ECOP) Facilitator - Micronesia is responsible for establishing, coordinating, and growing the Community of Practice (COP) in Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). The path to an Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) requires transformation throughout the entire social-ecological and governance system, which the OurFish OurFuture project aims to accelerate through peer-to-peer learning, information sharing, and collaboration through a COP.

The Facilitator will be tasked with identifying, recruiting, and engaging target coastal fisheries stakeholders and practitioners from the regional to community level, coordinating network-wide communication over the life of the project with the assistance of partner staff and ECOP focal points across the three countries of interest in Micronesia. The Facilitator will ensure that the ECOP in Micronesia is an interactive peer-to-peer network designed to accelerate social learning about why and how to advance EAFM in the region, as well as a forum for collaborating and innovating. The Facilitator will focus on community-level engagement and learning, and will collaborate with stakeholders to illustrate how historical, sociocultural, and traditional forms of management are incorporated into EAFM. The Facilitator will be responsible for disseminating and facilitating feedback on activity materials and tools, gathering, and monitoring data, organizing events, and implementing other activities. The Facilitator will coordinate closely with OurFish OurFuture partner offices of the Locally-Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Network, and The University of the South Pacific (USP), as well as a counterpart ECOP Facilitator focused on three countries of interest in Melanesia. The position reports directly to the OurFish OurFuture Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP) and works closely with all OurFish OurFuture program staff located at both the University of Rhode Island (URI) Coastal Resources Center (CRC) office and the in-country Fiji office.

Responsibilities

- Identify Micronesia ECOP Planning Committee in collaboration with local partners, local community and fishery leaders, and national advisory committees.
- Determine need and desire to form ECOP with Planning Committee.
- Create an ECOP community charter.
- Identify the most appropriate platform(s) and fora for engaging and connecting ECOP members from the government to community level.
- Develop and monitor growth, outcome, and activity targets and indicators to measure the performance and impact of the ECOP.
- Facilitate continuous communication and feedback with communities and stakeholders to ensure networks are strong and effective.
- Learn, adapt, and improve alignment of ECOP with objectives of members.
- Transition leadership of ECOP to local champions to ensure sustainability post project.
- Formulate ECOP Micronesia strategy and quarterly work and financial plans, with the assistance of implementing partners in the field and program specialists.
- Establish cooperation, partnership and networking agreements with fishery resource users, stakeholder groups, and local government units to solicit their involvement in ECOP.
- Assist the fisheries management, marine habitat, and socioeconomic specialists in the baseline assessment and monitoring events, including specific data collections in the area.
- Coordinate with the Regional Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Advisor in the collection, update, and maintenance of data for the project's monitoring, evaluation, and learning database and the performance monitoring system for ECOP.
- Undertake other activities required to achieve ECOP targets set out in the OurFish OurFuture Program Results Framework.
- Prepare and submit progress reports as prescribed by the OurFish OurFuture Program reporting system.
- Perform other project-related duties as required from time to time by the Deputy Chief of Party and/or the Chief of Party.

Experience:

- A minimum of five years' progressively responsible, professional experience in fisheries project coordination

and management (coastal fisheries preferred).

- Experience in facilitating field and office activities with fisher communities in Micronesia including data collection, data capture, and improving communications among fishery stakeholders.
- Excellent facilitation and presentation skills.
- Fluency and excellent written and oral communication skills in English and knowledge of Yapese, Pohnpeian, or Marshallese.
- Demonstrated ability to initiate and establish partnerships and networks, maintaining effective relationships and influencing key partners and stakeholders.
- Experience and ability to collaborate with people from different ethnic, cultural, and educational backgrounds.
- Outcome driven focus, with the ability to coordinate multiple activities.
- The capacity to exercise sound judgement and to execute operational planning.
- High level capacity for self-management and initiative while operating with minimal supervision.
- Demonstrated understanding of ecosystems approach to fisheries management at the community level.
- Willing to be assigned in the FSM or the RMI, and travel to project sites in Palau, the FSM, and the RMI.
- Demonstrated experience in the use of spreadsheets, and word processing software including Microsoft Word and Excel. Interest in and capacity to train on other specialized software for content analysis, social network analysis, etc.

