

THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS

Volume 41, Number 44

Tuesday, June 5, 2001

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Transportation costs driving up food prices

By Peter Rejcek
Associate Editor

Residents accustomed to eating high on the hog may have a beef with upcoming increases in meat prices, as well as most other foods.

Cindy Stephens, RSE Commodity manager, said the company's vendor, Richmond Wholesale, warned of "across the board" increases back in March. Consumers can expect to start paying higher prices as soon as the products cycle through the system, she said.

"I haven't seen anything drastic," said Stephens, adding that there are no specific numbers available on how much prices may be increasing. "It will take a little while to get here."

Stephens said higher fuel and transportation costs are driving many of the price hikes, though many other factors are involved, particularly for livestock-based foods.

For example, greater demand for American beef and fewer cows than a year ago are additional causes for the increase in market prices. A crippled livestock market in Europe, thanks to mad cow disease and foot and mouth disease, are also putting greater demands on the American market. Climate is another factor, as cold and wet weather in grazing regions means leaner cows.

Most varieties of meat quality, from top rounds to tenderloins to knuckles, are included in the price hike, according to Richmond Wholesale. Some types of meat that may not be affected include beef short ribs, beef spareribs, tripe, liver, beef wieners and "commercial" beef like top sirloins and flank steaks.

Pork is another victim of higher energy and fuel costs. The chicken market is also very strong at this time, Richmond reports, largely be-

(See DINING, page 4)



(Photo by KW Hillis)

Senior adviser Barbara Bicanich, right, helps graduating senior Mary Etta Burt adjust her cap and tassel before the graduation ceremony Friday night.

Grads pick up diplomas

By KW Hillis
Feature Writer

Two strong themes, the past and the future, took the stage along with the eight blue-robed men and 14 white-robed women for the Kwajalein High School Class of 2001 commencement program Friday evening in a standing-room-only MP Room.

While looking forward to graduating and moving on to "new things and places, on other days ... the idea of leaving and starting over overwhelms me," said valedictorian Mary Etta Burt, setting the theme for the evening.

Memories of friends, events and teachers over the years were brought to life during Loren Lindborg's and

Kristen Pichler's reading of the "Survivor"-style class history — documenting the arrivals and departures of classmates from the "tribe."

The crafted Album of Memories slideshow highlighted each senior with photos of each as young adults, as babies and with friends. The accompanying music invoked memories of times past.

Spaced throughout the evening, talented seniors musically performed compositions conveying thoughts of home, time passing and the future.

Pichler, on clarinet, and David Rehman, on piano, performed "In My Life" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Pauline Alfred danced

(See KWAJALEIN, page 5)

"Whether you have been a member of this class since kindergarten or just joined us this year, you will henceforth carry the label 'Kwaj kid'."

— Scarlett Scholte
class mentor

Internet crowded with travel savings and tips

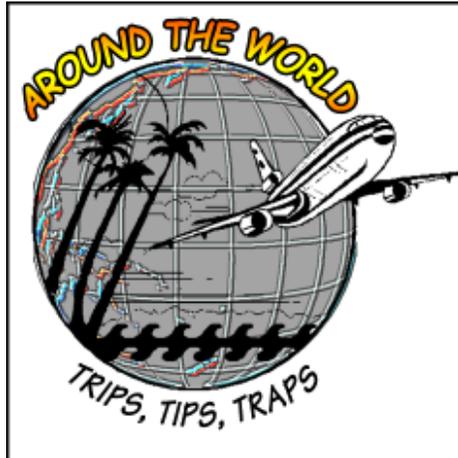
Besides a healthy tan, another distinguishing mark of a Kwajer or Roi Rat is a well-worn passport, with wrinkled pages and brown stains from a pungent tea sipped in some far-away land.

We work to travel, so it seems only appropriate that the *Hourglass* should offer a meeting place where fellow travelers can exchange ideas, suggestions and warnings.

We'll write the first installment, but we want input from the community. Know the best place for Thai food in Honolulu? What's the best route to get Down Under? Know a good website for travel insurance? The only limitations are your imagination and to avoid blatant advertising for products and services.

To submit an item to Trips, Tips, Traps: e-mail, prejcek@kls.usaka.smdc.army.mil; mail, P.O. Box 23 Local; or drop it off at the office, Building 805. Questions? Call 53539.

A quick search on the Internet these days makes one wonder how Lewis and Clark managed to meander through the American wilderness without a trusty search engine. Whether you're looking for planes,



trains and automobiles or advice about where to stay in Khatmandu, it's a good bet the information is only a click away.

