GIFF JOHNSON

Kwajalein Senator Tony deBrum said this week that RMI Cabinet leaders have allowed the investigations into government fraud and theft to virtually collapse for lack of staff in the AG’s office and few police investigators. In an attack on government leadership, deBrum said this problem has occurred despite the government’s leaders saying everything was under control.

But three Cabinet Ministers — Brenson Wase, Jack Ading and John Silk — got together Wednesday to respond to deBrum’s allegations, saying the RMI-led investigations are continuing and plans are in motion to bolster the Attorney General’s office.

Reading the article in last week’s Journal that the Acting AG Tubosoye Brown is the only attorney in the AG’s office and there is only one national police investigator currently on the fraud probe prompted deBrum to level criticism at the government. He also said at recent Public Accounts Committee hearings the committee members had specifically asked whether the RMI has the people to conduct a thorough investigation of the fraud.

Brenson, John, Jack say deBrum is misleading

But Justice Minister Wase said Brown, who was recently named Acting AG, is the official who has been leading the fraud cases from the beginning and is continuing forward with the investigations and prosecutions. “The investigation is ongoing,” said Finance Minister Ading who made the additional point that High Court trials...

Campaign 2011: Kwaj-Majuro split

With one month left to the November 21 vote, campaign activities are hitting high gear.

This year’s campaign, up to recently, has appeared to be less party oriented than any election since before 1999 — with various party groupings that were central in earlier elections having been abandoned for the 2011 vote. It’s looked like an every man and woman for themselves election.

In the last few days, however, a new group calling itself KEA — Kien Eo Am (Your Government) — has
Friday, October 21, 2011 — The Marshall Islands Journal

**Fraud fracas: Tony deBrum, Brenson Wase, John Silk, Jack Ading.**

Jack: Investigation moving forward

Campaign fever

**$2.6m check for RMI**

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) office will hand over a $2.6 million check to the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority on Thursday this week for fishing days sold to Solomon Islands and other PNA members.

This follows on a $1 million sale of fishing days to Papua New Guinea last month. More fisheries stories: P18.

From page 1

are scheduled for January, February and March in various prosecutions. Brown also told the Journal last week that he is pursuing investigations and opening new investigations.

Wase said earlier this year, he, Ading and Silk had met with US officials and arrived at an agreement that the RMI government had the staff to properly investigate the theft from the government.

But deBrum emphasized the fact that the RMI government had the staff to properly investigate the theft from the government. 

DeBrum said he had introduced a resolution in Nitijela early this year to invite US investigators to assist in the investigation, saying it was the “totally intolerable” situation for the Marshall Islands, and has created a “totally intolerable” situation for the government. But with the current situation in the Attorney General’s office this has now been proved to be false, and has created a “totally intolerable” situation for the Marshall Islands, deBrum said.

Wase and Silk said they have discussed the options of bringing in attorneys from Foreign Affairs and Resources and Development to bolster the AG’s office over the next few weeks for both the fraud work and the election.

Wase said the government is working quickly to address AG office needs. He also said former RMI AG Philimon Manoni has been asked to return to the AG post as soon as he completes his PhD requirements, which is expected to be in the next several weeks. “We hope to have him in before the election,” Wase said.

Ading said one of the two police investigators — Parker Wilson — is off-island on a short-term training, and investigators including from the GAO office in recent months, Wase said. But deBrum emphasized the fact that the RMI government had the staff to properly investigate the theft from the government.

Meanwhile, the lawyer shortage at the AG office is because two are on leave for the election, one resigned, and one was given leave at an inapropriate time, Wase said. "Now the US government can fairly say that the RMI is not pursuing the investigations and can hold up funding," deBrum said. "It’s a totally intolerable situation."

Silk said he also objected to de-Brum’s resolution, saying it was the Nitijela as a whole that decided against the resolution, not one person. All three ministers said they objected to the resolution because it was “misleading” in that it claimed the RMI had rejected a US offer of investigative assistance. 

Ading said at the time the US had not offered any assistance so there was nothing to reject. 

He stated that a meeting with US officials in Hawaii early this year on the matter led to cooperation and the okay from the RMI for the US to send investigators as needed. “Subsequent to that meeting, Interior sent in investigators including from the GAO office from Hawaii,” Ading said.

Silk said the investigation and prosecutions have been conducted in a transparent manner.
US cut will hit public health

A United States-funded health program that was called “transformative for the (Pacific) region” is expected to be eliminated this year, following a US House of Representatives plan to cut the program named in the US FY2012 budget plan.

The US Congress’ plan to eliminate funding for the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program has sparked concern not only from College of the Marshall Islands Interim President Carl Hacker but also from officials in other US-affiliated islands.

Dr. Greg Dever, who directs the Palau AHEC that is based at Palau Community College, said eliminating AHEC will hurt a range of public health and nursing degree programs in the region.

“This will adversely impact on the development of the associate of sciences degree in public health at Palau Community College, the college’s local nursing program and retard any development at the College of the Marshall Islands in the associate of science degree in public health program.” Dever said. “It will also definitely lead to adverse cuts in the now-accredited associate of science degree in public health program and new accredited nursing program at the College of Micronesia in Pohnpei, as well as nursing programs at the University of Guam and Guam Community College.” These US-affiliated islands have struggled with developing preventive health programs to address an epidemic of lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, as well as communicable diseases such as TB and leprosy at least in part because of a shortage of trained public health workers. The AHEC funding focuses largely on developing high school and college-based training programs for nurses and public health workers. “AHECs have been transformative in the region,” said Dever of the public health training work launched through the program at local colleges.

Dr. Kelley Withy, the Executive Director of the Hawaii-Pacific Basin AHEC who is based at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii, said a visit to Washington, DC last week did not improve chances for retaining the program.

“I just returned from DC and it is very frustrating,” he said this week. “They (Congressional officials) don’t seem to realize that if they cut a program like this, they can’t just start it back up when money becomes available.”

T&C still reviewing boating rules

Nearly 20 years after a Domestic Water Crafts Act was passed by Nitijela, the government has not written and promulgated regulations to enforce the law.

The law government safety and related issues for boats and ships operating in the RMI was adopted by Nitijela in 1992, and came into law on September 30 that year. Although the law requires that “The Minister of Transportation and Communications prepare for the approval of the Cabinet any and all regulations necessary and proper to implement” the many sections of the 1992 law, none have been prepared or approved by Cabinet through successive government administrations.

According to Ministry of Transportation and Communications staff Smith Williams, a set of regulations was provided to the Ministry by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in 2003. “The ministry is still in the process of reviewing the new regulations carefully, which would take some time,” said Williams.

Asked about the tragic incident last year in Arno, when four people drowned during a boat trip to Majuro, Williams responded, “we do radio net conference twice a month to remind people of safety measures and regulations. We also take questions.” Williams added: “People need to prepare themselves before going out to sea.”

Meanwhile, Transportation Secretary Phil Philippo confirmed that the ministry is still in the review stage.

“We’re still reviewing the generic water craft act to see if we can amend the act with new rules and regulations. And we’re trying to have this ready for the upcoming Nitijela,” said Philippo.
Kwajalein Nitijela candidate Ataji Balos, who has been removed from the ballot for the November election, said he was misled by electoral officials.

In an October 12 letter to Chief Electoral Officer Joseph Jorlang, Balos said on instructions and approval by Patrick Bing, Ebeye’s Electoral officer, “I gave power of attorney to Edward Jeadrik to sign my nomination petition form on my behalf.”

He said he was in constant communication with Bing on what was the proper procedure “I needed to follow for Edward to sign my nomination paper on my behalf and I did every in accordance to his instructions.”

Following the submission of the form I called and talked with Patrick again and he said that everything was in order and he said it was, his nomination papers did not have his power of attorney notarized.

His agent who helped him on his nomination petition papers.

His agent who helped him on his nomination papers.

Also sent my paper work to you Mr. Joseph Jorlang for you to review them. Both of you told me everything was okay.” Balos, who was a long-time Kwajalein senator until he lost a reelection bid in 2003, said he believed the two election officials “because both of you have done this job for years, you have experience and you know the rules.” He said it was clear that they both recognized he did everything correctly because they named him as a candidate when the announcements were released to the public “Why did it take so long for me to learn that I wasn’t a viable candidate because of my paperwork?” Balos said. “I filed on July 27 and by October 9, I started to hear rumors that my paper work was questionable.” He told Jorlang he is awaiting “further instructions from your office.”

Ataji says Electoral misled him

Kwajalein Nitijela candidate Ataji Balos. Balos taken off ballot per advice from AG

Kwajalein Atoll candidate Ataji Balos has been taken off the ballot, according to the Electoral office. The reasons provided include:

• Ataji Balos was not the one who signed his nomination petition papers.

• His agent who helped him on his nomination papers did not have his power of attorney notarized.

• His agent put his signature in the wrong place, which is the witness section.

“This information was given from the Attorney General’s office,” said Amram.

More trainings as election date nears

The Electoral office is gearing up for the upcoming vote next month and have acquired staff from government departments to be members of the team working in the election. “We’ve also hired people who worked in the previous election,” said electoral official Wise Amram. Another workshop for all the people who will be working in the election has been scheduled for November 1-2. The previous workshop took place early this month. On the other hand, Ministry of Internal Affairs gave out letters to news media outlets last week requesting names of representatives who will be reporting on the election. “The purpose of this is to streamline the release of outgoing election information results,” said Acting Secretary Wallace Peter. The media group will be recognized with an identification badge processed by the ministry, said Peter.

