

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 104

DECEMBER 27, 2025

# THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS





PHOTOS BY RANEESH THIRUVARATH

## COMMUNITY

# LIGHT UP THE NIGHT FROM THE COORDINATORS' PERSPECTIVES

### HOURGLASS REPORT

By Annette Monk, Hourglass Staff Writer

By the time the first strand of lights flickered on, we were already holding our breath. Light Up the Night is one of those events that appears effortless once it's underway—children laughing, families strolling, Santa waving from his chair—but for those of us coordinating it, the magic is built quietly and carefully through weeks (and even months) of planning, coordination, and teamwork. On a remote atoll like Kwajalein, nothing happens last minute. Even the smallest details require forethought, creativity, and collaboration, which makes the final result even more meaningful when it comes together.

The planning behind the glow for Light Up the Night officially begins several weeks in advance, starting with the first round of advertisements inviting community mem-

bers to sign up for their decorated homes and vendor booths. Early coordination also includes partnering with Kwajalein High School to use the Multi-Purpose Room as the event's home base and securing the vehicles needed for the beloved sleigh rides. But if you count the ordering and shipping timeline for the solar-powered light strands that decorated the sleighs, planning began many months earlier. On Kwajalein, shipping timelines shape everything we do, and Light Up the Night is no exception. That long lead time is part of what makes the event so special—every detail represents intention, patience, and planning.

One of the most challenging pieces of coordination is preparing the two trailers used for the sleigh rides. Because MWR borrows these trailers from other departments, we often don't receive them until the day be-

fore—and sometimes the day of—the event. Once they arrive, the team works quickly to transform them into safe, festive sleighs by laying down plywood to create even walking surfaces, installing benches for riders, and decorating the exterior with banners and lights. Each trailer seats 14 people, making them ideal for families and larger groups who want to ride together, which is why those time slots always fill up first. This year, we were especially grateful to the landfill team for providing both trailers, one of the trucks, and a driver. Their support was instrumental in making one of the most anticipated elements of the night possible.

Coordinating so many moving pieces in a single evening ultimately comes down to clear communication and setting expectations. Every volunteer and staff member is given a specific role, ensuring everyone knows exactly

where to be and when. That clarity allows the evening to flow smoothly—even when surprises pop up.

The heart of the event are the homes, the lights, and the community. The holiday decorated house competition gives our Kwajalein community an opportunity to celebrate the season together, share creativity, and spread joy across the island. Because we don't have cars here, coordinating golf carts and trailer sleigh rides along a festive viewing route turns the competition into a uniquely Kwajalein-only experience. Homes were entered into the competition by signing up directly at MWR Headquarters, and judging was done entirely by community vote. After returning from their sleigh ride, participants cast ballots for their top three decorated houses. Votes were tallied, and winners were determined by popular vote, ensuring that every voice

counted and every home had a chance to shine. This year's displays showcased an incredible range of creativity. Some homes leaned into classic holiday charm, while others incorporated clever island-inspired elements. A few displays even featured live music and dancing—engaging touches that went above and beyond and truly captivated the community.

Light Up the Night holds special meaning for families living far from extended loved ones. The event brings holiday spirit to life through shared celebration, connection, and togetherness. It reflects the heart of the Kwajalein community—its creativity, talent, generosity, and desire to make the island brighter and more festive for neighbors, especially during the holiday season. Inside the MP Room, the atmosphere buzzed with energy. Booths offered snacks, drinks, crafts, and activities that made the wait between sleigh rides enjoyable. Community groups and vendors play a vital role

in the success of the event, bringing creative offerings and their own networks that help boost attendance and energy. Their involvement fosters collaboration and creates a warm, welcoming atmosphere for everyone. Volunteers filled in the gaps during setup and throughout the evening, ensuring everything ran smoothly and participants had the best experience possible. Their behind-the-scenes efforts often go unseen, but they are essential to the event's success.

One standout memorable moment from this year was watching the Keystone Club members take the final sleigh ride of the night. After spending the entire evening volunteering, entertaining waiting children and serving hot chocolate, they finally had a chance to relax and enjoy the experience themselves. They sang Christmas songs, laughed together, and radiated joy. Even from the cart in front of them, their energy was contagious and perfectly captured the spirit of the



event.

Another highlight was the newly enhanced photo-op area. A large festive fireplace banner served as the backdrop, with Santa and Mrs. Claus seated for photos. A beautifully decorated photo frame provided the perfect spot for families to capture memories from the night, moments that will be cherished long after the lights come down.

From a logistical standpoint, this year's event included several improvements designed to keep the evening flowing smoothly. Ride tickets were distributed at the sign-up counter, the voting station was placed near a sep-

arate entrance for returning riders, and photos of each decorated home were posted at the voting table to help participants remember their favorites. Looking ahead, we'd love to continue expanding the interactive elements of Light Up the Night—festive music in each sleigh, more live performances, and perhaps games or contests in the waiting area. Anything that deepens the experience and makes the evening feel even more wholesome and fulfilling for Kwajalein residents and families is worth exploring.

What keeps us motivated to coordinate this event year after year is the community

itself. Nearly 300 residents enjoyed a sleigh ride this year alone. Seeing the joy on faces, the connections being made, and the island coming together is what makes all the planning worthwhile. We're grateful for the opportunity to support and enrich the welfare of our community through events like Light Up the Night.

Events like this simply wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our volunteers and partners. Special thanks go to Michelle Soto and the Girl Scouts; Inga Miller; Lobo Arelong and

Daniel with the Keystone Club; the Mitchell family and the Fishing Club; Santa and

Mrs. Claus; Jennifer Legg; Jacklyn Rothenberger; and the many others who helped bring the evening to life.

Congratulations to this year's decorated house competition winners:

- 1st Place: Venghaus Family - 420 B Taro
- 2nd Place: Mitchell Family - 227 B Ocean
- 3rd Place: Rios Family - 441 B Heliotrope

When the last lights dimmed and the final booth packed up, we were tired—but full. And already, we found ourselves thinking about next year. ▀





**Front Cover: Scuba Santa and Mrs. Claus by Anthony Carnelli**

**Back Cover: Jepta on Third Island by Anjowest Naisher**

The Kwajalein Hourglass is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army's 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb. 4, 1944. The Kwajalein Hourglass is an authorized publication for military personnel, federal employees, contractor workers and their families assigned to U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll.

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PHOTOS BY RANEESH THIRUVARATH

## COMMUNITY

# WHEN YOU KNOW SANTA: HOW DR. AMY BLAKEY DELIVERED HOLIDAY MAGIC TO EVERY KWAJALEIN CLASSROOM FOR CHRISTMAS

### HOURGLASS REPORT

By Christy Wagnon,  
Hourglass Staff Writer

For one unforgettable day, the hallways of Kwajalein Schools filled with laughter, surprise, and a very familiar jolly guest. Santa Claus visited every classroom — from preschool through the senior class — delivering Kwajalein Education Services T-shirts to students and transforming a simple giveaway into a full-school celebration that ended with a historic group photo on Emon Beach.

For Kwajalein Education Services Superintendent Dr. Amy Blakey, the idea grew from a deep commitment to building a positive school culture and ensuring every student feels seen and valued.