Some of our favorite websites include:

•Ticketplanet (www.ticketplanet.com). This website specializes in travel to Asia, offering some excellent airfares, among other services, for those willing to suffer an extra stop or two along the way. And for those looking to stretch out a vacation as long as possible, check out Ticketplanet's sample fares for Around-the-World tickets. You can head from

New York to Hong Kong to Bangkok to New Delhi to London and back to New York for less than \$1,300. Another site, www.airbrokers.com, offers similar deals.

•Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door (www.ricksteves.com). You've done the Eiffel Tower and seen the Parthenon twice, but can't get enough of Europe. Now what? Rick Steves, who has been traveling Europe independently for about 30 years, offers advice on how to plan a trip, as well as a variety of services, including guided tours.

•Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com). For those travelers on a budget, Lonely Planet is a great resource for finding cheap places to stay and eat around the world. It also offers a chat line, the Thorntree, where fellow travelers advise and pontificate on a variety of subjects. There's also a free monthly newsletter available through e-mail.

•A little closer to home is a webpage for the Federated States of Micronesia (www.fm/index.htm). Details about all four countries — Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap — are available. The site lists available accommodations and tour operators, with a section for divers.

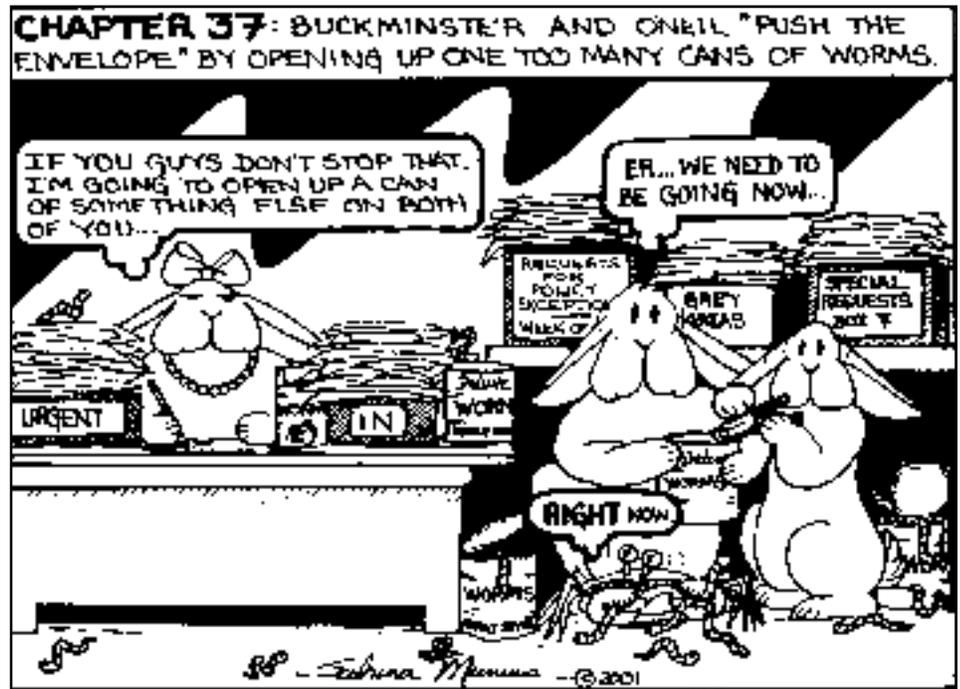
Buckminster and Friends — By Sabrina Mumma

The Kwajalein Hourglass

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Elemental warfare

Salt damage under repair at Sands, Shell BQs

By KW Hillis
Feature Writer

The incessant beat of a jackhammer boring into concrete is even louder inside the Sands BQ, but quiet is still two months away for residents.

Since the beginning of April, 13 employees have been working nearly 60 hours a week, including Sunday mornings, to chip away and repair the salt-damaged exterior and shaky north and south stairwells of the 40-year-old building.

Repair on the exterior stairwells should be done by the end of July,

"In the case of the Sands, we realized we had a problem with the ... EIFS or exterior insulation and finish system," said Gene Dohrman, USAKA/KMR Public Works Division project manager.

The problem is more than a cosmetic one; the damage from the salt air is also a safety concern.

"Over time the salt air ... corrodes the rebar," said Marty Olson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative. "Once that happens, the concrete literally just falls away."

A manufacturer's representative for the EIFS came to Kwaj to determine how to fix the problem, Dohrman said. Since San Juan Construction already had men, materials and equipment working on the Reef BQ renovation, they were awarded the supplemental contract to repair the Sands and Shell BQs.