Postal absentee ballot count

The Electoral Administration reports that it has already received 280 postal absentee ballots through the Post Office for the November 21 national election. As of Tuesday, Electoral officials had mailed out 2,044 ballots to registered voters living off-island.

Wotje and Mejit complaints removed

Recent complaints filed against a number of candidates running for Mayor for Wotje Atoll and Jabat Island have been rejected by the Attorney General’s office. Meanwhile another complaint that was filed against a candidate running for the Alap seat in Mejit was also rejected by the Electoral office.

According to Wise Amram, the Mejit candidate was disputed by the atoll’s Leroij and Iroij who stated that the candidate had no right to run for the seat because he has an older brother. “The petition papers showed the ‘older brother’ being included,” said Amram.

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Yokwe to new Turkish envoy

The new Ambassador to RMI for the Republic of Turkey Oğuz Özge presented his diplomatic credentials on Wednesday to President Jurelang Zedkaia, while members of the Cabinet joined in the ceremony. Photo: Bruce Kijiner.
The women’s group Juren Ae concluded its handicraft skills training at the International Conference Center last Thursday in graduating 21 young women participants. Speakers at the event heaped appreciation on donors, the RMI government and other individuals that supported the program. According to Foreign Minister John Silk, who spoke on behalf of RMI President Jurelang Zedkaia, “the skills that these students learned are skills from our own country.”

This is part of our culture and was passed down from our ancestors through the generations, said Silk. “Our skills have not disappeared, we need to share them and pass them on,” said Silk.

“These girls can advance to learning how to make ‘jaki-ed’ (mats) which is the highest level of weaving mats,” said Althea Bing (right).

Three cheers for Juren Ae graduates
Auditors listed four “findings” (problems) in their FY2008 audit of the Land Registration Authority, three of which were said to be “material weaknesses” (serious problems).

Three of the four problems found had been pointed out in previous year audits and not corrected.

In addition, while most agencies were on their FY2010 audits, LRA was two years behind as the FY2008 was included in the RMI Auditor General’s 2011 report to Nitijela last month.

In a March 24, 2011 letter to LRA Registrar Helkena Anni, Auditor General Junior Patrick raised questions about LRA’s handling of College of the Marshall Islands students are already preparing for an internship program for the Fall (August) Semester. Pictured are some of the 19 interns who will be placed at CMI, the Environmental Protection Authority, Marshalls Energy Company, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public Works, National Telecommunications Authority, Youth to Youth in Health, and Women United Together Marshall Islands. They got together for an orientation session. The internship program will see students spending two hours a day at the work place, keeping journals and learning about possible careers. CMI’s aim is to “enhance our students’ educational experience as they prepare for life after graduation.”

CMI prepares 19 interns

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LRA: We’ll fix audit issues

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In a March 24, 2011 letter to LRA Registrar Helkena Anni, Auditor General Junior Patrick raised questions about LRA’s handling of cash. “Cash is being received without cash receipts issued,” he said. “We recommend that cash receipts be issued for all cash received.”

He also pointed out that LRA was not backing up its computer-based records. “We noted that the accounting system was updated and changed after the financial statements were provided for audit,” Patrick said.

“We however, updated financial statements were provided for the changes made as all accounting data in the accounting system were inadvertently deleted. No back ups were available to assist timely recovery of accounting data, thus the accounting records were constructed manually by a consultant using the Excel program rather than utilizing the existing accounting system that LRA previously paid $2,000 for another consultant to maintain.”

He urged LRA to set up a policy to routinely back up accounting data.

The audit also pointed out that more than half (22) of 39 purchases that were checked did not have required documents to show that RMI law for purchasing supplies and equipment were followed. The amount of the 22 problem purchases was over $15,000 and included spending ranging from a low of $168 for repairs and maintenance to a high of $2,000 for computer training and software. “Lack of adherence to established (RMI) procurement standards was reported as a finding in audits of the Authority for 2005 through 2007,” the audit said.

“We will follow the RMI’s procurement code and the recommendation by the Auditor,” said the LRA management in response.

The audit also pointed out that board minutes were not available for two of the four quarters in 2008, and this presented the possibility that board directives are not properly disclosed or recorded. This was also a problem left unfixed from 2007.

“The policy and procedure for maintaining the minutes of the meetings of board is to scan the minutes into PDF forms and also file them in an audit folder for the fiscal year to be audit,” said LRA management.

The audit shows that in 2007, LRA had total operating revenue of $48,237 and this declined to $33,548 in 2008. It had expenses of $34,224 in 2008, overspending its 2008 revenue slightly but because it had carryover money from previous years, it ended 2008 with net assets of $87,105.
A third seminar on the conservation and management of the Laura freshwater lens to share information from a Japanese-supported study with the concerned organizations was held on October 14 at the Marshall Islands Resort’s Mielele Room. About 30 people from Resources and Development, EPA, the Water Task Force, Majuro Atoll Local Government, CMI, the Secretariat of the Pacific Geoscience Program, Freshwater Lens Committee, Majuro Water and Sewer Company, Majuro Atoll Waste Company, National Institute for Rural Engineering in Japan (NIRE), Embassy of Japan, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) took part.

Japan officials reported the countermeasure against the saltwater intrusion and initial model simulation, NIRE officials showed the cross sectional view and storage volume of the freshwater lens based on an electromagnetic survey, and the water quality analysis. Ministry of R&D officials talked about water saving agricultural methods. After a question and answer session, EPA reported the output of a recent JICA training course in Okinawa.

Secretary of R&D Tommy Kijiner, Jr. said “As we can recognize the importance of conservation and management of the freshwater lens, we would like to share the information on the present situation of the freshwater lens.” As the final year comes for the project focusing on water resource use in atolls, the manual for the conservation and management of the freshwater lens will be submitted to R&D by Japan officials in March, 2012.

Mili Senator Kejjo Bien is working with international lawyer Jonathan Levy in an effort to revive decades old claims for property damage, environmental destruction and loss of life. In a press release, they said that up to now diplomatic issues involving the US and Japan, the United Nations’ professional immunity from its neglect during the trustee-ship era, and the lack of interest by the US Congress have blocked resolution of World War II-era claims.

“Now a solution is being formulated,” said Levy. Instead of abandoning these claims that are in some cases more than 60 years old, “a plan is being floated to establish a RMI Historical Claims Commission to gather all colonial era, wartime, trusteeship and nuclear claims together, document them and release a recommendation to the government for their final resolution.” Levy and Bien said this would combine all claims into a single package for the RMI to address in a unified and orderly manner. “The entire process should take no longer than a year and will result in a quantifiable ‘super claim’ that can be more easily dealt with by the RMI government and fairly apportioned for the benefit of all the affected citizens,” Levy said. Bien expects other government members will see the logic of the process and to support it.

The Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) would like to reiterate its commitment to continue to work closely with the Republic of the Marshall Islands to further strengthen the friendship and relations which have long been cherished and held dearly by our two countries. On that note, Ambassador George T.K. Li extends special thanks to H.E. President Jurelang Zedkaia and the First Lady, Traditional Leaders, Members of Nitijela, Members of the Cabinet, Government, Business and Community leaders, and the overseas Taiwanese here in the RMI who participated in and contributed to the celebrations of the 100th National Day of R.O.C. in 2011.
First Lady to do series of island visits

First Lady Hannah Zedkaia was aiming to leave Majuro this week on a trip to four outer atolls to donate goods provided by Americans and also to inaugurate new call centers.

The visit is to the islands of Woja, Ailinglaplap, Namu Namu, and Wotje's main islands.

Once she completes this one-week trip, she plans later in the month to visit Arno and Mili.

This is part of her program of getting donations of children’s clothing from the US and delivering it to needy families. The call centers are being established by NTA.

Landowners' anxiety over late payment

The first Kwajalein land rental payment of the new fiscal year was four days late, causing concern within the landowner community.

The more than $6.5 million payment was expected on Monday, but was not issued by Ministry of Finance until late afternoon Friday after it was received from the US government. The delays were on the US government side.

The concern led Kwajalein senators to ask the RMI government to seek release of the delayed rental payment, but Friday’s release solved the problem.

US Ambassador Martha Campbell said the first payment of the new fiscal year "was slightly delayed because of US Congressional budget approval requirements for the new fiscal year and the setting up and implementation of a new financial management system within the Department of the Interior. DOI successfully got the first quarter Kwajalein landowner payment released only a few days late, in spite of the fact that the first business day of the new fiscal year was October 3 and October 10 was a US holiday."

The October payment is traditionally the largest of the four rental payments that the landowners received each year. Because the land use agreement was signed in May, the quarterly payments now include the entire amount of land rental agreed to in the Compact of Free Association.

The approximately 90 landowners will receive more than $17 million in rental in fiscal year 2012.

First Lady Hannah Zedkaia, who is headed to the outer islands this week.

Kwajalein landowner payments are made on a quarterly basis.

The first quarter payment covers October through December.

The first quarter payment also includes the entire inflation adjustment amount for the fiscal year, one reason that this payment issued last Friday is the largest of the year.

By request of the landowners, the quarterly payments are paid out on a 30 percent, 30 percent, 20 percent, and 20 percent basis, according to the US Embassy.

The first quarter payment for FY2012 was $6,510,000, which is comprised of 30 percent ($1,953,000) of the $6.5 million rental base and the US$2,010,000 inflation adjustment amount.

The second quarter payment in January will be 30 percent of $15 million or $4,500,000. The third and fourth quarters payments in April and July, respectively, will be 20 percent of $15 million or $3,000,000 each.

