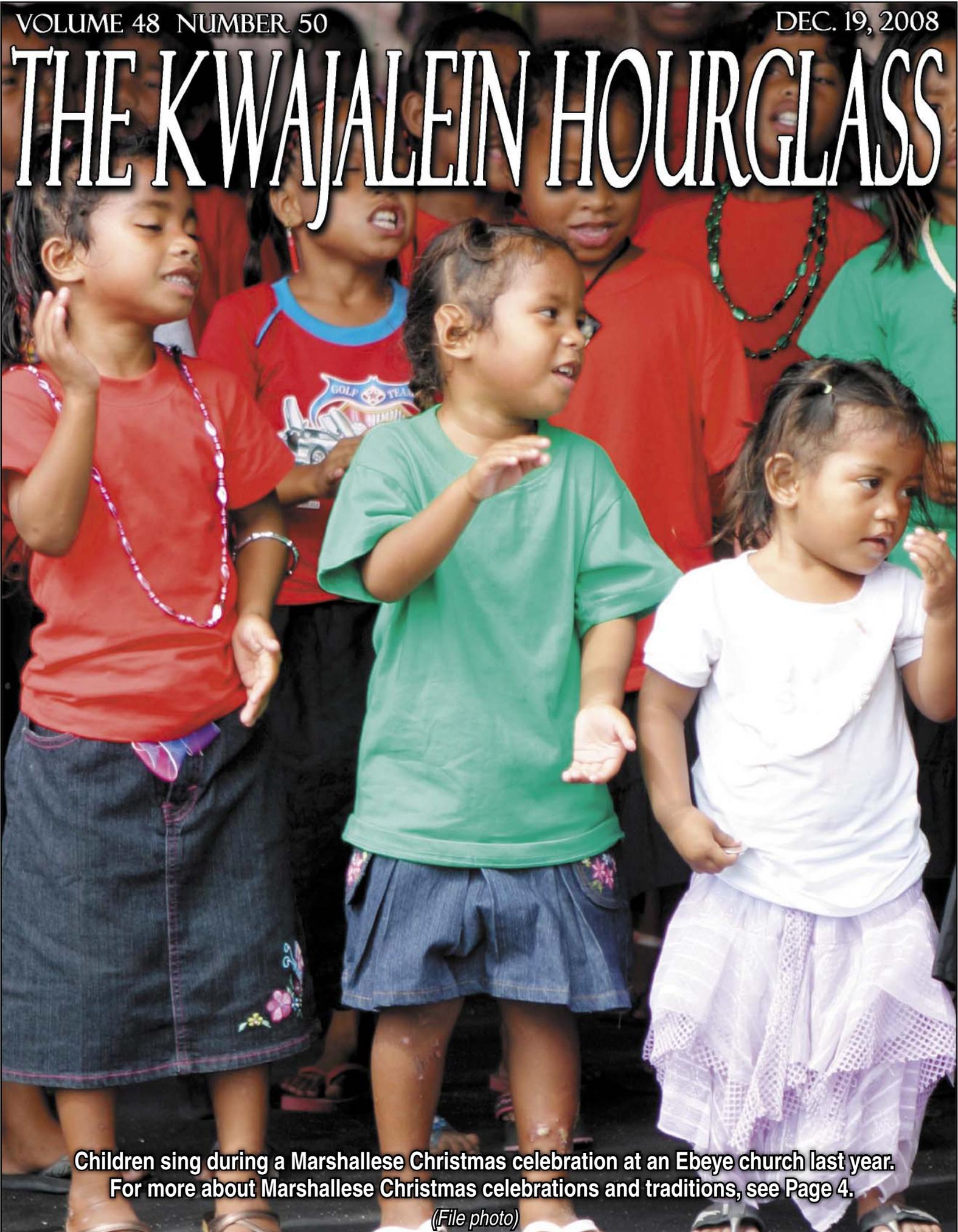


THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS



Children sing during a Marshallese Christmas celebration at an Ebeye church last year. For more about Marshallese Christmas celebrations and traditions, see Page 4.

(File photo)

Commander wishes Happy Holidays to all

Yokwe community.

As we enter the holiday season, my thoughts always turn towards reflection and perspective. I try viewing things in their true relations or relative importance.

Veronique, Savannah and I feel tremendously fortunate to be on Kwajalein serving the community at this specific time. These are challenging times for our country and not all are prospering.

The men and women of our military are doing a magnificent job and so are the Department of the Army civilians, contractors and all of our Families in supporting those efforts.

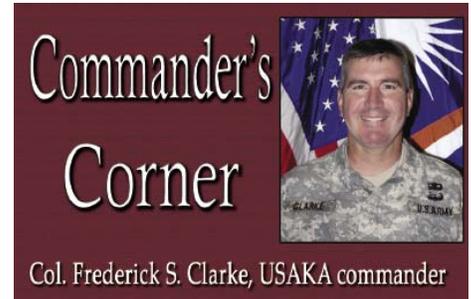
Life on Kwajalein remains relatively stable. There are no foreclosure signs on our streets, but we all have links back to friends and families that may

be affected and thereby affect us. The holiday season can be a tough time for many. During the holidays I ask that you take time to give thanks and that you help those less fortunate. Judging by the amount of toys donated during the last couple of weeks and the charities supported, I would say the Kwajalein Community is in the right spirit.

I personally want to thank everyone, especially those who are giving of their time to make things better.

Special thanks to Kwajalein Police Department, our firefighters, EOD, and contracting support both on Kwajalein and Roi in pulling together and keeping the community safe and alert.

Thank you to our teachers and school staff for creating the best environment possible for our children to



learn and grow.

I would also like to give special thanks to those groups that take time to forge relations with our Marshallese neighbors and friends.

Have a wonderful holiday season and continue to watch out for each other. Happy Holidays from our house to yours!

COMMENTARY

What do you want for Christmas?

It's one of the toughest questions I hear every year.

What do you want for Christmas?

You would think by now that I'd be ready with a running list of gifts that would paint a huge smile across my face. Sadly, I sit and ponder and fret and think, "I don't know what I want for Christmas." Of course, you need to gauge the answer by who asks the question.

Christmas gifts come in three categories — high, medium, and low. Now, if my wife asks me, then I can respond in the high category. "I want a boat!" She'll look at me and say, "Sure" with that twinkle in her eye that says right after we pay for college, weddings, retirement and have an extra \$100,000 for repairs and expenses. I then wisely change my mind and say, "How about a dive computer?" I think I might get the dive computer.

If a close relative or friend asks me, I can respond in the medium category.

Maybe I'd like a couple of fishing lures or a jazz CD.

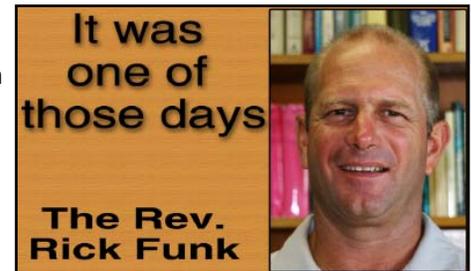
Maybe if they are a really close friend they will take me

fishing, in their private boat to Lib where we will catch a 100-pound ahi and they will let me keep it. Maybe that's a tad above medium.