The main focus is on the exterior stairwells on the north and south ends of the Sands.

"There was a real concern with personnel safety," Dohrman said. "That is why we went with the stairwells first. In time they would have been condemned and boarded off. It did not get to that."

Working on the north end of the building first, the landings were replaced one floor at a time, starting with the third floor.

The south end landings had been shored earlier. Before the landing would have to be condemned the decision was made to replace both south end landings, Olson said.

Dohrman said, "Landing repairs



(Photo by KW Hillis)

George Sefcik, San Juan Construction carpenter, prepares a concrete form used to repair damage found on the east side of the Sands BQ.

get drawn out ... [we have to] wait for the concrete to cure. We had to work on only one end of the BQ at a time to maintain required fire exits."

While the landings are poured and cured, the workers attack cracks, even if just fine hairline cracks, with jackhammers on the east and west sides of the building, Olson said.

The north and west sides of the building are done. The third floor landing on the south side is curing while construction workers chip away at the east, or ocean, side of the Sands.

There is not nearly as much work to do on the Shell BQ since it is farther away from the ocean and the salt spray, Olson said.

"We start on the north end again," Bottomley said, adding that the Shell should be done by the end of September. "From what we've seen there is not much work to be done on the east and west sides of that building ... [we] won't know until we actually get into it."

"There will be some jackhammer work on the stairwells," he said. "It echoes through the whole building."

Even with the noise ricocheting to the interior of the Sands, Bottomley said there have been few complaints from residents.

"The people in [the Sands] have been pretty good," he said. "I'm really impressed with their patience."



(Photo by KW Hillis)

Removing cracked and damaged concrete from the Sands BQ east side, San Juan Construction laborer Jorah Allison's jackhammer creates a din both inside and outside the building.

said Kevin Bottomley, San Juan Construction project superintendent. Similar work will then commence on the Shell BQ, he added.

Three Guys and Gal top Kelly's Heroes for Sunday league crown

From Staff Reports

Three Guys and Gal topped Kelly's Heroes in the winner-take-all Sunday Night Mixed Bowling League championship recently at the Kwajalein Bowling Center.

The two teams met after each led the league during the split-season. Kelly's Heroes, made up of Mario Vioria, Bob Carter, Scott Carpenter and Kelly Carpenter, led the first half, while Three Guys and a Gal — Mike Wiley, Mikey Wiley, Chris Baetz and Bonnie Baetz — took the second half.

In the final match, the teams faced off in three games, with the team scoring the highest grand total of pins taking the title. Three Guys and a Gal took the first game, leading by only eight pins. The team took games two and three, as well, finishing off the match 27 pins ahead.

In the League individual award categories, Bonnie Baetz took the Women's High Game honors, with a 192, and Aimee Burnham scored the Women's High Series with a 520. John Tompkins claimed the Men's High Game with a perfect 300 and Bob Carter posted a 749 to win the Men's High Series.

The league special awards for Women's High Average went to Burnham, who averaged 154 throughout league play. Meanwhile, Baetz took Most Improved Bowler honors by raising her average by 12 pins. Tompkins earned Men's High Average with a 209, and the league named Rudy Eser Jose the Men's Most Improved Bowler, after he raised his average by 12 pins.

Letters to the editor should be no more than 300 words. Stick to the issues. Letters must be signed. We will edit for AP style and space.

Send your letter to:

The Hourglass, P.O. Box 23, Local; or
jbennett@kls.usaka.smdc.army.mil.

Sands BQ evacuated due to smoke

By Barbara Johnson
Feature Writer

Residents of the Sands BQ evacuated the building Thursday night after someone noticed smoke in the first floor laundry room.

At about 8 p.m., a resident, noticing smoke in the dryer area, pulled the fire alarm, which automatically contacts the fire department, and a resident also called 911, according to Assistant Fire Chief Jerry Leverett.

Residents evacuated the building as the fire department trucks arrived.

Leverett said that it turned out to

be just smoke in the dryer area, possibly caused by a minor mechanical problem. The fire department cut off the electricity to the area.

The cause of the smoke is under investigation, he said. Service people were called in Friday morning to trouble-shoot the problem.

"It only took 15 to 20 minutes. It was worth the wait till we checked it out," he said. "You can't just take it for granted [that it's minor]."

"They smelled smoke, they saw smoke and they alerted us and the other residents," Leverett said. "They did the right thing."

White becomes 18th Army Secretary

From ArmyLINK News Service

Thomas E. White became the 18th Secretary of the Army last week after being nominated by President George W. Bush on May 1, 2001, and confirmed by the Senate on May 24.