The total payment for FY2012 will be $17,010,000, according to the US Embassy.
**Corruption is bad?**

The Marshall Islands Nitijela, before it recessed, agreed that corruption is a bad thing and ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

“Throughout the world, there is a growing concern and awareness of the need to combat corruption,” said the Nitijela resolution.

The UN Convention Against Corruption came into force in 2003. In the Pacific, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Palau have already ratified it, along with 145 other nations of the world.

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**They don’t MISSA beat**

The Marshall Islands Social Security Administration’s 2010 annual audit is another example of an A+ performance in accountability.

“The diversion of scarce resources through corruption affects the government’s ability to provide basic health and education services to its citizens and to encourage sustainable economic, social and political development,” said Resolution 88 that directs Foreign Minister John Silk to execute and transmit appropriate documents to the UN Secretary General.

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**Retirement fund shrinking by the day**

The fiscal year 2010 MISSA audit confirms the increasingly precarious long-term outlook for the retirement fund.

The audit shows that in 2009 and 2010, tax revenue was lower than in 2008 while benefit payouts continued to increase.

In 2008, the $13.5 million in tax revenue was more than enough to cover the $12.5 million in retiree benefits. But that is the last year the MISSA has had a positive balance.

In 2009, tax revenue declined to $12.6 million while benefit payments rose to $13.6 million, forcing MISSA to begin withdrawing funds from its investments to cover the payments. Last year, tax revenue rebounded slightly to $13.1 million, but beneficiary payments continued to rise, topping $14.5 million — again forcing withdrawal of funds from investments to meet required payments.

During the 2008 to 2010 period, MISSA management cut its annual administrative costs from $1 million to $885,000.

“Evident in the Administration’s latest actuarial report which gave the Administration’s life expectancy of just a little more than 10 years if no reforms are enforced in the present social security system,” MISSA said in the FY2010 audit report.

Looking at its main sources of tax revenue, MISSA commented in the report: “The Marshall Islands government continues to be the main revenue driver in the past several years. Together with the Majuro Atoll Local Government, which has paid $13.4 million since January 2008. The Kwajalein Atoll Local Government also signified its intention to lessen its dues to MISSA when it agreed to assign to the Administration 60 percent of the 40 percent on the three percent Immovable Property Tax in Kwajalein. The top 20 employers remained consistent in their quarterly remittances and with the aggressive legal assistance being provided by MISSA’s legal counsel, delinquency cases will continue to be filed against delinquent employers.”
Candidates need a ‘hook’ to catch the attention of voters. So, for example, Uliga Council candidate Calvert Muller recently put up what appears to still be the biggest billboard out there advertising his platform for passers by to check out. Another “first” that we noted Monday evening while driving by the Momotaro area is a new campaign sign that went up for candidates Alvin Jacklick, Marilyn Kabua and Bila Jacklick. This one isn’t too big and it’s not too small. But it is the first campaign sign to come with its own electricity and light bulb, so even at 3am Jaluit voters cannot miss it.

We had a ride the other day with an opinionated taxi driver. He had an interesting observation to make as we were riding from town to Batkan. He got to talking about the different rates taxis charge for students and adults, which led him to talking about one of the public schools that charges students 25 cents each to ride on the government bus.

“He said parents want to know why a public school is charging students to ride on a government bus. “I know the Ministry of Education gets a big budget,” he commented, and one passenger responded, “yeah, I read in the paper that this year’s budget is over 20 million dollars.” “See?” the driver said. “Why do the students have to pay for the ride,” he said. “Shouldn’t the government provide both the bus and the fuel?”

These comments segued to his observation that next month’s elections “will see voters make changes.”

You know, we get invitations now and then, and they usually tell you how the host wants you to dress. To wit, some VIP type gatherings will say “island formal” or even go so far as to direct the invitee to wear “Nitijela formal” (meaning, for guys, necktie or safari shirt). Sometimes they say “island informal,” which we take to mean what you’d show up in on your way to get on a boat to Enemanit. This week, USP Majuro Campus broke new ground in the matter of suitable dress for island occasions. In a notice for the Australia Pacific Technical College graduation (happening November 8 at MIR Melele Room), the section entitled “dress” says: “smart casual.”

“Hello?...Hello??...X@&!!*#@! — Frequently heard words around town as NTAs cell phone service declined in recent weeks.

The back road in Uliga has gone through weeks of late afternoon “kobata.” In contrast to earlier years when mostly the boys yelled at each other and postured without doing much actual fighting, the gang-related activity has become more intense of late. The kids are throwing rocks and also getting into hand-to-hand combat with “swords” made out of heavy cardboard cut from boxes and sometimes more lethal weapons. It also is a gender-specific activity: we haven’t seen any girls involved. Photo: Isaac Marty.
around town
get ready, get set, go!

proving his skill in watersports, waan aelon in majel's (wam) master canoe builder mentil laik, took first place in the recent mieco beach yacht club 'beer can race.'

the afternoon event, held near the 'big tree' at the marshall islands resort, started when a couple of wam guys began testing the little boats. trainees turner langibelik and henty juano quickly discovered, much to the amusement of the growing crowd, that some of the miniature vessels were likely to sail off to enemanet unless one of the guys was at the finish line to catch them in the act.

shortly after four, the races began in earnest, with three captains competing in each heat and the last one across the line being eliminated. after an hour or so of racing, it was down to four finalists: mentil, cary evarts, zoey meyers, and wam trainee jeffery rison.

following two more eliminations, the final race was between mentil and cary. “on your marks! get set! go!” came the cry from an official. the little boats fluttered and began their voyage, with mentil’s boat soon taking the lead and — ta-da — taking out the winning spot for the day.

yacht club quartermaster eugene dujmovic presented mentil with a club t-shirt and then it was time for food and beverages and tall stories of the day’s racing.

mentil wins MBYC race

back in june an old salt, going by the name of john davis and sailing on his good ship radiance ii, had problems with a sail as he voyaged north from majuro to alaska.

after seeking permission through the daily yokwe net (single sideband 6.236 at 7:45am), he went into utrik atoll, where he was given wonderful help and friendship by the locals.

with the help of tom vance of the yacht vanessa, who was installing some smart energy on utrik at the time, john fixed his sail and set off on his long voyage.

“in 114÷2=57

the marshall islands resort mieco beach yacht club purchased a case of 114 coffee (a favorite, apparently, on that northern isle) and delivered it to air marshall’s freight department at the airport. the weeks slid by. no coffee for the utrikans. then, just this past week we got word that the coffee had arrived! yippee!

only half of the case, mind you. but still, some 114 is better than none.

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of International Health Programs
P.O. Box 29939
Honolulu, HI 96820-2399

public notice / kojella

majo:u:

the u.s. department of energy announces the visit of the new interim medical contractor, international outreach services (ios). there will be a meeting for the utrok and rongelap patients on october 26, 2011 at 7:00pm, at the marshall island resort melele room.

the purpose of this meeting is to discuss improvements and staff changes in the special medical care program.

incek:

the same meeting will also be held at ebeve on october 27, 2011 at 7:00pm, at the ebeve hospital outpatient waiting room.

EBEYE/KWAJALEIN:

the coffee had arrived! yippee!

only half of the case, mind you. but still, some 114 is better than none.
Gary Ueno: ‘Trends from 2009 to 2011 showed some improvements’

The Ministry of Education provided you with tables and graphs showing student results from 2009, 2010 and 2011. These graphs show that between 2009 and 2011, student results improved in third grade English reading, Marshallese reading, math, and dropped two percentage points in science. In the sixth grade, results dropped slightly in English reading, Marshallese reading and science, but improved in math. Results for eighth grade also showed improvement.

So overall, the trends from 2009 to 2011 showed some improvements and some declines in student scores. We regret that the graphs and table we provide were not printed for the public to make its own interpretation. Instead, a single point of view was published.

The Ministry of Education was asked to write something about the student scores for the front page of the Marshall Islands Journal, but instead, only a single point of view was published in the October 14 issue. The Ministry of Education is committed to providing educational opportunities for all students and to improving the quality of education in the Marshall Islands. We regret that the graphs and table we provide were not printed for the public to make its own interpretation. Instead, a single point of view was published.

Gary Ueno
Secretary of Education
Local government constitutions that require candidates to live on the islands they are running from are illegal, the Acting Attorney General said in a legal opinion issued on Monday.

The opinion by Acting AG Tubosoye Brown was issued to Chief Electoral Officer Joseph Jorlang in response to a series of challenges various incumbent local government mayors or council representatives have filed with Electoral regarding candidates in next month’s election.

Brown pointed out that several local government constitutions require that people must reside on the islands to be eligible to run in an election. These provisions, said Brown, “are unconstitutional, unlawful, invalid and void.”

He said these provisions “infringe on the constitutionally guaranteed right of citizens to participate in the electoral process as voters or candidates for office.”

Brown said these local constitutional residency requirements are illegal because they violate the RMI Constitution, the Elections and Referenda Act and the Local Government Act.

While the Local Government Act empowers local governments to write their own constitutions and pass ordinances, it specifically requires that these be “not inconsistent” with the RMI Constitution and national government laws.

“When the provisions of local government laws fail to pass this test of consistency, such provisions — like the residency provisions in their constitutions — are unlawful, invalid and void,” Brown said in his three-page legal opinion.

The RMI election law qualifies a person to run for office in a local government jurisdiction if they are a registered voter. “If a person qualifies as a voter within a local government area, and has been registered as such, that person is eligible to contest an election within that local government area,” Brown said. “In other words, a candidate’s qualification to contest election in a local government area is solely dependent on whether he possesses the qualification to be a registered voter there and has actually been registered there to vote.”