If my kids ask me, then it's definitely in the low category.

Maybe I'd ask for a homemade card and a used golf ball. If I ask them for a medium gift then they ask, "Will you give me \$20 and let me surprise you?"

Of course the surprise is that they give you a homemade card and a used golf ball and keep the twenty.



See CHRISTMAS, Page 13

THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS

The Kwajalein Hourglass is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb. 4, 1944.

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Army Family Action Plan sensing session tackles sensitive family issues, concerns

By Cheryl R. Stewart
Contributor

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, with the assistance of SMDC/ARSTRAT personnel, conducted a mini-Army Family Action Plan sensing and discussion session Dec. 11-12, with USAKA military and spouses, Department of Army Civilians and spouses, military retirees and spouses, and reserve Soldiers and spouses.

AFAP was created a little over 24 years ago with an initial planning conference and the sole purpose of helping Army leaders identify issues, needs and concerns of family members.

Utilizing family representatives from every corner of the world, AFAP aims to improve the quality of life and standard of living for Soldiers and their Families. According to Army News Service, "this feedback to leaders provides for policy changes that become tangible end-products for the Army Family (Soldiers, retirees, DAC employees and all other family members too." The AFAP process has resulted in identifying 633 issues in the past 25 years. AFAP has driven 107 legislative changes, 154 Army policy and regulatory changes and 173 improved programs and services.

The Kwajalein AFAP team consisting of delegates, a facilitator, a transcriber, issue support person, subject matter experts and observers met for close to eight hours over the two day period. Nearly a dozen 'hot spot' issues were identified that affect residents on island. After identifying these sensitive issues the delegates prioritized them, but due to time restraints had to narrow them down to the top three concerns.

Karen Butler, AFAP Coordinator, facilitated the sessions and provided guidance, training examples, recommendations and resources to delegates for them to successfully write and present the issues identified. While several of the 12 issues noted were mentioned recently at the town hall meetings held with Col. Frederick Clarke, USAKA Commander, a few were new concerns. All concerns



Photo by Vanessa K. Peeden

AFAP Coordinator, Karen Butler, listens to audience as Michelle Stafford takes notes on the board.

presented required a suggestion or request for improvement.

The issues identified were housing, healthcare, MWR, employment opportunities/ unemployment compensation, childcare, driver's education for teen drivers, adult sports, recreational facilities for youth below grade seven, culturally correct communication, DECA and the need for covered playground equipment for school-aged children.

Kat Bass, a military spouse, discussed how she had recently identified the problem of inadequate shelter from the sun for the children playing on the elementary school playground and has been working on a solution to resolve the concern as well. In fact, a few issues such as lack of bike lubricant and red tape for spouses wanting to obtain USAKA drivers licenses had already been resolved as of the meeting.

Two other sensitive issues voiced were the five-year rule and in-processing of DACs not being completed prior to arrival on island.

Kathy Campbell, wife of Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, expressed the importance of being honest and truthful during these sessions. She

went on to say that it is impossible to help resolve concerns if they are not identified. She was pleased with the combination of panelists participating and their varied backgrounds. Mrs. Campbell noted that, "The problems seen here on Kwajalein are also seen at other remote sites such as Ft. Greely, Alaska, but on a smaller scale." Lastly she added, "I appreciate everyone coming out and would like for Kwaj to keep it going. We want to hear back on the feedback from the sessions."

AFAP observer and wife of Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Borja, Nguyet Borja said, "I wish we could have stayed longer but am grateful for the time shared [in AFAP discussions] and was intrigued by the dome houses and number of bikes I saw on island."

Maj. Tijuana Collier said this was a great experience and appreciated the effort by Space and Missile Defense Command and Karen Butler to make Kwaj a better community.

Tammie Wommack, a retired military veteran and retired DAC said, "AFAP is the only democratic process

See ARMY, Page 7



File photos

Ebeye Jebtas gather at churches to begin writing songs and rehearsing as early as October in preparation for Christmas Day celebrations.

Marshallese begin preparations for Christmas Day early in October

By the Rev. Elden Buck as told to Pat Cataldo

(Editor's note: This article first appeared in The Hourglass in December, 1999. Pat Cataldo is a former Hourglass editor. The Rev. Elden Buck is a former chaplain on Kwajalein and he and his wife, Alice, translated the Bible into Marshallese.)

Preparation for Christmas in the Republic of the Marshall Islands begins in October, when singing groups, called jebtas [chapters], are called together. These groups are mostly gathered around the landowner on whose land they live, although on Ebeye there are also island chapters, made up of people from Alilinglaplap, Jaluit or Kapinmento – the western and northern islands of Lae, Ujae, Bikini, Wotho, Rongelap, Eniwetok and Ujelang. Kapinmento means “those at the edge of the sea.”

Everyone is involved in the singing groups, with old people and small children included in the same

jebta. On Ebeye, the groups may have as many as 40 or 50 members.

By the time of the first rehearsal, songs will have been selected by the iroj [chief], alap [landowner] or appointed director. Some of the songs are new and original each year; some have new words for old tunes. Twenty or 30 years ago, all the songs were new every Christmas, and there were no traditional Marshallese Christmas songs.

Americans would have a hard time recognizing Marshallese music. There is no clef, no staff – in fact, there are no notes. Instead, the four-part harmony is written in a number system: Do=1 and 8, Re=2, Mi=3 and so on. The singers sight-read.

All through November and December, the jebta rehearse almost every evening, meeting from about 9 p.m. until as late as 2 or 3 a.m., in schoolrooms, living rooms, on porches – and even outside.

Rehearsals don't much resemble an American choir

practice. It is common to see some members sleeping, others conversing, and children playing noisily, while some people study the numbers and others learn from the better sight-readers. The cacophony doesn't seem to disturb the director or those concentrating on the music.

Selection of the songs is carried on in great secrecy, but rehearsals are not. In fact, there is exciting competition, and it is considered special fun when two groups can hear each other while rehearsing. Each group is eager to have the best songs, and the more verses, the better. Often one jebta learns 10 songs.

Early in the rehearsal schedule, the jebta appoints a committee to decide upon and purchase material for uniforms, dresses and shirts, all made of the same fabric. Often, a jebta will have three or four uniforms.

Each jebta decides early, usually in October, upon a theme for its presentation in church on Christmas Day. The themes frequently seem to have little to do with Christmas, in fact, they may be on a subject such as firing a missile, and yet, they are always ingeniously brought around to a spiritual yuletide application.

Scripture verses are often repeated in unison, and verses of scripture and prayers are included in each chapter's presentation.

