

# Alson: Money can grow on trees

**From page 1**

learn and improve," he said. "This way we make it as sustainable as possible and it can produce income for people for many years." Besides, it will take time for the newly planted trees to start producing nuts so in the meantime, the older trees will still be bearing fruit that is usable.

Why is coconut tree lumber so valuable? It can be used to make picture frames, earrings, canes, rings, necklaces, coconut graters, women's combs and hair clips, chopsticks, and a variety of house fittings and furniture.

Kelen said WAM will be working with WUTMI, R&D and local governments and

communities to make this "value-added" project work sustainably.

He said after speaking with outer islanders here for the WUTMI conference last week, several groups expressed excitement for the project and have already visited WAM to see the equipment the canoe program uses for slicing coconut tree lumber into "slabs" that are usable for making handicrafts and other products.

"We can show people how to cut the trees and set up a system for doing it," said Kelen. "There are so many talented people on the outer islands that they can take the work from there."



**KALGov policeman Simon Shamory and Alcohol Beverage Control Comm. Chairman Nelson Bolkeim with contraband betelnut. Photo: Julia Alfred.**

## Betelnut destroyed

Kwajalein Atoll Local Government Police recently confiscated a large quantity of betelnut being imported into Kwajalein. It was recently destroyed. According to KALGov Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) Chairman Nelson Bolkeim, the RMI law on betelnut doesn't say how much betelnut a person can bring in for personal consumption. Obviously the large quantity pictured cannot be justified for "personal consumption." While RMI law allows import for personal use, not for re-sale, a KALGov ordinance bans all importation of betelnut.

Chairman Bolkeim says people have to understand that the use of betelnut is not allowed on Ebeye. He said KALGov is doing its best to control what is coming in, since it is a violation of the ordinance. KALGov's aim is to reduce substance abuse. The ABCC has expanded its scope to include surveillance on tobacco, betelnut and other drugs, according to Single State Agency Director Julia Alfred, whose program funds substance abuse prevention and treatment. The ABCC is working closely with the Kwajalein Bobrae Coalition, a non-government group working on substance prevention.

**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

The Ministry of Education is now accepting proposals from interested individuals, private organization and/ or vendors to provide hot lunch to students at Kwajalein Atoll High School, Ebeye. A detailed copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) document may be obtained from the following MOE officials:

<p>Mr. Hiram Malolo, Asst. Secretary                  Kwajalein Atoll School System, MOE                  P.O. Box 5100                  Ebeye, MH 96970                  Tel: (692) 329-5033                  Fax: (692) 329-3890                  Email: hmalolo@gmail.com</p>	<p>Mr. Julian Riklon, Principal                  Kwajalein Atoll High School                  P.O. Box 5129                  Ebeye, MH 96970                  Tel: (692) 329-5891/5892                  Fax: (692) 329-3890                  Email: julianriklon@yahoo.com</p>
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Mr. Johnny Choban, Fiscal/Budget Office  
 Kwajalein Atoll, MOE  
 P.O. Box 5100  
 Ebeye, MH 96970  
 Tel: (692) 329-8033 • Fax: (692) 329-3890  
 Email: jchoban@southern.edu

The deadline to submit the RFP document is Friday, November 2, 2012 at 5:00PM. Late submission WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Kommol tata!!

len ak ran eo eliktata non kejeblak application kein ej ilo Friday, November 2, 2012, ilo 5:00 awa jota. Rumij im lo leen. Thank you very much.

## IA staffers blame AG office backlog

**From page 1**

"Irrespective of the fact the Senator Jacklick requested approval of such on the floor of the Nitijela, your staff did not show any interest in pushing for approval before the fiscal year 2012 ended," she wrote. JALGov adopted a tax ordinance in January, revenue from which was to support its FY2012 budget but the fiscal year expired September 30 without a response from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is responsible for representing the interest of local governments to the

national government entities such as the Attorney General's Office.

Internal Affairs Secretary Daisy Alik-Momotaro told the Journal when questioned on the 10-month response delay from the national government that she and staff from the Outer Islands Division have made repeated follow up efforts on behalf of JALGov with the Attorney General's office.

"The AG's office tells us they are too busy because they have many other priorities they're looking after," said Alik-Momotaro who adds that she has personally stopped by the AG's office twice. "I understand (JALGov's) frustration but even our own ministry can't get thing's passed through the AG's office — everything stops at the AG's office."

IA's Local Government Division Chief Mabel Peter said she has made three attempts to get the AG's office to respond without success.

Peter said her office has already given JALGov approval on the ordinances it proposed and the only ordinance outstanding is

the introduction of a four percent excise tax collected from wholesalers on Majuro and Ebeye in lieu of a sales tax on retailers on Jaluit.

"We're concerned this excise tax will make (goods) more expensive on the outer islands," said Peter. "That is why we've given it to the AG's office for review."

Both Peter and Alik-Momotaro suggest that for the time being, JALGov should proceed to operate on their quarterly local government fund that is issued by the national government.

"JALGov should not use this (delayed response) as an excuse not to operate," said Peter who added that in fact JALGov has not submitted its third and fourth quarter reports to IA. These are required to be submitted to IA by each local government, in order for their quarterly subsidy to be released.

"It is imperative that you provide the assistance Jaluit Atoll Local Government requires in order to function as provided for pursuant to the Local Government Act and the Constitution of Jaluit Atoll," Jacklick told Heine.

\$1 Elefa Handicraft Shop

7<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE

Prizes: 50 BAGS FLOUR October 27, 2012

40 CASES RAMEN

30 BAGS RICE RRE Stage Area @ 10am