Citing the Local Government Act, Brown said it requires a person to have either residence or land rights to vote or run. “The law does not require that the person should possess both residency and land rights — any one of the two is sufficient,” he said.

Brown criticized local government constitutions for attempting to “de-emphasize the supremacy of land rights over physical residency in the Republic.” He points out that even a quick reading of the Constitution reveals that the writers of the Constitution did not attach great importance to the issue of “residency.” However, “land rights is accorded such a high pedestal that it even defines whether you are a (biological) citizen or not,” he said.

Land rights cannot be replaced in importance by residency, he said.

“Candidates who have land rights at such local government and are registered voters are eligible to contest elections whether or not they are resident in the local government areas,” he concluded.

Candidates who have withdrawn from the November 2011 election since early September include the following:

- Ruman Jerbal, Nitijela, Arno
- Harris Joel, Council, Utrik
- Kanej Katoon, Council, Urik
- Jeiar Juano, Council, Woja, Ailinglaplap
- Peter Anjain, Council, Rongelap
- Kesta Kilma, Mayor, Nanum

This information was provided by the Electoral Office.

A local government advisor is recommending that a legislative review of all local government constitutions be conducted to resolve conflicts and inconsistencies with the RMI Constitution and national government laws.

Commenting on this week’s legal opinion by the Attorney General’s office, Lowell Alik pointed out the need for a “major legislative review of all the Local government constitutions” with the useful goal of developing unified constitutions. Alik, who works at EPA, is an advisor to Wotje Mayor Ninwoj Lakjohn.

“Since most local governments have their own constitutions, and some have been practicing them for many years, does the AG’s Office have any plans in the future to work with Ministry of Internal Affairs and the 24 local governments to review their constitutions?” he asked.

He notes that all local constitutions went through a review and approval process by the national government laws before they were actually implemented.

He recommends a local legislative review to avoid these kinds of issues in the future, noting that the constitutions “all have their own uniqueness.”

Electoral Officer Joseph Jorlang.

Not running

KOJELA NAN PUBLIC

Kojjela nan jadbreakrow to im a woor aor tok imom bok meloe ikkijen jikin eo im naj komman jebal in kop le naj kokminnan-tok lai eo lio Amata Kabua International Airport lio Majuro Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Jemain in naj kommenan-lue jokkin ilie eo liki RME EA, bwe en jejel ekkar nan karok ko non kapper leb lumn United States Federal Aviation Administration eo ak (FAA).

Enaj woor juon ien ronjake ikkijen jikin in im naj komman jebal in im naj RME Project eo, in enaj komman lio Nitijela Conference Room eo lio 7:00 am awo jota lio ran in Oktober 25, 2011.

Ewok copy kein im rej bield lio electronic format lio office eo an RME EA lio Majuro:

1. RME Environmental Impact Assessment (2007);
2. Environmental Management Plan koa Proposed Drudging Options im Sites;
3. Report in etale lio im rar komman lio jikin in im naj komman jebal in im lio airport eo.

Jadbreakrow to im ewax aor tok imom ikkijen Project in rej ruwanwene in lekot aor lomak lio jaje nan RME EA lio bor in manfok icik jinul (33) ran, jinjic jen jenoujiluj (13) ran in Oktober 2011 in naj jomtok ilo jonoujiluj (11) ran in November 2011.
Dispute over Eru payments

Patrick Korok and Netwa Korok Iosia have filed suit against Charles delBrum and Secretary of Finance Alfred Alfred Jr. saying a Kwajalein dri (commoner) payment should not be going to delBrum.

The dispute centers on Eru Island in Kwajalein Atoll, and involves US land rental payments of $63,678.35 in 2011. Patrick said the dri jerbal title should be with him, but after the death of his older sister Namiko, Charles, who is Namiko’s son, claimed the title.

Patrick and Netwa said they attempted unsuccessfully to resolve the problem. They pointed out that in 2009, Iroij Anjua Loeak confirmed the problem. They pointed out that claimed the title.

Charles, who is Namiko’s son, the death of his older sister Namiko, title should be with him, but after land rental payments of $63,679.35 in Kwajalein Atoll, and involves US not be going to deBrum.

frederick Alfred, Jr. saying a Kwajalein dri deBrum and Secretary of Finance Aliosia have filed suit against Charles payments over Eru

Dispute

Friday, October 21, 2011 — The Marshall Islands Journal

ALRO’s Chief Executive Officer Alvin Jacklick, who is also Speaker of the Nitijela.

Bank of Marshall Islands has filed suit against ALRO Associates and Speaker Alvin Jacklick in what the Speaker calls a “politically motivated” case.

Bank attorney David Strauss filed the case against Ebyeye-based fuel company ALRO, Jacklick, Johnny D. Lemari and Ben J. Jacklick that says the company and its guarantors owe $446,906.30 in a delinquent loan. Jacklick is CEO of ALRO.

According to a Febru-

ary 2011 loan agreement, ALRO and its three guarantors agreed to repay a $637,474.10 loan with monthly payments of $14,798 starting from March 31, the suit says. ALRO made a $200,000 payment (equal to more than 13 of the monthly payments) in mid-March, but thereafter did not make monthly payments, the bank’s suit says, acknowledging that the large payment did reduce the balance and interest payments.

Strauss said the bank sent ALRO a letter on Septem-

ber 21 proposing a means of solving the problem but there was no reply.

Jacklick, however, said that he and his attorney Gerald Jackoski had asked the bank to wait until the Nitijela session concluded at the end of September “so we could talk. But the bank decided to file before we could talk and address how to proceed.”

Jacklick said in December 2008, he had been urged to sue the bank after it withdrew over $408,000 from ALRO’s jet fuel account without his knowledge from an account that required two signatures. This is when Marshall Islands Service Corporation was managing ALRO under contract.

“Because of my close relationship with people working at the bank, I decided not to file suit,” he said. “What the bank did to ALRO three years ago is significantly worse than the current loan default situation. “ALRO and I have violated a contract, not a law,” he said. “But the bank violated a law.”

Jacklick said he makes good on his debts. “I have signed an agreement guaranteeing that I will pay,” Jacklick said. “My record of paying bad loans at BOMI is the best in the country. I’ve paid over $150,000 in people’s bad loans, so there was no reason to file the suit.”

But, he added, “with the election around the corner, I believe this is suit is politically motivated.” Jacklick said there are many people who want to destroy or take-over the company, but he won’t let that happen.

Jacklick said that he is working with a BOMI board member to draft a plan to clear the loan that will be put to the board soon.

Mary sues AG, MOF, Nack family

Mary Chen filed suit against the Attorney General, Ministry of Finance, Jaybol Anni Nack and the beneficiaries of the estate of Zedkaia Nack for what she claims is a large unpaid debt.

The suit, filed October 7 by attorney Gordon Benjamin, is attempting to collect money paid to a Kwajalein landowner family.

The suit is asking the High Court to prevent the distribution of quarterly payments to Nack’s family.

In her suit, Chen said that prior to his death in 2010, Zedkaia Nack gave her power of attorney to receive his January and April 2007 quarterly Kwajalein payments to pay for her advancing money for him to travel and stay in China for a nine month period in 2006. But Chen said despite these agreements, she didn’t get a penny from these 2007 payments that instead were released by Finance to Bank of Marshall Islands.

Although Nack made a payment to reduce his debt in 2007, he then stayed at Chen’s Canton Hotel in Majuro for many months increasing what he owed to $29,751, the suit said. In 2008, she asked him to clear the debts with her she believes is his mother’s medical treatment costs of $25,000 in China. But she ended up lending him more money, she said.

In 2009, she said she engaged attorney Rosalie Konou to collect the debt. Nack told her Konou collected the October 2009 quarterly payment of $43,000, but Chen said she again didn’t receive any money from Nack, Konou or BOMI.

She then turned to attorney and former Vice Speaker Alrik Alik to represent her, and Alik got $5,000 from Konou for Chen, the suit says.

Prior to Nack’s death in late 2010, he rented a room at Canton on credit and on his death, he owed $42,857.

Chen wants Finance to put the quarterly payment, which now goes to Nack’s heir Jaybol Anni Nack, into escrow until the debt is repaid.
Can Brown approve himself?

A government contract for current Acting Attorney General Tubosoye Brown appears to have been signed by Brown both as the “employee” and as the RMI government’s AG office representative approving the contract.

The contract, provided anonymously to the Journal this week, was signed in late September last year by various RMI officials.

PSC Chairman Cent Langidrik and the two Commissioners, Raymond Gideon and Lomes McKay, Justice Minister Brenson Wase, and then-Secretary of Finance Jefferson Barton signed. Under “employee,” Brown’s signature appears. This same signature also appears under the section, “Republic of the Marshall Islands, Approved as to form” and over the title “Attorney General” with the word “Acting” handwritten in front of the typed “Attorney General.” The RMI contract hired Brown from August 1, 2010 to July 30, 2012.

Rita festival full of fun and solutions

In recent memory, the RMI has experienced destructive storm surges, extended droughts, and record breaking tides that warn us of the adverse impact the upward trend of global greenhouse gas emissions will have on our island economy, society, and environment.

In response, a project of the Office of Environmental Policy and Planning Coordination (OEPPC) funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and in collaboration with the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) has been working with the Majuro Atoll Local Government to prepare a “Reimaanlok” (forward-looking) community-based approach to climate adaptation.

