Summer Fun starts rolling
By KW Hillis
Feature Writer
Gooey finger-painted aquatic scenes slowly dry after a “Crafts with the King” class in CRC room 2 on Saturday. The kindergarten through first grade creators, identifiable by paint-splashed shirts, excitedly line up to play “Graceland Games” dodge-ball. Daring sixth-graders take part in “Shake, Rattle & Bowl” class, one of many wacky activities kids are enjoying during Summer Fun.

Fourth of July is biggest celebration of the year
By Peter Rejcek
Associate Editor
It’s the biggest show on Earth — well, at least the biggest one at Kwajalein.
The Fourth of July bash at Emon Beach is just over a week away, but typically the biggest event of the year begins much earlier, according to Steve Snider, Community Activities Entertainment Services superintendent.
“It all starts months in advance,” Snider said.
Many hands are involved.
Community Activities will have all available personnel, including Summer Fun staff, working games, rides and doing just about everything else imaginable. Snider said about 50 people just from Community Activities will work on the Fourth.
“We’re going to work hard that day,” said Thompson Tarwoj, Community Activities Customer Service supervisor.
But many other departments are also involved.
Shipping and Receiving, EOD, RSE Safety and the police and fire departments all share in handling the $50,000 worth of pyrotechnics that arrived on the May barge. Automotive provides extra vehicles. FOM and Buildings and Grounds crews clean up the area as well as smooth out the road. Even the Pest Control guys get into the act, ensuring the flies don’t add a little extra protein to your hamburger.
“For us to have a good impact, it’s going to take a couple of days,” said Mike Nicholson, Pest Management manager.
Nicholson said his department won’t be spraying contaminants, but will use baits keep the pests under control. He said the public could help by using a little common sense, such as picking up spilled food instead of leaving it lying around.
“My biggest concern is that Fourth of July is biggest celebration of the year.
Former Kwajalein resident seeking help with Father Hacker bio
By Barbara Johnson
Feature Writer
In the almost 50 years he has spent in the Marshall Islands, Father Leonard G. Hacker, SJ, has left a lasting imprint on many lives.
The life of this 88-year-old pastor, teacher and builder will soon be chronicled in a book, due to be published this year. Former Kwajalein resident Helen Claire Sievers is writing his biography, and she would like to hear from anyone who has known him.
Sievers said she has hours of tape of him talking about his life, but she would like more stories from other people and pictures.
“I would very much appreciate stories from people who have known him, or old photos,” Sievers said. Also helping with the book is Majuro resident Scott Stege, a friend of Hacker’s, and they hope to have it to the printer by October.
“We’re hoping to have it done for the 50th anniversary of Fr. Hacker’s service to the Marshall Islands in December 2002,” she said.
“Fr. Hacker has done more than any outsider to help the Marshallese people through his contributions to education, and I didn’t want his story to go untold,” Sievers said.
Hacker’s long history in the Pacific began in the Philippines as a young seminarian in 1941. Imprisoned by the Japanese when the U.S. entered the war, he was released when the war ended and returned to the states. He was ordained in 1947 and went back to the Philippines in 1950.
In 1952, Hacker was transferred to the Marshall Islands to found a Catholic mission on Majuro, and by 1978 he had built Assumption Church, a convent, an elementary school and a high school.
The Republic of the Marshall Islands has become one of the main stamp-issuing countries in the Pacific. Its annual program of issue is impressive and directed at the philatelic market.

The first stamps sold in the Marshalls, however, were plain and purely functional items. This brief history will outline the German stamps sold in the post offices of Jaluit and later Nauru between 1889 and 1914.

Germany annexed the Marshall Islands in 1885 after it had compensated Spain for the “economic loss.” It set about establishing an administration centered on Jaluit, where most European traders had set up shop.

Communications were essential for the colony to function, and a reliable mail service was one of the early priorities. The low reliability of mail in the early days is well illustrated by the fate of the first stamps used to set up the post office: They were dispatched from Hamburg to Jaluit on April 30, 1888, but did not reach the atoll until March 16, 1889, almost an entire year later.

Even when the mail system was at its most efficient, with regular steamers providing shipping connections to Sydney and Hong Kong, a letter would take 45 days to reach Berlin. A reply could not be expected much earlier than three months after the initial letter was sent. In an age of almost instant e-mail, such delays are almost unbelievable.