"I take staff morale and building a positive culture very seriously," Blakey shared. "We started the year by providing T-shirts for staff, and I knew the next step was to include students in that same

positive experience." When the student shirts arrived in early October, she knew the distribution deserved something more than a quick handout. "The Christmas season felt like a natural time to show our students how much they are loved and cared for."

Blakey has brought Santa into schools in previous leadership roles, but the close-knit nature of the Kwajalein community allowed the experience to be especially meaningful. "Because we are a small school community, we have the unique ability to do something more meaningful than just handing out candy — and that made it even more special."

The visit came together thanks to months of thoughtful planning — and, as it turns out, a very special connection. Those close to Dr. Blakey will tell you she has a bit of an advantage when it comes to holiday planning — she's on a first-name

basis with Santa himself. A longtime personal friend of the man in red, Blakey knew exactly who to call when she decided the T-shirt delivery deserved a little extra magic..

Behind the scenes, the logistics were no small feat. Collecting accurate T-shirt sizes — especially for elementary students — required careful organization and teamwork. Blakey credited Kim Waite and Oanh Letter, affectionately known as her "Christmas elves," for helping turn the idea into reality. "They are always willing to jump in and help make ideas like this happen. They truly go above and beyond for our students."

The reactions across campus were just as memorable as the planning itself. Kindergarteners were wide-eyed and thrilled, with first graders close behind. Even older students embraced the surprise.

"I was impressed by how

excited our fifth and sixth graders were," Blakey said. "And honestly, the seniors were just as excited as our youngest students." Santa leaned into the teens' sense of humor, earning genuine smiles and laughter across every grade level.

One moment stood out above the rest. In Barb Bicanich's French class, students greeted Santa in French, wishing him Joyeux Noël as their classmates' names were called. "They clapped and laughed, and the energy in the room was incredible," Blakey recalled. "It was such a fun, memorable moment."

The celebration concluded with the entire school gathering at Emon Beach for a rare, all-campus group photo. To capture the moment, Public Affairs Officer Sherman Hogue strapped into a lift, rising high above the crowd on heavy equipment to photograph the entire student body and staff below. From

that elevated vantage point — with rows of students stretching across the sand — Emon Beach became more than just a scenic location. “Emon Beach is one of the true jewels of our island home,” Blakey said. “It was the perfect backdrop for a photo of our Education Services family.”

Blakey hopes students took away far more than a T-shirt or a Santa sighting. “I hope our students know how important each of them is to

us,” she shared. “We truly see them — their individuality, their gifts, and the unique role they play in our community. We are incredibly proud of them.”

She also emphasized the teamwork that made the day possible, including principals Dr. Gerber and Mr. Gertsema, whose support and coordination helped everything run smoothly. The event reflected this year’s KSS theme: Forward Together – Every Step

Matters.

As for the youngest learners, one small note: due to some questionable elf time-management skills, the CYS shirts didn’t quite make it onto Santa’s sleigh this trip. Never fear! Santa has promised a return visit soon, and the Child Development Center will receive their shirts as soon as he makes his next stop.

Looking ahead, Blakey hopes the Santa visit be-

comes a lasting tradition. “I often say you only regret the pictures you don’t take,” she said. “Life moves quickly, and moments like this only grow in meaning.”

In the end, the day served as a joyful reminder of what makes Kwajalein Schools special. “We truly are one big family,” Blakey reflected. “It’s so important to celebrate one another, support one another, and move forward together.”





PHOTO BY ANTHONY CARNELLI

## COMMUNITY WHEN SANTA COMES ASHORE: A KWAJALEIN CHRISTMAS TRADITION BENEATH THE WAVES

HOURGLASS REPORT

By Annette Monk, Hourglass Staff Writer

On Sunday afternoon, the shoreline at Emon Beach glowed softly as strands of multicolored Christmas lights traced a festive path along the sand. Families gathered early, children clutching towels and excitement in equal measure, eyes fixed on the ocean. This was no ordinary Santa arrival—this was Scuba Santa.

Far offshore at North Point, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus slipped beneath the surface, beginning their underwater journey by scooter toward Emon Beach. Guided by experience and calm precision, they traveled through clear island waters, waiting out the final moments before making their grand entrance.

For Scuba Santa, played by David Spears, the tradition is as practical as it is magical.

“Scuba Santa predates me by a wide margin,” Spears

said with a grin. “I grew a beard, someone noticed, and suddenly I was Santa. Island succession planning at its finest.”

The dive itself, he explained, is straightforward, short, carefully planned, and conducted with experienced divers following standard safety practices. Staying in character underwater requires little more than donning a Santa hat and suit.

“No acting required,” he said. “It’s all underwater anyway.”

When Santa and Mrs. Claus finally surfaced near Emon Beach, the magic unfolded instantly. Children who had been waiting along the shore erupted in cheers, pointing excitedly as Santa emerged from the ocean—Christmas, island-style.

Spears doesn’t witness the anticipation building on shore, so surfacing is his first glimpse of it all.

“The reactions are big,” he



PHOTO BY RANDY HISLE



PHOTO BY ANTHONY CARNELLI

said. "Lots of excitement, pointing, disbelief. It's fun to see how real it feels for them."

Mrs. Claus, portrayed by Christy Wagnon, experienced the moment differently—but no less powerfully.

"I don't actually see Santa emerge from the ocean," she said. "I'm underwater with him. What surprised me was what we saw when we surfaced—far more children than I expected, all singing Christmas carols."

The response was immediate and uninhibited.

"Kids started running into the water to hug Santa without hesitation," she said. "That level of joy all at once was overwhelming in the best possible way."

Once ashore, Santa and Mrs. Claus shed their scuba gear and followed the glowing shoreline toward a festi-

tive island Christmas scene: twinkling lights, cheerful decorations, and a cozy photo booth complete with a fireplace backdrop. There, children lined up—unbothered by Santa's still-wet suit—to sit on Santa's and Mrs. Claus' laps and share their Christmas wishes.

For Wagnon, helping bridge the quiet, focused world underwater with the joyful chaos above the surface is where the magic lives.

"Warmth isn't about snow or cold weather," she said. "It's about connection. Seeing the children singing, smiling, and running into the water reminds you of that immediately."

Last year marked her first time participating, and she quickly discovered one of her favorite parts of the role—keeping the mystery



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN ELSON



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY CARNELLI

alive. Because she works with children daily through CYS, many recognize her instantly.

"When a child says, 'Hi Miss Christy,' I'll smile and say, 'You don't know that I'm not actually Mrs. Claus... have you ever met my husband?'" she said. "You can see them pause and really think about it."

Those moments of hesitation—of choosing to believe—are what she treasures most.

Scuba Santa reflects Christmas as it exists on Kwajalein: familiar in spirit but shaped by island reality. There's no snow, no chimneys, no reindeer—just warm air, turquoise water, and a community that knows how to adapt tradition without losing its heart.

"It's Christmas, but adapted to reality," Spears said. "We

don't have snow—we have the ocean. So, Santa shows up the same way a lot of things happen here: by water."

Both Santa and Mrs. Claus agree that traditions like this carry special weight in a remote community.