A member is assigned to oversee the building of props to carry out the theme. The props can be elaborate and inventive, with moving parts, break-aways, small explosive devices, and many surprises for the audience. For example, a group might bring in a large cross, march around it singing and at a given signal, pull a wire that causes the cross to split into halves, from which a Christmas tree rises to the ceiling. At a second signal, several verses later, the Christmas tree breaks apart, and dollar bills float to the floor.

While all of the plans and props are being made, another committee decides what gifts the chapter will bring to the church and collects money for the cash gift. On Ebeye, it isn't unusual for a chapter's cash gift to the church to reach \$800 or \$1,000, in addition to cases of soda, 100-pound bags of rice, cases of soya or laundry soap, bolts of material and island handicrafts. The group also decides what small presents they will throw to the audience during their performance.

On the outer islands, chapters give stalks of bananas, pandanus, breadfruit, coconuts and live chickens and pigs.

During the Sundays of Advent, chapters sing follow-



Left, Boys and girls form lines to dance and sing during the Christmas Day celebrations that last all day at various Ebeye churches. Below, a young Marshallese girl waits her turn to join a dance.



ing morning worship service, as a hint of what they will perform on Christmas day. On Ebeye, one chapter or weto [section of property] is chosen each Sunday in December to sing at the church. On its Sunday, the group cleans up, decorates and prepares food. This is also the day the group's gift to the pastor is presented. After the regular service, the congregation enjoys the food.

Sometime during the two weeks before Christmas, each group dresses in its uniforms and goes out, seldom before midnight, to sing and present gifts to the iroj, pastor, missionary and other village or island dignitaries.

One Sunday, usually the last Sunday before Christmas, is designated 'singing Sunday,' and all or most of the groups sing at church. It is a sort of dress rehearsal for the main performance on Christmas. But the big surprises in the presentations will be kept secret until Christmas day. The groups have a uniform,

See MARSHALLESE, Page 6

MARSHALLESE, from Page 5

shirts and dresses all made of the same fabric and usually in the same style, for 'singing Sunday' and another for Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, the pastor and one or two church elders are expected to visit each chapter to sample the whole program, make suggestions as to propriety (sometimes recommending that part of the presentation be made outside the church) and see that the dances are not too lively.

At this time, the chapters draw straws for order of appearance. No chapter wants to be first, in fact, the later the better.

After this final rehearsal, the chapters march around the island singing. On outer islands, this is done on foot by lantern light. On Ebeye it is often done from the backs of trucks. Whenever one chapter meets another, it is exciting and hilarious.

On Christmas day, the church is cleared of most benches, with only a few seats left around the edge for older people and guests. The celebrations begin about 10 a.m., when all the chapters come to hear the Christmas story read from the scriptures and offer their special thanks in prayer and worship.

The celebration goes on until all the chapters have performed. On Ebeye, this can mean a 12- to 14-hour observance, or even a second day.

Each jebta leader begins by bringing into the church his group's gifts of food and supplies and the props for its presentation. The jebta, gathered out of sight at some distance,



Two women prepare gifts and candy which will be distributed during the jebta's dancing and singing celebration in church.



A jebta enters a church to begin their Christmas performance for the visitors.

begins singing its marching song and slowly approaches the church. This procession is actually a sort of dance, including intricate over-under and serpentine patterns. The leader, and sometimes the whole group, waves a flag or scarf, and all singing is done at the greatest possible volume. [Technology has added electronically-enhanced music to the performance.]

The entrance march ends with the group in singing position, sometimes facing the audience, but more often facing the pulpit, and the presentation begins.

Between songs, there are speeches by the iroij, the alap and any other dignitary accompanying the group. Each jebta has some member of an iroij family as its sponsor.

The climax comes when the theme is explained, and the props are put into action. One year, a chapter chose "Paul's Shipwreck" as its theme. They built a 25-foot float shaped like a ship and pulled it to the church. There the flat fell apart on purpose, spilling gifts to all onlookers.

Should a prop not work or a jebta make an obvious mistake in harmony or words (all singing is done from memory), there is much laughter, clapping and friendly name-calling from the audience.

During the 'giving song' the jebta marches past the altar, piling on cash. During this time, the singers throw gifts to the audience, including bars of soap, boxes of matches, gum, thread, candy, pieces of material, rolls of pandanus, and so forth, while the women lavishly spray cologne and perfume over onlookers.

Gifts are seldom thrown to anyone in particular, although it is not unusual for a woman to be wearing several dresses and remove the top one to give to a friend or leader.

A chapter deliberately works toward hypnotic excitement in the giving song and march, increasing its singing volume while clowning outrageously. The greater this excitement, the more likely it is that the members of the audience will jump up, join the circle, and add more cash to that of the performing group.

At the close of the day, the pastor leads a brief worship service. By that time, the church is completely littered with gum wrappers, match boxes, leaves, ribbons and parts of the props. The altar area is jammed to the ceiling with food. It remains there for several days until leaders gather to divide it, a process that can also take several days.

The pastor and church leaders divide the money among themselves, the iroij and school teachers, traditionally returning some of the food to the chapter.

Midnight on the 25th does not signal the end of Christmas for the Marshallese. The chapters continue meeting, often until the middle of January, to sing and visit those village leaders they missed before Christmas, and especially to make plans for the great feast and party each chapter holds.

With the jebta parties, the long holiday season ends. Christmas in the Marshall Islands in a thanksgiving festival, celebrated joyously to commemorate the coming of Christ.

Don't have a (security) nightmare before Christmas

Author anonymous for security reasons

Do you wonder why Security takes security incidents so seriously? Why we are very concerned about classification portion markings on all documents — especially e-mails? Well, let me tell you a story.

One chilly December morning, while on detail from the North Pole, Mr. Kringle was working at USASMDC/ARSTRAT verifying his route via satellite technology. This required much coordination as you may well suspect. Many were depending on his accuracy so his world-wide mission could be accomplished. So to expedite his work, Mr. Kringle used a technology new to his area of expertise — ELECTRONIC E-MAIL.

Well, as we know, using e-mail in a hurry can cause you unexpected delays and surprises. Some of Mr. Kringle's critical information was extremely sensitive in nature and not sent over the NIPRnet. The e-mails from Mr. Kringle were being closely watched by Mr. Grinch.

Fortunately, the next day, the PM of Operation Red Nose, Mr. Elf, notified Mr. Kringle of this unfortunate mishap. This delay affected transportation, personnel, and delivery of goods and services.

Mr. Elf and Mr. Kringle then notified Security of this most unfor-

tunate turn of events. The spillage was determined to be very detrimental to the mission. Much investigation had to take place and quickly. So, Mr. Kringle contacted his e-mail recipients, Mr. Blitzen, Mr. Prancer, and Mr. Rudolph, to ensure that the information had not been further disseminated.

The Security staff of Ms. Angel went quickly to work. Everyone pitched in to get Mr. Kringle's mission accomplished. The erroneous e-mail was retrieved and cleaned from all servers. Mr. Kringle met his time-line and his mission was accomplished in the next 24 hours. The moral of the story is that you don't want to ruin anyone's holiday cheer!