The launching of this initiative will happen at the Rita Community Festival on October 22. The event will target the approximately 7,000 inhabitants and 23 wetos (land parcels) of the Djarrit district. Future festivals are also being planned for Uliga, Delap, Rairok, Ajeltake, Laura, and Aeto districts.

Activities this Saturday will include a “banner parade” in which schools, churches, and members of the Djarrit community will compete for “best banner” starting at 7am, a three-mile “Race Around Rita at 8:30am, an official opening Ceremony at 10am, and awareness presentations from morning until late afternoon on waste, water, aquaculture, agriculture, health, natural resource management, and climate change.

One of the presentations will highlight a climate change vulnerability and adaptation design methodology that the ADB piloted these past nine months in Djarrit, and which that could be used for other urban communities in the Marshall Islands.
Hawaii state legislators last week held a public hearing into issues relating to medical coverage and other services for people from the freely associated states. "I can understand that the state is trying to save $15 million dollars from the Department of Human Services budget annually through this new plan," said Rep. John Mizuno (pictured) in comments prepared in advance of the forum. "Therefore we are looking to work with administration on all viable solutions to ensure life-saving dialysis and chemotherapy treatments while reasonably addressing costs." Hawaii officials point out that if Marshallese and Micronesian patients are unable to receive care through their current health providers they will ultimately end up flooding the emergency rooms at the hospitals — and costs will skyrocket. Even then, capacity issues at the hospitals may prevent them from receiving the life-saving care they need to survive.

The average cost for dialysis patients is approximately $350 per treatment. However, dialysis patients who enter the healthcare system via the emergency rooms at the hospitals — and costs will skyrocket. Even then, capacity issues at the hospitals may prevent them from receiving the life-saving care they need to survive.

Korean Airlines is set to start regular flights to Palau by December of this year. "Korean TV in a report last weekend said KAL Director of International Air Transport Division Wan Jung Kim told Palau Transportation Minister Nginraingan that the S. Korean government has designated Korean Air to operate direct flight services between Korea and Palau by the end of this year. Korean Air currently provides charter flights to Palau twice a week. Palau currently receives thirty flights per week from all airlines bringing in thousands of visitors.

A ribbon cutting affair, with US Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta on hand, was held at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center of Public Health and Dialysis, reported the Marianas Variety. The 11,000-square-foot facility has 27 dialysis stations including two isolation stations with similar equipment. The old facility, which was shut down last month, only had 19 including one isolation station — and had to be run on a 24-hour basis to meet the growing demand for dialysis. Last month, a Medicare team inspected the dialysis center in Saipan and gave its stamp of approval. The RMI Ministry of Health is considering opening a dialysis center at Majuro Hospital with three dialysis units donated by the Republic of China.

Islanders to be affected in cuts

Saipan has bigger dialysis center

A bigger hemodialysis center opened in Saipan at the main hospital last week, but CNMI government officials hope that the island will see fewer kidney patients in coming years. A ribbon cutting affair, with US Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta on hand, was held at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center of Public Health and Dialysis, reported the Marianas Variety.

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Korean Air adds to 30 Palau flights a week

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The event of the month happened Saturday out at Leroy Neimad Loek's place in Raiok, with the celebration of her granddaughter's first birthday. The family really spruced up their area, including building a big concrete slab that served as a perfect dance floor for the many groups that stopped by to dazzle the crowd with their performances. It turns out that in addition to being the around town Q&A reporter, Selvenious Marvin has some dancing talents. His six-member boys dance team, "Jab Kinaak Lok Eo," generally stole the show with its remix dance. But there were plenty of other active and enjoyable dance groups who showed up. More than a thousand people enjoyed the feast put on by the family. Leroy Neimad's older brother, Iroij Anjua Loek, headlined a cast of VIPs who joined in. The birthday girl, Leimonita Liboken Hanerg, wasn't able to make it to end of the event, which wrapped up around 3am.
Koo’s deal set to earn RMI $1m in 2011

The Marshall Islands is now earning revenue from a joint venture fishing operation with Koo’s Fishing Company. In 2010, the joint venture partnership that is managed by Marshall Islands Fishing Company netted the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) nearly $800,000, and is expected to generate nearly a million dollars for 2011, said MIMRA Director Glen Joseph Friday.

MIMRA invested $2.9 million in the joint venture in 2005, giving it a 49 percent share in the income generated from fishing. MIMRA’s investment was supported as a loan at three percent interest per annum, and the Marshall Islands Fishing Company is looking to add two more fishing vessels to the joint venture, said Joseph. 

Fishing companies are scrambling to buy fishing days as the number set for 2011 is nearly exhausted — more than two months before the end of the year. With the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) instituting an annual three-month ban on use of fish aggregation devices (FADs) in the North Pacific, the Pan Pacific Foods tuna factory in Majuro is struggling to keep its boats in the water for the last two months of the year.

“Fish = funds for the Marshall Islands”

New fines to protect observers

The Nitijela’s recently passed fisheries law increases fines against fishing companies that abuse RMI observers, provides language to help RMI fish exports meet European Union market requirements, and expands the enforcement authority of fisheries officials.

The new law outlines wide-ranging powers of MIMRA enforcement officers to inspect processing plants, boats, and other fish facilities. But, demonstrating that fisheries officials have been reading decisions rendered by the High Court regarding illegal searches, the law spells out that if there is adequate time to obtain a warrant, fisheries officers must obtain a court-approved warrant first before entering any premises for a search.

“Fishing is now picking up and we expect our boats to arrive in two weeks so we can resume production.”

PPF set to reopen soon

The Pan Pacific Foods tuna factory in Majuro has been closed for nearly a month for lack of fish. But the manager is hopeful that it will reopen in the next two weeks.

Manager Eugene Muller. He said his company is buying days from various PNA member nations so that its vessels can continue fishing. Both Koo’s and the Marshall Islands Fishing Company that runs the Koo’s-MIMRA joint venture Marshalls 201 fishing boat are domestic and come under a so-called “FSM Arrangement” that allows about 40 purse seiners with local ties in PNA member nations to fish throughout the PNA region.

PPF Manager Don Xu (left) told the Journal that during the recently ended three-month ban on use of fish aggregation devices (FADs), the three purse seiners that supply the Majuro factory did not do well.

However, “fishing is now picking up and we expect our boats to arrive in two weeks so we can resume production.”

The Marshall Islands Journal

Friday, October 21, 2011 — The Marshall Islands Journal
Celebrating World Food Month

Elap ad jeraman kin mona kin an bin lok mour im dik kein kijed im emo an Anij lok space, jej jino wia kiki kojeraman kij kiki bwe robotab jej maroñ wot komkaal, aolep oon im bed ie, man jikin kallip elaptata ejelok enen am buktoki eñod bwe malo ne eki-jen jikin kallip ko ak lojet lep im ejelok enen boktok eo ad, botab ilo ran kein kobban.

Komol Tata!

Kanolo droul koan JRD ilo Protestant Church, kin jibon kin komi Ritok nan jikin hi-ininim mi eo ilo MOH ko im elap aer lap bwe in-ininim mi rei rei kojerbali ekkanan i-ininim mi kein aer:

- Laura JRD kin 84 ma, 7 uror in binana, im 1 plig in tomtato.
- Woja JRD kin 19 ma, 1 uror in binana, im 2 banke.
- Ajetake JRD kin 42 ma, 13 wahi, im 2 bob.
- Rairok JRD kin 10 ma, 1 case in soap powder im 1 plig in toilet.

Breast Cancer Awareness

Jen Ejmour ejab ilo ebin wot ak jen bar Ejmour ilo kolmenlokjen ak jelakoijjen im elaptata Ejmour ilo mour in Jitob. Jermion non aolep no rar bok konaer ilo walk-ar-thoe eo edo kommen ilo October 01, 2011, emoj an aikkar ke Ajetake ear bok tab eo im lelok kojeramman im kanolol kin total in nomba in 151.

Botab jej bar lelok kanolol nan Laura(42), Woja(37) im DUD Ejit, Rita im Rairok(136) kin juun bar tobrak eman ear wofok ilo kar Weather Station eo mokta. Ee komman kocolok lo nan high blood, tosal, jono edo edo edo eman nan juun armeej kok-ker nan jono edok eo, im eel bar komman aerobik ekisim wot aolep maktuliet omerjej.

Jeraman nan aolep elaptata kanolol nan droul koan JRD, Momotaro Family, KJLE im ro rar bok konaer ilo juun ak rwo waveen.
Not homesick: Have Facebook and Skype

She now goes by the name of Lan May Yui, which translates as ‘blue plum bracelet,’ but for her friends and family in the Marshall Islands she’s still their Meyo Langrine.

Meyo, who arrived in Taiwan at the end of August for college, tells us that she is now “comfortable” pronouncing the Mandarin version of the alphabet.

“I’m struggling with the writing, but listening and speaking it (the language) is easier now,” she reports.

Traveling to Taiwan for her college education is Meyo’s first trip out of the Marshall Islands but new technology and social media platforms such as Facebook and Skype are helping her and fellow students overcome the ache of homesickness.

“Being in regular communication with my friends and family back home makes being here very easy,” she said. “I’m very excited about this experience, about seeing all these new things. The only thing I really miss is eating canned tuna.”

So there you have it mom, dad and fellow friends of Ms. Lan May Yui — get those cans of Coco tuna packed and sent.

iCan take your iPhoto

Nowadays, it’s pretty common to see people whip out their iPads or tablets at parties and other activities and start “snapping” away.

Last Saturday, out at Leroj Neimad Locak’s place, several people used their communication tablets to take pictures of the birthday people. The photos went from tablet to Facebook in a matter of hours.

