

The Forty-One Times

Veritas et Vox Insularum Jeju et Oji



One Year, Eleven Issues and a Hyphen

The Forty-One Times turns one. How the islands' only newspaper found its name, lost its deadlines and kept printing anyway.

Twelve months ago, this newspaper had no name, no office and no printing press. It had a notice on the board of the town hall, asking for editors, photographers, cameramen and "idea generators". The official who pinned it promised to step back as soon as the paper was running, since he considered himself unable to write anything interesting, exciting or funny. The editors have since reviewed this statement and filed it under fiction.

Choosing a name took longer than writing the first issue. Proposals included *The Redline Report*, *Diesel Daily*, *The Jackknife Journal*, *Smoke & Sirens* and, briefly, *41 Shells*. One founding editor [Connzzz_Gregson] lobbied hard for The Forty-One Champs, arguing that no other community in the region could match ours. In the end the residents voted. The same editor still won a smaller but lasting victory: the hyphen. Every "Forty-One" printed since is his personal achievement.

Issue #01 left the press on 20 September 2025, rushed out before the autumn road works could rearrange half the islands. It covered a Daffy race, asked whether B.A.S.E.41 was still around and introduced the Photo of the Day. Its trivia box counted 1,294 new residents.

Eleven issues have followed the same recipe: the most important events of the month, and now and then a story nobody else dared to print. Readers learned of the fire brigade's departure and its return, a new drag strip, the Raven production rush, a cult living inside a wind turbine, the Great Pallet Shortage and a riot at the police station. The June issue fell victim to a staff transfer to the Office for Digital Roads, Records and Other Mysterious Machinery. Deadlines were missed, moved and, one Saturday in August, rescued by an editor [GoatNine] typesetting on his phone thirty minutes before closing time.

The islands changed even faster than the paper. In November the island portal at 41shots.cc opened, complete with a live map of every vehicle on the road. By summer it had been rebuilt from the ground up. It now runs a dispatch centre for tow, fuel, fire, water, escort, taxi and police calls, a production board for every factory, a register of residents and a painters' workshop open to all. Police cruisers carry a terminal with its own boot sequence. Every change is signed off by the Department of Island Technology, which insists this is normal.

Not every week was smooth. In July the island gates jammed. New arrivals stood frozen at the harbour, unable to talk, read a map or turn a single wheel, and some needed thirty attempts to get through. Help came from the neighbouring Camaraderie Community, whose engineers [Milk Bandit] had seen the same fault before: a ledger in the harbour office had simply grown too thick. It was thinned out, and the gates opened again.

New companies took to the roads: the 41 Mobile Fuelers, the escort crews of 41-TMES, the 41 Decal Workshop and, this month, the Heavy Haulers. The 41PD celebrated its own first birthday in July and now receives more applications than it can process. In August the islands appointed their first Community Managers [NekoOnRoad, Luz], who now handle complaints, questions and suggestions, usually in that order.

The staff thanks every resident who wrote, photographed, proofread or simply complained about the font. For year two, the newsroom has one request: bring us your stories. Convoys, breakdowns, rescues, rumours. If it happened on Jeju or Oji, it belongs in these pages.

*A big thank you
to all TFO1 readers!*



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by Andy

Half a Kiloton, Twice

Two record loads of planks cross the South Island in a single evening

On Friday morning, two drivers from Gu-Jwa [Capn., Alena] announced an oversize transport to the Sanho Construction Site and asked the escort crews of 41-TMES and the 41PD for support. This newspaper was invited to take photographs, an invitation it does not receive often and accepted at once.

The plan: two trucks, each loaded with 71 planks laid on their side, via the middle route of the South Island. Each load was registered at 355 tonnes of wood planks, about 400 tonnes with the rig. Then a heavy-haul specialist [BrianLTU] dropped by with a few loading tips, departure slipped by half an hour, and the scales finally read 494 and 529 tonnes. Asked about the extra weight, one of the drivers said only that they "could've loaded more".

The convoy rolled shortly after seven in the evening. The escort order called for at least two Golima rotators, a Brutus tanker and closed roads and junctions along the way. 41-TMES [Veoxohr, Giorgio] led the way, the 41PD was on call for the junctions, and recovery crews followed close behind, which at these weights is less a precaution than a promise.

By eleven the job was done and the first photographs were doing the rounds. One observer [Andy] praised the "brilliant coordination from the recovery crews and escorts". An escort driver [Giorgio] called it "such a great convoy", incidents included. His colleague [Veoxohr] summed up the evening more practically: "I'm gonna go make some food, I'm starving."



Heavy Haulers Roll Into Town

On 3 September the islands gained a new corporation: the Heavy Haulers, or 41HVY. They move whatever is too wide, too tall or too wobbly for anyone else and keep Oji Drilling supplied with planks, pipes and other resources. The company also plans load checks with the 41PD, a public logbook of which loads are legal and which are merely optimistic, and training for would-be overloaders. Its opening act, the Tank Dash Convoy, rolled from the tank factory to Oji Drilling on 12 September.



by abcd

Island Briefs

41PD closes its doors, to applicants. On 11 September the 41PD personnel office stopped accepting applications. The department reports more candidates than it can process and an already large force. Asked what should happen to officers who neglect their patrol cars, one colleague proposed that they pay for the donuts for a year.

Police warn of illegal street race. Word reached this newsroom of an illegal street race from A to B on the night of 11 September, starting at ten. The organisers [NekoOnRoad] even published the rules: the 41PD was welcome to give chase with spike strips and roadblocks, and any racer caught and fined had to pull over and was out.

Blackouts explained. The island-wide blackouts of mid-September were not caused by worn-out machinery. According to the Department of Island Technology, the fault lies deep inside the islands' central works and has been reported to the engineers on the mainland [MrHwang]. Residents hope for a repair before the next major overhaul, July 7, 2020. At least the worst seems to have been fixed.

News from the Department of Island Technology. Officers of the Week now carry their honours in the resident register, and the public leaderboard has three podiums: top helpers, top requesters and Officer of the Week. The painters' workshop can line up five vehicles in a row, and the island map now shows exact coordinates under the pointer.



by Deep (during the vulcan race event)