Take time to portion mark your documents and use the correct network — especially when e-mailing. You don't know who is watching and taking notes.



ARMY, from Page 3

in the Army, and it really works.”

Wommack said that it was just good to know that although we are way out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we have not been forgotten by the main world.

Chief Warrant Officer Paul Brown was selected by the participants to make the final presentation to Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, Col. Frederick Clarke, Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Borja and Sgt. Maj. Patrick Kutac.

During the out-briefing session Campbell said, “To have an understanding of the needs, one must get a real sense of when to touch, feel, and smell to be able to tell what it is like here on Kwaj. It normally takes about five years to fix things once issues are identified, since you must compete against other concerns like 1st Armored Division. Kwajalein however is a ‘special installation’ and the bottom line is will mission failure result if improvements are not made?”

He went on to say that he must always, “Juxtapose concerns and determine priorities,” and he promised

to “Advocate with the large Army to get things done on behalf of Kwaj.”

Butler asked participants what they enjoyed most about Kwaj and the one thing that they would change about the mini-AFAP meeting.

Responses ranged from the weather, it is a tight supportive community, being able to spend more time with family, coming home for lunch, the recreational opportunities to the smaller size classrooms at the schools. Allison Bush commented that she loved being able to wear shorts to work and ride her bike. Probably the most repeated comment about changes to the mini-AFAP was that participants wanted more time to work on issues.

It was a rewarding and challenging two-day process. Butler assured the participants that though all issues identified were not discussed at the mini-AFAP; she will still brief Campbell at a later date.

“He truly cares and will review each concern thoroughly” Butler stated. Teamwork was evident with this AFAP team from Redstone Arsenal, Ala.



Kwajalein women demonstrate local dancing by 'strutting their stuff' at the Holiday Gift Exchange.

Ebeye, Kwajalein women share presents, friendship at Holiday Gift Exchange Dinner

Article and photos by Vanessa K. Peeden
USAKA Public Affairs Officer

Ebeye women and women of Kwajalein were all dressed up to attend this year's gift exchange and dinner Saturday evening.

The annual event sponsored by the Yokwe Yuk Women's Club was well attended by more than 150 women. This year's event was held in the high school's multipurpose room which had just been decorated for the holidays.

The YYWC decorated the tables

with red table cloths and festive centerpieces. The centerpieces were red and white poinsettias wrapped up with green ribbons. Red and green Christmas ornaments and confetti snow rounded out the centerpieces. Bottles of water and wine accented each table that seated a hostess and six guests, three from Ebeye and three from Kwajalein.

Hostesses had maps of the United States and commonly used terminology worksheets in both Marshallese and English. The maps and worksheets provided cultural exchange fun among the women

prior to dinner.

Jenny Norwood, Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and Moss Phillip, translator, opened the evening's event with recognition of special guests from Ebeye and Kwajalein. Norwood then led a moment of silence for the family of Staff Sgt. Solomon T. Sam of Majuro who was killed in Iraq on Dec. 4. After the blessing, guests began filling their plates at the buffet.

A traditional American holiday dinner was expertly prepared and catered by the Kwajalein Range Services Dining Service. The menu included a dinner salad, coconut

rice, green bean casserole, sage bread stuffing, mashed potatoes, turkey, cranberry sauce, rolls, pumpkin pie and assorted cheesecakes. The food was well-received by all the guests.

During dinner, guests were entertained by Jennifer Patrocky's playing of Christmas carols on the piano.

After eating, the Kwajalein women performed a dance for the Ebeye women. The ladies put their best feet forward and eagerly jammed to the music. The YYWC was grateful to have Holland Dorn pitch in and play music for the dancing. The women from Ebeye were wiping tears from their eyes because of their laughter while watching the Kwaj ladies perform. *Dancing with the Stars* might have competition from some of those ladies.

Next, it was the Ebeye women's turn to perform. They sang several traditional songs. In addition, they performed a couple of dances, including one with sticks. After the singing, Norwood asked if the audience would stand and sing together. The Kwajalein ladies stood and sang *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*; then the entire audience sang *Silent Night* in English and Marshallese. Later in the evening, the Ebeye ladies walked around throwing candy out to the audience.

A few more songs were played with women of both groups participating and trying to show off their dancing skills. Dancing is an activity that transcends language and cultural barriers. After dancing, the actual gift exchange took place. The women from Ebeye were treated to perfumes, hand soaps, toiletries and hair combs. The Kwajalein women received hand-made purses, baskets, hanging wind chimes, and shell jewelry. Everyone had lots of fun and made new friends.

When asked what she thought of the gift exchange and dinner, Ebeye resident Alsie Jibwa said, "Good. I came because I wanted to see what was going on."

Kwajalein newcomer Maneth Mills



Kwajalein women show off gifts they received.



Ebeye women look over gifts they received.

said, "It's very good, first time for me to be here and I'm very happy with everything."

Rosie Lari from Ebeye, another first-timer to the event, remarked, "I wanted to come see the Christmas exchange. I wanted to come to learn

and enjoy. I also want you to come to see our Christmas."

With the open invitation to go to Ebeye to participate in their activities on Christmas Day, Norwood thanked all the guests and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Christmas



Austria

The feast of St. Nicholas marks the beginning of Christmas in Austria. The saint, accompanied by the devil, asks children for a list of their good and bad deeds. Good children are given sweets, toys and nuts.

Silent Night was first sung in 1818, in the village church of Oberndorf. In Austria, baked carp is served for the traditional Christmas dinner. On Dec. 24, the Christ Child brings presents and the Christmas tree for the children. Gifts that are placed under the tree are opened after dinner on Christmas Eve.

Australia

Christmas in Australia is often very hot. Whereas the northern hemisphere is in the middle of winter, Australians are baking in the summer heat. It is not unusual to have Christmas Day well into the mid 30 degrees Celsius, or near 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

A traditional meal includes a turkey dinner with ham and pork.

The warm weather allows Australians to enjoy a tradition which commenced in 1937. Carols by candlelight are held every year on Christmas Eve, where tens of thousands of people gather in the city of Melbourne to sing their favorite Christmas songs. Australians surround themselves with Christmas Bush, a native plant which has little red flowered leaves.

Bethlehem

In Bethlehem, the town where Jesus is said to have been born, is the site of the Church of the Nativity, ablaze with flags and decorations every Christmas.



On Christmas Eve, natives and visitors alike crowd the church's doorways and stand on the roof to watch for the dramatic annual procession. Galloping horsemen and police mounted on Arabian horses lead the parade. They are followed by a solitary horseman carrying a cross and sitting astride a coal-black steed. Then come the churchmen and government officials.

Christian homes in Bethlehem are marked by a cross painted over the door and each home displays a homemade manger scene. A star is set up on a pole in the village square.

Brazil

Brazilians are a mix of people from different ethnic backgrounds and, as a former Portuguese colony, they have many Christmas customs which originate from this heritage.