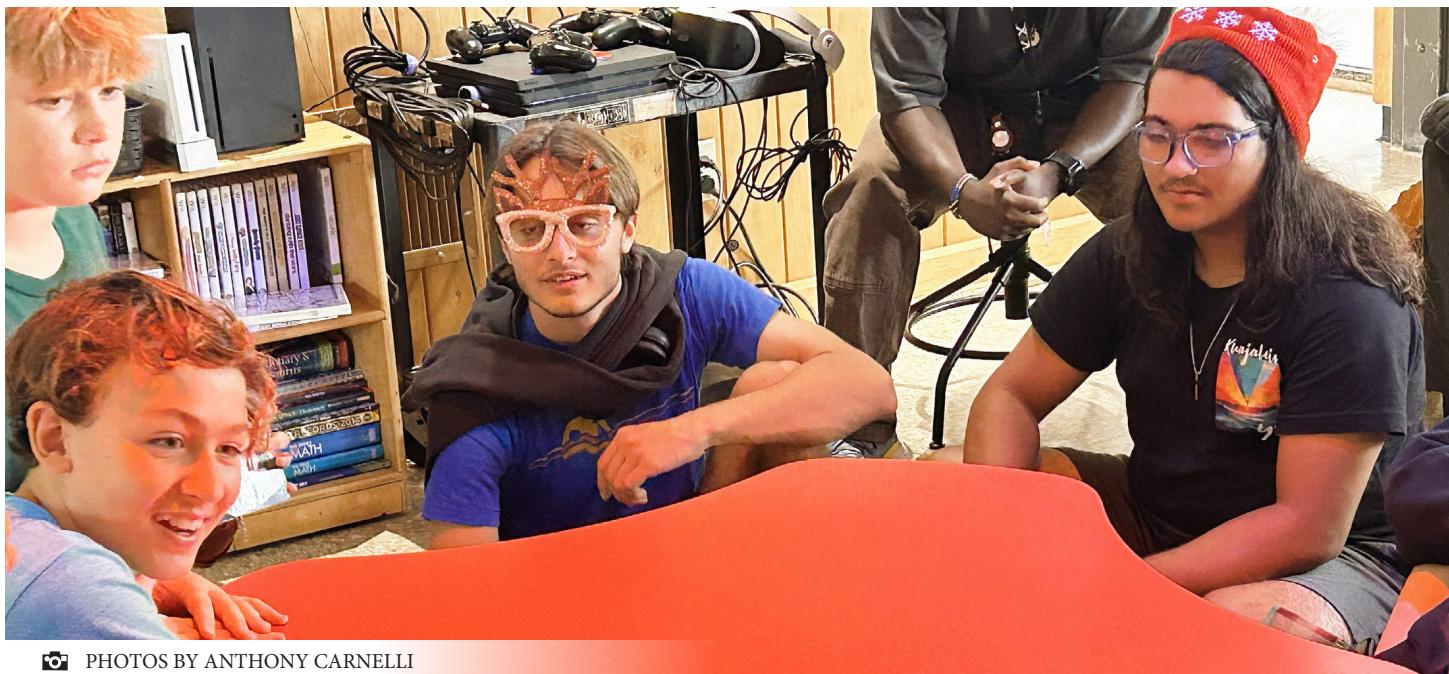
"For families far from home, it creates continuity," Wagnon said. "Shared traditions turn neighbors into extended family. They help people feel connected, supported, and truly at home—even when home is far away."

As the sun dipped lower and the last photos were taken, Santa and Mrs. Claus lingered, laughing with families and soaking in the moment. It was a reminder that on Kwajalein, Christmas magic doesn't fall from the sky—it rises from the sea.

And somehow, that makes it even more unforgettable. ▀



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY CARNELLI



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY CARNELLI

## COMMUNITY

# YOUTH CENTER HOSTS HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND TEENS' WHITE ELEPHANT EXCHANGE

### HOURGLASS REPORT

By Anthony Carnelli,  
Hourglass Staff Writer

The smell of homemade desserts filled the Namo Watu Youth Center on Saturday evening as teens from Kwajalein Schools gathered around tables laden with potluck dishes, wrapped gifts stacked nearby. For students in grades 6-12 who stayed on island over the holiday break, the evening offered something simple and welcome: time together.

Child & Youth Services hosted its annual White Elephant Gift Exchange and Holiday Potluck on Dec. 20 at the Youth Center, beginning at 5 p.m. The event gave teens their own space to celebrate the season, complete with shared food and a lively gift swap with a \$10 maximum value.

"Every year it brings the Christmas spirit to the Youth Center," said Lobo, a CYS youth aid who helped orga-

nize the event. "It's something to give to the kids on island who didn't go on vacation—something to do at the Youth Center."

Students arrived with an assortment of sugary desserts and savory dishes to share. The White Elephant exchange followed, with gifts ranging from chocolate to gift cards changing hands amid laughter and friendly competition.

For many Kwajalein teens, celebrating the holidays on island carries its own character. Daniel, a CYS youth aid, noted that local students often participate in Marshallese traditions alongside American ones.

"The biggest difference I notice is that they participate to some degree in Marshallese celebrations like at 'Light Up the Night,'" Daniel said.

Christina, a 10th-grade student, offered her own perspective on what makes is-

land holidays distinct.

"It's quieter here than in the states, and it's just nice to be around everyone," she said. "The tree lighting here is also really nice."

The close-knit nature of the Kwajalein community was evident throughout the evening. Students mingled easily, their enthusiasm and camaraderie reflecting the tight bonds formed in a place

where neighbors know one another by name.

For teens spending the holidays far from extended family or familiar traditions, the potluck offered a reminder that celebration doesn't require a crowd—just good company, good food and a wrapped gift or two to swap. ▀



## COMMUNITY

# TOO HOT FOR SWEATERS: KWAJALEIN'S UGLY CHRISTMAS T-SHIRT TRADITION

### HOURGLASS REPORT

By Christy Wagnon,  
Hourglass Staff Writer

The ugly Christmas sweater has long been a holiday staple, an intentionally over-the-top mashup of clashing colors, questionable graphics, and festive excess. Ugly Christmas sweaters trace their roots to the fashion innovators of the 1980s, an era responsible for parachute pants, blinding neon, and enough Aqua Net to single-handedly damage the ozone layer, all worn with complete sincerity. Ugly sweaters were later reclaimed with irony, becoming the centerpiece of holiday parties dedicated to celebrating bad taste in the name of good cheer. Across much of the world, the rules are simple: the uglier, the better.

On Kwajalein, however, where December temperatures hover near 90 degrees and humidity is ever-present, wool sweaters are less a tradition and more a threat. Rather than abandon the idea al-

together, the community did what it has always done best, adapt. Enter the ugly Christmas T-shirt.

By trading knits for cotton, Kwajalein kept the spirit of the tradition while making it island appropriate. The results were festive, funny, and unmistakably local. Snowmen and reindeer shared space with palm trees, horror characters, and inside jokes that only make sense in this corner of the Pacific.