The Secretary of the Army is the United States Army's senior civilian, responsible by statute for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications and financial management.

Before his appointment as Secretary of the Army, White was the vice chairman of Enron Energy Services, the Enron Corporation subsidiary responsible for providing energy outsource solutions to commercial and industrial customers throughout the United States. He was also responsible for the Enron Engineer-

ing and Construction Company, which managed an extensive construction portfolio.

White began his service to the nation in 1967 when he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned as an Armor officer. His distinguished career included two tours in Vietnam, command of the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and, later, command of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He culminated his military career in 1990 with the rank of brigadier general. His decorations and badges include: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Aviator Badge, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab.

Dining halls unaffected by price hikes ...

(From page 1)

cause consumers are willing to pay higher prices for breast white meat. Other types of poultry, especially turkey, can still be had at a good bargain, according to Richmond Wholesale.

Many other products are also on the rise, including butter, cheese and ice cream.

"It's everything, not just meats," Stephens said. "It affects everyone."

Paul King, Sodexo Marriott general manager, noted there have been dramatic increases in many meat

prices over the last four years. For instance, wholesale prices for flank steak have climbed from \$2.48 per pound in 1997 to \$4.32 per pound.

King said there are no immediate plans to raise prices at food retail facilities at this time, nor will the dining facilities on Kwajalein, Roi-Namur or Meck be affected.

"Without raising prices arbitrarily at the units, we absorb the losses," King said. "The price increases we experience do not affect what we serve."

Kwajalein seniors step into future ...

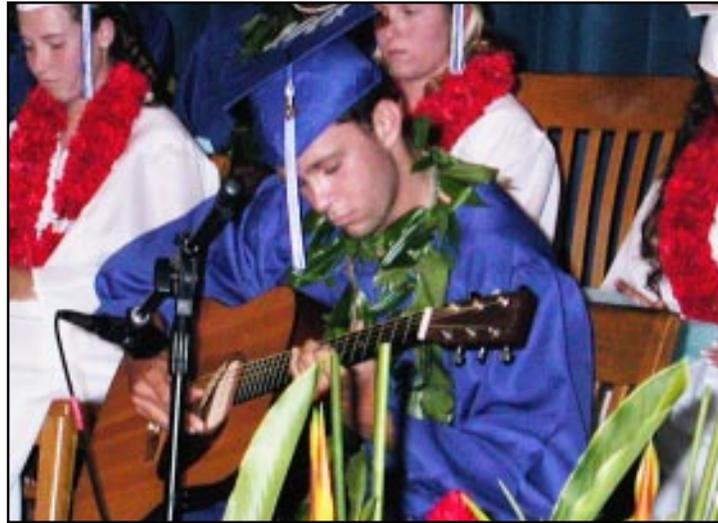
(From page 1)

to "Home Is a Special Place for Me" by Leahi. On guitar, Brendan Greene executed "Time in a Bottle" by Jim Croce. Accompanied by Burt on the piano, Alfred, Pichler, Christina Hamill, and Alicia Sowden sang "I Wish You Well My Friend," by D. Besig and N. Price.

Tears and hugs accompanied the traditional thank-you and giving of leis by the Class of 2001 to special mentors Scarlett Scholte and Tom Farris, senior advisers Barbara Bicanich and Robert Ammann and each senior's family.

In their bare feet, smiling seniors stepped into the future when Col. Curtis L. Wrenn Jr. presented each diploma. Accompanied by the applause of family and friends, Danielle Bellknap led the seniors in the official Turning of the Tassels.

"Whether you have been a member of this class since kindergarten or just joined us this year, you will henceforth carry the label 'Kwaj Kid,'" Scholte said. "Take some of the joy you have learned here into the world with you."



Left: Brendan Greene plays "Time in a Bottle."
Below: Jessica Jacobs and Lynn Pippitt huddle together after graduation ceremonies comparing gifts from family and friends.

(Photos by KW Hillis)



(Photo by KW Hillis)

Senior Pauline Alfred dances a traditional hula to "Home is a Special Place for Me," by Leahi, as part of the performance section of Graduation 2001.

Scholarships awarded and announced

Yokwe Yuk Women's Club Scholarship: Mary Etta Burt, Emily Baker, Pauline Alfred
Jine Tip Tip Club Scholarship: Pauline Alfred, Darren Bantol, Doris Coleman, Floyd Corder Jr., Lynn Pippitt, Kristen Pichler
Kwajalein Community Theater Drama Award - \$1,000: David Rehman
Student Government Association Scholarship: Lynn Pippitt, Susan Landgraff
KwajKid Alumni Association Scholarship: Susan Landgraff, Loren Lindborg, Keela Williams
Kwajalein Association of Teachers Award - \$400: David Rehman
Filipino Civic Club Award: Lynn Pippitt, Floyd Corder Jr.