CMI’s Tim Owens Excels in Microsoft

College of the Marshall Islands instructor Tim Owens recently earned the highly regarded Microsoft Office Specialist, Microsoft Office Excel 2007 and Microsoft Office Word 2007 certifications.

He is instructor in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Technology in the business department of the college.

Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) is the credential required by academia and business, recognized globally as the premier credential chosen by individuals seeking to validate their knowledge, skills and abilities relating to the Microsoft Office systems.

Microsoft certifications (based on globally recognized standards) demonstrate computing skills and help advance career prospects in a competitive job market.

In addition, Owens has been approved to be a Microsoft Certified Instructor. This is an international community that spans more than 150 countries and regions and includes classroom and e-learning instructors, learning consultants, authors, conference presenters, and user group leaders. Microsoft Certified Trainers (MCTs) are the premier technical and instructional experts on Microsoft technologies, and are the only individuals authorized to deliver training for Microsoft Certification.
Women weave a new future

The air was full of expectation as 10 young women arrived at the University of the South Pacific’s Marshall Islands Campus on Monday to begin a six-month program as weavers’ apprentices.

Professional instructors Panty Hermon, Susan Kieta, and Ashken Binat quickly organized the girls to begin pounding the ‘mahi’ (prepared pandanus leaf) with a ‘dekein nin’ (wooden mallet).

Within hours, after ripping the leaf into thin strips, a number of them were starting to weave jak-ed, the traditional clothing mats that have been made in the Marshalls for centuries.

The apprentices are being provided with lunch and taxi fares so they can take part in this wonderful program that will ensure that RMI’s skills live on as well as provide the women with a way to the future.

Army fires long-timer

A Marshallese who has worked at Kwajalein for 30 years was told he’d be fired by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service last month after officials charged that over a 10-day period his timesheets did not match the hours indicated at the dock for his exit or entry from Kwajalein.

Joe Attari, a vending foreman who has worked for various contractors at Kwajalein continuously since 1986, has objected to constituting “dishonesty.”

Whisler claims that Attari admitted he gave Marshallese employees credit for time worked even if they arrived late. In three instances, from June 27 to July 7 this year, Whisler said Attari:

• entered Kwajalein at 8:27am but his time sheet said he started at 7:30am.

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Attari explained that he often attends to problems or issues at the Laundromat before he entered the checkpoint, and “every day before going through the checkpoint first, then he’d have to get to the Laundromat. He said on one of the days that the AAFES officials cited, he had to fix a broken washing machine before he entered the checkpoint, and “every day before departing for Ebeye, I check the Laundromat to ensure cleanliness and to (see) standard is maintained.

“If not clean, I clean it myself, the reason why I clean it myself is because it was not done by the contractors who work there. And I found that I was not alone in regards to the cleaning,” he said.

Attari is one of a dwindling number of “grandfathered” workers who are paid high wages because they were working at Kwajalein prior to the start of the first Compact in 1986. A letter written for AAFES Area Manager Michael Whisler to Attari on September 20 said he was being terminated for three specific incidents that he described as constituting “dishonesty.”

Whisler’s letter said that he intended to fire him for cause within seven days of Attari receiving the letter on September 21. His appeal is pending.
Local and Territory wide elections are drawing to a head throughout the Trust Territory and the Marshalls District is not without its share of interest and excitement. In the Congress of Micronesia delegation from the Marshalls, all office holders except Senate President Amata Kabua are up for re-election on November 7. Congressman Ataji Balos and Charles Domnick (from the 7th and 4th COM election districts, respectively) are running unopposed. In the 6th COM election district, Bilimon Amram is competing against incumbent Ekpap Silk. Another battle will be waged between incumbent Rep. Henry Samuel and newly announced candidate John R. Heine. Heine had originally planned to enter the congressional race against Domnick but for some reason changed his mind and instead elected to seek the seat held by Samuel. The Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority spent the last few days meeting in Majuro to approve budget and priorities for planned Ebeye projects. High priorities are construction of new blocks of flush toilets, repair of the dock, new recreation facilities and getting the power plant 'on line' by Christmas. Meeting were KADA administrative officer Jeban Riklon, Mayor Alvin Jacklick, executive committee Chairman Justin deBrum, architect Carlton Hawpe and board member Fountain Inok. Earlier in the week, Jacklick handed over a KADA check for $3,000 to RMI national government Ministry of Education official Lee Melon for school renovations on Ebeye.
Burokram in komanman jergal in kapeel


Weween kein ijin ilõt rej jet iaan weween ko rej lajjarak wõt iümün “juon eo ej aikuj rife skill ko ili jikin jergal” im rej jet ko rëljan ili jikin jergal ko ili Majaro. Kiõ eewõ juon doultul jidikidik in rjerbal ro ili Waan Aelon in Majel (WAM) Program eo renaj rjerbal weween koj ian program eo ar na etan Em-

ployer Assistance Program (EAP), Cece Kilma, juon ian counselor ro ili WAM M, im eedelok an bõk katak ikij- ien jergal in, eej jino jergal ibben public ili program in. Kio ej bojak in jino jergal ibben jlin local companies ko ili an kõmmanmãn Eel jllan jilmjõi week courses ko. “Ka-

jojo week enaj iok från jagoo-

iaan company kein im kõm-

man jergal in counseling ko ili jen jergal ro aer,” ekkar från Kilma. “Renaj jet group ko redrik im kõmnaj kõno-

kõn weween aer ko jergal jen ko aer, abañ ko ikijieen den in kadõk, im ko ikijieen aer rimuj från jikin jergal.

Vocational Program Manager eo an WAM, Ken Taggart, ar jino jergal ko ian iin an kar bõk bõtap company ko rej itok limoiher ili program in. Program in eo ej itok iijk ko fane jen Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment program (SAPT) eo iümün US-funded Single State Agency eo. “Kajojo ian company kein ekkok kokatah abañ rjebalaer ro jet,” ekkar från Tuggart. “Bõtap companies kein rej kõlwel ko renaj aolep kõllã wõnen ko an rjerbal ro aer; elañe ak jabdeüñ iwën ko Kilma enaj jergal ibber ili weween in jergal ko aer.”

Ilo an kwaloj juon ian abañ ko jergal ro rej jelmee, Kilma ej ba ke: “Eläne Jenaj kadõk jeijinem mejnëmer, weween in ej jenjem jergal. Jergal in enaj bõk ien, im ej bon inn ak jümün wõt otik ian jen juon wõt bõtap i jilmjõi bwe imeerat jikbi kõmnaj ootk ili musor ko aer.”

Kilma ej bareinwõt jergal ibben trainees ro koj in rej bed ili jilmjõi allot Vocational im Life Skill training electro ili WAM. Iar i-

nterviewed ibben kajojo trainers ren ke rer eej jino ili kar November 3 im ej ian kwolmane bari jino allen ili likbõnlok program in im ian bari jino ili jilmjolok lok. Ekkar från Kilma, “ke program in ar jino, kõm ar jab jêla ia eko kõmn ko ikijien life skill an trainees rain. Kõm men in kõm ar lelok jino form bwe ren kannë ili wõt lala ia in kebët e, iar kõnelelel er eko aolep melle ko kõmij kõmmane kõi rej kõlwem wõttn mõj. Retõnkwadik.”

Bwe Kilma ko Kar rmaroñ kabûjer jergal in, eej kømmene jino rjoo ili course ili College eo an Marshall Islands. Elikin an kar kadõklok jen CMU ili kar May eo, ar bari bõk jino jilmjõi week courses eja ili CMU ikijien rjebalaer counseling, ekkur ean bari bõk jino jilmjõi week certifikat IV course ikojien training im assessment. Jibañ ean bar courses in ar iok jen Australian Pacific Technical College eo. “Sa iar baj kõnan wõt bwe in juon counselor, lapata ke iijäl ke nañin aolepen counselor ro ili Majel in rej kêrâ. Kõnan jibñen rimanded ro ikijien abañ ko aer; kajeñ ko jalõk lok problem ko ikijien den im kadõk; abañ ko ikijien an rimanded ro neji ak rëjaj-

in bojak; bareinwõt eko ikijien an rimanded ro anemkwõje mour ko aer;” Kilma ej ba.

Meñe wûn in kõmnaj kein rej ko me Kilma eej jergal ibben trainees ro ili WAM, elañe enaj iok från EAP eo, enaj likkun bõk an ien ili möjno eo ikijien life skills ko im rekkomman abañ ko ili jikin jergal.

Kilma ej bareinwõt jergal ibben trainees ro ian EAP, ej ba, “Kilma ej bareinwõt jergal ibben trainees ro ian WAM, elañe enaj iok från EAP eo, enaj likkun bõk an ien ili möjno eo ikijien life skills ko im rekkomman abañ ko ili jikin jergal.”

Ronjake

Koronoñ rötjake melele kein an Cece Kilma kajojo week ili radio station eo an WUTMI (FM105.2). Ekkar från Tuggart. “Kilma ko heqer jergal ro jet,” ekkar från Tuggart.

“Bõtap companies kein rej kõlwel ko renaj aolep kõllã wõnen ko an rjerbal ro aer; elañe ak jabdeüñ iwën ko Kilma enaj jergal ibber ili weween in jergal ko aer.”

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RMI agencies lost $20M in ’10

A majority of state owned enterprises and other agencies of the RMI government lost a combined $20.2 million in 2010, according to the recently issued Deloitte audit of the RMI government for FY2010.

After RMI government subsidies, US federal and other grants were received, the entities came out with a $5 million surplus.