First set of German stamps

The first stamps issued at Jaluit were the normal Imperial German stamps of 5, 10, 20 and 50 Pfennig denominations. Today, genuine usage in Jaluit can only be determined by the presence of a Jaluit cancel.

In 1897 the Imperial German Post issued its first set of six stamps specifically produced for its Marshall Islands colony. The values were from 3 to 50 Pfennig of the then current Eagle series stamps but with an overprint “Marshall-Inseln” set at an angle across the stamp.

These stamps went on sale in the Marshalls on April 10, 1897. As before, the only denominations available for sale at the Jaluit post office were the 5, 10, 20 and 50 Pfennig values. As “foreign” mail rates applied to the Marshalls at that time, the German post thought the issue of 3 Pf and 25 Pf stamps unnecessary. In Berlin collectors could also buy the 3 Pf and 25 Pf stamps. Many did so, and some of them even mailed stamped, self-addressed letters to Jaluit so that they could be supplied with a Jaluit postmark. A change in postal rates, making all German colonies part of the domestic rates system, meant that the missing values also became available.

Second set of German stamps

In 1899 the German government decreed that the original rather than the Germanized spelling of the Marshalls should be reinstated. This meant that the overprint was changed to “Marshall-Inseln.” This time, a complete set of values from 3 to 50 Pf was issued, and from November 1899 they were also available at Jaluit. The old stamps remained valid for postage until used up.

The change in stamps so shortly after their initial issue resulted in a frenzy among stamp collectors trying...
to acquire the “Marschall” overprint stamps. Even though a number were reprinted officially (and were used postally) the numbers were small. As a result these first Marshall Islands stamps are much sought after.

New stamp designs and postcards

The second issue stamps were also only in use for a short time, but much greater numbers had been sold. Despite this they are uncommon.

Produced were values of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 80 Pfennig as well as of 1, 2, 3 and 5 Mark. Given the small use of parcel post and the like, the need for the high value stamps was limited. Consequently, genuinely used high values are scarce.

In addition to stamps, the German postal service also issued postcards and reply-cards for both domestic and international mail. The development of the phosphate mines on Nauru meant increased business correspondence, which necessitated the opening of a new post office in 1908.

World War I intrudes

In the first months of World War I the Allied forces occupied the German possessions in the Pacific. Jaluit was occupied by the Japanese on Oct. 3, while Nauru was occupied by the Australians on Nov. 7, 1914. While the Japanese demonetized the German stamp stock on Jaluit, the Australians took the captured stamps to Rabaul (New Guinea) and overprinted them for their own use.

Even though the Marshalls were in enemy hands, the German postal service continued with its issue of the Yacht series on watermarked paper, printing the 3 Pf and 5 Mark stamp as well as some postcards as late as 1916.

The popularity of the stamps increased after Germany lost its colonies during World War I. It does not come as a surprise, then, that many of the earlier stamps were forged, and the later Yacht series stamps were given fraudulent cancels.


 Examples of the cancels used in the German-occupied Marshall Islands.

Vanilla Sky — Young, handsome and wealthy publishing tycoon David Aames (Tom Cruise) can have anything he wants, but still his charmed life seems incomplete. One night, David meets the woman of his dreams (Penelope Cruz), but a fateful encounter with a jealous lover (Cameron Diaz) suddenly sends his world out of control. Rated R.

Ocean’s Eleven — George Clooney plays Danny, defying the odds in a high-tech, split-second heist of three Vegas casinos, all owned by magnate Andy Garcia, who is dating Danny’s ex-wife Julia Roberts. Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Bernie Mac and Carl Reiner are among those who are with Danny in his gambit. Rated PG-13.

Snow Dogs — In this Disney family comedy, eight adorable, but mischievous, dogs get the best of dog hater Ted Brooks (Cuba Gooding Jr.) when he leaves his successful Miami Beach dental practice for the wilds of Alaska to claim an inheritance — seven Siberian huskies and a border collie. Rated PG.

Earth vs. the Spider — In this horror thriller starring Dan Aykroyd and Theresa Russell, a security guard’s partner at a biotech research lab is killed in a raid. He injects himself with a top-secret drug made from the blood of a laboratory spider and becomes more like a spider and less like a human. Rated R.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone — In this film adaptation of J.K. Rowling’s bestseller, Harry Potter learns on his 11th birthday that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards and possesses magical powers of his own. At Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry embarks on the adventure of a lifetime, and faces a Dark Wizard bent on destroying him. Rated PG.