Lincoln Lab Achievement Recognition: Mary Etta Burt
Raytheon Academic Achievement Awards - \$1,000: Emily Baker, Susan Landgraff
National Association of Secondary Schools Leadership Award: Susan Landgraff
Kwajalein Scuba Club Scholarship - \$500: Keela Williams
Other Scholarships Announced
Brigham Young University Bicentennial Scholarship - \$2,000: David Paradise
Three-year Army ROTC Scholarship: Floyd Corder Jr.
National Principal's Leadership Award - \$1,000: Susan Landgraff
Furman University - \$36,000: Giselle Gil

See you at the movies!

Saturday

The Three Lives of Thomasina (NR, 1964)
Mary, the daughter of a veterinarian who hates animals, is devastated when her pet cat Thomasina is put to sleep because of tetanus. A "good witch" is able to save the cherished animal, who loses its memory of its previous life. Eventually, the family of humans and cat are reunited in this warm-hearted Disney film. (Patrick McGoohan, Susan Hampshire) (97 minutes)
Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Traffic (R, New Release)
This movie, based on a British miniseries about the heroin drug trade, follows the lives of a variety of characters caught up in cocaine trafficking between America and Mexico. Characters range from the slightly crooked Mexican police officer caught between drug cartels to the high-powered U.S. drug czar, whose daughter is addicted to drugs. (Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Amy Irving, Dennis Quaid) (145 minutes)
Yokwe Yuk Theater, 8 p.m.

Save the Last Dance (PG-13, New Release)
Sara's failure to enter Julliard after a lifetime of preparation is compounded by the death of her mother in a traffic accident. She's forced to move in with her bohemian father, who lives in a bad part of town. But the ghetto and the love of a man torn between two worlds sparks Sara to return to dancing. (Julia Stiles, Sean Patrick Thomas) (115 minutes)
Tradewinds Theater, 8 p.m.

Sunday

Save the Last Dance (PG-13, New Release)
Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Traffic (R, New Release)
Tradewinds Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Monday

Save the Last Dance (PG-13, New Release)
Richardson Theater 7:30 p.m.

Traffic (R, New Release)
Yokwe Yuk Theater, 8 p.m.

**What's playing?
Call the Movie Hotline, 52700.**



(Photo by KW Hillis)

Fifth-grader Christian Clark, center, takes his turn Thursday during the Bat Spin Race while coach Maggie Fuller and teammate John Landgraff cheer him on.

Young athletes get 'wacky' at olympics

By KW Hillis
Feature Writer

Athletic teams using sophisticated sports equipment — multicolored balloons, hula hoops affixed atop bright orange barrier cones and yellow-wheeled bucket platforms — filled the CRC Thursday for the start of the 2001 Wacky Olympics.

"It is something at the end of the year for fun," said Josh Trandall, elementary P.E. teacher, acting as emcee for the event. "Parents and [teachers] that

come and help out do a great job."

In the morning, two fifth-grade classes, named Whatchamacallits and Anderson's Wanna Bees, complete with bee antennas, joined three sixth-grade classes, Keck's Infantry, Kortz's Angels and Bennett's Bunch, in the wacky games.

Thursday afternoon, the third and fourth grades participated. The fifth annual Wacky Olympics came to a close after the first- and second-grade games Friday morning.

WEATHER
Courtesy of Aeromet



Sun • Moon • Tides



Tonight: Partly cloudy.
Winds: East to east-southeast at 6 to 11 knots.
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny.
Winds: East to east-southeast at 4 to 7 knots.
Temperature: Tonight's low 80°
Tomorrow's high 86°
June rain total: 0.47"
Annual rain total: 13.73"
Annual deviation: -16.97"
Call 54700 for continuously updated forecasts and sea conditions.

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set	High Tide	Low Tide
Tuesday June 5	0629/1906	1821/0532	0337, 5.8' 1554, 4.8'	0959, 0.8' 2148, 0.8'
Wednesday June 6	0629/1906	1914/0620	0410, 5.9' 1629, 4.7'	1035, 0.8' 2220, 0.9'
Thursday June 7	0629/1906	2007/0710	0443, 5.9' 1702, 4.6'	1109, 0.8' 2252, 0.9'
Friday June 8	0630/1906	2100/0801	0516, 5.9' 1736, 4.5'	1144, 0.9' 2323, 1.1'