A huge Christmas dinner includes turkey, ham, colored rice, and wonderful vegetable and fruit dishes.

Decorations include fresh flowers picked from the garden. Fireworks go off in the skies over the cities and huge Christmas 'trees' of electric lights can be seen against the night skies in major cities such as Brasilia, San Paolo, and Rio de Janeiro.

England

The English enjoy beautiful Christmas music. They love to decorate Christmas trees and hang up evergreen branches.

The English gift giver is called Father Christmas. He wears a long red or green robe and leaves presents in stockings on Christmas Eve. However, the gifts are not usually opened until the following afternoon.

India

Christians in India decorate banana or mango trees. They also light small oil-burning lamps as Christmas decorations and fill their churches with red flowers.

They give presents to family mem-

around the World

bers and baksheesh, or charity, to the poor people.

In India, the poinsettia is in flower and so the churches are decorated with this brilliant bloom for the Christmas Midnight Mass.

Iraq

In the Christian homes, an unusual ceremony is held in the courtyard of the home on Christmas Eve. One of the children in the family reads the story of the Nativity from an Arabic Bible.

On Christmas day, a bonfire is built in the church. While the fire burns the men of the congregation chant a hymn. Then there is a procession in which the officials of the church march behind the bishop, who carries an image of the infant Jesus upon a scarlet cushion. The long Christmas service always ends with the blessing of the people.

Mexico

Mexicans share many traditions with the Spanish. The main Christmas celebration is called La Posada, a religious procession that reenacts the search for shelter by Joseph and Mary before the birth of Jesus. During the procession, the celebrants go from house to house carrying the images of Mary and Joseph looking for shelter. Santa Claus is not predominant, but the bright red suit is represented in the traditional flower of the season. This flower is the poinsettia, which has a brilliant red star-shaped bloom.

The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, the Dutch eagerly await Dec. 5, for it is on this day that they celebrate the coming of Sinterklaas Avond, or St. Nicholas Eve. Legends of his generosity and kindness are well known. On Dec. 6, they celebrate with family doings, after which everyone settles down to prepare for Christmas Day on Dec.

25 and secondly for Dec. 26 or the New Year and Three Kings Day on Jan. 6. Each has its own celebration.

In the Netherlands. St. Nicholas is known as Sinterklaas. Dutch children are told that he sails from Spain on his feast day, Dec. 5. They fill their shoes with hay and sugar for his horse and awake to find them filled with gifts such as nuts and candy.

The Philippines

Christmas celebrations start nine days before Christmas with a Mass known as Misa de Gallo. At this Mass, the story behind the birth of Christ is read from the Bible. The Panunuluyan pageant is held each Christmas Eve. A couple is chosen to re-enact Joseph and Mary's search for shelter.

Mass is held hourly on Christmas Day so that everyone can attend.

Religious services include a pastore, or play, based on the birth of the Christ Child. Christmas celebrations may have evolved from old tribal customs mixed with other influences.

Sweden

Christmas begins in Sweden with the Saint Lucia ceremony. Before dawn on the morning of Dec. 13, the youngest daughter from each family puts on a white robe with a red sash. She wears a crown of evergreens with tall-lighted candles attached to it. She wakes her parents, and serves them coffee and Lucia buns. The other children accompany her. The boys dress as star boys in long white shirts and pointed hats.

Christmas trees are usually found in Swedish homes two days before Christmas. Decoration may include candles, apples, Swedish flags, small gnomes wearing red tasseled caps and straw ornaments.

Syria

In Syria on Dec. 6, a special Mass is held in churches in honor of Saint Nicholas Thaumaturgus, who legend says was a kind, generous man similar to Saint Nicholas who Santa Claus is modeled after.

On Christmas Eve, everyone in the family carries a lit candle to stand around an unlit bonfire outside their house. The youngest child, usually a son of the family, reads the Christmas story, after which the



bonfire is lit.

The way the flames spread shows the luck of the house in the coming year.

Christmas dinner is chicken, oranges, nuts and pastries. But it is on New Year's Day that children receive presents. The gifts are brought by the youngest of the camels that carried the Three Wise Men to Bethlehem. The children leave water and hay outside their house for the camel. In the morning, the water and hay are gone, replaced by presents.

The Ukraine

Sviata Vechera or 'Holy Supper' is the central tradition of the beautiful Christmas Eve celebrations in Ukrainian homes. The dinner table sometimes has a few wisps of hay on the embroidered table cloth as a reminder of the manger in Bethlehem.

When children see the first star in the eastern evening sky, which symbolizes the trek of the Three Wise Men, the Sviata Vechera may begin.

Christmas is a joyous day which opens for Ukrainian families with attendance at church. Ukrainian churches offer services starting before midnight on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning. Christmas supper, without Lenten restrictions, does not have as many traditions connected with it as Sviata Vechera. The old tradition in Ukraine of giving gifts to children on St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 19, has generally been replaced by the Christmas date.

Editor's note: These are but a few of the Christmas traditions of people around the world. For more on Christmas traditions, the Internet has many Web sites devoted to the subject.

Ten runners finish full Pauper's Marathon



John Conrad finished his first marathon.



Lisa Ansley, foreground, and Gilson Hogan run for their teams.



Christi Davis beat her old time in the marathon.



Jon Jahnke ran his third marathon and achieved a personal best.

Hourglass reports

Ten Kwajalein residents covered a full 26.2-mile Marathon on Monday.

Seven ran on Kwajalein and three in Hawaii. There were also five teams that ran on Kwajalein.

This field of 10 individual finishers is the largest since the 1980s. Congratulations all.

Individuals running on Kwajalein

Jon Jahnke ran the marathon in three hours, 41 minutes and 35 seconds. It was his third marathon and a personal best over his three-hour, 46-minute, five second run in 2007.

Ben Bartyzel ran the course in four hours, nine minutes and 41 seconds. It was his first Kwajalein marathon.

Christi Davis ran her second marathon and finished in four hours, 24 minutes and two seconds which beat her previous time of four hours, 40 minutes and 1 second in 2007.

John Conrad ran his first marathon in five hours, one minute and 31 seconds.

AnnElise Peterson turned in a time of five hours, 23 minutes and 57 seconds in her first marathon on Kwajalein.

Despite a bad cold, Doug Hepler ran the marathon in six hours, one minute and nine seconds. It was his second marathon.

David Fearon not only finished the marathon in seven hours and 15 minutes, but kept walking for a total of 31.5 miles in eight hours, 48 minutes and 18 seconds.

Alex McGlenn completed 15 miles before being forced to stop by blisters.

The winning team was 'The Freshmen' comprised of Jake Jahnke, Tyler DeCoster, Shawn Brady, Ryan DeCoster and Gilson Hogan.