This year's Ugly Christmas T-Shirt Party showcased that creativity across several categories. Dom Meyon took home Best Kwaj Inspired for a homemade gingerbread outfit that felt equal parts festive and island made. Diana Mosenge won Most Creative DIY for a sweater featuring a handmade wreath, while Zoe and Carter King earned Best Couple. Carter King also claimed Funniest for his shirt design. Most Likely to Regift went to Amber Ogletree, sporting a "Sweater Fest" shirt



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN ELSON

that had been gifted to her—proving that on Kwajalein, even regifting can become part of the fun. The coveted title of All-Around Ugliest went to Katy Hensley, whose light-up Chucky Christmas sweater leaned fully into horror rather than holiday cheer.

"I think what makes an ugly Christmas shirt truly great is a complete lack of shame mixed with confidence," Hensley said. "Ugly sweaters are meant to be funny, so if you fully commit and wear it like you meant to be ridiculous, that's a win. Bonus points if it has absolutely nothing to do with Christmas spirit."

Hensley said the reaction to her sweater was subtle at first but quickly grew. "A few people came up to tell me they loved it and thought it was

really funny. A couple even said I should win because it was so random and ugly ... in the best way."

The sweater itself was inspired by her love of Halloween and all things horror. "My mom actually bought it for me because it made her laugh and she knew I'd love it," she said. "It lights up and says, 'Hi, I'm Chucky, want to play?' Who wouldn't love that?"

Despite taking home the top prize, Hensley didn't expect to win. "I wasn't even planning on participating—I just thought it would be fun to wear. Someone encouraged me to go up, and I'm glad they did. I guess I've gotta own that title now."

