

**OPINION PAGE** Send letters to PO Box 14, Majuro, MH 96960 or email [journal@ntamar.net](mailto:journal@ntamar.net)

# Time for timely crime reporting

A local guy was recently charged in the High Court for assaulting a Taiwanese fishing master in May. As a result of the rock attack, the fisherman had to fly to Taiwan to get medical treatment. The High Court set bail at \$300 and defendant Tommy Bill did not make bail, so he is in jail waiting for a trial.

Earlier this month, this same guy was charged for another incident — a theft of a Chinese woman's purse in the same area of Delap. If you are wondering

how he could be charged with theft while in jail, here is the answer: the theft occurred back in April — a month before the rock attack — but the police affidavits and Attorney General's office charges were not filed until this month.

What it suggests is that with speedier processing of crime reports, it might have been possible to prevent the assault and battery with a dangerous weapon that seriously injured a top-level purse seine fishing company employee.



# Martha: 'Plenty of successes'

This particular 4th of July celebration has special significance for me. Not only is 2012 the 236th anniversary of the independence of the United States, but 2012 is also the 25th anniversary of my arrival in the Marshall Islands for the first time, when I came to open our diplomatic office following the RMI's own independence. And 2012 is the third anniversary of my arrival to serve as the US Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. For a quarter of a century the Marshall Islands and its people have been an integral part of my diplomatic life and I can think of no better assignment than this to be the capstone to my diplomatic career.



American Ambassador Martha Campbell will soon wind up her assignment in the RMI. She expects to depart in late July or early August. Printed below are excerpts from her July 4 speech delivered at the Marshall Islands Resort.

**MARTHA CAMPBELL**  
US Ambassador to the Marshall Islands

help the RMI manage its future when most direct funding from the Compact ends in 2023.

Second, it has been exciting to see the RMI move forward with democracy and good governance. Regular free and fair general elec-

tions demonstrate the Marshall Islands' commitment to the same democratic principles that the US enshrined in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. The prosecution of cases of fraudulent use of government funds illustrates the commitment to greater accountability and transparency in government.

Third, it has been fulfilling to work closely with women's groups that are dedicated to preventing domestic violence and promoting equal rights and economic opportunities for women. There is still much to be done to improve the participation of women in modern society, but progress is being made and I truly believe that the activities of groups like WUTMI, Juren Ae, KIO Club, and WAC will continue to benefit the whole of Marshallese society as more women

contribute and lead in government, business, and community activities.

Fourth, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the small but active business community in the Marshall Islands. Business is not easy here, with enormous distances, rising fuel costs, land use restrictions, and limited regulatory support for commerce. I repeat my recent pledge to the Chamber of Commerce that even after I depart, the US Embassy stands ready to help support businesses any way it can.

Fifth, one of my highest priorities has been to foster the mutually beneficial relationship between the RMI and US Army Kwajalein Atoll. USAKA is not only the largest employer in the Marshall Islands, other than the government, but USAKA also has been a tremendous resource for the Kwajalein Atoll community. USAKA provided solar power for the schools on Carlos and Ennibur islands and supplied water to Ebeye when the reverse osmosis machines broke down. USAKA responded to the dengue fever outbreak and has helped dispose of dangerous unexploded ordinance. They promote boating safety and regularly perform search and rescue for Marshallese citizens lost at sea, including earlier this year a boat that was foundering with nearly 100 aboard. And they support NGOs aiming to improve the health and education of citizens on Ebeye. It was gratifying that the RMI and landowners concluded a new Land Use Agreement to confirm the continued presence of USAKA and the Ronald Reagan Test Site until 2066 and beyond.

Those are just a few of the literally hundreds of projects and issues our Embassy team has successfully worked on in the last several years and the landmark events I have had the privilege of witnessing during my time here. I think they are a testament to the continuing strong and mutually beneficial bilateral relations that we enjoy, resulting from shared values and a shared vision of a free and democratic future for our countries and our people.

In my two tours here, 25 years ago and now, I have grown to love and cherish the culture and people of this country. My visits to Arno, Bikini, Enewetak, Jaluit, Likiep, Kwajalein, Rongelap, and Wotje atolls have been unique and wonderful experiences.

A couple of trips across the lagoon on WAM's outrigger sailing canoes are treasured memories. As I leave in the coming weeks, my parting wish for you all, leaders of government, business, and civil society, is renewed energy and vision for quality education, good health, a vigorous economy, and sound and transparent democratic government.

## The Marshall Islands Journal

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