Individuals running in Hawaii

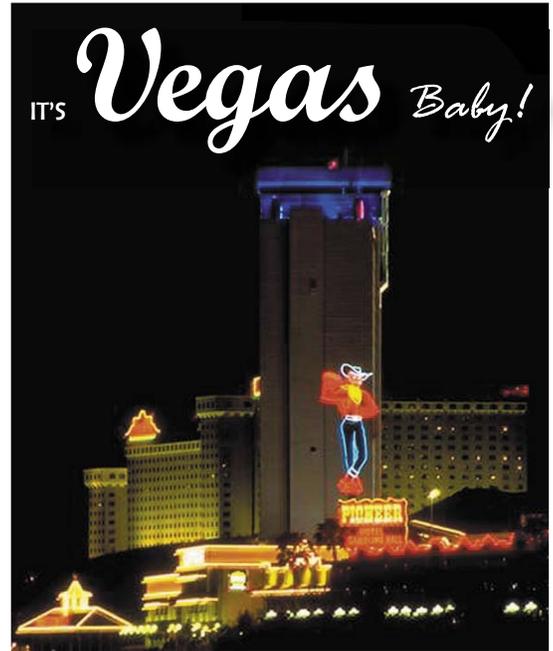
Stephanie Los, Kwajalein Running Club vice-president, was the first Kwaj finisher in Hawaii with a time of three hours, 55 minutes,

See MARATHON, next page



Photo by Trudy Butler

Ross Butz, left, Robbie Alves, center, and Steve Alves landed a 145-pound yellowfin tuna on Sunday while trolling along West Reef, Kwajalein. It was a "blind strike off the reef" exclaimed angler Robbie Alves when questioned about the catch. This beauty set a new record in the Kwajalein Sportfishing Records Program which was started by Kwajalein Atoll International Sportfishing Club (KAISC) back in May 2006. The Previous record tuna weighed in at 137 pounds. Congratulations anglers.



IT'S Vegas Baby!

At the Adult Recreation Center on New Year's Eve! There will be a bar, food and champagne. In keeping with the 'It's Vegas baby' theme, there will be black jack, poker, craps and roulette. Tickets are \$15 and include play, champagne toast and two additional drinks, pupus, snacks and music. Tickets are available at the Community Activities office until Dec. 27. Tickets are limited. The ARC is non-smoking but designated smoking areas will be available.

MARATHON from Page 12

and 25 seconds.

Graham Kirchner finished in four hours, 23 minutes and 2 seconds and he's just a ninth grader.

Julianne Kirchner finished the Honolulu race in four hours, 23 minutes and two seconds also.

The Tortoise and the Hare team members were Alan Calvert and Jeffrey Fluhrer

Public Safety runners were William McPhatter, Byron Souza, Brent Peterson and John Pyle.

The team of Kwaj Women Ex-

traordinaire consisted of Brynn Lovato, Kathy Ann Funk, Linn Ezell, Jayne Cavender, Karen Brady, Lisa Ansley and Heidi Rowell.

Team Frago was made up of David Helm, Brianne Wagner, Bridget Helm and Jeff Timmerman.

CHRISTMAS from Page 2

What if you could have anything you wanted for Christmas?

You might ask for the impossible like solving world hunger, creating world peace, the Cubs winning the World Series or Army beating Navy in football for the next seven years in a row. That would all be well and good, but not likely in our lifetime.

Perhaps we could ask for something reasonable and achievable and satisfying. Perhaps someone would want to be loved and appreciated for who they are. Maybe someone would want to reconcile a relationship. A few of

us might simply enjoy peace and calm in a time of conflict and anxiety. I think these would make some excellent gifts. They only cost a little time and compassion. They are a little tough to wrap, but it's worth it.

What do you want for Christmas? If you ask for stuff, you know it will rust and fade away. If you ask for global change, you know that won't happen by the end of the month. If you ask for love, now we're talking. I think that's what God had in mind in his first Christmas gift to us. So, what do you want for Christmas?

I hope you get an excellent gift.

HELP WANTED

KRS and CMSI Job Listings for On-Island Positions will be available at the Kwajalein, Roi-Namur and Ebeye Dock Security Check Point bulletin boards, the bulletin board by the Continental Travel Office, the Roi-Namur Terminal/Post Office bulletin board and at Human Resources in Building 700. Job Listings for Contract Positions will be available at www.krsjv.com, on the bulletin board by the Continental Travel Office and on the Roi-Namur/Post Office bulletin board. Full job descriptions and requirements for Contract openings are located online at www.krsjv.com.

NEED EXTRA MONEY? KRS employment applications are continually accepted for Casual Positions in the Community Services Departments, Medical Department and the HR Temp Pool. Some of the Casual positions are: Recreation Aides, Medical Office, Media Services Specialist, Substitute Teacher, and HR Temp Pool Office Support. Questions? Call 54916.

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll

OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANTS, GS-0326-6. Temporary position not to exceed two years. The employee provides clerical support to ensure efficient office operations. The employee accomplishes various duties to provide essential office automation support and production. The employee performs a variety of assignments using the advanced functions of various database software packages. The employee prepares varied documents with complex formats using the

Religious Services

Catholic

Saturday Mass, 5:30 p.m., in the small chapel.

Sunday Mass, 9:15 a.m., in the main chapel.

Mass on Roi is only on the first Sunday of the month at 12:15 p.m., in Roi Chapel.

Protestant

Sunday

8 and 10:45 a.m., on Kwaj and Roi-Namur service at 4 p.m.

Baptist

9:40 a.m., Sunday, in elementary school music room.

Latter-day Saints

10 a.m., Sunday, in

Corlett Recreation Center, Room 6.

Jewish services

Last Friday of the month in the Religious Education Building. Times will vary. Contact the Chaplain's office, 53505, for more information.

advanced functions of word processing, desktop publishing, and other software types. The employee performs systems maintenance functions for electronic mail systems. The employee performs a variety of assignments using the advanced functions of one or more spreadsheet software packages. The employee performs a variety of secretarial and other clerical and administrative functions, using judgment to answer recurring questions and resolve problems. Apply at <https://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil>.

SPACE X

LAUNCH SITE TECHNICIAN. Must have general mechanical experience and at least three years of air-conditioning experience. Call Sharon, 54775.

COMMUNITY BANK

TELLER. Part time 20 hours. Submit resumé to <http://careers.dodcommunitybank.com> <<http://careers.dodcommunitybank.com/>>

WANTED

THREE-WHEEL push/pull golf cart and multi-speed bike. Call 58558.

LOST

EDDIE BAUER sunglasses black, in or near Café Pacific. Reward offered. Call Dan, 58747.

MASK AND SNORKEL, blue, at Emon Beach dip tank Dec. 11. Call 54253, home, or 53522, work.

GOLD ANKLE bracelet with palm trees and flip-flop charms. Call 53461 or 54173.

FOUND

2001 BULLDOGS class ring. Call 55559.

PATIO SALES

SATURDAY, 8:30 a.m.-?, Quarters 428-A. Clothes, toys and teen clothes.

MONDAY, 8-11:30 a.m., Quarters 495-A.

FOR SALE

BIKE CART, sturdy, good for dive gear or heavy objects, \$85. Call 53497, before 4:30 p.m.