In many ways, the ugly Christmas T-shirt captures the heart of the holidays on

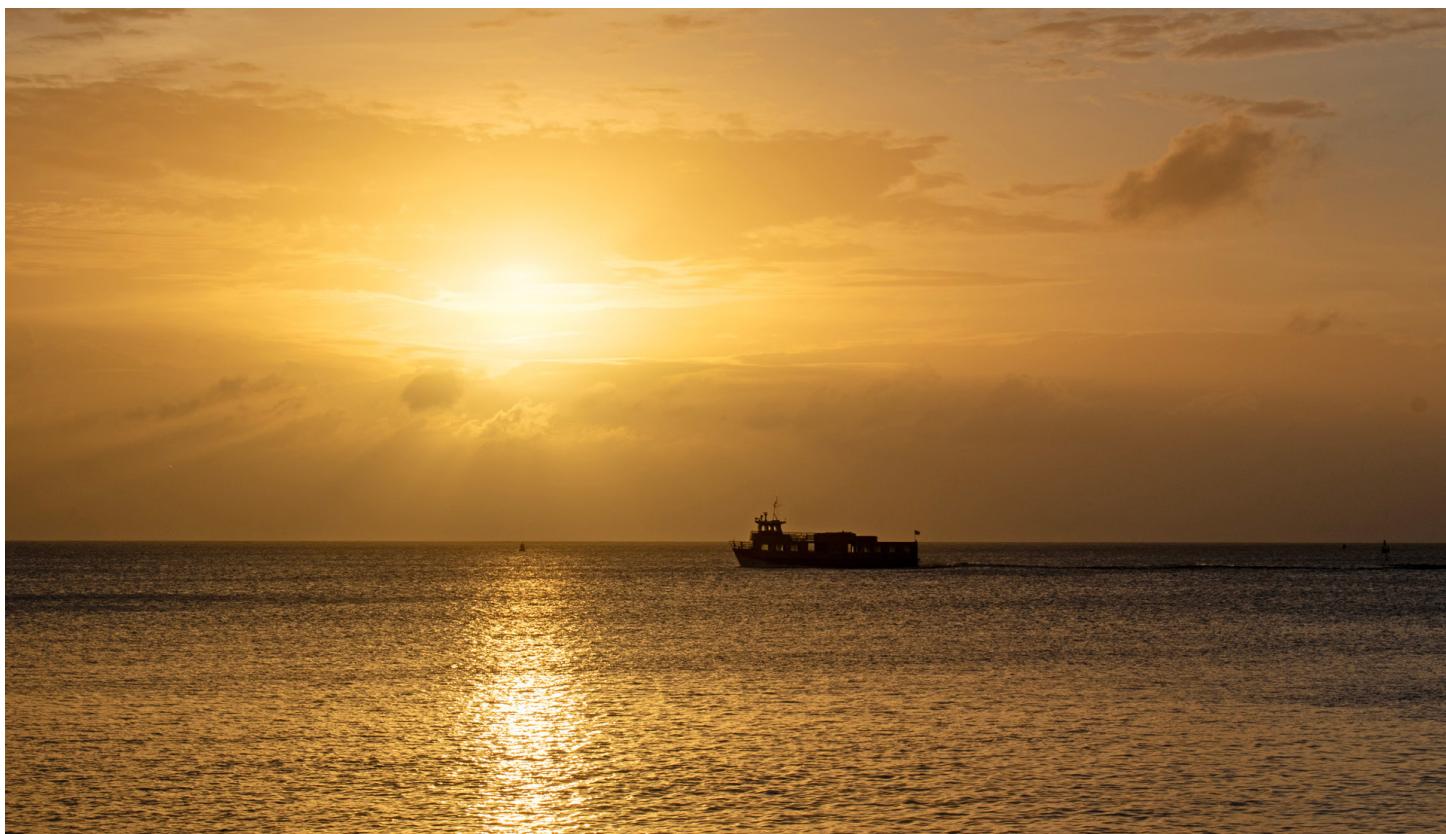


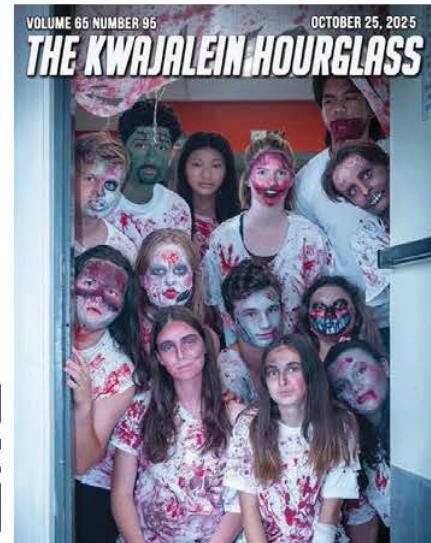
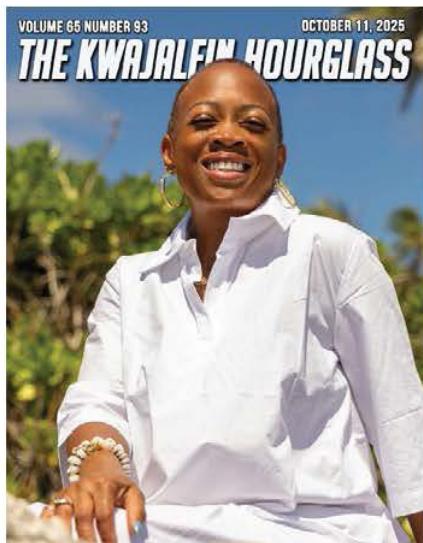
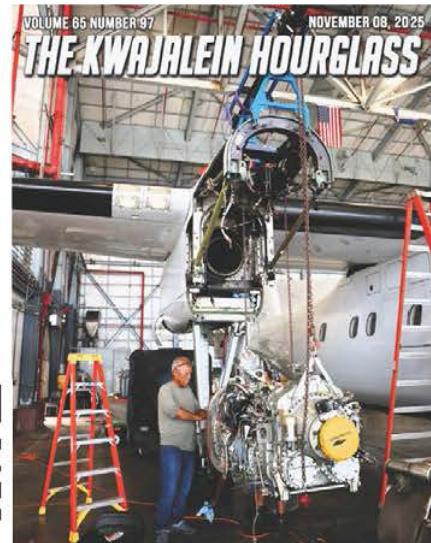
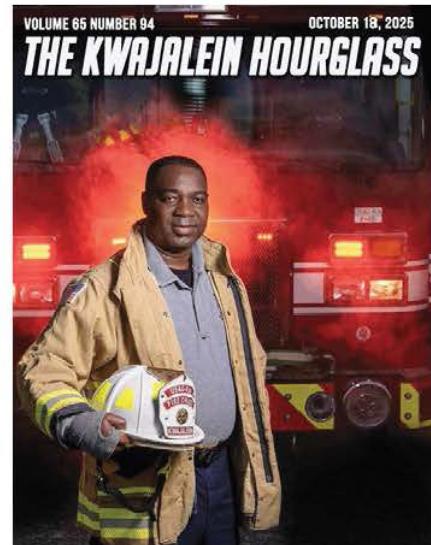
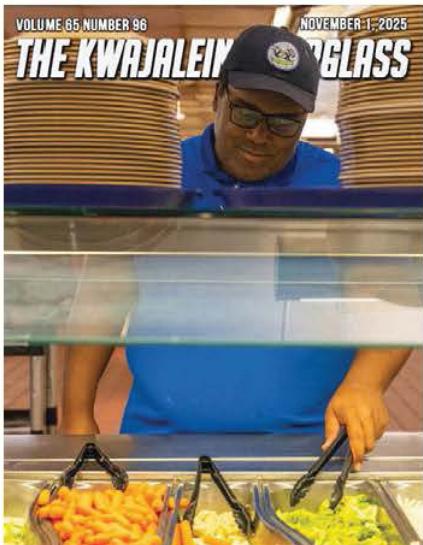
Kwajalein: familiar traditions, reimagined with humor, flexibility, and a strong

sense of place. Here, Christmas doesn't come with snowdrifts and scarves, it comes

with palm trees, short sleeves, and a community willing to laugh at itself. After all, when

it's 90 degrees outside, the only truly ugly thing would be insisting on a sweater. ▀





# Be Environmental Stewards



Trash may be found strewn all over the island, especially on beaches. Make sure to dispose of all trash in the appropriate trash receptacle. If you see trash, pick it up. Let's keep this island clean. Let's be good Environmental Stewards. If not you, then who?

Nien kobej ko komaron loi ibelaak in jukukin bed in, elaptata ilo beach ko. Kajjeon julak aolep kobej ko ilo nien kobej ko. Ne kwoj elolo kobej, boke. Jen debij wot erreo an aelon in. Jen koman bwe kejooj en rikejbarok jukjuk in bed in. Ne eban kwe? Enaj won?



## ALWAYS CALL...

...if your  
building's  
Fire Alarm  
is sounding





### Do your part to eliminate mosquitoes:

- Check for standing water where mosquitoes breed
- Dump any accumulated water at least weekly
- Manage vegetation and eliminate accumulated leaves

Dump standing water



### Do your part to eliminate flies:

- Do not add food waste directly into open trash cans such as the Emon Beach trash containers, large black trash cans, or residential green trash receptacles.
- Always seal food and animal waste inside trash/plastic bags before adding to trash cans.
- Periodically clean outdoor trash receptacles.



# Kwajalein Island Trash & Recycling

Residential Trash Collection	480-1780
Yard Vegetation Collection	480-1880
Hazardous Waste Pickup Line	480-8858



## TRASH & RECYCLING PICKUP SCHEDULE

The Green Residential TRASH receptacles are collected every Tuesday and Friday.

The Blue RECYCLE bins are also collected every Tuesday and Friday.

The large black General Solid Waste Community Containers are emptied on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

*Safety First! Please keep any curious children away from the Compactor Truck as it feeds contents into the truck.*

Recyclable materials are also collected by both solid waste and horizontal maintenance personnel, in conjunction with general trash collection. Currently the island only recycles glass, aluminum, metal, and bulk organic materials. Cardboard and plastics are not recycled materials on Kwajalein. These items should be placed into the general trash stream for disposal/incineration.



Residential users will be given a **green** trash receptacle and a smaller **blue** receptacle for recyclable materials. It is requested that residents place their recyclable items into the blue containers, and stack larger materials next to the bins. Lawn clippings and leaves should be bagged and placed next to bins. Palm fronds and coconuts should also be stacked up next to the bins for removal by horizontal maintenance personnel.



## Driver's Training & Licensing Program



### Kwajalein Classes

**Dates:** Wednesdays Only

**Times:** 9 – 11 a.m. and 1 – 3 p.m.

**Location:** Automotive Area, Bldg. 856, Rm. 103

\* Please email [wilson.kaisha@gov2x.com](mailto:wilson.kaisha@gov2x.com) & [audrey.hughes@gov2x.com](mailto:audrey.hughes@gov2x.com) to register. Class size is limited and by **appointment only**.

### Roi Classes

**Dates:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the Month

**Times:** 9–11 am & 1–3 pm

**Location:** C-Building

**\*\*\*Note:** Bring a valid US, International, or Marshall Islands License with you to class\*\*\*

**\*SCHEDULED TEST DRIVES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL NEW LICENSES, EXPIRED LICENSES, AND LICENSING RENEWALS\***

## Kwajalein Reclaimed Water Standard Violation

On 3 November 2025, the chlorine residual measured below the standard and on 13 and 16 November 2025, the pH of the reclaimed water experienced higher than normal values. During 12-23 November 2025, the turbidity (or cloudiness) in the reclaimed water distribution system experienced higher than normal values. **Since reclaimed water is non-potable, there are no negative health effects associated with the exceedances.** Questions? Contact V2X Environmental at 480-0722.

## Jorraan Eo Ilo Reclaimed Water System Eo Ilo Kwajalein

Ilo kar November 3, 2025, kar chlorine residual jonak eo ekar lalin standard eo im ilo 13 im 16 November 2025, pH eo ilo jikin liklik dren in ekar walonlok jen jonon eo ekar bed ie. Iloan 12-23 November 2025, Tubidity eo (ak tap) eo ilo reclaimed water distribution system eo emoj lo ke emoj an wallon lok jen kar jonon eo. **Konke jikin liklik dren in ej non-portable, ejjelok jorraan ak kauwatata enaaj jalet ejmour ilo an walok ilo ekatak kein.** Ne ewor Kajjitol? Jouji m Kurtok V2X Environmental ilo 480-0722.



Now Available by Appointment...

## PASSPORT PHOTO SERVICES

Located on the 2nd floor of Bldg. 805 on Kwajalein. When taking your photo, remember the following guidance for a successful shoot:

- Directly face the camera without tilting your head.
- Have a neutral facial expression with both eyes open and mouth closed.
- Take off your eyeglasses, headphones or wireless hands-free device.
- Do not wear a uniform, clothing that looks like a uniform, or camouflage.
- Remove hats or head coverings or submit a signed statement or doctor's note that says you must wear it for religious or medical purposes.