The audit showed that CMI, MEC, NTA and the RMI Ports Authority all had operating losses before receiving subsidies or grants. These losses amounted to: CMI $11.1 million, MEC $218,721, NTA $92,611 and Ports $1.9 million. After grants and subsidies were factored in all of these had positive balances, ranging from $56,196 (NTA) to $13.6 million (Ports).

According to the audit, the RMI injected subsidies of $12.6 million into these so-called “component units” of government as well as “non-major component units.” Nearly half of this subsidy — about $6 million — went to the non-major component units, including Tobolar, Air Marshall Islands, KAUJR, Majuro Water and Sewer Company and others.

US, Taiwan and other grants accounted for $5 million going to component units, with CMI getting the most of the grants at about $4.4 million.

Overall, the non-major component units lost $8 million before subsidies and grants, and even after these injections of money still lost $1 million, the audit said.

Regional focus on renewable energy shows alternatives

A “Project DIREKT”-supported renewable energy workshop held recently in the Marshall Islands was hailed as a success by participants from Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the RMI.

Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority stands alone among the 10 RMI government “non-major component units” as the only one to turn a profit based on its own revenue and expenses in 2010, said the recent Deloitte audit of the RMI government for FY2010.

Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority all had operating losses before receiving subsidies or grants.

The PO netted a positive balance in 2010 of $23,648. All nine others in the list had losses ranging from a low of $372,080 (MIVAs) to a high of nearly $1.6 million (AMI).

After grants and subsidies were added to the budgets of these 10 entities of the RMI government, four managed positive balances, while six still lost money.

The audit shows that the following lost money:

- Marshall Islands Resort, $707,382
- AMI, $675,149
- Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utilities Resources (KAUJR), $303,135
- Majuro Atoll Waste Company, $129,960
- MIVA, $55,724

The audit also proposed energy cost savings as recommended in the Deloitte audit. The RMI provided subsidies of $12.6 million into “component units” of the government that lost large amounts of money in FY2010.

USP Majuro can save big by conserving power

A recently completed energy audit of the USP RMI Campus shows how energy use could be reduced by 30 percent from its current value of 73,000 kilowatt hours a year, bringing about savings of $10,500.

The audit also proposed energy monitoring to further reduce the electricity bill. Recently, USP Marshall Islands Campus replaced 50 percent of its lights with energy saving LED lights, installed six high-efficiency, low-energy air conditioners and will install enough solar panels to meet 25 percent of its current energy requirements.

Taken together, these actions are expected to substantially reduce energy costs as recommended in the audit.
**PROTECT OUR ISLANDS**

**BEFORE.** RMI: Our boat is sinking. China: Throw him overboard because he’s too heavy. **AFTER.** Foreigners: Use him, then lose him.

**LEFT COLUMN.** Trash Bin (thinking): Ahh... Kijen bwidej wot.

**RIGHT COLUMN.** Trash Bin: You crazy! I don’t want plastic bottles.

**OKMÄNÄN IN MEJATOTO... JENEJ ETAL. NAN IA?**

Rijikuul: Jeiu, you’re not going to be a thief you’re whole life. Go to school because education is the life. Rikoot: Jeiu, whatever! My motto is “Life is all about stealing.”

**USA:** You see! Son, you should try your very best!

**KAJOOR IN JÄÄN**

Man 1: Why are you killing trees? Man 2: Why not, I am the boss. Man 3: That guy is only the boss of his chainsaw.
Ripoot in bonbon an MWSC

Bonbon eo an LRA

Bwe mene ewor an MWSC karok bwe relo in bonbon, rekar kajimweiki jen kar 2007 maantak in wia mweiuk ko an (RMI), rekar ripoot bwe relo jen te jen “men ko mojno ko” ak (jorrean ellap).

Jilu ian iio ain kem en rekar loor “men ko mojno ko” ak (jorrean ellap).

Ripoot in bonbon an LRA

Bonbon eo an LRA karok ko nan MISSA in bonbon.

LRA Registrar Helkena Anni.
Ronnie sails into first!

KAREN EARNshaw

Marshalls Billfish Club Tournament Director Rudy Aliven doesn’t waste words: An opening line on his report on last weekend’s Budweiser-sponsored Reef Runner tournament stated: “Where have the fishes gone to?”

That said, there were at least a few beasts of the deep to weigh in at the Marshall Islands Resort’s dock on Saturday afternoon. Seven boats registered in the competition, which was held in calm waters under sunny skies.

“Congratulations to Captain Ronnie and Team Kirtake on their win!” wrote Aliven, with the champion fisherman bringing home two sailfish (52 pounds and 63 pounds = 115 pounds).

Team Marah, captained by Wally Milne, came second with two barracuda (25 pounds and 37 pounds = 62 pounds).

Earning points towards the ongoing President’s Cup were:

- XXXX, skippered by Ben Reimers, tagged and released a marlin for 250 points
- Libwinni, skippered by Mack Capelle, brought in a 226-pound Pacific blue marlin
- Celinda, skippered by Bwiji Aliven, weighed in a 40-pound yellowfin tuna
- Patmahoe, skippered by Kyle Aliven, didn’t get points, but they had food for the dinner table in the shape of two no-qualifying wahoo, while True Blue, captained by Todd Newman reported a yellow grouper and a good-sized red snapper.

The club’s next event will be a Biggest Qualifying Billfish tournament (with a minimum qualifying weight of 200 pounds) on November 12, with the weigh-in to be held at the RRE Shoreline dock.

The Royal Australian Navy’s Lieutenant Commander George McKenzie was on the Marshall Islands Resort dock to present a high quality EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) to this year’s winner of the Atjang Paul trophy for good sportsmanship, Bwiji Aliven. With the EPIRB on board, if his boat Celinda has an emergency, its location will easily be known by the US Coast Guard, who will immediately pass this information on to local authorities, including Sea Patrol.

Tennis results

Ten teams competed in last weekend’s Deloitte-sponsored Chicken Run tennis tournament at Long Island Hotel. Colin Allen picked up his fifth win by teaming with George Hitchfield, who is a first time winner of the quarter legs. They defeated Wilbur Allen and Tefiwj Jajo. Francis Heine and Josh Fuder took third place.

Above, Team Kirtake shows off their two qualifying sailfish and a tasty, but unqualifying, wahoo. Pictured are Cary Evarts, Will Lathrop, Cap’n Ronnie Reimers and Cu Hui. Right, Atjang Paul trophy winner Bwiji Aliven is presented with an EPIRB by Lieutenant Commander George McKenzie. Above right, Team Marah’s crew Edgar Leban and Alson Kelen.

Bwiji’s boat is EPIRB-safe

The Ministry of Public Works/Project Management Unit (PMU) is soliciting interested Contractors to submit a letter of interest to bid for the Construction of Laura Dock, located at Laura Village, Majuro Atoll.

Bid Documents for the facility are available for review at the Ministry of Public Works Office, Majuro Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Letters of Interest will be accepted at the PMU Office from October 21 – November 1, 2011 closing @ 3:00PM. Any letter of interest received after the time and date mentioned shall not be accepted under any circumstances. All prospective Contractors are required to submit letter of interest addressed to:

Secretary of Public Works
PO Box 1727, Majuro MH 96960
Republic of the Marshall Islands

Those Contractors who are qualified to do the work will be notified by the PMU in writing and shall be provided with the Bid Documents for the project.

Pre-bid meetings will be advised in writing by the PMU to all qualified Contractors.

EMLOYMENT ANOUCMENT

PROJECT ASSISTANT

Division: Integrated Water Resources Management Project

Place of Assignment: Majuro, Majuro Atoll

General Objective of Post:

Responsible for assisting with the overall coordination, implementation, supervision and delivery of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project through the National Environmental Protection Authority (RMEPA).

Reports to: Project Manager

Qualifications:

- Currently holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Science, Business Administration, or equivalent and at have experience in related fields.
- Someone who can learn quickly and be independent when carrying out assigned activities.
- A good understanding on environment and the activities and programs initiated by the RMEPA.
- Knowledge of principles and practices of basic office management and organization.
- Must be a team player who can work successfully with other divisions in a multicultural and multi-lingual environment.
- Able to handle a variety of assignments simultaneously.
- Service oriented, organized and able to work independently with little supervision.

Applications: Employment applications can be obtained at the RMEPA Headquarters in Dolap, Majuro Atoll or RMEPA Office on Ebeye, Kwejalone Atoll. Applications must be completed and submitted with a cover letter, resume/CV and three (3) reference letters addressed to the:

Deputy General Manager
RMI Environmental Protection Authority
PO Box 1322
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Closing Date: Friday, October 28, 2011, 5pm. Late submissions will not be considered. For further information, please contact Ms. Monica Phillips, IWRM Project Manager at (962) 925-3335 or 925-5233.
The first donation from the Guam-based Ayuda Foundation arrived in the form of sporting equipment earlier this month, with textbooks and supplies to follow. Nitijela candidate Chris deBrum is organizing delivery of the first donation to Likiep later this week. DeBrum said he aims to get the next donation to Likiep Elementary later this month. Triple B Guam donated space for the cargo, while other Guam based groups that helped were Pacific Islands Movers, Xerox and JFK.

Maloelap Mayor Hemely Benjamin supervised the loading of a shipment of equipment and supplies for homes on Maloelap Atoll. The shipment of building materials, toilets and other items was loaded on the Captain Peter at Delap Dock on Friday. Photo: Darren Lanki.