DEHUMIDIFIER \$40; indoor/outdoor ceiling fan, white new in box, \$20; womans roller skates, size 10, new in box, \$40. Call 54125, after 5 p.m.

WOMEN'S SIZE 9 K2 roller blades with knee, elbow and wrist guards. in excellent condition, perfect for Christmas or that New Year's resolution, \$100 for everything. Call 51597.

FUTON FRAME and mattress, \$100 and low, hard wood TV stand on wheels, \$25. Call Amy, 51192.

EXTRA-SMALL women's BC, ScubaPro Ladyhawk, two

years old, includes fins and two masks, paid \$475 for BC, will sell all for \$150. Call 52305.

TWO DVD PLAYERS with remotes, \$50 each; two VCR recorders, \$30 each; 17-inch LCD monitor, \$100; several two-drawer sterlite containers, \$15 each; several single plastic containers, \$10; tan five-shelf bookcase, \$50; DVD movies; VHS tapes; books; large white cabinet, \$25; women's clothes and dishes. Call 51235 or 51614.

GRADY-WHITE 240 off shore boat with Yamaha 150-horsepower outboard motors, 150-gallon fuel tank, stereo, VHF, and dual-axle trailer, cabin with lots of storage space, lots of spare parts including two Yamaha engines, located on Boat Lot 4. \$30,000 and fishing nets. Call 59335 or 59081.

BRAND NEW 12-foot throw net. Call 59081 or 59335.

FENDER AM DELUXE 62 Strat and Hotrod deluxe amp, \$1,500; Gibson Les Paul, \$1,600; Gibson ES-335, \$1600; Taylor T5-C1 Custom, \$2,500 and Panasonic DVD recorder, \$200. Call 53329, after 5 p.m.

ASSORTMENT OF PLAYSTATION 2 games, \$10 each and Nintendo64 with all cords, two controllers and lots of games, \$30. Call 53721.

225-HORSEPOWER OUTBOARD MOTOR: Mercury EFI two-stroke, year 2000, works well, lots of power, wiring harness, gauges, binnacle, stainless prop, ignition, full service manual. \$3,000 or best offer. Located on pallet at boat lot #20. Call Tyler at 52371.

COMPLETE MATTING and framing business with a lot of materials and high end tools, \$5,000. Call John, 59444, or Jay, 50172.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

JOIN THE HANG TIME unaccompanied crew for their first White Elephant Gift Exchange at 6 p.m., Saturday, in the Religious Education Building. A white elephant is a possession which its owner cannot dispose of and whose cost exceeds its usefulness. Bring a silly gift under \$25 to exchange. Deserts and beverages will be provided.

KWAJALEIN ATOLL International Sportfishing Club monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, at the Pacific Club. Food and beverages will be served at 6:30 p.m. Meeting will start at 7 p.m.

THE DECEMBER island orientation is cancelled due to the holiday. Orientation will resume in January. Questions? Call 51134.

THE 2008 RTS Winter Formal has been postponed. New date and time will be announced. If you paid by check, it will be returned by MPS mail to your P.O. Box. If you paid by cash, you can get a refund from USAKA Public Affairs in Building 901, Room 206, or call 51404.

THE BARGAIN BAZAAR will be closed Wednesday through Jan. 7. If you have a donation that needs to be dropped off during this time, please call Connie, 52398,

Café Pacific

Lunch

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Dec. 26
Chargrilled pork chops	Sauerbraten with sauce	Chicken-fried steak	Spaghetti	Braised short ribs	CHRISTMAS DINNER	Meatloaf
Surf burgers	Chicken schnitzel	Herb-roast Cornish hens	Eggplant Parmesan	Indonesian pork	Turkey	Chicken stew
Baked penne	Bratwurst and sauerkraut	Carb Benedict	Cheese manicotti	Cod almondine	Steamed crab legs	Veggie stir-fry
Grill: Calzones	Grill: Brunch station open	Grill: Brunch station open	Grill: Sloppy Joes	Grill: Chili dogs	Prime rib	Grill: Super bird

Dinner

Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Stir-fry to order	Short rib stew	Minute steak	Cajun pork roast	Chinese spareribs	Top round of beef	Turkey
Five-spice pork roast	Fajita chicken	Sautéed mahi mahi	Island jerk chicken	Thai chicken	Broiled chicken	Steamed crab legs
Huli huli chicken	Rice casserole	Chicken sukiyaki	Island rice	Lumpia	Baked potato	Prime rib

An update to USAKA Reg. 56-4 dated Nov 1, 2008 now allows command-sponsored spouses to obtain a USAKA driver's license in order to rent vehicles. For more information, call 58502.

or Meg, 52843, to make arrangements.

THE DENTAL Clinic will be closed Wednesday and Thursday and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

UNACCOMPANIED RESIDENTS. Don't stay home alone in your BQ on Christmas Day. Come to the Adult Recreation Center at 2 p.m., Thursday, for the 5th Annual 'Unaccompanied Stray-Dog Christmas Party' sponsored by 'Buckminster and Friends.' Drop by and shoot pool, start a card game, play dominos, shuffleboard, or ping-pong. Meet your neighbors. If you play an instrument and would like to jam with other musicians, feel free. We will be showing movies in the TV room all day and there will be snacks, door prizes, and grab-bag gifts. This event is bring your own beverage and you are welcome to bring something to share if you would like. Questions? -Call Sabrina, 54498.

KWAJ LODGE front desk will be closed Christmas Day.

CYS YOUTH SOCCER registration is open until Dec. 30. Season runs Jan. 13-March 7. League is open to boys and girls in grades K-6. For registration information, call 52158. For sports program information, call Jason, 53796.

JOIN THE VETS' HALL for New Year's Eve. There will be food, games and prizes, drink specials all starting at 9 p.m., Dec. 31.

THE COMMUNITY is invited to participate in the Cub Scout Celebrity Open Pinewood Derby. Car kits are \$25 per kit and you can race more than one car if desired. To purchase a kit and get derby rules, call 52885 or e-mail cgwiley1@yahoo.com. Trophy (and bragging rights) goes to winner of Celebrity Division for one year (until next year's race). Pinewood Derby Trial Run and Registration is 4-6 p.m., Jan. 25, in the multi-purpose room. The Pinewood Derby is 1 p.m., Jan. 26, in the multi-purpose room. Car kits are limited so get yours soon!

THE DVD DEPOT outside drop box is now available to return rented AAFES DVDs. Rentals will be collected nightly at 6 p.m.

GRACE SHERWOOD Library is offering CD/DVD disc cleaning service for a nominal fee. Drop your discs off at the library and the library will call you when they are cleaned and ready for pick up. Questions? Call Community Activities, 53331.

THE HOSPITAL CASHIER has moved. The new location is in the Lobby area of the Hospital adjacent to the Front Desk. The Cashier's primary function will be receiving payment for services rendered at Kwajalein Hospital. The phone number for the Cashier is 52220. If you have confidential or sensitive issues you would like to discuss regarding your Hospital Account please contact the Business Office at 58107.