To schedule an appointment,  
contact IMD/AVD personnel at:

[KwajaleinHourglass@gov2x.com](mailto:KwajaleinHourglass@gov2x.com)



## PASSPORT



*United States  
of America*







## Remember the 3-R's of UXO Safety!



RECOGNIZE



RETREAT



REPORT

Unexploded ordnance are munitions that fail to detonate during live fire training. They are **extremely dangerous** and could explode if tampered with, even though the Kwajalein ordnance is 80-years-old.

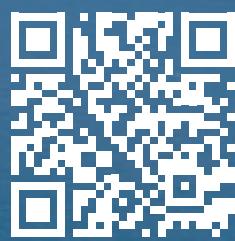
**NEVER** touch UXO and report the location of **ANY** suspected UXO to the UXO Team **IMMEDIATELY** at:

Phone: 480-1550/1433

Email: Darren.r.Wheeldon.ctr@army.mil



## FOLLOW US AT THESE LOCATIONS



Click QR Code to jump to social page

Kwajalein



MIA Project

# NEVER FORGET.

<https://kwajaleinmiaproject.us/>

# COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

## Submit Announcements to the Roller Channel and The Kwajalein Hourglass

### OPEN CALL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The island community is invited to submit listings for events and for sale items; announcements; department trainings; safety updates; public service messages; and thank-you messages.*

#### Preparing Your Message

*For questions about your messaging, please reach out to the USAG-KA Public Affairs Office at 480-4848.*

*Ads should always include a point of contact, phone number and/or email address.*

*Private parties, fundraisers and events requesting and/or accepting donations are typically not allowed for publication per AR 360-1. Fundraisers and support activities for private and schools-based organizations, scouting groups, civic clubs and other listings may be subject to a legal counsel review to determine their eligibility for publication.*

#### Formatting Your Listings

*It is recommended that graphical adver-*

*tisements and announcements intended for the Hourglass and the AFN Roller Channel be formatted as PowerPoint slides.*

*Graphic designers are asked to maintain a generous margin (.75-1-inch) around all sides and to size fonts no smaller than pt. 20.*

*If your Roller Channel advertisement requires a special expiration date, please note this for the Roller team in the body of your message.*

#### Deadlines for Submissions

*Send advertisements for the Kwajalein Hourglass and the AFN Roller Channel to [kwajaleinhourglass@gov2x.com](mailto:kwajaleinhourglass@gov2x.com) on Wednesdays by close of business/Thursday morning.*

*Roller Channel ads are accepted on a rolling basis by 4 p.m. for a mid-week and late-week update. Ads received after 4 p.m. will be loaded in the next update. Please ensure you submit ads in good time to ensure timely upload.*

For more information, reach out to the USAG-KA Command team through the USAG-KA Facebook page.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFH Construction Is Ongoing. Nan, Inc. Construction is scheduled to commence the tele-communication scope of work for the Kwajalein Army Family Housing project in our community. Residents and commuters should be aware of possible changes in traffic patterns and to plan their routes accordingly. Nan, Inc. Construction is committed to minimizing any inconveniences, and we will strive to ensure a smooth and efficient construction process.

ArMA. Log in to ArMa, the Army Maintenance Application, to report issues for all buildings maintained by the Department of Public Works. Contact Public Works at 480-3550.

CAC Office. Before your visit to the Common Access Card Office, ensure all paperwork is completed by your human resources representative before making an appointment. Bring two forms of government-issued IDs with you. Walk-in appointments are welcome, but there may be a wait. CAC Office Hours, Bldg. 835, are Tuesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; (Lunch: noon - p.m.). Call 480-8496.

Demolition at the Capt. Louis S. Zamperini Dining Facility. Phase three of the Zamperini DFAC demo has begun and is projected to be finished March 2026 for the dining and serving area. Be careful around the dining facility during the phases.

Do Not Take Cultural Artifacts. It is illegal to remove cultural resources from the atoll. This includes any protected species, unexploded ordnance, WWII-era artifacts and ancient Marshallese artifacts. These resources are protected under U.S. federal and RMI law. Contact the Kwajalein Archaeology Office at 480-8867.



Contact the USAG-KA Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention Victim Advocate

Sergeant First Class Darrius Hodge  
SHARP Victim Advocate

Work: 480-1419  
USAG-KA SHARP Pager:  
808-580-3241

DOD SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247



Emergency Management. Visit the USAG-KA Emergency Management webpage, <https://home.army.mil/kwajalein/index.php/my-fort/EM>; 2) Click on "Mass Notification"; 3) Follow the registration instructions.

E-Wareness: It is each driver's responsibility to ensure vehicles are not leaking fluids other than air conditioning condensate. Call 911 to report spills and arrange with automotive for routine maintenance. Please call Environmental at 480-0722 with questions. Ej an ri-kator eo eddo non olorjake bwe wa eo ejjab leak jabbewot oil ijelak in drennin air condition eo jen wa eo. Ne elon jabdwot leak/lutok in oil jen wa eo, Kiir 911 non report- e lutok eo. Ak kiir Environmental ilo 480-0722 non kajitok.

Fire Safety Tips. Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops. Make sure pets are included in your family's fire evacuation plan. Build an evacuation kit for each pet in your household.

Flights. Please note that all flights are subject to change. For the latest update on your flights on United, ATI or Air Marshall Islands: ATI: 480-2169; AMI: 480-3469; United: 480-4852 or 1-800-UNITED1; Air Terminal Services: 480-2660; Flight Information Recording: 480-3589

UA Schedule Effective Now: Monday and Friday—UA 155 (HNL); Check-in 2 – 4:50 p.m.;

Wednesday—UA 133 (HNL); Check-in 2 – 4:15 p.m.; Tuesday and Saturday—UA 154 (GUM); Check-in 10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

FlyRoi Reservations. To schedule reservations and for correspondence related to flights, email [LCVkwajaleinFlyRoi@versar.com](mailto:LCVkwajaleinFlyRoi@versar.com).

How to dress in the RMI. Out of respect for the Marshallese culture, residents are asked to dress appropriately when visiting Ebeye, Third Island, or anywhere within Kwajalein Atoll. Women should wear clothing to cover shoulders and knees. None are permitted to wear shorts when visiting churches on Ebeye. Men should wear long slacks to church.

Kwaj Small Boat Marina hours are 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday through Monday, and on holidays, excluding Thanksgiving and Christmas. Morning boat reservation times are from 7:30 a.m. – noon. Afternoon boat reservations are from 1 – 5 p.m.

Not Feeling Well? Call 480-2223 to make an appointment for a COVID-19 test, Tuesday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. If you are not feeling well, please wear a mask when you are around others in the community.

Operational Security. See something, say something. All employees on USAG-KA are required to receive annual Threat Awareness and Reporting Program training provided by KRO; Reporting: Report suspicious activities to the Kwajalein Resident Office at 480-9859/1293/8006 at Bldg. 1163.