One lucky Marshallese student could receive a full scholarship to the Lester B. Pearson United World College in Vancouver Island, Canada. In 2011-12, a selection committee in the Marshall Islands will select one student for a 100 percent scholarship. The scholarship covers tuition, accommodation, food, books, and in special circumstances may cover the cost of the airfare to and from Canada. To be eligible, applicants must be:

• A citizen of the Marshall Islands with permanent residency here
• A student of any high school in the RMI in second or third year (sophomore/junior) at the time of application
• No more than 19 years of age when enrolling at UWC (September 2012)
• GPA for the last transcript no less than 3.0.

Tamara Greenstone, the Director of Continuing and Community Education at the University of the South Pacific Majuro campus, is handling applications for the Canadian scholarship and can provide details on application requirements and deadlines.

Canadian college offers scholarship

Sports gear for Likiep Atoll

The first donation from the Guam-based Ayuda Foundation arrived in the form of sporting equipment earlier this month, with textbooks and supplies to follow. Nittjela candidate Chris deBrum is organizing delivery of the first donation to Likiep later this week. DeBrum said he aims to get the next donation to Likiep Elementary later this month. Triple B Guam donated space for the cargo, while other Guam based groups that helped were Pacific Islands Movers, Xerox and JFK.

Materials for Maloelap Atoll

Maloelap Mayor Hemely Benjamin supervised the loading of a shipment of equipment and supplies for homes on Maloelap Atoll. The shipment of building materials, toilets and other items was loaded on the Captain Peter at Delap Dock on Friday. Photo: Darren Lanki.
While the Journal's reporter was heading back to base after taking pictures of the burning of the 2007 ballots at Alwal, he was halted due to a mouth-watering smell of something tasty. Upon further investigation he discovered a mid-size deliciously looking pork filled with veggies being roasted by Shem Horiuchi, Gary Zackious, Mullahusayan Silk and Frank Horiuchi. The Journal confirmed that it was a 'great' taste. Photo: Isaac Marty

Nan fiscal year 2010, bonbon ko an MISSA rekar anuwanata lok wot jekjek in jenan retirement fund eo, ilo kalijemek lok iio an kejmek manankot.

Bonbon eo an wot missa ekar "ejjelok ien en rejbal lok kakien, ak jekjek ko je't" im menin ej aikuij in walok ilo ripoot ko.

Bajen "jonan kejebarok ilowa" im ej-elel jaan ko, MISSA ejjelok an jorrean.

"Jambwe kein rej kamole actuarial ripoot eo ekaal tata an Administrator eo, eo im ej kwalok bwe jonan naaj toin ien moon an an Administration eo emman aetoklok jen j0 j0m a0 ko jen kon, elane ejna jekjek oktak en rejlorjolok im koma lok nan social security system ne kio," MISSA ear ba in ilo FY2010 audit ripoot eo an.

Lale lok tsjek, ej lag an bonbon in lok ilo jina ko 2000 jima ko maantak, management eo an MISSA rekar kadrikdrik lok jonan wonen ko rej kejerbali jen $1 million nan $885,000 wot.

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MISSA ej #1

Bonbon eo an 2010 nan Marshall Islands Social Security Administration eo ej kwakol kin bar juun waan jonak kin jonan emman ak A+ ilo jonan jerbal ko aer rej kommani jen raan naan raan.

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MISSA ej #1

Ripoot eo ekwalok jorrean ilo fund eo

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NOTICE TO ALL MEC Electricity Consumers

The electrical utility bills for SEPTEMBER 2011 have now been processed and are ready for collection to all consumers who have not provided the Marshallese Energy Company with a Post Office box number. Consumers should collect their bills between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

All consumers are reminded that, as stated on their bills, any consumers who do not collect their bills or pay them within 30 days will have their services discontinued. Subscribers have any questions regarding their account should contact the billing office at the Main office and office between the above-mentioned hours or call 625-3207.

Jibah kabjirak riab, jebl in koome, kejebl, maron ilo jab jimwe im jejet ilo Kien eo ad – HOTLINE 625-1155 –

TIDE CHART

The Embassy of the United States of America is resuming the Tide Chart for the full-time position of Maintenance Manager (AC and ELECTRICAL) FSN-121-S

SALARY RANGE: $51,820 - $77,790 per annum

Ordinately Resident positions are those that are filled by a citizen of the host country or a citizen of another country who has sufficient knowledge of the host country and has the required work experience and residency permits. These positions are not considered as positions for which diplomatic housing is provided.

The Maintenance Manager (Air-Conditioning/Electric) is responsible for performing full journeyman level installation, repairs, and maintenance work in the primary trade (air conditioning and electrical), and semi-skilled in complementary fields (mechanical). Performs skilled journeymen-level refrigeration and air conditioning refrigeration and air conditioning equipment and systems of all types. Examines equipment to determine faults and extend of work necessary. Periodically inspects, tests, cleans, and services equipment. Receives work orders from the Leit Facilitates Maintenance Supervisor concerning the work to be done and proceeds to accomplish the necessary design, installation, repair, or maintenance in accordance with established trade practices and methods. The incumbent works largely on the premises or in the field as necessary. Checks to see if work performed conforms to specifications. Requests for tools, materials, and equipment necessary to perform tasks. Transports tools, equipment, and materials to the works area. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualifications required for this position are:

- Completion of secondary education and vocational training in an apprenticeship program as recognized by the appropriate authorities at the state, national, or international level.
- One year of progressively responsible experience in air conditioning and electrical areas is required.
- Level III (good working knowledge) in speaking, reading/writing English is required.
- Must possess a valid driver’s license and the ability to operate various types of vehicles.
- The ability to operate basic MS Office applications is required.

Interested applicants must submit the following or the application will not be considered:

1. Unofficial employment record for a Local-
   Employed Staff Member or Family Member (DS-74).
2. A current resume or curriculum vitae that reflects the same information found on the LFS, plus a Candidate who claims U.S. veterans preference must provide a copy of their form DD-214 with their application.
3. A copy of documentation (e.g., essays, certificates, awards, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications requirements of the position are also required.
4. On-site employment is subject to medical and police clearances.

Applications are available at the U.S. Embassy Majuro in Long Island. M-F, 8:30 am – 5 pm.

Forward completed applications to the attention of Financial/HR Officer, Assistant Director, Personnel Assistant.

Closing date for accepting applications is November 4, 2011.

The U.S. Government is an equal opportunity employer and maintains a drug-free work environment.

[Image with text and contact information]
The next US-RMI quarterly meeting to review the RMI government’s national trust fund is tentatively scheduled for November 29. RMI officials expect to review the annual progress report on the fund, which has seen significant ups and downs this year with the volatile US stock market producing erratic results.

Juon kar jerbal in etale ikijien jarom ak energy ilo USP RMI Campus, ej kwalok bwe jonan aer kejerbal jarom emaron in drikkol kin 30 bojjan, jen ko kejerbal ne koo, kin 73,000 kilowatt awa jaon iio, elane enaaj kejerbal jarom ilo jest bar wavein, im ne enaaj eindle, renaj maron in kejerboke jonan in S10,500 ilo jaon iio. Etale eo ear bareinwot elmakwot bwe ren etale wot jaon jarom eo ej jerbal nan kejebaron sharko in driklok kin 30 bojjan, jen jonan aurok ne kio, kin 73,000 kilowatt awa juon iio, elane enaaj kejerbal jarom ilo jest bar wavein, im ne enaaj eindle, renaj maron in kejerboke jonan in S10,500 ilo jaon iio.

THAT 10 years ago we had Steve Jobs, Bob Hope and Johnny Cash ... now we have no jobs, no hope and no cash?

THAT Bank of America's stock dropped 3.5 percent after it recently announced it would begin charging customers $5 a month for debit card use?

THAT there is apparently a major uptick in people reading so-called ‘hard copy’ newspapers among sophisticated (read, college educated) news junkies who claim digitalized forms of news lack soul and are a creation of Satan?

THAT one energetic college professor is capable of bollixing up a capital improvement project to the point where dozens of out-of-work construction workers have so much time they read voraciously, get educated, and then replace the energetic professor’s complaints with ideas and action that develop the economy and help pay salaries of energetic professors?

THAT Honolulu is undergoing major cosmetic surgery at its international airport in preparation for up to 20,000 visitors during November’s APEX meeting.

THAT Majoro’s new newspaper, The Island Voice is not exactly the first time RMI has had such a named publication; back in the TT days, some old flatulence generators here may remember the famous Ebeye Voice, which sold for a nickel and entertained beyond any normal reader’s sense of decency?

THAT on the way to work Wednesday, this scribe passed two lovely sights in Uliga: 1. A healthy urban garden sprouting all sorts of vegetables and herbs; 2. A likatu trimming a small patch of grass with a pair of scissors (“See,” she said, “no fuel!”)?

THAT the entire population of the US is swarming with support for dark-horse candidate Herman Cain, a businessman running for the presidency on a campaign platform of 27: “Nine, Nine, Nine,” says Herman as he exposes a tax simplification agenda?

THAT the service offered in Majoro restaurants is so often world class ... such as in the case of Tide Table’s Dolly, who called one of the Journal’s staffers to tell her she’d left her sunglasses behind and would she like to come and get them?

THAT next time you wave, the publisher has asked that you use all your fingers?

THAT an analysis of individual’s running for political posts this coming General Election is so dominated by women, both as candidates and electors, that some of the male contenders are literally “shaking in their zories”?

THAT Martha Stewart’s daughter Alexis has just released a book titled Whateverland: Learning to Live Here, which includes the statement ‘I grew up with a glue gun pointed at my head’?

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ARE YOU AWARE?

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