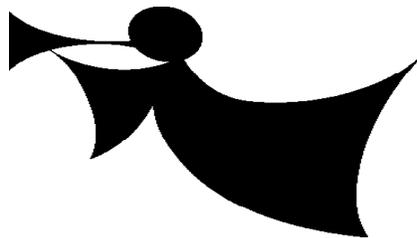
THE OPTOMETRIST will be on island to see patients Jan. 25-Feb.5. Patients are responsible for filing their own insurance claims. Please be ready to pay at time of service. Call 52223 or 52224 for appointments.

Christmas in the Marshall Islands



6 p.m., Monday, at Corlett Recreation Center gym.

Traditional Christmas songs and dances presented by our Ebeye neighbors. All are welcome.



Christmas Eve services in Island Memorial Chapel

CATHOLIC

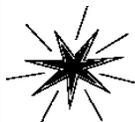
5 p.m., children's program

5:30 p.m., Mass

11 p.m., Mass

PROTESTANT

7:30 p.m., candlelight service

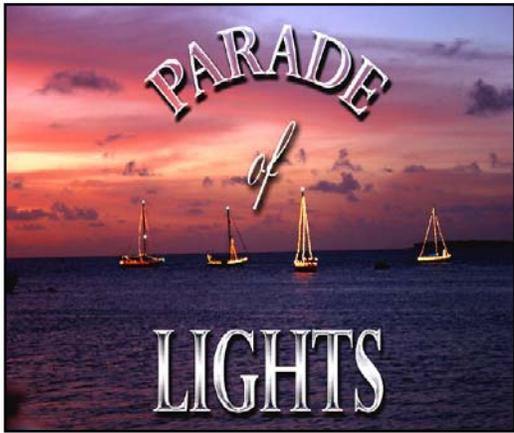


Christmas Day Hours of Operation

Kwajalein

Beaches	Buddy system
Emon Beach.....	Buddy system at all times
All other beaches.....	Closed
Library.....	Closed
Hobby Shop.....	Closed
CRC/Raquetball Courts.....	Closed
Golf Course.....	Sunrise to sunset
Ivey Gym	Cipher lock
Family pool.....	Closed
Small Boat Marina.....	Closed
Skate Park.....	Buddy System
ARC.....	2-10 p.m.
Roi Hobby Shop.....	Closed
Roi Small Boat Marina.....	Closed
Roi Library.....	Closed
Roi Golf Course.....	Sunrise to Sunset
Surfway.....	Closed
Beauty/Barber.....	Closed
Laundry.....	Closed
Sunrise Bakery.....	Closed
Ocean View Club.....	Closed
Roi Outrigger.....	Closed
Country Club.....	Closed
Post Office Kwaj.....	Closed
Post Office Roi.....	Closed
Community Bank.....	Closed
ATM, telephone and online banking will be available	
AAFES	
PX/PXTRA.....	Closed
Shoppette.....	Closed

There will be no planes to Roi



Kwajalein Yacht Club will sponsor the Parade of Lights Sunday in conjunction with Scuba Santa. The best views will be from the ski boat dock area and along Perimeter Road. Residents are welcome to come to Small Boat Marina to help decorate boats and go out that evening. Come out and be part of this great Kwajalein holiday tradition. Questions? Call Monte Junker, 52834.

Santa says:

Café Pacific would like to invite you to a Christmas feast on Dec. 25. The chefs will be preparing an array of tantalizing entrees that will be sure to please even the most discerning tastes. Some of the many items featured will include: carving station with slow-roasted prime rib of beef and rosemary-roasted rack of lamb, steamed crab legs with drawn butter, roast turkey with all the trimmings, scallops Alfredo, hickory-smoked ham and vegetable potpourri. Chilled seafood bar including jumbo peel-and-eat shrimp, mussels on the half-shell, smoked salmon and Cajun crawfish, plus an International cheese bar, assorted salads, fresh fruits and a variety of delicious desserts. Families are welcome.

Hours of operation:

Unaccompanied personnel 11 a.m-6:30 p.m.

Accompanied/families 1 p.m-6:30 p.m.

Adults - \$24.95
Children under 12 - \$12.95

Menu subject to change due to availability

Take out meals will not be permitted during the Christmas meal unless an authorized ration request form is submitted in advance. Food Service personnel will prepare take out meals.



Weather courtesy of RTS Weather

Saturday: Mostly sunny, 10 percent showers. Winds: NE at 10-15 knots.
 Sunday: Sunny, 0 percent showers. Winds: NE at 8-14 knots.
 Monday: Sunny, 0 percent showers. Winds: NE-ENE at 10-15 knots.
 Tuesday: Mostly sunny, 10 percent showers. Winds: ENE-E at 12-17 knots.
 Wednesday: Partly sunny, 20 percent showers. Winds: NE at 7-13 knots.
 Thursday: Mostly sunny, 10 percent showers. Winds: NE at 12-17 knots.
 Dec. 26: Mostly sunny, 10 percent showers. Winds: NE at 10-15 knots.

Annual total: 79.44 inches
 Annual deviation: -17.37 inches

Call 54700 for updated forecasts or visit www.rts-wx.com.

Sun • Moon • Tides

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set	High Tide	Low Tide
Saturday	6:29a.m./6:38 p.m.	12:48 a.m./1:03 p.m.	10:33 a.m., 2.8' 10:34 p.m., 2.7'	4:01 a.m., 0.7' 10:34 p.m., 2.7'
Sunday	6:29 a.m./6:38 p.m.	1:35 a.m./1:43 p.m.	11:57 a.m., 2.9'	5:09 a.m., 0.8' 6:19 p.m., 1.3'
Monday	6:29 a.m./6:38 p.m.	2:23 a.m./2:24 p.m.	12:03 a.m., 2.5' 1:06 p.m., 3.2'	6:18 a.m., 0.9' 7:40 p.m., 1.0'
Tuesday	6:29 a.m./6:38 p.m.	3:11 a.m./3:06 p.m.	1:22 a.m., 2.5' 1:58 p.m., 3.4'	7:17 a.m., 0.8' 8:34 p.m., 0.7'
Wednesday	6:29 a.m./6:38 p.m.	4:01 a.m./3:52 p.m.	2:19 a.m., 2.6' 2:39 p.m., 3.7'	8:05 a.m., 0.6' 9:14 p.m., 0.3'
Thursday	6:29 a.m./6:38 p.m.	5:42 a.m./5:30 p.m.	3:03 a.m., 2.7' 3:15 p.m., 4.0'	8:46 a.m., 0.4' 9:48 p.m., 0.1'
Dec. 26	6:29 a.m./6:38 p.m.	6:33 a.m./6:31 p.m.	3:39 a.m., 2.9' 3:48 p.m., 4.2'	9:23 a.m., 0.2' 10:20 p.m., 0.2'