PCS & Vacation Tips. Notify the post office before leaving for 30 days or PCS'ing. Per DOD 4525.6-M, mail is only allowed to be held for 30 days with or without prior notice. Mail is considered unclaimed on day 31 and will be returned to the sender. Email the post office to authorize pick up for your mail and packages. When PCS'ing, provide a forwarding address. Contact Jose Burgos-Rivera with questions at 480-3461 and [Jose.Burgos-Rivera@gov2x.com](mailto:Jose.Burgos-Rivera@gov2x.com).

Salon Walk-Ins. Surfside Salon Walk-In Appointments are available on Fridays from 1:30 - 6 p.m.

Smoking. USAG-KA, smoking is permitted in designated smoking areas only. Smoking and cigarette butt receptacles must be at least 50 feet from the entrance of facilities.

Taxi Service. Call 480-TAXI (8294) or 3341 to

# HELP WANTED

For employment with contractors  
within the  
**U.S. Army Garrison - Kwajalein Atoll**  
please check  
contractor company  
websites  
for employment opportunities.

book your ride at least 24 hours in advance of check-in time.

Millican Family Pool Hours. Closed for cleaning on Thursdays. Open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays and Mondays.

The NEC Testing Center Is Open to the Community - Giving you the head start you need to thrive! - Open Tuesday through Saturday by appointment

Authorized Pearson VUE Test Center. Schedule A test Today!  
NEC testing Center, 480-4344, FN 1008-131  
ACUITY International

Kwajalein / Roi Namur Licensing Classes on Kwajalein are every Wednesday @0900 Marshallese @1245 Expats (by appointment only as class size is limited)  
Classes are in Bldg. 856 Rm 101, Vehicle Maintenance Compound  
Roi classes every 2nd Friday in Bldg. C, timed based on flight schedule  
No registration needed for Roi classes.  
To register, send email to either of the following:  
[George.Parker@gov2x.com](mailto:George.Parker@gov2x.com)  
[Wilson.Kaisha@gov2x.com](mailto:Wilson.Kaisha@gov2x.com)  
...or stop by Bldg. 856, Rm 101



**OPSEC  
IS NOT  
RETROACTIVE.**

**THINK BEFORE  
YOU SHARE  
INFORMATION.  
ONLINE AND OFFLINE.**





American  
Red Cross

Service to the Armed Forces

## Volunteer Opportunity at Kwajalein Atoll

Join the American Red Cross and help bring our Services and Programs to the Kwajalein Atoll community!

**Online & Virtual Training Provided**  
**No experience needed!**

We provide all necessary training. Just bring your passion and commitment to helping others!

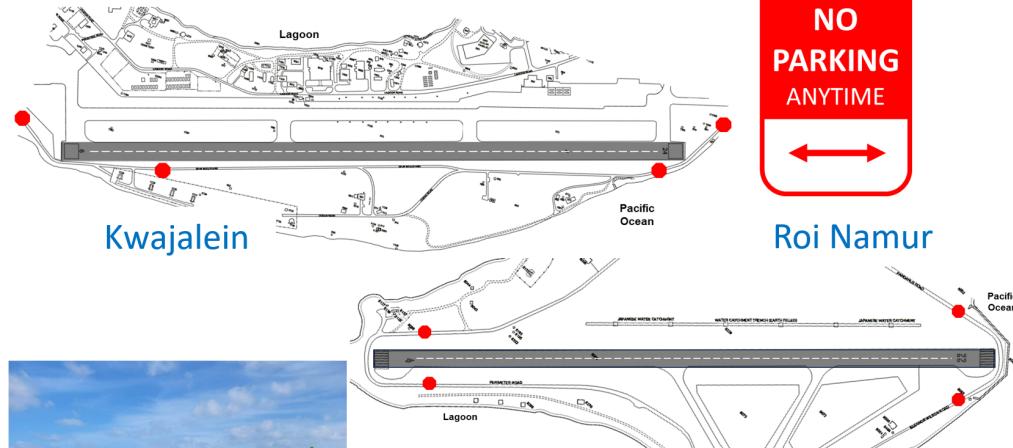
Contact **Alana Wilson** at [alana.wilson@redcross.org](mailto:alana.wilson@redcross.org)

Let's work together to build a more prepared and resilient community.



Please remember to stop and look both ways for aircraft on:  
Zeus Blvd., Ocean Rd., Perimeter Rd., Pandanus Rd., Eleanor  
Wilson Rd.

**If aircraft are on approach or taking off, you must hold your position and wait!**



**Stop at designated signs and look for aircraft landing or taking off. If you see an aircraft, hold your position at the stop sign and wait until the aircraft has landed or departed before moving.**

# NOW SHOWING at the YUK THEATER

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**

"Elf" (2003) (PG) 97 min.

*Showing downtown during Tree Lighting*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

"Home Alone" (1990)

(PG) 103 min.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

"Polar Express" (2004)

(G) 100 min.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

"The Grinch" (2018)

(PG) 85 min.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**

"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)

(PG) 130 min.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

"Scrooged" (1988)

(PG-13) 101 min.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27**

"A Christmas Carol" (2009)

(PG) 96 min.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28**

"The Christmas" (2007)

(PG-13) 117 min.

**All showtimes start at 7:30 p.m.**



Hours of Operation

**TUESDAYS - SATURDAYS  
07:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Lunch Break  
11:30 - 12:30**

Call the Kwajalein Veterinary Clinic  
to schedule your appointment or e-mail



**480-2017**



**KwajVetClinic@gov2x.com**

# WEEKLY TROPICAL WEATHER THREAT OUTLOOK

RTS WEATHER STATION STAFF

## Discussion:

For December so far, we received only 0.38 inches, putting us 2.62 inches below normal. So far in

2025,

we have only received about 72.2 inches of precipitation, which is 16 inches below normal for the

year. We are in a generally dry pattern with a bump in shower coverage this weekend due to

perturbations in the speed of the trade winds. No thunderstorm days occurred over the past seven

days. A

thunderstorm day is defined as an "in situ" lightning strike within five miles of the weather

station or thunder heard. The thunderstorm risk will be minimal for the next seven days as

conditions throughout the vertical atmospheric column will be neutral to negative for their

development. The Madden-Julian Oscillation's (MJO) is weakening and becoming negative for the RMI

which will generally have a repressing effect on widespread shower coverage over our area. The Intertropical

## Convergence Zone

(ITCZ) will remain well established, to far south to increase our shower coverage, but well

positioned to induce a tight pressure gradient between itself and strong high-pressure to the north

of the RMI giving us the above normal winds. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is in La Niña

conditions for our part of the Pacific. This means sea-surface temperatures (SST) between the RMI

and the Date Line are cooler, having a negative impact on the RMI's rainfall coverage.

## Tropical Cyclones:

None for the RMI.

## Damaging West Winds / Westerly Swell:

Low risk.

