

Nursery school a big success

A three-day training wrapped up on Wednesday this week with 14 trainees from Laura.

The areas the training focused on were livestock and horticulture. The training session was taught by trainers from the Laura Taiwan Technical Mission, Ministry of Resources and Development, CMI Land Grant and the Laura Farmers Association.

The purpose was to strengthen agriculture skills and verify home garden conditions for micro loans.

On the first day of the trainings the trainees were introduced to two different methods of making compost from organic materials.

Tuesday was designated for lessons on nursery and vegetables cultivation.

The training sessions concluded on Wednesday with livestock presentations by Taiwan Technical Mission specialist Lee Pin-nam and Ministry of Resources and Development Chief of Livestock Jabukja Aikne followed by a cooking demonstration.

The positive outcome is aimed to encourage future micro loans from the Bank of the Marshall Islands.

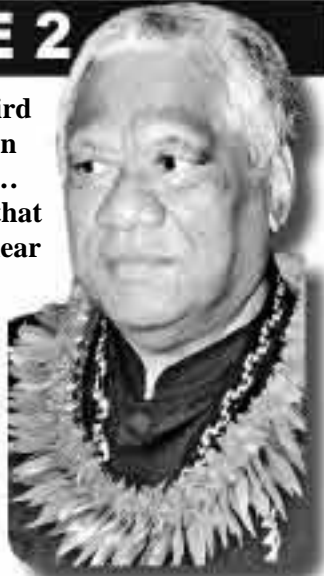
QUOTE 1

"He (Senator Kenneth Kedi) knows the answers to all the questions he's asking me. Maybe he's just testing me to see if I know my job." — T&C Minister Rien Morris at the Nitijela Wednesday



QUOTE 2

"We are like third world citizens on our own lands ... isn't it enough that they tested nuclear bombs on us?" — Kwajalein Senator Iroj Mike Kabua on how Marshallese are treated by the Americans at USAKA.



President Christopher Loeak (center) holds a clock made by Ijkar Abraham and Linton Baso of Waan Aelon in Majel. With him are, from left, Bill Weza, Hirobo Obeketang, Alson Kelen and Chris deBrum.

Loeak keen to keep canoe tradition alive

President Christopher J. Loeak met with organizers of the Marshall Islands Canoe Cup Race to promote the use of outrigger canoes. Representing the Canoe Cup Race Organizing Committee were Alson Kelen, Director for Waan Aelon in Majel (Canoes of the Marshall Is-

lands, or WAM), Bill Weza, Marshall Islands Visitors Authority Board member and General Manager for the Marshall Islands Resort, and Hirobo Obeketang, the General Manager for Majuro Water and Sewer Company. They met with the President last Thursday.

In emphasizing the cultural significance of canoe building and sailing in the Marshall Islands, President Loeak conveyed his full support for the anticipated canoe racing

events to take place during Culture Day in September. This year's Culture Day will feature a variety of races and competitions as well as a range of traditional Marshallese crafts, weaving, and other cultural activities to celebrate Marshallese culture and tradition. The Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit will be held during the week of Culture Day, which is the last Friday of September.

As a staunch supporter of programs and projects

designed to preserve the Marshallese culture, President Loeak acknowledged the WAM program's success in engaging and empowering Marshallese youth with life skills and vocational skills in the context of cultural strengthening. Loeak emphasized the importance of reviving the traditional skills and exceptional art of canoe building and sailing.

The President's Cup outrigger canoe racing event was last held in 2005.

Sea Dragon's debris search

The 72-foot research vessel Sea Dragon is on its way to the Marshall Islands from Honolulu, according to the Hawaii News Now website.

The vessel will be conducting a study of the debris field generated by the tsunami in Japan a year ago March.

"We know that an estimated 20 million tons of rubbish left Japan on that certain day," Sea Dragon program director Emily Penn told Hawaii News Now. The vessel will carry scientists, film crews and environmentalists through

the heart of the debris field. An estimated one to two million tons remain on the surface from the wall of waste sucked into the ocean.

The vessel left Honolulu earlier this week for the RMI. The debris field trip will be in two parts, a 23-day sail from the Marshall Islands to Tokyo, then a longer more intense leg from Tokyo to Maui.

Women pack Chamber

Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce Vice President Deborah Shoniber, who emceed Wednesday's meeting at the Marshall Islands Resort, said Finance Minister Dennis Momotaro will be next month's featured guest speaker.

Education Minister Dr. Hilda Heine was the speaker at this week's meeting, and President Chris Loeak led his Cabinet to the February business gathering.

Wednesday's meeting at Melele Room was packed with more than 60 people in attendance.

Attendees also noted that about half of the people attending were women, which reflects the composition of the recently election Chamber board that is dominated by women.

Test called off

A US Army Kwajalein Atoll missile test was announced last week for Tuesday or Wednesday this week, but then cancelled at the end of last week.

"Please be informed that the USAKA Missile Mission for 10-11 April has been postponed indefinitely," Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary for US Affairs Keyoka Kabua said.

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