Education:

- BSc degree in Marine Biology, Fisheries, Marine Ecology, or equivalent.

How to Apply: To apply please email all of the following, in order, in **one single PDF file** to rjimmy@ourfish.crcuri.org, robert@ourfish.crcuri.org and pfreeman@uri.edu:

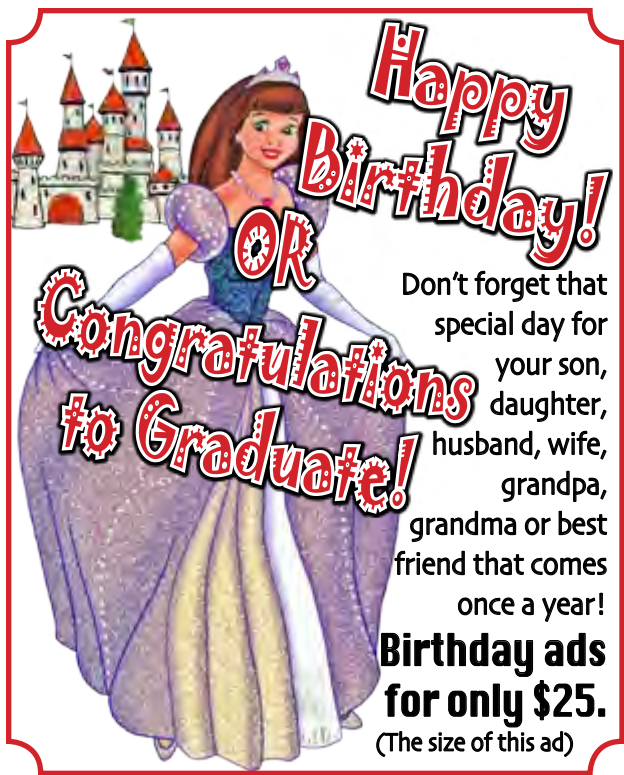
- Cover letter
- Resume or CV
- Three professional references with contact details

To the attention of:

Peter Freeman
Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography
University of Rhode Island
220 South Ferry Road
Narragansett, RI 02882

This search is open to citizens and/or residents of the FSM and the RMI until filled.

Be wise, advertise: Call Maggie on 625-8143 today



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THAT the Marshallese name of the non-profit organization RMI Loves Animals is Iakwe Menin Mour?

THAT a group of flamingos is called a "flamboyance" ... It is also called a "colony" but flamboyance is far more popular?

THAT the immortal jellyfish *Turritopsis dohrnii* can revert back to its immature state after reaching maturity and starts its life cycle over again?

THAT the design for the sole of the first Nike shoe was created by co-founder Bill Bowerman, who was a track coach, and to do this he copied the pattern on his waffle iron?

THAT the inventor of the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup, Mr. Reese, also created two similar candy bars — the Lizzie Bar after his daughter



THAT the Australian Embassy staff, pictured here, livened up the Australia Day event at Marshall Islands Resort last week?

Al-Thawri that "we inherited the planet from our ancestors 3,000 years ago"?

THAT a 1965 Barbie came with a diet book that advised readers not to eat ... at all?

THAT the tallest tree in the world is a "yellow meranti", it's on Borneo, and it's 330 feet tall?

THAT in 1922 Danish physicist Niels Bohr won the Nobel Prize, so they gave him a house, which happened to be next to a brewery and had a pipe that brought beer directly in his home?

ARE YOU AWARE?

and the Johnny Bar after his son — and the only difference between the two was the Johnny Bar had nuts?

THAT people who habitually stay up late are, on average, more-self-admiring, more manipulative, and more psychopathic than people habitually arise early in the morning?

THAT the shortest flight in the world goes between two Scottish islands 1.7 miles apart and it takes about 57 seconds for the journey, depending on wind strength and direction?

THAT in 1997, three men from Yemen sued NASA for trespassing on Mars and told the Arabic-language

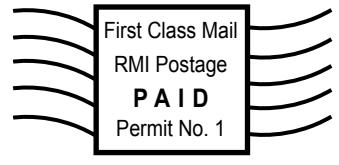
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