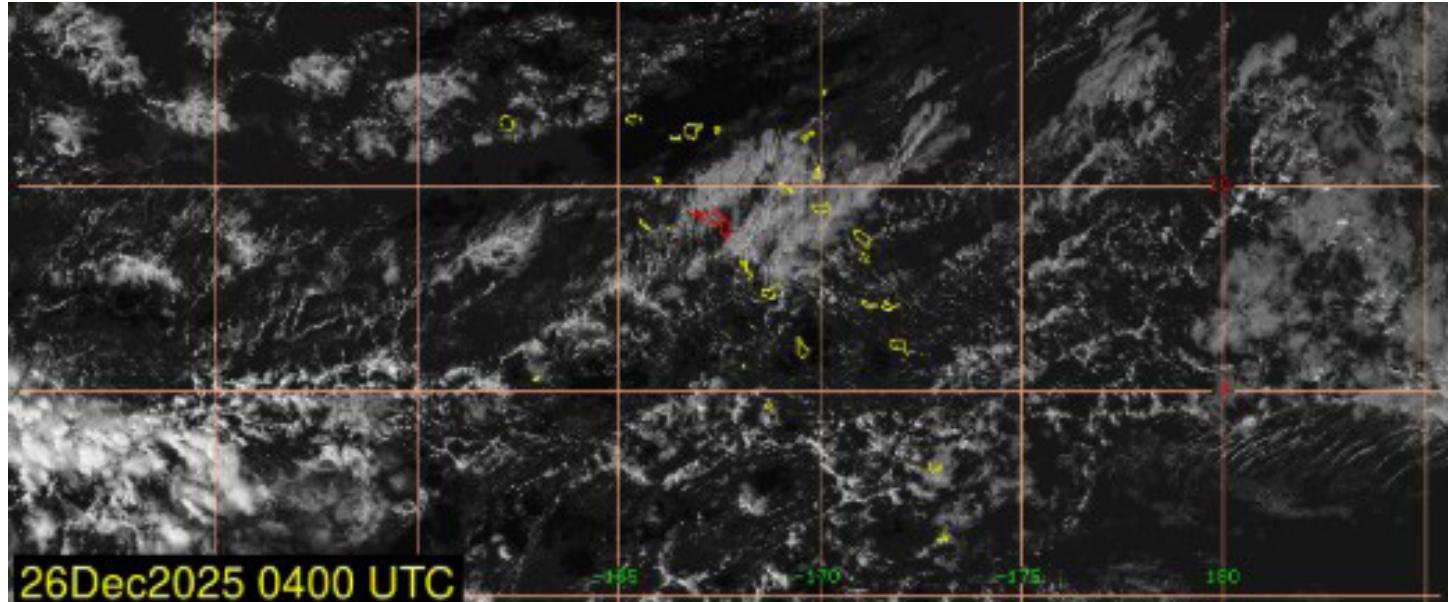
## Swell / Tide Inundation for Kwajalein Atoll and Wake Island and Winds:

The new moon will be on Saturday with peak high tides of 4.2 feet around this time. Winds: will stay strong at about 20 knots for the rest of the day to about 24 knots on the open lagoon. Starting

tomorrow, they will gradually start to decline back to the mid-teens on Saturday with a further decrease to the lower teens to upper single digits for the weekend. Tuesday will feel winds only in single digits actually becoming nearly calm for short periods. A Small Craft Advisory (SCA) will be in effect for the open lagoon only for all of today with the conditions ceasing by about noon tomorrow. We will be watching the second half of the 23rd for some long period swells out of the north at Roi-Namur for a High Surf Advisory (HSA) potential.

**Purpose:** This weekly briefing is delivered Thursday mornings to island leadership. The intention of this briefing is to provide situational awareness of weather events that may interrupt operations and transportation around Kwajalein, to/ from Hawaii and Guam, and in the Wake vicinity. The main threat assessed in this brief is existing and potential development of tropical cyclone activity. This brief also provides an outlook of abnormal winds, sea state, and precipitation guidance for next 7 days around the Kwajalein Atoll. The distribution

jalein Atoll. The distribution list will also receive updates on any developing tropical cyclone activity in the Kwajalein region that occur between the weekly outlook product. □



# WEATHER

RTS WEATHER STATION STAFF

## WEATHER DISCUSSION

A typical dry season-like pattern of dry conditions and elevated winds appears likely across the Kwajalein Atoll for the end of the workweek and the weekend. A subtropical high-pressure system to the north will promote dry, sinking motion throughout the atmospheric column. Areas of trade wind convergence may slightly increase show-

er coverage mainly Saturday night into Sunday, but these showers should not be heavy or long-lasting. The subtropical ridge will also tighten the pressure gradient across the RMI, resulting in elevated winds. As of now, wind speeds are likely to remain just below Small Craft Advisory (SCA) criteria, but conditions will need to be monitored.

### SATURDAY

Partly sunny with stray showers. Winds NE-E at 15-20 knots with some gusts in

the low 20s and higher gusts near showers.

### SUNDAY

Partly sunny with stray to isolated showers. Winds NE-E at 15-20 knots with some gusts in the low 20s and higher gusts near showers.

### MONDAY

Mostly sunny with stray showers. Winds NE-E at 15-20 knots with some gusts in the low 20s and higher gusts near showers.

### NEXT WEEK

The ITCZ looks to become somewhat better organized next week, and it may reside far enough north to bring periods of wetter weather to the Atoll. However, uncertainty remains regarding the location and intensity of this feature. Winds look to decrease somewhat, with speeds in the mid-teens likely for at least the first part of the work week. ▀



	SUNRISE SUNSET	MOONRISE MOONSET	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE
<b>SUNDAY</b>	6:59 a.m. 6:36 p.m.	7:43 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	4:53 a.m. 3.0° 5:00 p.m. 4.2°	10:37 a.m. -0.2° 11:31 p.m. -0.4°
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:59 a.m. 6:36 p.m.	8:34 a.m. 8:24 p.m.	5:25 a.m. 3.0° 5:32 p.m. 4.2°	11:10 a.m. -0.2° -----
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 a.m. 6:37 p.m.	9:21 a.m. 9:15 p.m.	5:58 a.m. 3.0° 6:06 p.m. 4.2°	12:03 a.m. -0.4° 11:43 a.m. -0.1°
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7:00 a.m. 6:37 p.m.	10:06 a.m. 10:06 p.m.	6:33 a.m. 2.9° 6:41 p.m. 4.0°	12:37 a.m. -0.2° 12:18 p.m. 0.1°
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:01 a.m. 6:38 p.m.	10:48 a.m. 10:54 p.m.	7:11 a.m. 2.9° 7:19 p.m. 3.8°	1:13 a.m. -0.1° 12:57 p.m. 0.3°
<b>FRIDAY</b>	7:01 a.m. 6:38 p.m.	11:29 a.m. 11:43 p.m.	7:56 a.m. 2.8° 8:03 p.m. 3.6°	1:53 a.m. 0.1° 1:43 p.m. 0.6°
<b>DECEMBER 27</b>	7:01 a.m. 6:39 p.m.	12:09 p.m. -----	8:53 a.m. 2.8° 8:57 p.m. 3.2°	2:39 a.m. 0.3° 2:43 p.m. 0.8°

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ISLAND LIFE AND ARMY REGULATIONS, PLEASE CALL THE COMMANDER'S HOTLINE AT 480-1098. FOLLOW THE USAG-KA FACEBOOK PAGE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION AND UPDATES REGARDING SAFETY INFORMATION, EVENTS, AND OFFICIAL COMMAND ACTIVITIES.



*Until Next Week!*

